



Approved – at meeting: 20th April 2017

BITTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

NOTES OF MEETING – Thursday 19th January 2017; 20:00 – Church Hall

COMMITTEE MEMBERS/INVITEES:

PRESENT		UNAVAILABLE	
Mike Ashbee (MA)		Stephanie Bailey (SB)	Apologies
Nicola Bebb (NB)	Chair	Bridget Hetzel (BH)	Apologies
Jon Booth (JB)	Treasurer	Andrew Ward (AW)	Apologies
Paul Cooney (PC)		Mary Younie (MY)	
Marlene Gallop (MG)		Georgie Friend (GF)	
Mike Gates (MGa)			
Pam Hacker (PH)		INVITEES	
Alan Murtagh (AM)	Secretary	Virginia McNab (VN)	Apologies
Pete Sayers (PS)		Erica Williams (EW)	
Barry Smale (BS)			

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 20th April 2017; 20:00 – Church Hall

	DISCUSSION/MAIN POINTS	ACTION
1	Previous Minutes (BVRA Minutes 17-11-2016) - Agreed	
2	Attendees and Apologies – see table above.	
3	<p>Community Involvement/Communications</p> <p>a) Leaflet Drop</p> <p>BH provided a draft leaflet (attached). Feedback at meeting was enthusiastic, plus change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Put Flowers on.....” to “Planted Flowers on.....” • references to “History Society” to “Bitton Parish History Group” <p>Any further comments back to BH please by Sunday 5th February. Update for circulation via email and door drop.</p> <p>b) Village Newsletter</p> <p>The possibility of this was discussed. It was rejected on the grounds that a number of other excellent means of communication were in place (e.g. Focal Point, Bitton Parish Council Newsletter, BVRA and related websites, email lists) and impracticability of sustaining another publication of suitable standard.</p> <p>c) BVRA Communications email address</p> <p>An email address (bvra17@gmail.com) has been set up to assist communication between the community and the BVRA. The mailbox and circulation lists will be managed by BH.</p>	<p>All BH</p>



<p>4</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>a) Land in New Pitt Lane</p> <p>The window for objections is still open should anyone wish to do so.</p> <p>b) Meadows Farm Caravans NB has requested an update from VM</p> <p>c) Piplely Alpaca Farm</p> <p>This is a change of use application with the desire to tie additional acreage in. BS is in touch with this. It was agreed that an objection should be lodged on behalf of the committee and NB agreed to action.</p> <p>GENERAL NOTE <i>It is important that objections to Planning Applications, Environmental Issues such as noise or effluent smells are reported by individuals who are affected/feel strongly about the particular topic. Whilst the BVRA Committee may lodge an objection/complaint if there is sufficient feeling, the volume of contacts made to the authorities is extremely important and actions can often only be taken in response to individuals' representations.</i></p>	<p>VM</p> <p>NB</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Website (BVRA.UK)</p> <p>Handover of BVRA secretarial role from NB to AM has taken place and AM is now also able to update aspects of the website along with others.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>JB provided a Briefing Note showing an overall healthy position as at 19/1/17 (Net balance ~£400). However, it was recognised that to sustain the General Fund, other sources of income were required; for instance an annual event with an entrance fee. (E.g. like the Ceilidh planned for this summer.) Any additional ideas gratefully received.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Process/Proposals</p> <p>The system for application and choosing projects wishing to use funds continues to be developed by the Parish Council and details will be publicised when they are able. It is believed that applications won't be accepted until April/May.</p> <p>Potential applications could be to help finance using Bitton Mill site salvaged Items (see Item 10 below) to create a historical installation, contribute to provision of more suitable Village Hall facilities etc. However, a coordinated approach is required to examine ideas and decide the best course of action. To this end a small sub-group comprising NB, JB and AW will form and bring proposals to the Committee.</p> <p>An email to the BVRA community is required to canvass for appropriate ideas.</p>	<p>NB, JB, AW</p> <p>Subgrp with BH</p>



<p>8</p>	<p>Mobile Library</p> <p>MG confirmed that the Mobile Library Service is definitely being stopped. Various potential locations for a Community Library were floated. (E.g. the school, Intier refectory, church etc.) Correspondence from John Bennetts (22/12/16) indicated very positively that St. Mary's was a potential location once "some suitable reorganisation of the church internal space" had been carried out. This was likely to be in phase 2 of the church plan. John also asked whether we had any proposals as to who might run the library. (A rota from a volunteer pool could work. AM would be happy to participate.)</p> <p>AM to include on next meeting agenda.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Pumping Station (Church Road)</p> <p>It had been noticed that further lorry pumping activity had taken place on Sunday 15th Jan. Probably maintenance following earlier events.</p> <p>As with other issues, individuals should log complaints individually, e.g. of unpleasant smells coming from the pumping station. These can be reported to Wessex Water via:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tel. 0345 600 4 600</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Or email operational.enquiries@wessexwater.co.uk</p> <p>VM had previously helpfully noted that the Parish Council could provide support if needed and that the date, problem, weather conditions and if any action was needed/what action was taken should be logged.</p> <p>If people wish to pass this info to AM it will be forwarded to the Parish Council.</p>	<p>AM</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Golden Valley Mill Development</p> <p>a) Salvage Items – From AW email 19/1/17</p> <p>"Golden Valley Mill heritage feature ... columns, girder, weighbridge etc. Things are progressing well on this</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We have been given the weighbridge top (although damaged on removal .. we will see how badly soon), three broken columns and a girder b. We have agreement that we can work with Linden and South Glos to design some sort of heritage feature in the community space at the front c. Our History Group (thank you Mike) will think about how we present the history of the site brass/paper/auto on boards/audio boxes or something which will be incorporated into the design d. Funding for the work, which might cost £15k (?) could come from CIL money, Linden or other charitable sources (Quartet, Heritage Lottery, waste companies etc) e. I presented the idea to Bitton parish council and they were most supportive. f. Linden Homes are being very co-operative g. Next step is to agree a design.. I attach the image I have been using so far but would welcome more input from the committee please? h. We will then submit plans for whatever approval might be required." <p>Also, David Hawking has offered storage if required. And Martin Hanney will be approached for advice on tidying up items to manageable form if appropriate.</p> 	<p>MGa</p> <p>ALL/AW</p> <p>AW</p>



	<p>b) Play Area</p> <p>AW requests that we feedback comments to him asap on the proposed play area as described in the attached email. He will aggregate them and respond to the developers. (It was suggested a seat was required.)</p> <p>c) Development Progress/Liaison</p> <p>A Progress Report was circulated with the recent Bitton Parish Council Newsletter and all appears to be progressing well.</p> <p>AW continues liaising with Linden Homes as appropriate.</p>	<p>ALL/AW</p> <p>AW</p>
11	<p>Summer Ceilidh</p> <p>AW reports: “Josette is on the ball on this. David Hawking has kindly agreed to hold it in his barn. Hope to get a date confirmed this weekend.”</p> <p>Jo to be invited to next meeting for an update.</p> <p>Given the need to raise money for the General Fund it was suggested that a review of the ticket pricing policy would be sensible.</p>	<p>AW</p> <p>AW/JB/ Jo</p>
12	<p>Counsellors’ Update – No input received on agenda items below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed restriction in the lanes • Roundabout feature • Golden Valley site 	VM/EW
13	<p>Flicks In The Sticks</p> <p>Continues successfully with its new season just commencing with the challenging “Eye In The Sky”. (Post meeting observation from AM – Film was packed out and extremely well received.)</p>	
14	<p>Gardening Club</p> <p>BS reported on the thriving club. 60 people (9 new) signed up at the recent AGM and an exciting programme for the year was presented.</p>	
15	<p>Parish History Group (NOTE: Date of next meeting has been brought forward.)</p> <p>MGa reported that the Group was continuing its great success. 90 people attended meetings on both Coalmining and Hat Making. The next meeting on Tuesday 21st 30th March is entitled Home Front and is to be held in St Mary’s Church the Church Hall. Future meetings are anticipated to cover Planning On The Intier Site and Roman Finds at Manor Farm.</p> <p>As also mentioned elsewhere [see 16 c) i)], MGa has considerable concern about being able to cater for the numbers of people wishing to attend the meetings.</p> <p>The healthy nature of the Group is evidenced by interest in its website (December saw 5500 hits from 2000 visitors) and the £580 bank balance from meetings etc.</p> <p>MG was thanked for all her excellent work in drawing together contributions for “The Great Flood of 1968” booklet that was recently published by the Group.</p>	



16	<p>Matters Arising/Actions Outstanding not already covered</p> <p>a) Avon Valley Wildlife Park Tannoy</p> <p>AM has been in contact with B&NES Environmental Protection Team on this and received a helpful response from Nigel Shire, the EHO dealing with the matter. Nigel has expressed willingness to approach the Park Management when problems recur with suggestions as to how they might take mitigation action. He will, however, need evidence from individuals of specific complaints and these can be submitted using the link: http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/pollution/noise-pollution</p> <p>It was also suggested by PC that South Gloucestershire Council also be informed as the complaints are coming from their area though the noise nuisance emanates from within B&NES.</p> <p>This approach should be communicated to the BVRA Community should anyone wish to lodge a complaint.</p> <p>b) Aubrey Meads Play Area Seating</p> <p>AW reports that he has written to Sharon Robbins as follows:</p> <p>“We would like to construct a simple log bench at the lower end of the Aubrey Meads play area. We would find funds for this. It would be a simple rustic thing but would provide somewhere for people to sit at the bottom of the area. Are you happy that we go ahead and do this? Would you need to inspect it when complete for H&S purposes and so on?”</p> <p>c) A note from MGa re progressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) a new village hall and ii) a plan to welcome/integrate with the new Intier residents <p>i) Village Hall</p> <p>MGa characterised anticipated problems of lack of village hall facilities as “an emergency and the biggest crisis faced by Bitton since The Great Flood of 1968.” This was discussed at length at various points in the meeting, a summary of which is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The influx of newcomers will break current capacity. • A two village scenario could emerge – North and South! • The Parish History Group is in difficulties finding meeting locations large enough. (Might have to limit meeting attendances?) • A Site is required • A Business Plan to achieve the desired outcome is needed. <p>Other aspects to consider were mentioned, e.g. the future of the existing hall and proceeds, the plans for community use of the church, the Meadow’s School situation and opportunities from Academy status, new build, the self-help approach used by Saltford,</p>	<p>AM</p> <p>AM/BH</p> <p>AW</p>
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	<p>The Rec, old Intier Refectory etc.</p> <p>It was decided to progress options on a number of fronts and report to the next meeting with a view to a better focus on the issues. Actions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach Becky Feather/SB (as governors of The Meadows) about best contacts to progress options with the School and open communications with them. • Liaise with appropriate members of the church community to understand state of plans and options. • Approach Sharon Robins to discuss options and review what needs to be done next to progress this with South Glos/Bitton Parish Council. <p>ii) Plan to welcome/integrate with the new Intier residents</p> <p>Though some time away and it will be a gradual process, it was agreed to keep this as a standing agenda item to collect ideas. (So far, BBQ, Open Day(?), BVRA stand at events such as Fete suggested.)</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>MGa</p> <p>BS</p> <p>MGa/All</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) Litter Pick date</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Date agreed as Saturday 25th February</p> <p>b) A431 Railway Bridge Works</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Works have been deferred until after March (I.e. Next financial year). The work is understood to require closure of the Railway Bridge section of the A431 for a fortnight.</p> <p>c) Chair for next Quarter (Next meeting on Thursday 20th April 2017.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jon Booth nominated.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(Based on alphabetic name order – if any nominee has extreme objection will move to next name agreeable.)</i></p>	<p>JB/All</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>NEXT MEETINGS - All at 8pm in the Church Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 20th • July 20th • Sept 14th • AGM Oct 19th • Nov 16th <p>MG has booked the hall.</p> <p>Hall access arrangements to be clarified.</p>	<p>AW</p>



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Post meeting note from MG for info.

MG responded to a query as to when the BVRA started:

The original committee was called the Bitton Development Committee and the earliest detail I have is when Christopher was asked to join them, by letter dated 6th April 1970. Previously, according to a press article at the time, a public meeting had been held on the 13th March 1970 to "look after Bitton's interests in respect of any development in the village". The then committee had quit en bloc and replaced it with an unofficial planning committee; reportedly 300 people attended that. I do have copies of the meetings that Christopher attended, related to the Trafalgar Group who were interested in a possible development on the Pound Ground. Jack Gready was the Chairman at the time.