

# Bitton Village Residents Association

## Annual General Meeting

### Minutes

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

**Present:** Marlene Gallop (MG) – Chair, Nicola Bebb (NB) – Minutes, John Graham (JG), Anne Boulton (AB), Tony Boulton (TB), Mike Thomas (MT), Bridget Hetzel (BH), Christopher Gallop (CG), John Booth (JB), Peter (PS) and Jacqui Sayers (JS), Becky Feather (BF), Mike and Rachel Ashbee, Barry Smale (BS), Andrew Ward (AW), John Dugay (JD), Gareth Rock, Phyllis Golding, Judith Walker, Paul (PC) and Barbara Cooney, Pam Heyes, Maggie Ferguson, Theresa and Graham Sterry, Christine Thomas, Janet Ives, Jill Gibson, Sue Nethercote, Sandra and John Veasey (JV), A Chamberlain, Joyce and Eric Cooper, Wendy and Chris Mchale.

**Apologies:** Rob Grady (RG), Bob Willis (BW), Cheryl Wright (CW), Ken Gibson, Elaine and Bob Skidmore, Bel Mooney, Erica Williams

**Minutes of the last meeting:** NB reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and proposed that they were accepted as accurate, seconded by AW. Approved.

**Financial Report:** The new treasurer; BS was welcomed and he gave the annual report. See appendix 1

#### **Chairmans report**

MG thanked everyone for coming and read out the 7 objectives of the BVRA as outlined in the constitution.

She stated that the constitution was revised on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 the aim being to allow members who live and work in the geographical areas and surrounding areas to be members and take part in the activities organised by the Association.

There have been no written questions received by the MG or NB

MG then gave a report on the years activities:

**Brewery Hill** (the old Nursery site) there have been no further developments to report.

**Intier Site/Golden Valley Mill** AW updated everyone. A meeting held last year collected the views of residents on the proposed concept and these views were collated and fed back to the council and the owners. A revised concept was produced. This was still a long way off from the changes that were proposed. A second revision is still awaited. However in the meantime the site was sold to Stronach developers. They are keen to submit a new plan and concept so a sub committee will be meeting up with them on 6/10/11. A 'To Let' sign has gone up on site. It was felt that this was to try to recoup some costs but in reality it is more likely that it is a box ticking exercise to prove it is not marketable for business purposes.

**Parish Plan** This is in the final stages after four years. A draft will be presented to the parish council on the 11th October and the plan will be published in November. MT stated that the plan will need to be ratified by the Parish Council, then ratified and approved by South Glos.

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Council to ensure it does not contravene any rules. It then becomes essential that any new planning application being considered has to be done so with reference to the Plan. AW asked if there was any funding available to help achieve aims of the plan. It was fed back that this was a residents' initiative. BH asked if the BVRA would be able to have sight of the draft plan. PC agreed to forward it.

**Website:** MG thanked RG as our "webmaster" for the setup, modification and rebuild of the website along with the installation of locally designed BVRA logo. It was reported that a lot of work has been done to map the graves in the Church and this will soon be available on the website.

**WhiteHart:** Work is now in progress. MG welcomed the new managers Wendy and Chris who were present. The project has a completion date of 21<sup>st</sup> October with opening planned for a week later. They plan to be serving food after Christmas.

**Avon Valley Railway:** MG reported that over the year the BVRA have had ongoing liaison with David Cole the Development Manager. The organisation has recently been recognised with the Queens Award for Voluntary Service. They are now in the process of consulting with anyone who has not only an interest in the railway, but in the riverside along the track. There is a forum box on the BVRA website for suggestions as to how the railway can make a contribution to the village. David will be very grateful for comments.

A 40's Themed weekend is planned for the weekend of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 linking with the Queens Silver Jubilee. A representative from BVRA is to attend a pre- planning meeting in the near future.

**Social activities:** MG said on behalf of the BVRA that it was hoped that residents have partaken and enjoyed some of these activities/events, and that they are organised for residents to enjoy and become involved in as much or as little as they wanted.

- **Flicks in the sticks** BH reported that the event is well attended. It is a not for profit event and broke even last year. Films are shown on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in winter.
- **Gardening Club/Open Garden Event:** the gardening club continues to be popular and meets on the third Monday all year with meetings in the winter and garden visits predominately in the warmer months. The open Gardens this year was a washout but there was still gardens open and 40 teas were sold.
- **Street Party** NB/BF gave a report of the Royal Wedding Street party held on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It was a very popular event with approximately 400 people joining in and generally very positive feedback. Another one is in the planning for the Queens Jubilee next year, any volunteers to help with the organisation would be very welcome.

**Marquee:** MG reported that proposals were made for BVRA to purchase a marquee which could also be let out for local use, funded by Quartet. Following research into cost/storage/management etc it was deemed impractical. AW advised Quartet of same and they have agreed that this funding be held available for possible assessment of the Wesleyan building on

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the Intier site should this be a viable project for the BVRA to undertake in the future.

**Traffic/Speeding /Training** An ongoing situation in Bitton. Simon Topps the new PC was invited to attend a meeting however he later apologised for non-attendance due to staffing issues. He is aware of residents' concerns and in addition is looking into the parking issues around the Meadows school.

2 BVRA members have attended a Community Speed Watch training course along with another Bitton resident. They are still awaiting further comprehensive guidance from the police. The maximum speed between 6.30 pm -8.45 pm on training day was 49 mph.

**Street Lighting:** MG reported that it has been brought to BVRA attention by Bitton Parish Council that there are proposals for a Part Night Lighting Scheme for the A431 Bitton. It was agreed that BVRA should express our concerns and object to any change in the current full lit condition that exists. (Raising awareness to recent serious night time accident/ speeding and safety issues). A reply has been received noting same and requesting an opportunity to visit BVRA to explain the rationale behind the scheme. Final plans for the scheme are to be available after officers have visited the Parish Council. This will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

**Aubrey Meads Play Project:** MG reported that earlier this year a local teenager (George) wrote to Focal Point magazine with a complaint about the Play area and a plea for some action from the BVRA for the youth in the village. Following a liaison with Tina Rainey, the Landscape Project Manager for South Glos. Council, a meeting was set up with representatives from Bitton Parish Council, (Mike Thomas) BVRA, (BF/MG), South Glos District Council (Erica Williams) George & family members George's proposals for possible layout/equipment and ideas he had sought from other young people in the area were received by Tina as a base for further consultation. BVRA members presented a display and questionnaires, utilizing a Community Space Gazebo (foc from S.Glos Council), provided by Tina as part of the Village fete on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. The analyses of the completed questionnaires have been made available at a planned Public Consultation Event held in the Church Hall last week led by Tina Rainey to which all Bitton residents were invited to attend. The BVRA committee have agreed to be the Accountable Body for any Grants (assisted by S Glos Council) for fund raising for the project.

There are various "housekeeping" jobs to the site/and investigations to be carried out, apart from funding and consultation therefore there is not likely to be any development until the New Year

**Village Flower Displays** MG thanked John Graham was for all his hard work planting, maintaining & watering the tubs & hanging baskets in the village, over a number of years. As he is now standing down and willing volunteers to take this over would be much appreciated. Hopefully the village will be benefiting from 500 bulbs which AW has applied for, from the Friends of Golden Valley.

**Focal point** BF gave an overview of Focal point. This is a church, but also a community magazine with lots of local news and adverts. Circulation continues to increase and contributions are welcome.

**Introduction and welcome to the elected representative on S. Glos District Council** MG welcomed Erica Williams (although she could not make

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the meeting) and stated that she had been invited to committee meetings as a non-voting observer in accordance with one of the constitution aims “to liaise with Councils and other bodies as appropriate, concerning planning and other related matters of importance to the village”.

This was in the same capacity as the outgoing representative Mike Thomas who had been a guide/advisor, in a non-political capacity, throughout his residency here in Bitton. He continues to serve as a committee member in an observer role in addition to his Bitton Parish Council duties (Chairman). She then went on to thank Mike for his valued years of service, & presented a gift on behalf of the BVRA.

## **Future Plans for BVRA**

MG then called for ideas to help the BVRA represent the residents and called for ideas to “Help to make Bitton even better”. The BVRA plans for 2012 include:

Investigating the feasibility of installing community defibrillators.

A Street Party for the Jubilee weekend NB/BF

Cycle Path safer access from Bitton village.

## **Election of Officers**

All existing members of the committee were willing to stand, there were no other interested parties and the committee were re-elected proposed by JS and seconded by JV.

Existing members are:

Marlene Gallop – Chairman

Andrew Ward – Vice-Chairman

Nicola Bebb – Secretary

Barry Smale – Treasurer

John Graham

Christopher Gallop

Bob Willis (moved from village wishes to remain as Church rep.)

Mike ashbee

Tony Boulton

Cheryl Wright

John dugay

Becky Feather

Nicola Bebb

Jon Booth

Tom Murphy

Rob Grady

## Observers

Mike Thomas

Anne Boulton

## **AOB**

JV asked if there were plans to return rubbish collection to weekly. MT confirmed that there were no plans to do that

AW invited residents to attend committee meetings as observers.

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## Appendix 1

### BRVA Accounts Overview for 2010-2011

Credit Balance	£2627.53
Of which Garden Club balance is	£864.85
Repayable grant from quartet for Marquee	£650.00
Therefore balance for BVRA is	<b>£1112.68</b>

#### Notes:

1) Estimated expenditure for next year to end July 2012 :

Insurance £250

Web site registration £40

Flicks licence £100 balanced by income; no net expenditure

Hall Hire for committee meetings/AGM £80

Total forecast expenditure £370

**Therefore on an ongoing basis, surplus funds available: £742.68**

2) Flicks evenings for last season made a small profit of £5.25 after payment of annual screening licence, hall hire, drinks licences and incidental running costs.

3) Profit for the street party was £577.39

4) Grant from Quartet held as balance for possible other village use in Intier site development. This is in Andrew Ward's court.