

Bellingdon & Asheridge Community Association (BAACA)

Registered Charity No. 1087494

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on 15th July 2026 at 7.00pm

Bellingdon & Asheridge Village Hall

Attendees

Trustees:

Alf Field (Chairman), Hugh Griffiths, Kirsty Fiddes, Gary Woodley, Paul Muggeridge-Breene (Treasurer), Deborah Caen, Chris Wood.

Apologies: Helen Harding

Community Members:

Keith Muggeridge-Breene, Christina Field, Don Baker, Barbara Baker, Jane Edmunds, Marjorie Davies

Apologies from Grace Hemson (Bookings Secretary)

Meeting opened at 8.00pm and was chaired by Alf Field.

1) Previous AGM minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in July 2025 were reviewed. Christina Field confirmed that they were a true and accurate record, and they were accepted and approved by the meeting.

2) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3) Chairman's message

Alf presented his report on the year.

He reported that it had been another busy and successful year for the Association, with several major projects completed. Construction of the new car park had now been finished, and work on the new children's playground was progressing well, with installation scheduled for September.

Routine maintenance of the Village Hall and grounds had continued throughout the year. This included repair and resealing of the hall floor together with ongoing maintenance of the

Association's grounds, made possible through the continued commitment of committee members and volunteers.

Deborah Caen provided an update on the playground project, confirming that preparations for installation were progressing well. Once completed, the Committee hopes to hold an official opening event for the community.

The Chairman thanked all committee members and volunteers for their continued hard work, support and commitment throughout the year. Particular thanks were given to everyone who had contributed their time and expertise towards the playground development.

The importance of maintaining the Association's independence whilst continuing to work positively alongside the Parish Council was also highlighted. Once the playground project is complete, the Committee intends to approach the Parish Council regarding possible financial contributions towards future community improvements.

4) Financial statements

The Financial Statements for the year were presented.

Don Baker confirmed that the Independent Examination had been completed, and the Chairman thanked him for his continued support in this important role.

A summary of the Association's finances was presented. Total assets currently stand at approximately £87,000, comprising both designated and undesignated funds.

The designated funds include:

- £25,000 received through playground grants and donations.
- £25,000 allocated towards the playground project.
- £15,000 reserved for future roof repairs.
- £10,000 held as an emergency reserve.

General reserves total approximately £12,500.

The meeting noted that the Association remains in a strong financial position.

The Financial Statements were approved by the meeting.

5) Playground development

Deborah Caen presented a report on the progress of the playground project.

The Committee acknowledged with gratitude a generous legacy left by Marjorie Dance, which has made a significant contribution towards the project.

Members asked questions regarding the estimated cost of the playground project, which is expected to be between £52,500 and £53,000. The Committee explained that considerable

savings, estimated at approximately £2,500, had been achieved through volunteer labour and the generosity of local contractors.

Funding secured for the playground project includes:

- National Lottery Grant – £20,000
- Bernard Sunley Foundation – £5,000
- Shanley Foundation – £5,000 (subject to payment of the required deposit)
- Mobbs Memorial Trust – £3,000
- Additional fundraising income and community donations.

Installation remains on schedule for September 2026.

6) Village organisations

St John's Church

Jane Edmunds presented the report on behalf of St John's Church.

Regular Sunday services continue to be held at 10.00am, with a joint service taking place on the fifth Sunday of the month at St John's Church, Ashley Green.

Preparations are underway for the annual Harvest Service.

Community activities continue to be well attended and include the monthly Knit and Natter group, held on the third Wednesday of each month. Activities include sewing projects, photograph labelling, children's activities and occasional knitting.

The Meeting Point programme continues to provide talks and social activities for members of the community, whilst the History and Culture Club meets quarterly and has recently covered subjects including the history of Bellingdon together with talks on travels in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

The Church also continues to host Parish Council meetings.

Jane thanked Tim and Fiona Yates for their continued support of the Church.

Short Mat Bowls Club

Don Baker presented the Bowls Club report.

Membership currently stands at 16, compared with 25 previously. The reduction is largely due to an ageing membership together with transport difficulties affecting some members.

The Club competed in two winter leagues, finishing second in the Single Mat League and fourth in the Two Mat League.

The Summer League is currently underway, following a third-place finish last season.

Don commented that, despite lower membership, the Club continues to enjoy an excellent social atmosphere and welcomes new members at any time.

7) Election of Trustees

In accordance with the Association's Constitution, all Trustees retired and offered themselves for re-election.

Members present were invited to consider joining the Committee and were reminded that additional volunteers would be welcomed.

The following were re-elected unanimously:

- Alf Field – Chairman
- Helen Harding – Secretary
- Paul Muggeridge-Breene – Treasurer
- Hugh Griffiths
- Kirsty Fiddes
- Gary Woodley
- Deborah Caen
- Chris Wood

The proposal was made by Keith Muggeridge-Breene, seconded by Barbara Baker and approved unanimously by the meeting.

8) Any other business

No additional business was raised.

The Committee agreed to reconvene following completion of the playground project to begin planning the Association's next major development project.

MEETING CLOSED