

Bitton Village Residents Association

Committee Meeting

Minutes

20th April 2011

Present: Marlene Gallop (MG) – Chair, Nicola Bebb (NB) – Minutes, Andrew Ward (AW), Rob Grady (RG), John Graham (JG), Bridget Hetzel (BH), Christopher Gallop (CG), John Booth (JB), Barry Smale (BS), Peter Sayers (PS), Cheryl Wright (CW), Mike Thomas (MT), Becky Feather (BF), Anne Boulton (AB), Tony Boulton (TB), John Dugay (JD).

Apologies: Tom Murphy (TM), Mike Ashby (MA) It was noted that Angela Dudley has never attended. BH will ask her if she still wants to be a member.

Minutes of the last meeting: approved.

Matters arising:

- White Hart
MG has written to express concern about the health and safety of the site including loose tiles and blocked drainage. She has had a reply from Chris Dunford stating that the site is not dangerous and there is no enforcement that can be taken, however he will send an advisory note to the owners. Since then Criterion Asset Management (the current executors of the estate) have removed any loose tiles.
- Hanham Hall.
MG has been in contact with the developers. Progress on the site has been limited. Barrett are happy to do a tour when the development is further down the line. MG will enquire as to when that will be. **ACTION MG**
- Marquee
There is still no one who is willing to take responsibility for putting up and taking down the marquee. It was decided that it would not be purchased. AW will contact Quartet to see if the money can be used to develop the Wesleyan Chapel
- Golden Valley Concept statement.
Feedback from Mike Luton regarding the subgroup meeting has been received. MG will forward to NAB for inclusion in the minutes. **See appendix 1.** BH will email the feedback to the BVRA mailing list **ACTION BH**
- It was discussed and decided that the BVRA would try to take on the restoration of the Wesleyan chapel as a project. A subcommittee (BF, MG, JB, BH, AW, MT & CG) volunteered **ACTION**
- Logo – development is on going

Traffic/ speed checks/ new constable:

Speed checks are on going. MG has emailed Simon Topps following the accident on 5/4/11 but has had no reply. She will chase him. John Graham reported that £20,000 has been secured for traffic calming measures between

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Cherry gardens and Swineford, but what this will involve remains to be seen.

ACTION MG

Aubery Meads:

The development of the Play area in Aubrey Meads was discussed following the publication of a letter in Focal point from one of the children. £15,000 bursary bid is pending however S Glos are unable to consult at this time because of the forth-coming local elections. BF has agreed to take soundings at the school, to get interested parties together to develop the idea further.

ACTION BF

St Mary's Church:

MG went to an away morning to discuss ideas for the way ahead for the church. A welcome pack for new residents was proposed. It was suggested that the website could fulfil that role.

Finance:

- BS reported on the finances. See appendix 2. It was agreed to take further stock after the street party
- Auditing the finances. After much discussion it was agreed to seek independent review and AW will ask Elaine Pool to audit the finances. The accounts can then be presented at the AGM. **ACTION AW**

Parish Plan:

There has been a 66% return of the business questionnaires. The action plan is being presented in draft to the council on 18th May. The bones of the plan will then be presented in a public meeting in the next few months.

Website:

RG gave the committee a tour of the new website www.bittonvillage.org which went live at the end of March. This included the discussion forum. He asked the committee to look at the site and to give him feedback. It was agreed the website will be the prime source of communication. For example minutes will be posted on the website and emails sent to the committee advising them of this. Access to the minutes will still be available in hard copy for those not online. RG was congratulated on a job well done!

Social activities:

- **Flicks in the Sticks:** the season is now over. It broke even.
- **Gardening Club:** going strong. Open Gardens is on the 12th June.
- **Street Party:** all systems go for 29th April.

AOB:

1. AW will contact community voluntary services to see what they can offer with regard to the development of the rec.
2. JG offered to do the village summer pots and flowers. Agreed.
3. MG will contact the Avon Valley Railway to see if we can hold the July meeting there.
4. Jackie Sayers is looking for any local runners interested in joining her pounding the roads! Contact her on 0117 932 8486o

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Next Meetings

Wed 20th July

Wed 21st September

AGM Wed 5th October

Action Agreed	By Whom
Angela Dudley	BH
Hanham Hall	MG
Weslyan Chapel	BH, AW, MG, BF, JB, MT & CG
Traffic	MG

Appendix 1

Feedback from Mike Luton regarding the concept statement

Confirmation of the main points discussed as follows.

- Officers have read through and analysed all of the comments made by members of the public and other key consultees. This has taken longer than expected and has raised issues which need to be investigated.
- Many detailed comments have been made – at this stage the key issue is whether the key principles/concepts for the site are appropriate.
- Officers are not yet in a position to take a final report through the Council's decision making process. In part this is because of the election period which lasts until 6th May.
- Some initial thoughts have been discussed with the Colliers Team who are undertaking some further work and will consider whether they can recommend any further changes to their Client. The timescale for this is uncertain but we hope to have a response within a few weeks. We assume that if any changes are made Colliers would update the web site.
- Unless there are any fundamental changes in approach we would be unlikely to re-consult. It would be open to local people to make further comment but it would help if that could be 'managed' through the Residents Association or Parish Council rather than by individual letters.
- One of the key issues to be resolved is the future ownership and maintenance of any key site assets which are retained including the historic walls, buildings and open spaces. These have potential long-term costs/liabilities. To date there has been general discussion of potential 'community' uses but the landowner and Council will need to be clear whether there is a robust end use for them and if there is any realistic prospect of the local community being in a position to 'take- on' any of the assets.
- Once we have Colliers response to the issues raised we will be able to finalise our report to the Council on the Concept Statement. In parallel with this the Colliers Team will be starting work towards the necessary planning applications which will add much more detail.
- In the interim we would be grateful if you could pass on our thanks to the residents who have made comments and reassure them that work is ongoing to resolve the future of the site.

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Appendix 2 Briefing note from BS

Briefing note for BVRA committee meeting Wednesday 20th April

Financials as at 14th April 2011

Bank Balance	£2053.70
Of which Garden Club balance is	£915.36
Repayable grant from quartet for Marquee	£650.00
Therefore balance for BVRA is	£488.34
Commitments for remainder of year to end July:	
Hall hire for committee meetings	£40.00
Flicks movie licence (approx)	£100.00
Website registration/hosting say	£40.00
Therefore uncommitted funds available for BVRA	£308.34

Notes:

1) Flicks evenings usually make a small profit so after the last night of this season there should be enough income to cover the flicks movie licence.

2) Profit/loss for the street party are unknown at present so I have not included for any impact in the above figures.

Depending on the profit/loss on the Street Party, the committee should be aware that additional funding may be required to meet commitments for next year, namely annual insurance (approx £250) and hall hire for 4 committee meetings (£80).