

THE BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010, in the Church Hall, Church Lane, Bitton at 8.15pm

**1. WELCOME**

The Chair of the meeting, Andrew Ward (AW), welcomed residents to the meeting and suggested that those people interested in receiving information from meetings to complete their contact details on the Distribution List.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Bob Willis  
Cheryl Wright  
Nicola Bebb

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

AW read the Minutes for the AGM of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 to the attendees and requested agreement that he could sign these as a correct record. This was agreed by all present, formally proposed by Marlene Gallop and seconded by Jackie Sayers.

**4. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Treasure, Pete Sayers (PS), reported that the Credit Balance brought forward from 2009 AGM was £889.07. Outgoings during the year have been for Room Hire, Village Amenities, Film Night License, Insurance and Garden Club outgoings. Income has been in the form of Donations, Funding from Quartet for the new sound system, income from Flicks, and the Garden club membership fees. There has been no necessity to fund raise, however this could be considered if required. Current balance is £3695.78 but this includes Garden Club funds that are ring fenced and the imminent payment of the sound system.

AW announced that there was now a redundant sound system that had been originally funded by Quartet when the projector and screen were acquired for Flicks in 2008. He asked if anyone was interested in acquiring it for a modest donation. Stephanie Bailey mentioned that she would be interested.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

AW reported that no written questions had been received

AW outlined the seven objectives of the BVRA as outlined in the constitution then focused on the seven important topics that the BVRA had been involved with during the last year.

**Barry Road development**

The residents had made successful representations to the Council and the planning application had been rejected.

**The Golden Valley Mill Site (Intier)**

In July 2010 Colliers, representing Intier, made a public presentation of the Draft Concept Statement for the site, giving the residents two weeks to respond.

The BVRA managed to negotiate a longer period, of one month, for a detailed response from the community to be sent to Intier. During this month the BVRA set up an Open Meeting to seek the views of the residents, so that we could make a collective representation to Colliers in addition to individual members of the community sending in their comments.

A site visit was also arranged along with a meeting with selected members of the village, a South Glos. Council planning representative, and representatives of Colliers.

At this meeting it was agreed that Colliers would consider our comments and revise the Draft Concept Statement. A future meeting with Colliers and the BVRA would be arranged to discuss the revised Concept statement before submitting it to the Council. We are still waiting for that meeting.

In the mean time AW has made a checklist to assess the revised concept statement and he also made a presentation to the Planning Committee at the Council leaving each of them a copy of the assessment checklist.

AW also reported that he had received an e-mail from Collier dated 12.10.10 notifying us that progress was slow, and the initial deadline for the revised Concept Statement would slip.

We await further developments.

A discussion then followed.

Mike Thomas advised the meeting that Concept Statements were very important documents as they were used as the foundation of all further planning applications. An outline planning application gives very little additional information. He also advised that that Concept Statements were often rejected by the Council.

It was mentioned that as we were a Conservation Area a Full Planning Application should be granted before any work can progress. Several members at the meeting felt we should insist on this. One member mentioned that they had to get full planning for a tiny conservatory to be added to the back of their house, so Intier should definitely be required to get full planning before they start building a housing estate.

Sandi Cole mentioned how in the past they had negotiated with the Council to plan for larger houses and less of them on the Harrington Close development.

AW said he would prepare a document outlining the resident's *Vision for Bitton in the Future*.

At the end of the discussion a vote of thanks was given to Andrew for all his work on the Intier site.

### **Flowers in the Village**

Everyone agreed that the tubs and hanging baskets had greatly enhanced the village and a vote of thanks was given to John Graham, who was totally responsible for planting, caring and watering them. Thanks were also given to Bryan Garlic for providing the Christmas tree and Kate Ward for her initiative of planting snowdrops on the green at Aubrey Meads.

### **Flicks In the Sticks**

AW reported that this continued to be a great success and was now enhanced by the new sound system that had been purchased with a grant from Quartet

### **Gardening Club**

AW reported that this new club had proved very popular with practically 100 members in its first year. Wendy Smale reported that next year's programme was almost sorted with an increased number of meetings and visits to gardens during the summer months. These visits will be on different days of the week, in the evening as well as the day and at the weekend, to make them accessible to as many members as possible. The meetings will be held on the third Monday in the month and will be returning to the Church Hall.

Bitton Open Gardens had been held for the second time this year and thank went to Tony and Ann Boulton for organising it.

### **Litter Picking**

AW reported that the BVRA now had several litter picking kits and the committee and many other continue to "*just pick it up*"

A member on the floor requested that South Glos Council Street Care Department should be thanked for their prompt response for clearing litter tipped in and around Upton Cheyney and the Police for dealing with burnt out cars.

### **The Bitton Parish Plan**

AW reported that Shirley Day, John Graham and Cheryl Wright represented the BVRA on the Parish Plan Committee. The work of the Parish Plan committee started in 2008 and included a household survey in 2009. The results of this survey had been professionally analysed and a report is now available. AW listed the top ten findings, perhaps most important of all is that 80% of people going to work use their car! AW also mentioned that the results of this survey had been used to support the rejection of the Barry Road Planning Application.

Next step is to interview businesses and 225 randomly selected individuals. A request was made for volunteer interviewers.

Four people volunteered:

Judith Walker  
Nicola Bennetts  
Jackie Sayers  
Eric Cooper

The final step in 2011 will be to collate and analyse all the findings, draw conclusions and write a report for submission to Bitton Parish Council, South Glos Council and other parties, so that future planning is in line with local interests.

### **6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

AW confirmed that all existing members of the committee were willing to continue, with the exception of Shirley Day who wished to stand down. AW thanked Shirley for her valuable contribution.

Existing members of the committee are

Andrew Ward – Chairman  
Marlene Gallop – Vice Chair  
Bridget Hetzel – Secretary  
Pete Sayers – Treasurer  
John Graham  
Christopher Gallop  
Bob Willis  
Mike Ashbee  
Tony Boulton  
Cheryl Wright  
John Dugay  
Becky Feather  
Nicola Bebb

Observers  
Mike Thomas  
Ann Boulton

AW mentioned that five members of the community wished to join the committee to help with our work these are

Jon Booth  
Barry Smale

Tom Murphy  
Angela Dudley  
Rob Grady

Andrew Ward proposed, Pam Hayes seconded their nomination and the re-elected of the existing committee members en block. The officers of the committee will be elected by the committee at the next committee meeting.

There was some discussion about the constitution requirement for a max of 15 committee members. Rather than turning willing helpers away it was agreed that if necessary some members would elect to become observers at the committee meeting following the AGM.

#### **7 FUTURE PLANS FOR BVRA**

AW asked the members at the meeting for their thoughts and ideas for issues that should concern the BVRA in the coming year. The following ideas were suggested

- Twinning the village with somewhere in France
- Burying the cables along Church Road in and around the Church
- Using the microphone at meetings so that people with hearing difficulties could use the hearing loop
- It was emphasised that the sound system was permanently fixed in the hall for all to use. It was agreed that clear instructions on using the sound system should be made available.
- Move the clothing recycling box outside the pub to the recycling centre at the station

#### **8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

At the end of the discussion AW thanked everyone for attending and announced that the next committee meeting would be on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in the Church Hall.** Anyone wishing to attend and observe were welcome.

#### **PRESENT AT MEETING**

Andrew Ward  
Christopher Gallop  
Marlene Gallop  
Tom Murphy  
Keira Murphy  
Jaqui Sayers  
Pete Sayers  
Martin Hetzel  
Bridget Hetzel  
Mike Thomas  
Judith Walker  
Eric Cooper  
Joyce Cooper  
J. Graham  
Terena Sterrry  
Mike Ashbee  
Kate Ward  
Sandi Cole  
John Dugay  
Rod & Sue Nethcote  
Stephanie Bailey  
Shirley day  
J Sawyer

M Sawyers  
Pam Heyes  
Sarah Craddock  
Nicola Bennetts  
Jon Booth  
Pauline and Roger Jefferies  
Wendy Smale  
Barry Smale  
Becky Feather