

Blackheath Village Society Meeting
Held on Tuesday 10th February 2015

Present were: Chairman - Christina Hartshorn, Secretary - Hamish Whiteman, Treasurer – Paul Vincent, Steve Brockwell, Hon. Peter Herbert, Liz Gilligan, Nick Harrison, Simone Dill.

1. *Apologies*

Apologies were received from Terry Polls, David Grisley, Paul Brodie and Peter Maggs.

2. *Minutes of meeting, Tuesday 28th October 2014.*

The minutes were passed unanimously without comment.

3. *Matters arising from 28th October 2014 meeting*

- CH wrote to Paul Cope in his capacity as Chairman of the Blackheath Village Hall confirming the BVS's position of general support of the Village Hall and specifically in regard to potentially merging the Village Hall and BVS committees into one.
- PV reported to the committee with regard to the financial position of the BVS as below.
- Various committee members and villagers, but particularly SB, worked to ensure the success of the village bonfire.
- CH has written to Jane Barlow and Graham Hayward thanking them for their hard work and effort to ensure the success of the World War project.

4. *2014 May Fair and distribution of funds*

PV presented a summary of the BVS financial position as at 10 February 2015. In summary he recommended to the committee that in addition to the £3,400 already distributed to the village institutions of Blackheath Cricket Club, Blackheath Village Hall, St Martins Church, St Augustans Abbey and to Wonersh and Shamley Green Infant School, Wonnesh Scouts, Tormead School and St John's Ambulance for their various contributions to ensuring the success of last years fair, a further £3,000 should be made available for distribution to local charitable causes.

Assuming this money is distributed PV reported that the BVS will still be in a strong financial position, well able to cover the cost of the set up of the May Fair should it be necessary to do so in the event of a rainy day.

PV's recommendation was agreed unanimously.

HW will circulate an email to the village confirming that this amount of money is available for distribution and requesting that any interested parties submit applications for funding.

It was also agreed that the donations subcommittee for 2015 would be chaired by HW and would comprise Simone Dill, Chris Curran and Mia Dunkley.

5. *Villagers Pub Update*

PB was unable to attend the meeting, however he reported to CH in writing prior to the meeting as follows.

Unfortunately the Villagers Pub subcommittee's application for a £10,000 feasibility grant was turned down. As such the pub subcommittee does not have any funding of significance to spend on exploring the potential of a compulsory purchase of the Villages Pub. PB and PM also met with Waverley Borough Council to discuss whether the local authority would support the BVS in an application to compulsory purchase the freehold interest of the Villages Pub. Waverley confirmed that they were not prepared to support the BVS in this regard, primarily due to a general lack of funding and relevant human resource which they felt could be better spent on other projects.

The next Villagers Pub committee meeting is due to take place on the 15 February to consider how this initiative could be taken forward.

6. *May Fair 2015*

SB confirmed that the preparations for the 2015 May Fair have started slowly, however, were on target. He noted that a number of key people are likely to be away this year for the May bank holiday weekend and consideration as to how to cover their absence this year.

7. *Blackheath Village Newsletter*

SD reported that she and LG are in the process of producing a newsletter for the village and discussed various bits of content. They are going to send a series of questions to the various committee members asking for brief responses and photographs and they intend to do some pieces on some of the older members of the village. The newsletter will be circulated shortly.

In addition, SD proposed setting up a closed Facebook group, mainly intended for use by the younger members of the village, but which could be used by any villager. The pros and cons were discussed and it was agreed that the committee would support SD in this venture.

8. *Blackheath Common Management Plan Update*

SB reported that unfortunately village working parties organised to undertake work on the heath around the fringes of the Village with the support of the Ranger had ceased due to a break-down in communication. The intention of the working parties is to assist with the upkeep of the Heath to the benefit of all and it was agreed that the breakdown is disappointing. PM has lobbied the Parish Council to speak to Wonersh BC to try to restore the working parties and they have agreed to do so.

In the meantime SB confirmed that a working party on the National Trust land north of the War Memorial would be the focus of attention and that a working party on 21st February was being arranged to clear pine saplings.

9. Traffic Calming

PM had reported to CH prior to the meeting to confirm that the traffic calming group intend to refurbish the signs at the entrances to the Village and that Wonersh PC have agreed to share the cost of this work.

The group is also shortly going to a) send a questionnaire around the Village to canvas views on the speed of traffic and what can be done to reduce it further and b) distribute 20 mph stickers for residents to put on their bins.

The questionnaire will ask whether there is support for planting behind the existing signs at the entrances to the Village, the painting of white lines at the pinch-points through the Village and the siting of 20 mph repeater signs.

The BVS fully support the work that the traffic calming group are doing.

10. AOB

There was no other business.

11. Future Dates

Next BVS meeting 14th April 2015.

Village BBQ 31st August subject to the cricket pitch being available.

March 2015
Hamish Whiteman (Secretary)
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