THE BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on Friday 12 October 2007, in the School Room, Church Lane, Bitton (7:45 for 8:00).

1. Welcome

   The chair of the meeting, Chris Gallop (CG), welcomed residents to the meeting and outlined the areas that comprise Bitton Village (as per the BVRA Constitution). David Hawking of Manor Farm, Upton Cheyney was welcomed too.

2. Apologies for Absence

   These were received from Andrew and Kate Ward, Bridget Hetzel, Ken and Jill Gibson and Mike Ashbee.

3. Adoption of Minutes

   CG referred to copies of the Minutes for the AGM of 5 October 2006 that were distributed in the hall and requested agreement that he could sign these minutes as a correct record. This was agreed by all present, formally proposed by Pete Sayers and seconded by Mike Thomas.

4. Current Officers

   CG introduced the current BVRA officers - vice chair: Mike Thomas; Treasurer: Pete Sayers; Secretary: Shirley Day; Chair: Chris Gallop. CG noted that the chair and the vice chair had each now served the three years maximum term in office as per the BVRA Constitution, and that these positions would be up for election at the next routine Committee Meeting.

5. Committee Members

   CG noted that there are currently twelve committee members, while the BVRA Constitution allows for up to fifteen, so the committee would welcome volunteers. Residents Sandra Flower and Cheryl Wright volunteered – with John Dugay, who has already volunteered, this will bring the committee up to full strength. CG thanked the new volunteers, then requested and received confirmation that the meeting is happy for the current committee members to remain. CG noted that the date of the next regular meeting is 15 November, at the Methodist Chapel.

6. Treasurer's Report

   Pete Sayers reported that he took over from Tony Hawkins in June 2007 and that BVRA funds were transferred from the Halifax Building Society to an RBS Treasurer's Bank Account in June 2007 – this offers a better rate of interest and easier account management. Outgoings during the year have been for room hire, refreshments, Bitton in Bloom (with thanks to John Graham) and a special donation to John and Jill Dugay on their retirement from the village shop. Income has been in the form of donations. Balance at last year's AGM was £980.24. Current balance is

£1022.46.

7. AOB

7.1. Gary Day asked why we have to pay for the use of the hall. CG explained that the church needs the income, and doesn't make an exception for BVRA.

7.2. CG described the work of the BVRA Intier sub-committee: the Bitton village survey, report and discussion paper available for public debate in November 2007, presentation at village hall on 28 November (subject to contents being signed off at the next committee meeting) – there will be a notice in the parish magazine. It was confirmed that no planning application has to date been received for the Intier site.

7.3. Mike Thomas announced that the government is keen that the local plan should be discussed at parish council level – it's hoped that public meetings will be held in the three wards of the parish. He asked all present at the meeting to consider getting involved in this process. Planning for this must start this calendar year, so that progress can be made within the financial year.

7.4. With regard to "Bitton in Bloom" Mike Thomas noted that the judges had commented on how well Bitton had done with its flowers, with a lovely display at the White Hart for example. The Meadows School had won a prize, and the Almshouse gardens were commended – Jane and Margaret represented the residents at the award presentation. Mike urged everyone to consider entering their gardens for next year's award, and noted how this would generally encourage the village to look good. CG thanked John Graham for his highly-appreciated work on the Bitton flower tubs.

8. CG thanked everyone for attending the AGM then closed the meeting. Everyone stayed to enjoy the magic lantern slideshow, which included fascinating photos of Upton Cheyney in the late nineteenth century.