

# Bitton Village Residents Association

## Annual General Meeting Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> October 2016



**Present:** Andrew Ward (Chair), Nicola (Secretary) & Richard Bebb, John (Treasurer) & Pam Booth, Martin & Bridget Hetzel, Mike Gates, Marlene Gallop, Jaqui & Peter Sayers, Tony Bolton, Sue Nethercote, John & Sandra Veasey, Siobhan & Sean O'Connor, Frank Fitzgibbon, James Smith, Jemma Wiggins, John & Nicola Bennets, John & Pam Heyes, Mary Younie, Christine Thomas, Pam Hacker, Samatha Yarde, Jim & Sarah Heavens, Janet Ivans, Paul Cooney, Jill Gibson, Julie Davidson, Marjorie Polden, Adrian Pike,

**Apologies:** Barry and Wendy Smale, Becky Feather, George Friend, Alan Murtagh

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

It was a great honour to have Siobhan at the AGM. AW reviewed her career successes and Siobhan laid out the hard work that went with it including the sparsity of pre-competition diet. Siobhan and her father talked through a selection of photographs from the Rio Games. She brought her Olympic Silver medal. It was thrilling to hear about the various technological advances that helped team GB to have success for example heated jackets and the textile in the swimming costumes. She also relayed the story of her trip to Trafalgar square on the 18<sup>th</sup> October and how nervous she was meeting HRH the Queen.

She was presented with a silver medal – She is the pride of Bitton.

**Minutes of Meeting 2015** – the minutes were agreed this was proposed by JS and seconded by RB

The actions from this meeting were reviewed.

JS looked into setting up a park run but this involved a start-up levy of around £4k. This was felt to be unfeasible

### **Finances**

JB gave the BVRA Financial report.

### **Written Questions**

There was a question about the income of the mobile mast which is on the Recreation ground. The question was referred to Paul Cooney for further clarification. (Addendum post meeting PC will answer the question after clarification with Ken Gibson).

### **Chairman's report.**

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

1. Flicks in the Sticks. – It has been running for 9 years.
2. Gardening club – membership remains at £12. There are seven meetings and then gardening visits at cost.

## Bitton Village Residents Association

3. A grant from South Glos council has been used to buy the 6 planters on the bridge, and pay for the parks department to plant them up. There was also a grant from the parish council to pay for the winter display. Thanks went to Fonthill Garden Centre for doing the planting. Thanks also went to the Bitton Motor company for allowing us to use their water pipe and water. Linden homes has agreed to sponsor the flowers next year.
  4. Intier site – things are ‘hotting up’.
    - a. They have declined our invitation to the AGM, despite best efforts from AW to try to persuade them.
    - b. They have sent out their first communication.
    - c. It has been noted the men have been seen with white contamination suits and air extraction equipment.
    - d. Sharon Robbins has agreed to be an information conduit to pass on questions to Linden homes. She can be contacted on [bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:bittonpc@blueyonder.co.uk)
    - e. The history group have made suggestions for new names for the streets within the development.
    - f. There is some community infrastructure money (levy) approx. £160K which will come to Bitton parish council. AW encouraged those present to start thinking about ways we could be suggesting that the money is spent.
    - g. There is no obligation for Linden to renovate the refectory and the gatehouse it is likely that they may sell them.
    - h. Ash house and Heather house are going to be sold.
    - i. GVFC have bought the land up to the fence and plan to develop it into further fishing lakes and wildlife areas.
    - j. AW has asked if the village can keep the original weighbridge and some other historical features. Linden has declined the weighbridge but are willing to incorporate some of the pillars and lintels into development and are willing to include it in their planning permission.
    - k. Other questions which arose were:
      - i. Should they be starting work before 8am and on a Sunday? (Answer: Usually, “permitted working hours” are controlled under conditions attached to the planning consent. This will need to be checked and kept an eye on).
      - ii. Why are they wearing white contamination suits? (Answer: The “Men in white Suits” were specialist contractors carrying the controlled removal of asbestos. This work has now been completed)
      - iii. How long will the phases go on for?
      - iv. Do we know what changes will be made to crossings?
      - v. What arrangements will be made for traffic going in and out and the junction?
- These will all be fed back to the developers.
5. Lanes and streets - Thank you for all that helped with the rubbish clearing day. More daffodils and snowdrops were planted this year.
  6. The Church Fete – was very wet but a great success.

# Bitton Village Residents Association

7. History Group – Mike Gates gave a review of the History group's activities which has gone from strength to strength. The plans for next year's meeting were also reviewed. Many thanks went to Barry Smale for all his help
8. Digital Presence – The BVRA have a new website – [www.bvra.uk](http://www.bvra.uk), the history group have a very active website [www.bittonhistory.org.uk](http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk) and the Bitton Village facebook page [www.facebook.com/bittonvillage](http://www.facebook.com/bittonvillage) whilst not run by the BVRA is very active and is a good place to keep up to date with events, small adverts and village news.
9. Events – A brilliant fashion show was held in the church. Thanks to George Friend
10. John Bennetts talked briefly to encourage residents to come forward if they might have ideas about fundraising for the church.

## **The Committee going forward**

There was one resignation from the committee, Tom Murphy was thanked for his contribution. All the other current committee members were proposed. Mary Younie was proposed join the committee by AW and seconded by MG.

## **General discussion and AOB**

1. Frank reported that the village shop has been for sale for 18months. There has been an offer which has been accepted. The lease is still being negotiated.
2. There will shortly be a leaflet drop to local residents to try to increase communication. This will help the BVRA to involve as many residents as we can and able us to get wider opinions on matters that arise.
3. There was suggestion of a village newsletter. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next committee meeting.