



BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NOTES OF MEETING – Wednesday 18th November 2015; 20:00 – Church Hall

MEMBERS/ATTENDEES:

PRESENT		UNAVAILABLE	
Andrew Ward	Chair	Georgie Friend	Apologies
Jon Booth	Treasurer	Mike Ashbee	Apologies
Tony Boulton		Pete Sayers	Apologies
Bridget Hetzel		Nicola Bebb (Secretary)	Apologies
Barry Smale		Paul Cooney	
Marlene Gallop		Stephanie Bailey	
Pam Hacker		Tom Murphy	
Jacqui Sayers		Pete Sayers	Apologies
Alan Murtagh	Stand-in note taker		
VISITORS			
John Bennetts	For St. Mary's car park plans.	Erica Williams	Apologies
		Virginia McNab	Apologies
RESIGNATIONS from AGM (28/10/2015)			
		Andrew Thomas	
		Becky Feather	
		John Graham	
		Steve Cox	

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 24th February 2016; 20:00 – Church Hall

	DISCUSSION/MAIN POINTS	ACTION
1	<p>St Mary's Church Plans – John Bennetts</p> <p>John kindly attended the meeting at Andrew's invitation to try and answer BVRA questions. This is of particular relevance to the current Planning Application for a car park in Glebe Field which is awaiting presentation of a "special circumstances" justifying "Business Plan" requested by the planning authorities.</p> <p>Without addressing the acknowledged varying BVRA and community views on the principle of a car park development in the Conservation Area and Green Belt, the main points in answer to queries and discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Business Plan being developed by a small sub-group of church members would not be discussed with the BVRA or made available for wider community input prior to submission to South Gloucestershire Council. This is a source of disappointment. • Once on the Council Planning Applications web site it would be visible to all. No guidance could be given on what opportunity this would afford for consultation/comments that might lead to changes. John indicated that he believed that if planning permission were to be given in the light of the Business Plan that it would be subject to imposed conditions addressing 	

	<p>community/environmental/highway concerns etc. The attitude of the Church is that consultation meetings about what sorts of events the church would hold and the impact of their proposed car park had been held and thus no more community communication is needed.</p> <p>ACTION: Check and communicate opportunities and process for future BVRA/Community expression of views and influence.</p> <p>ACTION: Get onto the list to speak at the Planning Meeting at which the Business Plan and Application will be considered and investigate 5min time constraint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church needs to increase its income to survive. The sorts of fund raising events in mind include debates, concerts, music events. • Other options for car parking have not been pursued through to conclusion. (E.g. renegotiation of the leasing/tenancy agreement to enable the 28 day per annum rule to be applied etc; other close locations.) • John explained that longer term it was in mind to reconfigure the church internally by perhaps removing pews and erecting partitioning to improve usability of space for a diversity of community activities that were not currently practicable. It is appreciated that there may be significant constraints given that St Mary's is a Grade 1 listed building and that the congregation views needed extensive consideration. John expressed the view that the church felt that the Car Park was a prerequisite to this reconfiguration rather than the other way around. • It was indicated in passing that the established footpath across the Glebe Field might need alteration in the light of car park development. <p>In conclusion, the majority of the BVRA Committee members attending expressed a considerable amount of disquiet that the Church was to be developing their car park proposals and associated business plan without proper community involvement.</p> <p>The committee was surprised and disappointed that the Church did not want to involve the residents association and community in its planning to develop the Church for community use. It was not considered that the meeting held two years or so ago was adequate consultation.</p> <p>John was thanked by the Chairman for attending to try and answer questions and he agreed to communicate the BVRA's view to the church subcommittee.</p> <p>Andrew stressed the BVRA's commitment to the survival of the church and its exceptional environment and offered to help with participation should the Church reconsider their current policy with regard to external consultation.</p>	<p>Andrew</p> <p>Andrew</p> <p>John Bennetts</p>																				
2	Attendees and Apologies – see table above																					
3	<p>Appointment of Officers</p> <p>The following nominees accepted re-election following proposal and seconding:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="252 1771 1241 1957"> <thead> <tr> <th>POST</th> <th>APPOINTED</th> <th>PROPOSER</th> <th>SECONDER</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Andrew Ward</td> <td>Bridget Hetzel</td> <td>Tony Boulton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice Chairman</td> <td>Vacant</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Jon Booth</td> <td>Jacqui Sayers</td> <td>Bridget Hetzel</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Nicola Bebb*</td> <td>Jon Booth</td> <td>Bridget Hetzel</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>*Nicola had agreed to continue, in her absence, if re-elected.</p>	POST	APPOINTED	PROPOSER	SECONDER	Chairman	Andrew Ward	Bridget Hetzel	Tony Boulton	Vice Chairman	Vacant			Treasurer	Jon Booth	Jacqui Sayers	Bridget Hetzel	Secretary	Nicola Bebb*	Jon Booth	Bridget Hetzel	
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4	PREVIOUS MINUTES	
4a	<p>Golden Valley – Intier Site</p> <p>Final Planning Application is now on the South Gloucestershire website and comments can still be made. Some recognition of previous concerns about the frontage building line is apparent, however, it still appears that the corner of one building is within about a metre of the road/bus stop.</p>	
4b	<p>Village Planters</p> <p>Erica Williams has undertaken to speak to the Council on this. ACTION: <i>Follow up.</i></p>	Bridget
4c	<p>Liaison with South Gloucestershire Council</p> <p>With changes in personnel it is considered that the previous high quality liaison with the Council could deteriorate. Unfortunately the Council’s representatives were unable attend this evening. ACTION: <i>Follow up.</i></p>	Andrew
4d	<p>Flicks in the Sticks</p> <p>Bridget reported a continuing well attended and vibrant activity. It will be the 50th film show in March.</p>	
4e	<p>BVRA Website (and related)</p> <p>Originally set up by Rob Gready but currently without a host and is unsustainable without funding and attention, despite work by Georgie. Fund raising for re-setting up is a possibility but ongoing content maintenance is also a requirement.</p> <p>The possibility of having a slot in a community part of South Gloucestershire’s website was raised. ACTION: <i>Follow up.</i></p> <p>The suggestion to make greater use of the Facebook Bitton site was made by Andrew. ACTION: <i>Encourage use of the existing Bitton Facebook for community communications.</i></p>	<p>Bridget</p> <p>All</p>
4f	<p>Aubrey Meads Play Area</p> <p>Marlene updated the meeting on efforts she had succeeded in to obtain recognition for Georgie Friend for his excellent persistence and achievement in getting the Play Area in place.</p> <p>Marlene managed to agree an extended deadline for nomination for a national “Young Champions” award which was successful. Georgie, his mother and Marlene will now attend a presentation ceremony at Lords Cricket Ground. The nomination, (whether the “Young Champions” award is won by Georgie in the</p>	

	<p>face of other nominees or not) comes with a £500 funding for attendance at the ceremony on 2nd December, with the award potentially being presented by a “Royal”! The BVRA is loaning these expenses until they paid officially.</p> <p>The meeting thanked Marlene for her excellent efforts in getting the nomination submitted against the odds of a missed deadline.</p>	
4g	<p>Jubilee Tree</p> <p>Feedback deferred to next meeting in Nicola’s absence.</p>	Nicola
4h	<p>Finance</p> <p>Jon reported on the accounts, which are £1300 in credit. (Including the £500 loaned for the “Young Champions” Award attendance.)</p>	
4i	<p>Planning Notices</p> <p>Circulation of these is continuing from Jon as appropriate.</p>	
4j	<p>History Group</p> <p>Feedback deferred to next meeting in Stephanie’s absence.</p>	Stephanie
4k	<p>Garden Club</p> <p>Bridget reported the club’s continuing success, that there are now more than 60 members and that the programme for next year is under development.</p> <p>Andrew mentioned that the BVRA had funded some daffodil bulbs and that these had been planted along verges approaching the village to augment those already in place.</p>	
4l	<p>Party in the Park 2016</p> <p>Andrew raised the idea of a summer Party in the Park as suggested by Jo Saville after this year’s barn dance. The committee considered this a great idea and Andrew will contact Jo see if she is happy to run this</p>	Andrew
5	<p>Any Other Business</p>	
5a	<p>Park Run (See attached document)</p> <p>Jacqui had followed this up with the UK arm as a potential activity for Bitton. Some salient points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There’s a start-up fee of £3000 for use of the concept which includes support, supply of participant tokens, a Smartphone App etc. • A fair amount of voluntary and participant commitment is required. E.g. for a weekly 5km event, a core organising team of 3 or 4, fixed course, toilet/café facilities etc. <p>Though of considerable interest this was thought to be a significant commitment and the feeling that something of a lower key should be investigated first. The following actions were agreed:</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Follow up pilot possibilities and talk to Steve Cox.</i> 	Jacqui



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check whether Sue Murtagh would be able to help/participate. • Discuss with Bitton Harriers 	Alan Andrew
5b	<p>Yellow Lines</p> <p>Pam felt that the conservation yellow lines by the Meadows School had been successful so far.</p>	
5c	<p>Pound Field “Party in the Park”</p> <p><i>ACTION: Jo Saville to be invited to the next meeting to discuss.</i></p>	Andrew
5d	<p>Flicks in the Sticks (Friday 20th November)</p> <p>Marlene’s offer of being stand-in Ice Cream Hostess was gratefully accepted.</p>	Marlene
5e	<p>BVRA Committee Resignations</p> <p>Most regretfully, for people have resigned from the BVRA Committee. John Graham, John Dugay, Becky Feather and Steve Cox. The Chairman thanked all four for their great support over the years and expressed his hope to see them attending committee meetings from time to time.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Letter of thanks to be written to leaving committee members.</i></p>	Andrew
6	<p>NEXT MEETINGS</p> <p>All at 8pm in the Church Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 24th February 2016 • Wednesday 11th May 2016 • Wednesday 13th July 2016 • Wednesday 21st September 2016 <p>AGM – Wednesday 19th October 2016</p>	

Thank you to Alan Murtagh for these excellent minutes.

Andrew Ward

Chairman BVRA

23rd November 2015