

THE BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on 14th October 2009, in the School Room, Church Lane, Bitton (7.30 for 8.00)

1. Welcome

The Chair of the meeting, Andrew Ward (AW), welcomed residents to the meeting. The current Committee Members and other residents attending were invited to introduce themselves and those people interested in receiving information from meetings asked to complete their contact details for a Distribution List.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Pete Sayers

3. Adoption of Minutes

AW read the Minutes for the AGM of 6th October 2008 to the attendees and requested agreement that he could sign these as a correct record. This was agreed by all present, formally proposed by Bridget Hetzel and seconded by Cheryl Wright

4. Appointment of Committee

AW confirmed that all existing Officers were willing to stand. AW asked for nominations from the floor to join the committee, no nominations received. AW invited anyone who might prefer to discuss this further to see him at the end of the meeting. The adoption of the existing committee was agreed by all present.

5. Proposed change to BVRA Constitution

AW proposed two changes to the constitution in paragraph 2 and 3 see red text below.

- 1) The Association shall be known as the Bitton Village Residents Association.
- 2) The Association shall operate <primarily> within the boundary described below:
 - The eastern side of Cherry Garden Road, from the junction with the A431 up to, and including, Barry Hill House, then eastwards to include Ryedown Lane, Hill Farm and Bitton Hill House, to meet Golden Valley Lane at Little Normeads, then to include Newpit Lane, Beach Hill and Golden Valley, then to proceed southwards along Golden Valley Lane, including Aubrey Meads, and proceeding southwards to include The Meadows, and thence directly to the northern bank of the River Avon, then westwards along this bank to a point directly south of Cherry Garden Road, and from there to join the eastern side of Cherry Garden Road, where it meets the A431.
- 3) All residents <and people who work> within the boundary of the Association <plus neighbouring communities> shall be deemed to be members of the Association.

The reason was to provide support for neighbouring communities and to allow neighbouring communities to share in the activities organised by the BVRA.

The Rev Den Harding also proposed that the constitution should include people who work in the area see addition of blue text in paragraph 3

After some discussion it was proposed that the word primarily in paragraph 2 and the two phrases and people who work and plus neighbouring communities in paragraph 3 should be

added to the constitution. This was agreed by all present, formally proposed by Bridget Hetzel and seconded by Jon Heyes.

6. Financial Report

The Treasure, Pete Sayers (PS), was not able to attend the meeting so AW presented his report. See report attached. The Credit Balance brought forward from 2008 AGM was £936.53.

Outgoings during the year have been for Room Hire £97, Village amenities including Bitton in Bloom (with thanks to John Graham) and the new projection equipment £1871.52; Insurance for the newly acquired Film projector, screen and sound system £210 other expenses £52.

Income has been in the form of Donations £16.35 and a very generous grant from Quartet of £1690 for the purchase of the projection equipment. There has been no necessity to fund raise this year, however this could be considered if required. Current balance is £792.42

7. Written Questions

No written questions had been received by AW

8. Chairman's Report 08/09

AW reported on what had been achieved over the last year

- **The Christmas Tree** in the Village, thanks to Bryan Garlic and helpers
- **Flicks in the Stick**, thanks to Bridget Hetzel and her team
- **Bitton in Bloom**, thanks to John Graham
- **Bitton Open Gardens**, thanks to Ann and Tony Boulton
- **Speeding traffic in the Village**, this still remains a big issue but is being monitored. AW agreed to write to PC Malcolm Price to reconsider the options for slowing the traffic through Bitton <action>
- **The pavement in the centre of the village** was widened thanks to the campaigning of Chris Gallop and John Graham
- BVRA is participating in the campaign to **protect our Green Belt** and fight against the proposal for 450 dwellings off Barry Road
- Liaising with the community to garner their **ideas for the improvement of Bitton**. This was particularly successful at the Village Fete
- Working with the **Parish Plan**. The questionnaire got a 33% return rate, we need to access and use the information
- **Litter picking** – 'Just pick it up' habit spreading (thanks to all); AW wants everyone to encourage others. Mike Thomas agreed to write a letter to the Parish Council asking for litter picking tools, these should be available to residents for free. <action>
- The clearing of the **Brewery Hill Greenhouse site**, liaison with the council has resulted in the new owners removing all the glass and some of the glasshouse frames from the site

- **The Golden Valley Site**, the effect of the recession has meant that the developers have made little progress on the site. The BVRA had an excellent meeting with Patrick Conroy from the South Glos Planning Team.

Projects for the future

- **Renewal of the Aubrey Meads play area**
- **To compile a history of the village** – Sheila McGrath and Bridget Hetzel have already researched many aspects of the village history and probably many others have to. Should they be edited into a book?
- **An Industry Fare** to promote all the local businesses in our area.
- **More Social events in the village** – a Garden Club might be started soon
- **A street party** was suggested
- **A Bitton Newsletter** Becky Feather volunteered to prepare one twice a year
<action>
- **A BVRA web site** we need someone to take this on, possibly Barry Smale

8. The Methodist Church

At the end of the evening the Rev Den Harding asked to make an announcement and to everyone's surprise she advised us that the Methodists would cease to worship in the their Church from next August. It was the proposal of the Methodist Church that they would convert the building into a Village Hall for the use of the community and fund a community hall manager for 3 years. While everyone was surprised by this announcement and voiced their sadness at the closing of the Church, the possibility of a newly furbished village hall in the centre of the village, with parking, was received as an excellent idea.

9. Finally, AW thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.