

**BELLINGDON AND ASHERIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BAACA)**

**Reg. Charity No. 1087494**

**DRAFT Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**12th July 2023 at 8.00pm held in Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall.**

**Attendees:**

**Trustees/Management Committee Members** – Alf Field – Chairman, Don Baker - Honorary Treasurer, Kirsty Fiddes, Hugh Griffiths, Helen Harding – Committee Secretary, Gary Woodley,

**From the Community:** Barbara Baker, Ben Brooks, Jane Edmunds, Sally Field, Christina Field, Jules and Chris Hood, Keith Muggeridge-Breene and Paul Muggeridge-Breene, Jo Richardson – Bookings Secretary.

**Apologies:** Emma Eckersley, Adrian Norris.

**Meeting opened at 8.00pm – Chaired by Alf Field**

- 1. Minutes** – from previous meeting 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were approved.
- 2. Matters Arising** – none.
- 3. Chairman's message for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – (a copy will be available on the website).**

Welcome to the Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association AGM – I hope you have enjoyed using these fantastic community facilities once again during the year.

As you may know, the annual village fête is one of our major fundraising events and enables us to maintain the hall and recreation ground for community use. This year we held our second fête after lockdown and we raised £4294 out of which £500 is being donated to local charities, which was a great achievement- thank you to all who supported the fete, but particularly to the organising committee.

People often ask where the money we raise goes. In short, we use this money to maintain, improve and update the hall facilities and grounds. For example, this year - in addition to regular safety updates and maintenance works - we have installed additional routers to improve the Wi-Fi signal, The interior of the hall was redecorated with new curtains and blinds installed in the hall, and the floor was cleaned and re-sealed. Next year we are also planning to install an audiovisual system in response to requests from the community and hirers for films and presentation capability.

Next year we will also focus on the exterior checking the roof, repairing the entrance to the car park along with hopefully extending tarmac to the whole area, marking it out to ensure maximum capacity as the hall gets busier. We have added a new fridge and installed some additional sockets. The external water supply has been upgraded to the hall and pavilion.

Again, this year we also held our Christmas party for the children and the Seniors Christmas Lunch both of which were well attended. We have also held pub nights and afternoon teas along with our 75<sup>th</sup> Platinum Jubilee tea in honour of Late Queen Elizabeth II. Hopefully these events demonstrate that we aim to cater for all so there should be something for the whole community to enjoy.

In the playground we have added picnic benches and spent money on general maintenance and repair. This is ongoing to ensure we meet the safety requirements. Next year we are hoping to add some additional playground equipment to make it more inclusive for all.

Thanks also to our Bookings Secretary Jo Richardson, who does a fantastic job of making sure the hall is booked out to a huge array of groups, families, and festivals. Bookings remain healthy and our facilities are still recognised as one of the best locally.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity also to thank all the committee members (Helen Harding, Gary Woodley, Hugh Griffiths, Kirsty Fiddes, and Emma Eckersley) and Don Baker as Honorary Treasurer, who

throughout the year have donated their time and energy, to work with me in order to maintain and manage these facilities and achieve all the above.

As you can see, we are a small team but without the support and teamwork none of this would have been achievable. I look forward to continuing to work with you and any new members during the forthcoming year.

**4. Financial Statement** – copy available on request. Don Baker highlighted the key points, confirming that the Association is in a strong financial position. The accounts have been approved by an independent accountant, signed by the Chairman and Treasurer to be submitted to the Charity Association. Don thanked Chris Hood for auditing the accounts and providing an Independent Examiner's certificate. A copy of the 2021/22 accounts were requested by **Paul** Muggeridge-Breene.

## **5. Village Organisations**

**St Johns Church** - Jane Edmunds. Usual services continue 10 am each Sunday in the church with Occasional afternoon services too – 4pm – next one is on 1<sup>st</sup> October – Harvest Tea.

Meeting Point has changed and is now a chance for a chat and a cuppa (At times – also a short, interesting presentation). Lots of chat about village history! 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.30-4pm in the church. The one in October is a harvest tea (instead of the usual harvest supper). All are welcome! She thanked the Fete Committee for the stall at the fete. The activities for children went down well – bookmarks and badges.

Christmas activities – carols at Huge Farm, carol service in the church, Christmas Day service which they envisage this will happen this year.

They would find it useful if there were any volunteers to assist on the flowers / cleaning rota from January – flowers do not have to be to a professional standard! They sometimes use wildflowers, and they look lovely! Done about every 6 weeks in pairs.

They had a planning meeting today and are mulling over some ideas for future activities and events but need to discuss them further – keep an eye on the village website and newsletter with thanks to Helen Valvona.

Jane raised the point if there is still a call for the Welcome Pack to new residents in the villages. **Jane or Kirsty will contact Helen Valvona who has a draft one.**

**Bowls Club** - On behalf of the BSMBC Club committee Don Baker delivered the following report:

They have lost quite a few members post covid (for a variety of reasons) and are now running at 16 with only about 12 playing in league games (pre covid 23 and 20).

Wednesday mornings are well supported but not so on Monday evenings. However, as all 3 of their leagues only now require 6 players, they are managing fairly well. Incidentally, many other clubs are suffering similarly.

Their 2 Winter leagues went well last year coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in both and they are currently 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Summer league. Furthermore, their change to afternoon matches has been very well accepted and most clubs now play daytime matches.

Subs were increased this year to ensure that the club remains solvent; Don was pleased to report that this was willingly accepted by all the members.

**Horticultural Society** – Adrian Norris, Chairman of Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society, was unable to attend and sent a brief report.

Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society held three very successful events in the village hall over the last 12 months:

Annual Show on 3rd Sept. 2022. They had over 230 entries from 22 members. The hall was buzzing in the afternoon with members and the public viewing the exhibits and enjoying refreshments with homemade cakes.

James Bond themed Social on Friday 14th October. Tickets were sold out well in advance and great fun was had by all with a delicious 3 course meal and a challenging quiz.

Plant Sale on the afternoon of Saturday 13 May with refreshments. This event was visited by our MP, Sarah Green, and her partner.

They are looking forward to their forthcoming Autumn Show on 2nd Sept and our 'Fright Night' themed social on Friday 13th October in the village hall. Tickets are already on sale for the social.

### **Election of Trustees**

All trustees, except for Emma Eckersley stood for re-election; they were nominated en-bloc, proposed by Don Baker, and seconded by Jo Richardson. Alf thanked Emma who will continue to organise the pub nights and support specific events and projects.

The Chairman thanked Don Baker for stepping in as Honorary Treasurer to hold the position on a temporary basis while we recruit a permanent Trustee for this role.

### **6. Any Other Business – none was raised.**

### **MEETING CLOSED**

**Followed by cheese and wine with an opportunity to chat and meet the committee.**