

Bitton Village Residents Association

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

10th October 2013

Present: Andrew Ward (AW)- Chair, Nicola Bebb (NB) – Minutes, Richard Bebb, John Graham, Tony Boulton, Bridget Hetzel (BH), Marlene & Christopher Gallop (CG), John Booth (JB), Tom Murphy, Kate Ward, Alan Aldous, Jon & Pam Heyes, Liz Green, Sue Nethercote, Sandra Veasey, Frank Fitzgibbon, Ken & Jill Gibson, Graham & Terena Sterry, Peter Sayers (PS), Theresa & Graham Sterry, Ken & Jill Gibson, Bel Mooney, David & Stephanie Bailey, Robin Allison-smith, Mike Ashbee, Paul Cooney,

Apologies: Barry (BS) & Wendy Smale, Becky Feather

To start with AW recognised the passing this year of Mike Thomas and David Perrett. They both were cornerstones of the BVRA and made an enormous contribution to village affairs by over the years.

Guest speaker – Chris Cowcher Community Engagement officer (community led planning)

Chris Cowcher started by outlining his background and reviewed this new role. Community engagement has recently been put to the fore, it is seen as part of environment and community services and safer and stronger communities. Their role is to liaise with town and Parish councils and are involved in community led planning, and safer and stronger community groups

The team are based in Yate,
our rep is Sarah Milne and can be contacted on 01454 865839
communityengagement@southglos.gov.uk and specifically
sarah.milne@southglos.gov.uk.

AW clarified that the best route in for reporting problems would be to report directly the appropriate team however Sarah Milne would be able to help for issues that do not seem to be making progress.

Minutes of Meeting 2012 – minutes were agreed proposed by PS and seconded by BH

Accounts – AW reported on the accounts on behalf of BS.

The AGM was advertised AW did not receive any written questions.

Chairman's report.

AW gave a report of the last years activities this included:

1. The fantastic success of the Gardening club which goes from strength to strength. It continues to have visits in the summer and speakers in the winter ad has kept the membership fee at £12
2. The ongoing work with the Parish plan.

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3. The continued success of the Film Club – which shows films in the Church hall in the winter months.
4. News of the sale of the Intier site. We do not have any other information but AW has been in touch with the agents and they will inform us when they can.
5. The annual planting of snowdrops in the village coordinated by Kate Ward with many thanks.
6. The periodic Litter picking events with thanks to Jon Booth for organising – it was discussed and encouraged that this should be an continual thing
7. The planning issues that had been tackled by the Committee
8. The work in progress to develop Aubery Meads play area. It has been very slow progress, £16000 has been identified and the sub- committee meets next week to apply for further funding.
9. We continue to try to tackle speeding but are not having much support from the police
10. The BVRA continue to work with the church

The Church Report

Ken Gibson gave the church report

St Marys wanted to register thanks to the community for the fete. It was a great success and would not have been possible without all the community input.

A meeting was held this year looking at how the church could be more involved in the community and visa versa. This was well attended. Ideas evolving included opening the church which started in January. We were encouraged to bring visitors.

St Marys has revamped their website.

They are now looking at investigating options to be credible and to hold bigger events or projects for example to become a heritage or visitor centre or to hold concerts. However to do this they would need more parking and are considering a section of the fete field. Views were canvassed and in principal a strong majority at the meeting were in favour of the suggestion, providing it was grassed over.

It was also announced that a community choir is starting up.

Election of Officers

Existing members are:

Marlene Gallop

Andrew Ward

Nicola Bebb

Barry Smale

John Graham

Christopher Gallop

Tony Boulton

John Dugay

Becky Feather

Nicola Bebb

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Jon Booth
Mike Ashbee
Tom Murphy

All existing members of the committee were willing to stand and were re-elected.

AW proposed Stephanie Bailey joins the committee and to invite Andrew Thomas as an observer. Both were agreed.

Plans for next year/AOB

There was a brainstorm and ideas were shared.

Thanks were given to Becky Feather for the wonderful job she does with reporting the activities of the BVRA through Focal Point.

It was felt that open gardens was a great event but that every other year was suitable.

Tony Bolton suggested that Mike Gate may be interested in doing a history of the village. Tony Boulton will contact him.

David Bailey suggested a leaflet drop to invite people to give their email addresses to widen the data base. It was agreed to put something out with the Church drop.

Speeding is still a problem both in Bitton and in Swineford.

Access to cycle path – still on the agenda

Frank Fitzgibbon encouraged people to use the shop and asked for suggestion to improve it.

The Brewery lane Green house site is still on the agenda

There was a vote of thanks to AW for another great year as chairman.

Next committee meeting 8pm 7th November at the Rec.