

Bitton Village Residents Association

Committee Meeting Minutes 7th November 2013 The Rec

Present: Andrew Ward (AW), Becky Feather (BF), Bridget Hetzel (BH), Christopher Gallop (CG), Erica Williams (EW) Jon Booth (JB), Marlene Gallop (MG), Paul Cooney (PC), Pete Sayers (PS), Stephanie Bailey (SB), Steve Cox (SC), Tony Boulton (TB).

Apologies: Barry Smale (BS), John Dugay (JD), Mike Ashbee (MA), Nicola Bebb (NB), Tom Murphy (TM).

Minutes of the last meeting – approved

Matters arising

- AW will contact Sarah Milne, following up the presentation at the previous meeting.
- AW will write regarding dog bins: these are not for litter.
- EW will follow up action re roundabout – will contact David at S Glos council.
- SC has contacted Rob about the website, and will follow this up with further discussion on improving the site's structure, making it less static and introducing social network links.
- AW will drop action to contact playschool in Church Lane re safety issues – no advantage to be gained.
- EW will contact the owner of the land on the S site of the main road to request that the “shrinking pavement” be cleared of encroaching hedge etc.
- TB has followed up the village history initiative and will contact Chrissie Cullimore.
- EW will contact Mark King regarding the Bitton signs – need work. W suggested that we start a “better signage” campaign, with the objective of raising money – maybe for roadside gates (no action agreed).

Appointment of Officers

The current officers have each been in post for three years so must retire. The following changes were proposed and elected:

- Chair: AW retired, SC elected (nom BH)
- Vice-chair: PS retired, AW elected (nom JB)
- Treasurer: BS retired, JB elected (nom)
- Secretary: NB retired, no-one elected, so committee members will take it in turns to perform minute-taking etc.

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SC took over the Chair's role from AW for the remainder of the meeting, thanking AW for his great work.

Aubrey Meads Play Area – EW has met again with Tina Rainey and Virginia McNab. Around £75K is apparently now required for design & build (£60K), ground clearance (£3K) and fencing (£10K). Landfill-related core funding could be sought from SITA, Ibstock, Biffa, Veolia – S Glos would apply to SITA, whereas local groups would apply to Veolia: S Glos would manage the project in either case. Veolia and SITA have each confirmed that funds could be made available (long timescale). S Glos will apply to SITA; AW will apply to Veolia. EW will monitor progress. It's expected that S Glos would make up the shortfall. Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) could help too. EW reported that £8632 has been ringfenced for the play area.

There is £15000 set aside with possibility of raising more. AW has applied for a further £2000 from SSCI (Safer Stronger Community Initiative). It is understood that they plan to start work in November. MG will write on behalf of the BVRA expressing our plans to invite the press to celebrate the start of works.

Requests to move Upton Cheyney footpath Aubrey meads to UC – The plans have been rejected by the parish council.

Manor Farm planning application – The people behind the application to make 2 new bridle paths on Manor farm land don't live locally; the planning application is pending, having been rejected unanimously by the Parish Council (advisory only).

King's Square – EW's spoken to the landowner and case officer; the parish council has objected strongly to the proposed development. The committee, despite some support for the proposed design of the properties, decided to object to the development application on the basis that the land is green belt (confirmed by AW), in a conservation area, outside the settlement boundary. AW will register BVRA's opposition.

Finance- No details available.

Social activities – still open to ideas.

- **Night run** – SC suggested a night run (late evening either in early or late summer) from the Rec along the cycle path, fun for young and old, inclusive, encourage community involvement, raise money. Bitton Roadrunners would organise (SC to discuss this with them) and the Rec would be involved. Police could get involved too through the Roadrunners. See www.glowinthepark.co.uk/ for details of similar events.
- **Flower tubs** – EW talked about fundraising for flower tubs ("Bitton in Bloom") – maybe have an event at Easter or Whitsun, and suggested that King's Forest could fund the tubs' upkeep. EW to explore this and

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report back.

- **Film Club and Gardening Club** – BH reported that these are both going really well; wondered if the Rec's mailing list could be used to advise a wider range of people of BVRA activities. SC to think about this.
- **Barn Dance** – at the Rec. on November 8th £8 for adult. Tickets are in aid of the Rec and are available from PC.

AOB

- **Intier** – sold to another investment company (not St Monica's), who's compiling a planning application and will submit this to S Glos Council. EW has spoken to Mike Luton and will speak to Steve Evans without delay. SC proposed that a Freedom of Information request be made via email, to learn the identity of the new owner. EW thinks it will all be in the public domain by Christmas. There's a concern that the purchaser may be planning to raze the entire site rather than comply with the correct procedures.
- **Quiet Lane scheme** – EW explained that this has green signage, and that it aims to reduce traffic speed – committee dubious about this. EW will continue to make enquiries.
- **Church lane** – the resurfacing work has been postponed. EW to get info and report back.
- **Refuse collection in Church Lane** – SITA now collecting using a smaller vehicle to collect bins.
- **The Rec** – report by PC: Mark has taken over as chair, with new treasurer too - general optimism and energy, working with the football club (who have 25 years of a 30-year lease remaining). Junior and senior sections thriving, improved environment, trustees keen to continue fundraising – positive outlook.
- **Community choir** – SB reported Ken Gibson's announcement of carols in the village on 18 December, ending up at the White Hart – might the new community choir get involved? Discussion about how this event could be promoted – PC will ask the Barn Dance caller to announce it; BF will put it in the newsletter.
- **Parking by the school** – problems caused by a few drivers; PC suggests the police be consulted for advice on how to deal (no action agreed). EW has placed this on agenda for next SSCG meeting so can feed back the results at the next meeting. Safety camera will continue to be deployed in Bitton. SC will move this to a general agenda item.

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- **Speeding** – general discussion without action or resolution. Reference made to traffic calming in Hanham and in Peasedown St John, both of which were thought to be effective measures. Poor road condition in Kelston noted by CG.

Action Agreed	By Whom
Contact Sarah Milne	AW
Write regarding dog bins	AW
Follow up action on roundabout	EW
Improve website	SC
Follow up “shrinking pavement” problem	EW
Contact Chrissie Cullimore re village history	TB
Contact Mark King re Bitton signs	EW
Apply to Veolia for Aubrey Meads money	AW
Keep up pressure within S Glos and monitor progress with Aubrey Meads funding application	EW
Discuss night run with Bitton Roadrunners	SC
Discuss King’s Forest funding for upkeep of flower tubs.	EW
Consider how/whether the Rec mailing list could be used for BVRA info.	SC
Talk to Steve Evans to obtain info on the Intier site development.	EW
Submit a Freedom of Information request to S Glos council re the Intier site.	SC
Get more info on the Quiet Lane scheme.	EW
Get more info about Church Lane resurfacing work	EW
Register BVRA’s opposition to the Kings Square proposed development	AW
Ask Barn Dance caller to announce carols in village	PC
Put village carols item in newsletter	BF
Report on progress with issue of parking outside the school	EW
Move parking/speeding to a general agenda item	SC

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Provisional dates for 2014 meetings:

- Thu 13 Feb
- Thu 8 May
- Thu 11 Sep
- Thu 9 Oct (AGM)
- Thu 13 Nov

Note: meetings usually to be held in the Church Hall, with one per year to be held at the Rec.