

BEARE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD Tuesday 17th APRIL 2018

Present:

Trustees : Pam Marsh (Chairman), Maria Young (Secretary), Angie Love (Treasurer), Merv Young , Alan Smallwood, Sandra Howard, Pauline Brown, Steve Campbell, Sandy Horvath, Paul Mott

Associates: Barbara Steadman-Allen, Lisa Ryan)Parish Councillor)

Members: Joan Wigham (Booking Secretary) and 14 residents

Apologies: Margaret King, Sue Millard

Welcome : Pam opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanked them for coming.

The Minutes and Accounts for the AGM meeting for 2017 were read by those attending and the Chairman asked if anyone had any comments to make about them. There were no questions from the floor.

All at the Meeting accepted the Minutes and they were signed as a true record.

Treasurer's Report

This had been prepared by Angela Love as Treasurer for the B.G.C.A. the accounts presented have not been audited and will be sent to the auditor, Mrs Trish Evans CAT Certified Accounting Technician as soon as possible and will be published on the web site once signed off.

The year to 31 March 2018 has been a very up and down year compared to 2016/17. This has resulted in an overall loss for the financial year of £-4882. Carefully managed expenditure and income as well as a grant and a generous donation have resulted in £14824 in the bank and £60 in petty cash.

Hall hire income has increased from last year by £1184. This is due to the main hall being fully accessible for 12 months and the bookings being very well managed. There was a reduction in community bookings due to the loss of Little Bears toddler group. However the commercial hire has increased by £991 with some new exercise classes starting up.

Alongside of this the hall running costs have decreased by £3077. This is due to less repair work required on the hall and all the free time given by the trustees. The hall fixtures and fittings of £351 refer to general small items like notice board, clocks, and various IT bits. Included in repairs is the front door which had to be replaced as original was not fit for purpose and the removal of the front ramp

There was also an increase in costs for cleaning and cleaning materials due to additional hiring of the hall.

Pleased to confirm that our charity discount for the broadband was re-instated by BT making a saving of £44 per month

Looking at the figures on page 3 for additional Fix & Fittings this includes the cost of major improvements to the hall of hearing loop, large hall projector and screen of which the grant from St Faith Trust of £7540 covered most of the cost and new banquet chairs, hall blinds

Other donations received in the year came from SES/Docra as goodwill gesture for the roadworks through the village. We received from Easyfundraising this year £70.76. I am very pleased to announce that at last we managed to complete a gift aid claim and received £762 from previous donations in the Buy a brick campaign. A donation from a resident has been carried over to next years' accounts as the money was earmarked for the acoustic project which we were unable to complete in the year 17/18

This has resulted in a loss of £-2980 for the hall running costs

The hall, small hall and committee room are still regularly hired by many local groups

Such as:

- The Lunch Club
- Over 60's
- Beare Green Youth Club
- Dorking artists
- Kickboxing
- Brownies
- In Harmony choir
- Take the Lead – dog training
- Harp Ensemble
- Capel PC/MVDC
- Rainbows/Pilates/Yoga/Reiki

Event profit for the year has increased by £520 on last year's figures. The committee continued to carry on the decision to reduce the number of social events and make the ones we had well organised and profitable. We only had the summer fair, jumble sales, table top sale and new Years Eve Party. The profit was mainly due to holding functions that did not have many expenses but enabled a good income

Many thanks to our trustees Merv Young, Paul Mott and Alan Smallwood for all their hard work and time in dealing with the various minor and major maintenance jobs that crop up during the year

A source of income during the year was the website Easyfundraising. We joined in 2013 and to date £770 has been raised towards the village hall fund and we have received £70.76 during the year. If more people used the site more income could be raised with very little effort. At the moment there are only 22 people registered

The goodwill and hard work of not only the Trustees, but also others who help on the actual event days, should be applauded as without this the events would not happen. Also, thanks are due to the volunteers who donate their time and expertise in helping us with jobs for the hall.

A special thanks to Joan Wigham who keeps the hall bookings and payments up to date and for Hilary Christmas and Richard Faux who keep us clean & tidy.

I would like to make a special thank you to Pam Marsh and other trustees who have helped to source grants and turn them into money in the bank to cover the refurbishment and to make the hall a success for the community.

It is with sadness that I make this report as it will be my last. I hope that future trustees will hold as much passion and enthusiasm for the Village community as has been evident over the last 6 years that I have been treasurer. With over 30 years in the village I look forward to leaving the hall in safe hands with future trustees.

Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all and thank you for coming out tonight and I hope you are all enjoying some refreshments.

Another year has passed by and in that year we have again been busy.

We had to replace the front doors as the original doors were falling apart and were not fit for purpose, the new doors supplied and fitted by Dorking Glass fully comply with current Fire regulations allowing the doors to be opened from the inside in case of a fire. They are also metal so should last for many years.

In the main hall we have installed a large screen and projector, together with an updated sound system, this was paid for by a generous grant from the St Faiths Trust, for which we are very grateful. The system is available for any user of the hall and BGCA will be starting up a Cinema "Merebank Movies" soon, we will hear more about this later.

We have also installed a hearing loop, which improves the quality of sound and reduces background noise for the hard of hearing.

To make sure the hall will be suitable for showing films we have installed new blinds for the windows supplied by Solomon blinds a local village firm, and for your comfort we have also purchased some new chairs. We will shortly be lowering the ceiling to improve the acoustics and lighting.

We have removed the old ramp from the front of the building, as it was a dangerous hazard with the children using it as a bike ramp.

Angela our outgoing Treasurer has moved from Beare Green and as a leaving present has very kindly donated a new bench, which will be installed under the window to allow people to enjoy the view of the pond.

You may have noticed that there is a new picnic bench in the playground. The original was damaged by some children riding their bikes on the top and was removed, for health and safety reasons. Mole Valley District Council provided the new one, with encouragement from our local councilor Michelle Watson. Thank you Michelle for your help with this and your support on other issues, it is greatly appreciated.

In my last report I mentioned that we had had to install CCTV to protect the building. We are still occasionally getting problems with children on the roof and also moving the cameras so that the offenders cannot be recognized. We have also had instances of children sneaking into the building and causing damage to the front hall. We have now installed a security keypad to the door to the front hall and have cages to go over the cameras so that they cannot be moved. All this is extra expense that the BGCA could spend on other things to enhance the hall.

We liaise with Police and they have told us to report any incidences to them. I would urge anyone who sees anyone acting suspiciously or clearly doing something they shouldn't to call the Police immediately and also inform one of the Trustees so that we can check the CCTV footage.

On a happier note the duck house was placed on the small island in the pond and is now being used by the resident ducks, hopefully providing a safe place for the ducklings to thrive. We look forward to seeing them around the pond.

The BGCA not only cares for the hall but also works with other village groups. We are involved in many of the other village activities such as the litter picks, working with the local Trefoil group to maintain one of the footpaths on the edge of Great Turners Wood, laying chippings on the paths around the pond, talking with the fishermen and forging links with other village groups. We are the evacuation point for the Weald School in case they have an emergency. Our links with Mole Valley District council and Capel Parish Council are also strong

We are still a small group of Trustees and would very much welcome new members. This is not an onerous role; we have a meeting approximately every 6 - 8 weeks, and help out at various events if we can through the year. We do have a band of willing volunteers who help out when they can and our thanks go to them for without them some events would simply not take place. We would really like representatives from all the regular hirers and other village organisations to sit on the committee. This way we can co-ordinate resources and ideas to bring the village community together.

Our local clubs thrive with the knitters group, knitting and nattering every Monday. The bridge club meets on a Thursday with an ever-increasing number of members. The church continues to hold monthly Church cafés on a Sunday. A Men's group has just started up, holding a monthly meeting, and is proving to be very popular, not just with the men but also with their wives who get an evening on their own!!

If you have an idea for a group please let us know, we would love to hear from you.

Joan Wigham our bookings manager is responsible for handling all the bookings and I would like to thank her very much for all her hard work in making this process so efficient.

Our plans to make the hall self-sufficient are coming to fruition. The hall hire is steady. Private parties are increasing as news of our wonderful building is talked about on social media. Although the improvements to the building and new heating system help to keep the running costs of the building to a reasonable level, rising heating bills, rates and insurance will mean that the hall hire costs may have to increase. We have not increased our rates since 2016 and will try and keep the increase low.

Maintenance as you will have seen from the accounts is one of our big expenses. The Trustees try to perform a lot of the jobs themselves to keep the costs down but often we have to get outside help in

As you can imagine keeping track of all the little and big maintenance jobs is a major task and our small team of Trustees work extremely hard to fix things as soon as they can. I would like to thank Merv, Paul, Alan and Richard who all work extremely hard to keep the maintenance under control. We have occasional maintenance days where we would welcome any extra helpers, even if it just for a couple of hours.

During the year our social events were very well attended and enjoyed by the community.

The Summer Fair was the main event that was held back in the village and was greatly enjoyed by all.

Jumble sales bring in much needed cash, but because of the restriction on taking items to the tip we decided not to hold our usual Spring jumble.

A new social event was the New Years Eve Party kindly organized by Sandra Howard. It was a great success with dancing and entertainment.

We are always looking for new ideas for events and would welcome any ideas on what you would like to see happen at the hall. We now have a dedicated telephone number now for information on events, the number can be found in the Parish Mag and on our website.

The website contains all the information you may need on how to book the hall, see what is going on and how to contact us. We also put copies of the minutes of our meetings.

This will be my last report as Chairman, as I am standing down this year with three other Trustees.

Over the last fifteen years that I have been involved with the BGCA, first as Treasurer then as Chairman, the hall has changed dramatically.

It has been a privilege to work with some amazing people on the BGCA who have given time, support and expertise to help make this hall what it is today, a building to be proud of.

Fights have been fought, battles won and lost, lessons learnt and tears have been shed, but together we have got through it all.

It is very easy to focus on the things that we haven't achieved but I want to focus on what we have achieved.

We have enlarged the building providing three different rooms available for hire, new entrance hall and toilets. A new kitchen has been installed, new double-glazed windows throughout the building, cavity wall insulation, an efficient heating system, new sound system, screens and overhead projectors in all three rooms, new furniture.

But it is not just improvements to the building, we have negotiated a new 99 year lease with Mole Valley, renegotiated our rent terms and have changed the BGCA into a CIO – a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, giving security to the Trustees.

But a big achievement is the start of “Community”.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines community as

“A group of people living together and practising common ownership”

Every person who lives in the village is a member of the BGCA, any member can attend our meetings, there is no membership fee only a willingness to bring people together to enjoy the hall.

I feel we are starting to build our community, the community view the hall differently now, and they interact with one another.

The Youth Club was started because Michelle saw that the children of the village needed a place to go. Lunch club continues to thrive providing an opportunity for people to meet and have lunch together with interaction from the Weald school. Café Church meets once a month providing a service to the villagers who might find it difficult to travel to South Holmwood.

From Rainbows and Brownies to the Over 60's all ages use the hall.

The Community Library provides a service to those who cannot get into Dorking easily and also provides a place for a chat and a coffee.

There is no church or local school in the village, no pub, the Village Hall is the hub that can bring our community together. I feel we are getting there. There is still along way to go and I hope that the BGCA continues to help bring our community together.

I would like to thank all the Trustees for their hard work and support and wish them all the best for the future

Following the report Barbara Steadman-Allen said a thankyou on behalf of everyone to Pam for her fabulous leadership during her term as Chairman.

Rotation of Trustees

Pam explained that the rules within in our constitution are that one third of the current trustees stand down at the AGM. Pam Marsh, Merv Young and Maria Young are all standing down this year. Angie Love is moving from the Village and will also be standing down. Pam asked if anyone present would be willing to stand as trustees

Brendon Watson offered - he was nominated by Steve Campbell and seconded by Sandy Horvath

Linda Horvath offered – she was nominated by Barbara Steadman- Allen and seconded by Paul Mott.

The role of Secretary was put to the vote – no one present offered to take on the role – to be discussed at the next trustees meeting.

Mens Group – Merv Young explained the group is a new section of the BGCA that is open to all men and meets in the Front Hall on the fourth Tuesday of every month between 7.15 p.m. and 9 p.m. To date they have had a talk on Air Traffic Control by Andy Marsh and History of the A24 by Julian Womersley. There are 15 members at present. For further details please contact mensgroup@bgca.org.uk

Cinema Nights – Pam explained we are hoping to start this as soon as the acoustics in the main hall are sorted. The plan is to hold them once month with the possibility of alternate Wednesday matinees and perhaps Saturday matinees for children. One of the suggestions for the title is Merebank Movies. Blue Moon Chinese Takeaway have shown interest in putting on a special offer on movie nights.

Correspondence – there has been no correspondence

Any other business

Barbara Steadman-Allen said they she would like it noted how grateful the church is for being able to hold Café Church in the hall.

Sandy Horvath said that there is to be a Village Hall picnic on the day of the Royal Wedding. The wedding will be shown on the big screen - people can bring their own picnic and there will be a bar and burgers stall. The plan is to keep the screen on for the FA Cup Final. Posters will be put around the village.

There was no other business.

Pam thanked everyone for coming and the meeting finished.

Michelle Watson arrived at the end of the meeting and presented the outgoing Trustees with thank you presents from the village for all their hard work during their time as trustees.