

BEARE GREEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21st APRIL 2016

Welcome: Pam Marsh (Chairman) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming tonight.

Trustees present: Pam Marsh (Chair), Maria Young (Secretary), Andy Marsh, Alan Smallwood, Barbara Steadman – Allen, Joan Wigham, Merv Young,

Apologies: Angie Love (Treasurer), Mark Treliving, Valerie Holmwood.

There were nine other residents in attendance

Minutes of last AGM: The minutes of the AGM in 2015 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. and read by Pam Marsh. The accounts are with the auditor, Mrs Trish Evans CAT Certified Accounting Technician and will be published on the web site once signed off.

The year to 31 March 2016 has been a very successful year compared to 2014/15. This has resulted in a profit for the financial year of £3355. Carefully managed expenditure and Income has resulted in £5468 in the bank and £507 in petty cash. Project Overhall has £754 in the fund along with £8001 in a savings account. More details will be given later in the evening by our Chairman Pam Marsh.

Hall hire income has increased from last year by £7495. This is due to the main hall being fully accessible for a full 12 months and the bookings being very well managed. Alongside of this the hall running costs have increased by £1387. This is due to the new heating system which took us a while to control as well as the extra electricity used by the builders.

There was also an increase in costs for cleaning and cleaning materials due to additional hiring of the hall. This has resulted in a surplus of £1280 for the hall running costs

The hall and committee room are still regularly hired by many local groups: The Lunch Club, Over 60's, Little Bears Toddler group, Dorking artists, Kickboxing, Brownies, In Harmony choir, Take the Lead – dog training, Harp Ensemble, Capel Parish Council, Rainbows, Pilates, Yoga, Reiki, Football School.

There has also been an increase of £1096 in private hire from residents and single events showing us that the hall is providing a valuable facility for the community. Event profit for the year has increased by £1183 on last year's figures. The committee continued to carry on last year's decision to reduce the number of social events and make the ones we had well organised and profitable. Once again

the Summer Fair provided a profit of £1390. Our Jumble sales in May & October made a reasonable profit of £931. Our most profitable events are the Quiz Nights in April & November which made a profit of £1223.

Maintenance has increased this year by £5377. This year the major costs have been a new water boiler and extra items as part of the kitchen refurbishment. Some of the cost for the kitchen came from a Surrey Community Buildings/ MVDC grant. Many aspects of the hall utilities needed upgrading to conform to the current standards including wall cavity insulation for the small hall. Many thanks to our trustees Merv Young 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.

The zero balance for rent shown in the accounts is due to the arrangement with Mole Valley concerning a rental holiday due to the refurbishment.

The professional fees of £994 cover costs arising from the hall refurbishment that were not covered by grants ie Asbestos survey and Surveyors and grant application fees.

A source of income during the year was the website Easyfundraising. To date £553 has been raised towards the village hall fund and we have received £210 during the year. If more people used the site more income could be raised with very little effort. At the moment there are only 18 people registered. A kind donation of £250 came from Beare Green & Newdigate choir who nominated us to share the proceeds from their concert.

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 thank you to Joan Wigham who keeps the hall bookings and payments up to date and for Hilary Christmas who keeps us clean & tidy.

The year to March 2016 has been a positive year regarding the finances. I have dealt with the day to day running costs of the hall and events. 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 more with the completion of the small hall 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. Work on the main hall has been completed and all the hirers and users are benefiting from the under floor heating. I am sure you will agree the building is now a much more welcoming place to enter.

As I explained at last years meeting the Trustees took the decision to stop the building work on the front hall, as we needed extra funds. I am happy to say that due to our close partnership with Mole Valley District Council they have loaned us the money to complete the small hall and the glass ceiling and lantern roof in the gallery corridor. This work should be completed in the next week.

The enlargement of the front hall will give us an extra room for hire and we already have groups who want to hire the smaller space. The library will also move back into the front hall. The old toilets have been converted to give us extra storage cupboards, an office to keep all BGCA archives and documents and a small kitchenette, which will allow the front hall users to be able to make tea and coffee.

The kitchen has had a much needed major refurbishment, which was very badly needed, with all new units and worktops and a new hot water boiler. The majority of the funding came from grants from Mole Valley, Surrey County Council and Gatwick Community Trust. Through our own fundraising efforts we raised the remainder of the money needed. We replaced the old lighting with new compliant lighting and all we need to do now is decorate.

This year we also installed cavity wall insulation, which should help us with keeping heating costs down and the heating in the building.

I would like at this point to thank some local tradesman who have helped us with some of the maintenance work associated with the build, they have volunteered their time and it is greatly appreciated by the Trustees. So I would like to thank Chris Ede, Mark Treliving, Stuart Collins, and Simon Love for their hard work and commitment to the village.

The Beare Green Community Association believes that we are not only here to keep the hall running. We are involved in many of the other village activities such as the litter picks, Great Turners Wood, clearing footpaths and forging links with other village groups. We have also had input into the neighbourhood development plan. Together with our District Councillor Michelle we are working closely with Mole Valley to enhance the area around the pond, where a new seat has been installed and dead trees have begun to be cleared. We also liaise with the fishing group so that their concerns are taken into account. If you have any ideas on what you would like to see in the village we would really like to hear them

All members of the association are now Trustees but we are still lacking in 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.

Two ladies Sandra and Sue from the new houses on the old Breakspear Farm site have been very active in joining the association and helping out at a lot of the events. I would like to thank them for coming forward and look forward to welcoming them as Trustees.

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 now holds a monthly Church café 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.

This year saw the launch of our new Website. Merv Young took on the task of designing and building the new site a subject we will be returning to later.

Our plans for the future are to make the hall self-sufficient, and I am pleased to say we are getting to that point. 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. I would particularly like to thank Merv Young and Alan Smallwood for all their hard work in this respect. They seem to spend most of their lives at the hall, hopefully this will diminish but their hard work is very much appreciated.

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.

Our plans for improving the hall continue, and we are looking at grants to replace the windows. Our Internet is provided by BT and has been temporarily discontinued during the building work but we will be putting in extra cable to provide a wireless system throughout the hall for all users. We would also like to install acoustic panels onto the walls in the main hall to improve the sound quality. We will be installing a permanent audio system with speakers and amplifier and we would like to install a Hearing Loop for the hard of hearing.

The committee room will also be decorated and some ceiling panels replaced. A projector and screen will be installed for use by any clubs and organisations as a meeting room facility if needed.

On the walls of the gallery corridor we are going to put up a chart showing all the contributors of the Buy a Brick scheme. We would like to thank all the contributors very much for helping with our fundraising.

We would also like to display temporary exhibitions in the gallery corridor, if you know of any groups that would be interested please let me know, maybe we could start by having an exhibition of the history of Beare Green with old photos and maps and stories of old residents.

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. Joan Wigham is running the event this year and would very much welcome any offers of help.

We have two quiz nights, which are proving to be great fun and are a great night out with good food provided. Two jumble sales a year bring in much needed cash.

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.

There have been rumours that some people in the village think that we should not have spent all this money on the hall, that the money could have been spent elsewhere. I hope that you feel that it was money well spent. The hall is looking like a building that is loved and appreciated and is used by a huge variety of people. It is bringing the community together, a place where different groups can meet. All our current hirers tell me what a wonderful building this is now, a wonderful kitchen, free parking, a lovely playground and a lot of different spaces to hire in the hall. I am proud of the small band of people who make up the association, they give their time tirelessly and willingly and I am proud of the hall. I hope you are too.

Thank you again for coming out tonight.

Following the report Julian Womersley thanked Pam and said that her energy and enthusiasm had been a driving force in getting the project to where it is now.

Michelle Watson agreed adding that everyone she talks to appreciates the new hall and are very grateful for all the hard work put in by Pam and the trustees.

Nomination of Trustees:

Three trustees have decided to stand down: Mark Treliving, Debs Mansfield and Joan Wigham. Pam asked if anyone present would consider becoming a trustee and three people offered. Sue Millard, Sandra Howard and Peter Hewitt. Pam thanked them and invited them to the next trustees meeting on 12th May 2016.

Project OverHall:

The majority of the work has now been completed but not without its stresses and strains. The front hall is nearly finished - just the flooring to be laid and the galley roof to be glazed.

The final retention money will be paid once the snagging has been done.

Project OverHall will now be put on hold for a short while, but there are still various projects to do with hall maintenance that will need to be addressed in the coming year.

Website:

Merv gave a brief talk explaining the content of our new website – it contains information of all events at the hall including the regular groups that use the hall.

Hiring information and booking forms, dates of our trustees meeting together with copies of the minutes are also on the site.

Our new web address is www.bgca.org.uk.

Pam thanked him for all his hard work with this.

Youth Club:

Michelle Watson said that the Youth Club has been open for nearly a year. Six more adult volunteers have come forward to help. They have been fortunate to receive a grant from the High Sheriff of Surrey that we enable them to employ a qualified youth worker for the club.

A gentleman in South Holmwood has very generously raised funds to provide them with a table tennis table.

The club are holding an event on 12th June 2016 at the hall to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and at the same time raise funds for more equipment.

Alan Smallwood asked how many attendees they get. Michelle replied that in the winter on average they have 20 and in the summer 30 – 35.

Capel are planning on opening their own club in July – they have been liaising with Michelle to ensure they meet on a different night to ensure a selection of venues are available to all local children.

Pam thanked Michelle for all her hard work on this

Correspondence: None received.

Any other Business:

Sandra Howard suggested that perhaps we could think of putting on a themed night for one of our future fund raising events – to be discussed at the next trustees meeting.

The meeting was duly closed at 8.15 p.m.