

Bitton Village Residents Association

Committee Meeting, St Mary's Church Hall, 19th July 2012

Minutes

Present: Andrew Ward (AW), , Marlene Gallop (MG), Christopher Gallup (CG), Jon Booth (JB), Pete Sayers (PS), John Dugay (JD), Mike Ashbee, Bridget Hetzel (BH), Barry Smale (BS)

Apologies: Becky Feather (BF), Bob Willis (BW), John Graham (JG), Nicola Bebb (NB)

Guests: John Bennets (JBe), Kay Ross (KR)

St Mary's Church - Presentation by JBe and KR

St Mary's Church has a reducing congregation and is therefore exploring non-worship ways in which the building can be used so that it can remain open. To this end a meeting at the church is to be held at St Mary's at 7pm on Thursday 20 September 2012. At this meeting all ideas for community-focussed activities will be considered in small discussion groups. It's important to get wide-ranging ideas for "what" before working out "how". The meeting will be of benefit only if all attendees have considered the possibilities beforehand and bring these to the meeting for discussion. A questionnaire will be sent to each house in the area, and this should be completed and brought to the meeting. A new group will be formed to take the ideas forward, to consider the "how", to identify sources of funding etc. More information will be made available by JBe and KR as work progresses.

Action [All]: Spread the word on this as much as possible.

Minutes of the last meeting: approved.

Matters arising:

- **Speeding:** c/f.
- **Skate Park** – John Graham's grandson keen: this c/f (JG will d/w MG to consider passing to Tina Rainey to investigate funds etc.)

Major Developments:

- **Golden Valley**

The meeting considered the Concept Statement from Mike Luton - need to feed back to S Glos Council the BVRA response.

MA announced that St Monica's Trust, a charity, is interested in buying the site to develop a care home with associated accommodation and facilities. The trust's existing developments at Sandford, Westbury-on-

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Trym are of high quality, and it was thought that a similar development in Bitton would be welcomed by the village. It's understood that the trust is prepared to make an unconditional offer for the site. A scheme has been drawn up by the trust's architect, and it was agreed that the BVRA should do what it can to encourage S Glos Planning to look favourably on the proposal. It's thought likely that if S Glos Planning don't welcome the trust's approach then the trust will quickly look elsewhere, possibly favouring Bath with its well-developed infrastructure and facilities.

AW compared the proposal with the checklist of BVRA recommendations (see page 26 of the council's Concept Statement) – the meeting was encouraged to find that the scheme meets many of the criteria, and was unanimously in support of the proposal as far as it could be judged.

Action **[MA]**: Email a summary paragraph to BH for general distribution.

Action **[AW]**: Write to Mike Luton cc Chris Skidmore, Colliers, Stronach (**JB** to check text first)

Action **[AW]**: Write to Mike Luton (JB to check text first)

Action **[AW]**: Arrange to meet with the trust's representative, Mike Wilson, and MA to discuss.

- **Brewery Hill**

Plans have been passed, but concerns were raised about the height or location of the greenhouses.

Action **[JB]**: Obtain information about the plans.

White Hart

BF has heard that the landlord is unhappy that the pub isn't receiving local support.

Action **[AW]**: Contact BF and arrange for AW and BF to meet the landlord to discuss.

Website

Local swimmer Siobhan-Marie O'Connor – the website has now been updated by Rob with good info on our Olympic swimmer, and the meeting would like to involve Siobhan-Marie in village activities to recognise her achievement.

Action **[JB]**: Contact Ann Willis to discuss the idea of Siobhan-Marie opening the Bitton Village fête in September.

Action **[JB]**: Contact Siobhan-Marie to ask if she'd like to open the first of the new season's Flicks in the Sticks.

Finance

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See Appendix A.

Social Activities

- **Gardening Club**

The evenings are really interesting – notably the recent talk on roses.

Open Gardens on 1 July was a great success, with 55-60 people visiting each garden on an unusually rain-free sunny day. Support from BH with the teas was once again really appreciated.

Tubs and Baskets - JG and JD have been doing a great job with the tubs. The BVRA may be able to fund tubs on the Boyd bridge in 2013. Maybe people could “adopt a hanging basket” and look after it, including watering. Sandra Veasey has been successful in asking S Glos to do watering. It was noted that Fonthill garden centre has given support - this is really appreciated. At the AGM a “plant czar” will be sought.

- **Report of Street Party**

Very successful (see Finance details) – compliments and thanks to BF and NB from the BVRA. They may want a debrief – no details available.

Action [AW]: Thank BF and NB formally from the committee.

- **Flicks in the Sticks**

BH reported that this may start in October rather than in September, due to other commitments on 21 September. Expect to run the new season’s films on the third Friday in each month, as in previous seasons.

AGM will be held on 11 October 2012.

Note that the date of the next regular meeting was changed from 20 September 2012 to 27 September 2012 to avoid clashing with the St Mary’s meeting (see above).

Action [JB]: Ask Rob to put this on the website.

Action [JB]: Pin notice on board by shop.

AOB:

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- MG reported that Hanham Hall (Barratt Homes development) can now be visited, by arrangement.

Next meeting: 8pm 27 September 2012, St Mary's Church Hall.

Action Agreed	By Whom
Sy Mary's - Spread the word on the initiative as much as possible.	All
Golden Valley - Email a summary paragraph to BH for general distribution	MA
Golden Valley - Write to Mike Luton cc Chris Skidmore, Colliers, Stronach (JB to check text first)	AW
Golden Valley - Write to Mike Luton (JB to check text first)	AW
Golden Valley - Arrange to meet with St Monica's Trust's representative, Mike Wilson, and MA to discuss.	AW
Brewery Hill - Obtain information about the plans.	JB
White Hart - Contact BF and arrange for AW and BF to meet the landlord to discuss.	AW
Siobhan-Marie - Contact Ann Willis to discuss opening the Bitton Village fête in September.	JB
Siobhan-Marie - Contact her to ask if she'd like to open the first of the new season's Flicks in the Sticks.	JB
Street Party - Thank BF and NB formally from the committee.	AW
AGM - Ask Rob to put info on the website.	JB
AGM - Pin notice on board by shop.	JB

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Appendix A

Briefing note for BVRA committee meeting Thursday 19th July

Financials as at 10th July 2012

Bank Balance	£3007.63
Of which Garden Club balance is	£900.65
Repayable grant from quartet	£650.00
Therefore balance for BVRA is	£1456.98

Notes :

1) Estimated expenditure for period to end July 2013 :

Insurance £250

Website registration £40

Flicks licence £100 balanced by income: no net expenditure

Hall Hire for committee meetings £106

Total forecast expenditure £396

Therefore on an ongoing basis, surplus available: £1060.98

2) Flicks made a profit of £64.66 after payment of the annual screening licence, hall hire, drinks licence and incidental running costs. This profit was put towards the £82.68 cost of flowers/plants for the village hanging baskets/tubs.

3) Surplus from the Jubilee Street party was £694.25

4) Surplus from the Bitton Open Gardens day was £168.95

5) Grant from Quartet held as ring fenced amount for possible other village use in Intier site development. This is in Andrew Ward's court.

Barry Smale