

BELLINGDON AND ASHERIDGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BAACA)

Reg. Charity No. 1087494

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

13th July 2022 at 8.00pm held in Bellingdon and Asheridge Village Hall.

Attendees:

Trustees/Management Committee Members – Alf Field – Chairman, Emma Eckersley, Hugh Griffiths, Helen Harding – Committee Secretary, Peter Watson – Treasurer, Helen Valvona – Communications, Gary Woodley,

From the Community: Barbara Baker, Don Baker, Jane Edmunds, Adrian Norris, Nicola Parkes, Sally Field, Christina Field, Richard Hall, Ben Brooks, Tim Early

Apologies: Kirsty Fiddes, Jo Richardson – Bookings Secretary, Martin Horsted, Irene Roberts, Anne Guernsey, Andy & Antonio Savvides

Meeting opened at 8.00pm – Chaired by Alf Field

- 1. Minutes** – from previous meeting 13th July 2021 were approved.
- 2. Matters Arising** – none.
- 3. Chairman's message for year ending 31st March 2022 – (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 during the year.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a massive effect on the hall, requiring us to close completely at points. We opened the playground as soon as we were allowed, to provide a valuable recreation space for youngsters and their parents, and the field was open throughout for exercise in line with legal requirements.

We supported a group that was set up to provide help for those that needed it during the first lockdown – this was kindly coordinated by Don Baker. Happily, there were very few people that needed assistance. We also ran numerous online quiz nights to boost morale.

With financial support from the government, we managed to maintain the facilities despite the lack of hall hire income. We reopened the hall as soon as we could and I would like to thank the trustees who worked tirelessly during the pandemic carrying out and updating risk assessments, installing hand sanitiser points, and organising extra cleaning.

Gradually, in line with the guidelines, we returned to being fully open and were delighted to be able to run our extremely popular Christmas parties in December 2021, as well as a variety of community events such as pub nights and tea & cake afternoons. Bookings are looking strong, and our hall continues to be one of the most popular around.

As you may know, the annual village fête is our major fundraising event, and enables us to maintain the hall and recreation ground for community use. We were unfortunately unable to run the village fete for the last two years, but this year it was back with a bang raising over £5,000 for the hall. Thank to everyone involved for all their hard work and commitment to ensure a very successful day.

We have installed additional routers to improve the Wi-Fi signal and continue to update the hall; both interior and exterior lights are being renewed and replaced with LEDs, including sensors externally to improve safety and security. The interior of the hall will be redecorated with new curtains and blinds, and the floor cleaned and re-sealed. We are planning to install an audio-visual system in response to a request from the community for films and presentations.

Next year we will focus on the exterior, repainting and checking the roof, repairing the entrance to the car park along with extending tarmac to the whole area, marking it out to ensure maximum capacity as

the hall gets busier. We're also looking into adding an electric vehicle charging point and potentially using the lovely south facing roof for solar panels to improve our carbon footprint.

I would like to personally thank all the volunteers who have worked incredibly hard to make all the above happen – without them none of this would have happened. It's a real community effort and you should all be very proud of what you achieve year after year.

Thanks also to our amazing 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.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support past, present and future.

4. **Financial Statement** – copy available on request. Peter Watson 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 submitted to the Charity Association.

5. Village Organisations

St Johns Church - Jane Edmunds reported that they are now running as usual and no longer need to use zoom. Their congregation is drawn from Bellingdon, Asheridge, Hawridge and Chesham. Hope Church are having a day at the village hall in September and have invited us to join them.

Bowls Club - On behalf of the BSMBC Club committee Don Baker delivered the following report: The club handled the pandemic and lockdown periods as required, whilst maintaining as much continuity as possible.

Membership has now reduced from about 25 to 20 members. The club welcomes members from the community and surrounding areas. At present 6 of the members live in Bellingdon.

The club played in the Winter Single Mat League and won their division. There was a play-off for the overall league winner against Chinnor at Wendover. Chinnor took the title on a dubious interpretation of the rules. Nothing like a bit of dispute to add spice to events!

We are currently playing in a small summer league and are top of that league with 2 more matches to play this month.

Anybody interested in having a go is welcome and they can just turn up at Bellingdon Village Hall, either Monday at 7.30pm or Wednesday 10.00am.

Ladies Club – Irene Roberts (via email) reported that the Ladies Club no longer meets at the hall, she was sad to see it close after it had been going for forty odd years, but it just wasn't viable anymore, not enough members and people want different things these days. However, a few of the members still meet up once a month, usually at her house, for a catch-up and a game of scrabble, so they haven't lost touch completely!

Horticultural Society – Adrian Norris, Chairman of Chesham Vale Gardeners' Society, amalgamated from Chesham Horticultural Society and Bellingdon, Asheridge and District Horticultural Society in 2020 advised they had over 150 currently paid-up members, but sadly only a handful from Bellingdon and none from Asheridge Village but it was hoped more support from the villages would be shown at forthcoming events. Their first joint event was a plant sale in the car park of the hall in May 2021 followed by a committee meeting also in the car park of the village hall in June 2021. This has been followed by four further very well attended and supported events in the hall: An Autumn Show in September 2021 with over 220 exhibits on view; a fun filled 1970s themed social evening in October 2021 with 45 buying tickets for a three-course meal, themed quiz and dancing; Spring Flower Show, AGM and Afternoon Tea in April 2022 with over 40 attending and a well-supported Saturday afternoon Plant Sale with refreshments in May 2022.

Forthcoming events for 2022 in the hall are the Autumn Show on Saturday 3rd September and on Friday 14th October James Bond is coming to Bellingdon with their Bond themed social evening – all Bond characters very welcome!!

6. Election of Trustees

All trustees, except for Helen Valvona (Comms) and Peter Watson (Treasurer) stood for re-election; they were nominated en-bloc, proposed by Don Baker, and seconded by Jane Edmunds.

The Chairman thanked Helen Valvona and Peter Watson respectively for their contribution to the committee ensuring that we have fully embraced communication technology and remained very financially sound.

Replacements for Peter (Treasurer) and Helen (Comms) are to be confirmed.

Several options for treasurer are being considered. Don Baker was thanked for kindly offering his services – the position will be confirmed by the committee outside the AGM.

7. Any Other Business

Don Baker congratulated BAACA for reinstating the community pub nights and for getting the fete back up and running with thanks to Emma and the fete team and all who supported the event.

Don also confirmed he would sell the vintage speakers in the back storeroom in conjunction with the planned clear-out of the room.

MEETING CLOSED

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