

# Bitton Village Residents Association

Annual General Meeting  
Minutes  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2015



**Present:** Andrew Ward (Chair), Nicola (Secretary) & Richard Bebb, John & Pam Booth Barry & Wendy Smale, Alan & Sue Murtagh, Jim Heavens, Mike Gates, Martin & Bridget Hetzel, Jill Gibson, Marlene Gallop, Frank Fitzgibbon, Siobhan and Lindsey O'Connor, Sue Nethercote, John & Sandra Veasey, Nicola Bennets, George Friend, Christine Thomas, Janet Ivans, Barbara & Paul Cooney, Mike & Rachel Ashbe, Jaqui & Peter Sayers David & Stephanie Bailey

**Apologies:** Ken Gibson, Becky Feather

## **Guest speaker – Siobhan O'Connor.**

It was a great honour to have Siobhan at the AGM. AW reviewed her career so far and interviewed her in a desert Island discs style. She brought two of her impressive haul of medals including her World Championships Gold medal for the 4x100m mixed medley.

Her music choices included the Rocky theme tune (which she chose for the memories of going to the county championships), Survival by Muse (the official music for London 2012) and Mr Blue Sky by ELO (her feel good song which reminds her of 2012)

On behalf of the BVRA, AW presented her with a Kate Ward original painting of a swimmer. "She is an inspiration to everyone in Bitton"

The trials for Rio are in April and will be held in Glasgow. The whole village will be behind her.

**Minutes of Meeting 2014** – was proposed by JB and seconded by JS, the minutes were agreed.

## **Finances**

JB gave the BVRA Financial report

AW recognised the passing this year of Christopher Gallop, He was a cornerstone of the BVRA and made an enormous contribution to village affairs by over the years and will be greatly missed.

## **Chairman's report.**

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

1. The barn dance was a great success. Many thanks were extended to Jo Saville and all her team. We are keen to do something in 2016.
2. George Friend and the team were congratulated on the completion of the Aubrey Meads Play area
3. Flix in the Sticks continues to be well attended the 50th Film to be shown this season – thanks were given to Bridget and the team.
4. Gardening club – is a huge success. Going from strength to strength. Thank you to the committee

# Bitton Village Residents Association

5. There is ongoing work to try to put benches and flowers on the bridge.
6. Golden Valley Site. - Plans have now been published. There was at the time of the meeting no date yet for when it will go to planning. Icení have been co-operative. We will continue to press for green spaces rather than hard landscaping and for a community shelter.
7. Car park on the Glebe field. We are awaiting the business plan before to go back to planning. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of the putting the car park in the field. The committee have been unable to agree and so will remain neutral.
8. We continue to plant daffodils and snow drops to brighten our lanes.
9. The owl tree continues to sprout and we continue to trim it.
10. 2K + toads have been helped across the road. Volunteers welcome.
11. Yellow lines on the A431/Meadows and now in place – in heritage yellow!
12. The BVRA again contributed to the Fete – thank you to the Kate Ward who organises the art exhibition and thank you to the cream tea ladies.
13. History Club held its inaugural General Meeting on 22 April and adopted its constitution
  - a. SB is now Chair, MG Secretary.
  - b. Five Meetings held over the last year – Upton School Re-union, Miscreants, Ian Bishop talk, St Mary's, Roman Bitton
  - c. Attendance typically good with over 50 at last meeting.
  - d. Finance: Grant received from Bitton P.C. of £200; balance £237.66
  - e. Website receiving heavy usage – 2900+ visits last month from 1400+ individuals
  - f. Overall we are pleased with the start – thanks given to Andrew and Jon for their support
  - g. The History group has provided suggestions for the road names for the new development
14. Technology: the Facebook site is growing. New BVRA website is pending.

## **The Committee going forward**

Of the existing members Becky Feather and Steve Cox have stood down. The rest of the committee were happy to stand. Alan Murtagh and George Friend were proposed to join the committee. The first committee meeting will be on Wed 18th Nov. 8pm

## **General discussion and AOB**

Disappointment was expressed that no council members were at the meeting There was then a general discussion with suggestions invited as to what the committee should be doing in the next year. Suggestions included:

1. The Pound ground could need attention. S Gloucester council wants to devolve responsibility for maintaining it. This is being discussed at the next parish council meeting BH and AW will go.
2. Jacqui Sayers suggested a park run. Perhaps on Saturday mornings – social gathering. She will investigate further
3. Car boot sale for possible fundraising was suggested.

# Bitton Village Residents Association

4. Some sort of diary of village events was mooted – this would help to prevent clashes

AOB

It was also mentioned that Bitton had been noted for being a supportive village during the inaugural Bitton to Bath marathon in October. Well done everyone

There was a vote of thanks for AW.