

Bitton Village Residents Association

Committee Meeting

Minutes

14 July 2010

Present: Andrew Ward (AW) - Chair, Anne Boulton (AB), Bridget Hetzel (BH), Cheryl Wright (CW), Christopher Gallop (CG), John Dugay (JD), John Graham (JG), Marlene Gallop (MG), Mike Ashby (MA), Pete Sayers (PS) - Minutes, Tony Boulton (TB).

Apologies: Becky Feather (BF), Bob Willis (BW).

Minutes of the last meeting: approved.

Matters arising: nil in addition to that on the agenda.

Finance: PS reported on the Finances.

- Main Q2 costs:
 - £95 for the license to show films for the 2010/2011 Bitton Film season;
 - £60 to reimburse JG for the village flowers;
 - £660 spent on Garden Club outings and talks.
- Main Q2 income:
 - £153 surplus from the 2009/2010 Bitton Film season;
 - £1960 AV grant from Quartet;
 - £400 from Bitton Open Gardens on Sun 6 June (teas, plant stall, donations);
 - £1234 from Garden Club membership fees and visit payments.
- Summary:
 - Current bank balance £3856
 - Anticipated costs £2927
 - Effective bank balance £929
 - Petty Cash: £48
 - The total of £977 represents an increase of £185 from the balance at the Oct 09 AGM, and is close to our target level of £1000.
- Auditing: the accounts should be audited after the year end (31 Jul 10) and prior to the AGM in October. AW and PS will discuss and agree the process, seeking advice from MT.

Action AW, PS

Village flowers: the committee expressed thanks to JG for all his hard work on the village flowers, which look beautiful despite this year's drought conditions!

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Flight paths: PS reported that Mike Littleton, the Community Relations Manager at Bristol Airport had supplied details of how flights are guided in to the airport. It's only near the airport that they follow a set path to the runway – while over Bitton they're being guided in by Air Traffic Control, and so the aircraft follow a variety of courses. PS will forward details to the committee. **Action PS**

Major developments:

- **Barry Road:** AW attended and spoke at the council meeting on 13th May, at which the revised application for development was considered. The developers did not attend. The application was rejected unanimously.

It's now understood that one effect of the recent change of government is to remove the opportunity to develop Green Belt land. BH has heard that the local MP, Chris Skidmore, is to table an Early Day Motion which seeks to make the situation clear.

JG will check with South Gloucestershire council to see if a further planning application has been submitted by the developers. PS stated that no email advice of any such application has been received to date.

Action JG

- **Brewery Hill:** No further progress. The site has been partially stripped, giving the impression that it's being readied for development. MA thinks that one of the conditions of the original planning consent to the Hawking family was that the land should be returned to agricultural use in the event that it is no longer used for greenhouses. BH will resume her investigation.

Action BH

- **Intier site (Golden Valley):** JG attended the developers' presentation of their draft Concept Statement on 12 July at The Meadows. He reported the following: 150 houses; 1.5 parking places per house; build up pond sides by 4 metres; 60-bed nursing home; retain the refectory; demolish the chapel; no details of road layout changes; no acknowledgement of current issues with sewer capacity in Bitton; Louise Seaman from Colliers was there.

There will be another chance to see the presentation on Thu 15 July, again at The Meadows, from 18:00. AW encouraged committee members to attend.

Note from minute-taker – see the following web page:

<http://www.thisisbath.co.uk/news/High-hopes-factory-site-development/article-2390127-detail/article.html>

Parish Plan: CW gave an update:

- Data entry of the 1300 questionnaires is now complete.
- Now need to conduct an interview with each of fifty businesses. Jon Lord and Paul Cooney will be doing this, and CW asked AW if he'd be prepared to help. There was a general feeling that this could be a very demanding and time-consuming process, and that greater clarity is required before any

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commitment could be made. CW will ask Paul Cooney to contact AW to discuss.

Action CW

- The next meeting for the steering group is on Wed 21 Jul 10.

Social activities:

- **Bitton Film Nights:** BH reported that these will resume in September, and will take place on the third Friday in each month (Sep, Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, Mar, possibly Apr too). The charge for the hall has increased to £10.00 per hour. BH feels that the film nights should not make a profit, or that the profit is put towards something tangible for the village – tree planting, for example. Notice of the first film night must appear in Focal Point in August (the deadline for this is 13 Jul 10). BH will do this. **Action BH**

AW reported that the new sound system will be installed in the Old School Room (with Jill Gibson's blessing) in July. The electronics will be in a wall-mounted cupboard, while the speakers will be high up. A hearing loop will be fitted too.

The committee would again like to thank BH for all her efforts in making the Film Nights such a social success.

The committee recognises that Barry Smale works very hard towards the film nights, and that we should acknowledge this with a gift of some kind. No action was agreed, so PS will put this as an action for himself so that it isn't forgotten. **Action PS**

- **Gardening Club:** BH reported that the Garden Club has been operating for six months, and that this experience is now being used to plan next year's programme of events. There are 98 members, of which 30-35 generally go on the garden visits, and up to 60 attend meetings. The next trip is to Rodmarton on 27 Jul 10.

PS commented that the BVRA cheque to Bristol University, written on 24 May 10 in respect of the September trip to Bristol Botanic Garden, has not yet appeared on the bank statements. PS will check the July statement and will investigate further if the cheque's still not been cashed. **Action PS**

- **Big Lunch:** AW asked if anyone had heard of this initiative – none had.

Note from minute-taker – it's on Sunday 18 July. See the following web page:

<http://www.thebiglunch.com/>

Campaigns:

- **Litter:** AW reported that he now has litter pickers, hi-vis jackets etc, supplied by South Glos council. It was agreed that, rather than head off in a mass litter-picking expedition, we'd each take a stretch of road and remove litter as and when convenient. AW allocated roads to members and provided equipment. All to do this and report progress at the next meeting. AW has a

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map that shows details of who's picking where.

Action All

- **Street furniture:** AW reported no progress. He'll resume his efforts to remove all the ugly redundant poles from the streets of Bitton.

Action AW

- **Marquee:** CW reported that she'd obtained prices for different types and sizes of marquee. Primrose Marquees appear to be good value, offering a 6m by 12m Luxury Marquee for £1050. This would apparently house 104 people at a buffet, 96 at trestle tables or 80 at round tables. We judged that this marquee would occupy around the same floor area as the Old School Room, and CW reported that the material (excluding the poles) would occupy the whole interior of a transit van.

The committee felt that this is larger than we'd conveniently be able to store or transport, and probably larger than we'd really need. It was suggested that two smaller ones (possibly different sizes, to be used singly or together) would be a more flexible and appropriate option. The committee also felt that we should define our requirements before choosing the marquee – the only use we were able to identify is for the church fete. CW will ask the church if they would use the marquee and if they'd be prepared to store it.

Action CW

CW will ask Quartet if funding for this could be obtained in time to purchase it before the church fete (this is to be held on 4 Sep 10).

Action CW

CW will investigate different companies' marquees – construction, pricing etc.

Action CW

CW will report findings to AW and discuss, in preparation for an application to Quadrant for a grant.

Action CW, AW

Note: Quartet will be winding up on 31 Dec 10, so we should now identify any other community-related funding that we'd like to approach them for. The only idea from the meeting was stone flower troughs for the village. No action agreed, so assigned to PS to prevent this from being forgotten.

Action PS

- **Bike track:** AW reported that David Bailey is investigation whether/how the village can be joined to the cycle track. AW will ask David for a progress report.
- **Jones Convenience Stores:** There was general dissatisfaction expressed at the shop's stock and at the way in which it's being run. It seems that the company has a rigid policy on stock, and that it may not be attracting staff prepared to engage long-term with the shop and its customers. It therefore appears that the BVRA will not be able to help the shop meet the needs of its local customers. No further action.
- **White Hart:** there's been no significant work done – only remedial work following a break-in and a water leak. A generator problem caused the fire brigade to attend, and a section of guttering fell off into Church Road recently. Local residents are becoming increasingly concerned that the premises are unsafe and are a target for break-ins. JG will contact Nick Watson to find out what's going on.

Action JG

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AW will look for information (newspaper cutting) and will pass this to JG.

Action AW

MA reported seeing Japanese knotweed in the pub's courtyard garden (and in front of the newer house near CW's house). There is a legal obligation on the landowner not to allow this plant to spread, and its handling and disposal are covered by legislation. MA will establish who should deal with this.

Action MA

CW will advise her neighbour (Louise).

Action CW

Note from minute-taker – the following web page has info:

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environment/natural_environment/biodiversity/japanese_knotweed.htm

Input for Focal Point:

- There were no suggestions for entries in Focal Point.
- Reminder: deadline for copy to be sent to BF is 13th of the month.

AOB:

- **Date of next meeting:** In the minutes of the previous meeting this was stated as 8 Jul 10 – this should be changed to 8 Sep 10.
- **Date of AGM:** This was set as Wed 13 Oct 10 at 20:15 in the Old School Room. Need to encourage attendees – suggestions: showing a short film; providing cheese and wine.

Note that notice of the AGM must be posted in the village by 1 Sep 10. AW will do this.

Action AW

- AW mentioned that the committee members who have served for three years must stand for re-election if they want to continue on the committee. All to consider whether this applies and what action they wish to take. All officers to consider whether they would like to apply for a different officer's position after three years. It would be good to attract new people to the committee.

Action: All

- BH mentioned that the website needs work.

Next meetings:

- **BVRA:** 20:00 on Wed 8 Sep 10 in Old School Room.
- **AGM:** 20:15 on Wed 13 Oct 10 in Old School Room.

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Actions:

Action Agreed	By Whom
Agree the auditing process	AW, PS
Send flight path info to committee	PS
Check for a revised Barry Road planning application	JG
Resume Brewery Hill investigation	BH
Ask Paul Cooney to contact AW	CW
Advise Focal Point of Sep film night	BH
Remind BVRA of gift for Barry	PS
Follow up cheque to Bristol Uni	PS
Pick up litter	All
Resume street furniture activities	AW
Discuss marquee with church	CW
Ask Quartet about marquee funding	CW
Investigate smaller marquees	CW
Apply for Quartet funding for marquee	AW, CW
Remind BVRA of flower trough idea	PS
Obtain cycle track report from David Bailey	AW
Ask Nick Watson for info on White Hart	JG
Forward White Hart info to JG	AW
Determine responsibility for Japanese knotweed	MA
Advise neighbour of knotweed problem and responsibilities	CW
Post notice of AGM in village by 1 Sep 10	AW
Consider re-election as committee member / change of office	All