

Blackheath Village Society Meeting
Held on Tuesday 14th April 2015

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

1. *Apologies*

Apologies were received from Nick Harrison and Terry Powles.

2. *Minutes of meeting, Tuesday 10th February 2015.*

The minutes were passed unanimously without comment.

3. *Matters arising from 10th February 2015 meeting*

- SB confirmed that the Blackheath working party convened on 21st February to clear pine saplings and scrub on the National Trust land, north of the War Memorial.
- SD and LG produced the village newsletter, more details of which are outlined below.
- HW convened the Donations Sub-Committee which has made the recommendations for distribution of funds as set out below.
- PM confirmed that questionnaires had been sent around the Village to canvas views on the speed of traffic through the Village and what can be done to reduce it.
- SD has set up a closed Facebook group, more details of which are below.

4. *May Fair 2014 distribution of funds*

HW confirmed that the BVS Donation Sub-Committee met on the 12th April 2015 in order to make recommendations to the BVS Committee as to how the £3,000 available should be distributed.

Seven applications for funding were received which were as follows:

- Four Villages Day Centre, Bramley - £200
- Blackheath Short-Mat Bowling Club - £600
- St Martin's Church. An application to fund the cost of repairing leaded light windows - £1,890
- Blackheath Village Hall. An application to assist in funding the creation of an archive room in the village hall - £1,800
- St Augustine's Abbey. An application to fund the cost of an automatic bell ringer. In excess of £1,000

- Chilworth Infant School. An application for funding to pay for teaching aid resources - £2,413
- Wonersh and Shamley Green School. An application to support the cost of providing curriculum equipment and classroom resources. No specific amount was requested.
- Three further recommendations were received relating to the Village Hall clock light, funding proposals relating to the Villagers pub and proposals to plant spring bulbs around the crossroads.

The sub-committee concluded that all formal applications complied with the village constitution. The sub-committee also noted that the funds available for distribution were significantly less than the £7,000 available from the 2013 fair. As a principal **it** was concluded that it would be best to support fewer applicants, but as fully as possible.

The Donations Sub-Committee recommendations were that the Four Villages Day Centre, Bramley received £200, the Blackheath Short-mat Bowling Club receive £400, Wonersh and Shamley Green School should receive £600, or 20% of the funds available, Chilworth Infant School should receive £300 and Blackheath Village Hall should receive £1,500.

It was noted last year that the Village Hall did not make an application for funds and the decision to give such a significant amount of the proceeds to it was in part influenced by this. It was also felt that the World War One anniversary exhibition and the village archive work were amongst the highlights of 2014 in Blackheath and that this fantastic work should be preserved as a long term village asset.

Unfortunately this meant that the application from St Martin's Church could not be supported, however, it was noted that the church's application to cover the cost repairing the organ was supported in full last year. The same view was taken about covering the cost of the mechanism to automatically ring the Abbey Bell.

The Sub-Committees recommendations were supported unanimously by the BVS Committee.

5. *Blackheath Village Newsletter*

SD reported that the Spring 2015 Blackheath Village newsletter had gone out and it was considered by all to have been a huge success. CH thanked SD and LG for their hard work in making it such a success.

SD also hoped that villagers had noted the back page of the newsletter which was a Blackheath business and skills board where villagers could place adverts offering services.

The proposal is to produce the newsletter on a six monthly basis.

SD also reported that the Blackheath Facebook page was up and running and that 34 residents had registered as members.

6. *Arrangements for the distribution of May Fair 2015*

CH confirmed that an established and successful process was now in place to distribute whatever funds are available from each year's fair. This includes immediate distribution of funds to those Village institutions and local groups that support the fair and its running, with the residue of the funds being disturbed via the Donations Sub-Committee once formal applications for funding have been made.

7. *Villagers Pub Update*

PB and PM confirmed once again that unfortunately proposals to try to acquire the freehold interest of the Villagers Pub had failed due to factors previously reported.

CH reported that she had attended a Roadshow launching new community funds held by Locality on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. Unfortunately, the BVS was ineligible for two of the funds and the third was not appropriate for BVS use. CH recommended that no further action be taken with these DCLG funds.

8. *Blackheath Common Management Plan Update*

PM confirmed that he had written to Waverley Borough Council with regard to the breakdown of relations between the Blackheath Ranger and the Village Volunteer Group in an attempt to resurrect some positive communication. It was agreed that the BVS would act as a conduit for Villager's comments, but it was also recommended that Villagers act as individuals by writing to Waverley or the Ranger on any matter affecting them or their property.

9. *AOB*

There was no other business.

10. *Future Dates*

Next BVS meeting 9th June 2015.

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

March 2015
Hamish Whiteman (Secretary)
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