

BEARE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20th APRIL 2017

Present:

Trustees: Pam Marsh (Chairman), Maria Young (Secretary), Angie Love (Treasurer), Peter Hewitt, Sandra Howard, Andy Marsh, Sue Millard, Rev. Barbara Steadman-Allen, Merv Young

Associates: Lyn Ford

There were nine residents in attendance

Pam opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming.

Apologies: Alan Smallwood, Anthea Smallwood and Valerie Homewood.

Minutes of last AGM – The minutes of the AGM for 2016 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. There were no matters arising. They were signed as a true copy.

Treasurer's Report

This had been prepared by Angela Love as Treasurer for the B.G.C.A. Due to personal circumstances the accounts were late being completed and will be sent to the auditor, Mrs Trish Evans CAT Certified Accounting Technician as soon as possible and will be published on the website once signed off.

The year to 31 March 2017 has been an expensive year compared to 2015/16. This has resulted in a loss for the financial year of £4581. Although a loss this should not be viewed negatively as it means that we have used the money in the bank and put it back into the hall by means of improvements and renovations. Carefully managed expenditure and income as well as a few grant donations have resulted in £8286 in the bank and £77 in petty cash.

Hall hire income has increased from last year by £3477. This is due to the main hall being fully accessible for a full 12 months and the bookings being very well managed. In September we introduced a storage fee for our regular hirers.

Alongside of this the hall running costs have increased by £4184. This is due to an extra rent payment of £2000, which is to repay a loan over 25 years, given to us by Mole Valley to cover the costs to finish the improvements to the small hall.

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

Another additional expense was the cost of broadband as we had lost the special discount that BT had given us for 12 months. This has now been reinstated for the coming year 2017-2018.

Looking at the figures for Routine repairs this includes the final payment of £6067 to Corniche the builders for the Project Overhall.

A new category for the accounts is for new Fixtures and Fittings, which include the CCTV, Projectors and screens, tables. Grants were received for the new hall/kitchen windows but they did not cover all costs

This has resulted in a loss of £6923 for the hall running costs, which shows how much we have spent on renovating the hall for the community.

Many local groups still regularly hire the hall and committee room

Such as:

- The Lunch Club
- Over 60's
- Little Bears Toddler group
- Dorking artists
- Kickboxing
- Brownies
- In Harmony choir
- Take the Lead – dog training
- Harp Ensemble
- Chapel Parish Council
- Rainbows/Pilates/Yoga/Reiki

Event profit for the year has decreased by £1744 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. This year we tried some new events e.g. New Year's Eve Party however the intended Quiz Nights were cancelled due to lack of response

A source of income during the year was the website Easyfundraising. We joined in 2013 and to date £706 has been raised towards the village hall fund and we have received £161 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.

We would like to thank the Lunch club for their kind donation of £100 , which is very much appreciated.

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.

I am very excited to look forward to this coming year when we can expand the hiring facilities even and really give the village a hall to be proud of.

Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all and thank you for coming out tonight.

I hope you have all helped yourselves to a glass of wine.

Another year has passed by so quickly. This year saw the completion of the building work in the small hall and the glass ceiling and lantern roof in the corridor. In order to keep costs to a minimum the Trustees were left with quite a few jobs to complete, and at this point I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Merv, Alan and Peter who time and time again give up their time and provide us with the expertise to complete the jobs that need to be done, without them we would not be where we are today.

As part of the front hall refurbishment a new kitchenette was installed together with a new water heater, and new brighter lighting.

Merv and Peter have installed a ceiling mounted projector and screen, and Merv has reinstalled the Wifi which is available throughout the building.

A new ramp and railings have also been installed on the outside of the front hall.

Extra storage cupboards have enabled us to give the hirers the space they need to store any equipment and it also gives us an extra small income stream.

We have purchased some extra small tables for use in the front hall.

Apart from the library various groups, such as Reiki, Yoga, and Knit Twits, use the front hall.

I hope you will agree with me that the front hall is now a warm bright inviting room to enjoy.

A major refurbishment of the windows has taken place this year, together with a small grant from the Gatwick Airport Trust, and using our own funds we have replaced the large window in the main hall, all the small windows on the pond side of the building, all the windows in the committee room and all the windows in the kitchen. I would like to thank Dorking Windows who did a marvellous job. The new double glazed windows help with security and heat loss; and they are a great asset to the building.

The Committee room has also had a makeover, being completely decorated. New ceiling tiles and insulation were installed, we recycled the carpet tiles from the front hall and Merv and Peter installed new heaters and overhead projector and screen. This room can now be used for meetings and provide a training facility.

With regards to the main hall, there are several projects we would like to do.

We would like to install a large screen, ceiling projector and update the audio system so we can hold Film evenings, and provide a hearing loop for the building to help those who are hard of hearing. We have applied for a grant to help with these costs and are waiting to hear.

We are also looking at installing Acoustic panels to help with the acoustics in the main hall and perhaps in the small hall, I am looking for grants to help with this.

A sad reflection of the times has led to us having to install CCTV for the building. We have had a number of instances of children climbing on the roof and glass ceiling, throwing stones at windows and other minor incidents. We have now installed the cameras, which can be viewed remotely and if we have any incidents of damage we will have no option but to forward any footage to the Police. It is a shame we have to do this, but we felt we have to protect the building,

I would urge anyone who sees anyone acting suspiciously or clearly doing something they shouldn't to call the Police.

On a happier note one of the residents of the village last year suggested that we get a duck house for the ducklings on the pond.

Chris Ball one of our Parish councillors has kindly donated an old house that he did not want anymore. Alan has kindly refurbished the duck house and I can announce that "Duckingham Palace" will be installed on the island shortly with Alan and Andy bravely putting on their waders.

The provision of the Duck house goes to prove that the Beare Green Community Association is not only here to keep the hall running. 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 and forging links with other village groups. We have also had input into the neighbourhood development plan.

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 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.

As you can see from the Calendar of bookings on the notice board the hall is used every day by a wide variety of groups. Our local clubs are proving to be very successful with the knitters group meeting on a Monday, and the bridge club increasing its sessions. If you would like to start a club please let us know. The church continues to hold monthly Church cafés on a Sunday.

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. As you heard from Angela the hall hire has increased tremendously. Together with the improvements to the building and new heating system we should be able to keep the running costs of the building to a reasonable level.

Maintenance is an on-going job and is mostly done by the Trustees and a few willing volunteers.

We have regular maintenance days where we get together to perform all the odd jobs that creep up on us and we will shortly be holding one in the next couple of months, as we have several painting jobs that need to be completed, one being the outside of the building. If you can spare a few hours please come along and help, there may even be a bacon buttie on offer.

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. Some of our Trustees have had people moaning at them because jobs have not been completed. I would ask that you remember that we are all volunteers and these people should be thanked not grumbled at.

Our plans for improving the hall continue, and if there is anything you would like to see please let us know.

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. We are running the event this year on June 3rd and would very much welcome any offers of help.

Two jumble sales a year bring in much needed cash, with our last Jumble sale raising a brilliant sum of £650.

A new social event was the New Years Eve Party kindly organized by Peter Hewitt. It was a great success with good food, dancing and entertainment.

We would still like to start film nights and have been looking into this, if anyone can help please let me know.

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.

The hall is extremely popular now and at some times we have all three rooms being booked out at the same time. This success is down to a small group of people who give their time to helping run the building. So there are a few thank I would like to make. To Maria Young our Hon Secretary for keeping us all organized and for doing the minutes of our meetings so efficiently, Angela Love our Hon Treasurer for keeping our financial records in excellent shape. I would like to thank all the Trustees for their support and hard work, and special thanks to Hilary and Richard who keep the building so clean. And a special support to all the villagers that come and helps at events and supports us throughout the year.

Thank you again for coming out tonight

Maria gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the trustees for all Pam's hard work over the past year.

Rotation of Trustees:

Three trustees are standing due to the rotation of Trustees per the Constitution:
Peter Hewitt, Andy Marsh and Barbara Steadman-Allen

Pam asked if anyone present would consider becoming a trustee and three people offered.
Steve Campbell was proposed by Peter Hewitt and seconded by Andy Marsh

Pauline Brown was proposed by Sandra Howard and seconded by Peter Hewitt

Margaret King was proposed by Peter Hewitt and seconded by Merv Young.

Pam thanked them and invited them to the next trustees meeting on 2nd May 2017

Correspondence – none

Any other business

Barbara said that she has been a member of the BGCA for a long time and wanted to thank Pam for her leadership and the trustees for all their support. She said that she had struggled to find a base in Beare Green but since the refurbishment of the hall, it has been lovely to be able to hold the café church here once a month – she thanked everyone for this opportunity.

Peter Hewitt made a request for Merv Young to explain the next phase of the building work on the village hall. Merv explained that our architects and small group of local advisors led the previous works. We have the plans and the planning consent for the next phase, which is the area alongside the kitchen, which is designed in a restaurant style. He suggested that maybe it is time to obtain some costings to see if it would be viable over the next few years. A builder recommended and working locally has had a preliminary look and thinks the costings could be considerably lower than we originally thought. Members of the Lunch Club greeted the news with interest.

Pam declared the meeting closed at 8.10 p.m. and invited everyone to stay for refreshments.