



Members present: Tim Barlow (Vice Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary), Alyson Hampton, Eric Jewitt, Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Ian Perry, Sue Perry, Jean Slater,

Apologies received: Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, John Mackay (Chair), Douglas McDevitte, Sarah Moore, Andrew Moore, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

The meeting had been scheduled as the AGM but, as the attendance did not satisfy the quoracy requirements for an AGM (minimum 10 attendees), it was decided that the meeting would proceed as a general meeting and attempts would be made to hold the AGM in October. As such, agenda items relating to election of officers and confirmation of Aims and Constitution would be deferred.

1. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2024 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Defibrillators (Ref 2.1): The defibrillator had been installed with additional kit (paediatric pad, scissors etc) with sufficient funds remaining to cover the cost of maintenance for the first 5 years and first aid training.

2.2 Bank Account (Ref 2.2): It was agreed that the bank account should be transferred from Santander – either to Unity Bank at a cost of £6 per month (plus transaction charges) (Unity Bank is specifically designed to support small organisations) or the Cumberland Building Society if they offered a community account.

2.3 Fraud Prevention (Ref 2.4): A Fraud Prevention event had been very successful with over 30 people in attendance.

2.4 CLP (Ref 7): An update event had been held to encourage wider contributions from across the village to maintain momentum in organising activities.

2.5 Lighting on Braystones Road (Ref 8): the secretary had reported the concerns over poor lighting levels to the Council but had yet to receive a response (Council record: EI/213170).

(Post meeting note: Council has responded that it has no plans to review or upgrade Braystones Road lighting and they consider the matter to be closed)

2.6 Beckermet In Bloom (Ref 9.1): The judges had visited and been impressed with the efforts made – the results would be made shared at an event in October.

3. Election of Officers

Deferred to next meeting

4. Aims and Constitution

Deferred to next meeting

5. BVA Financial Update

5.1 BVA: Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the BVA to date for the 2023/2024 year. Details of each area of account activity (BVA, Village Lottery and Beckermet in Bloom) were shared at the meeting and would be held with these minutes, but in summary, 2023/2024 activity shows:

- a) a current balance of general BVA activity of £4,661.80 – including funds specifically held for the 5 year defibrillator maintenance.
- b) the Village Lottery (158 members) with an annual total of £3,920 – after operating costs this is split equally between prizes and worthy causes. Setting aside prize money for the remaining draws in this cycle, around £50 remained available for grants. A full breakdown will follow in October.
- c) Beckermet in Bloom: a current balance of £48.06.

A further application for GDF funds to support the Coffee, Cake and Chat will be submitted shortly.

5.2 Village Lottery: A further £150 had been passed to Beckermet in Bloom for flowers around the bus stop area. All prize monies will have been spent following the September draw, and a formal report will be made to the lottery council.

5.3 First Responders Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders accounts to date for the 2023/2024 year: no financial activity and the balance remains £1508.21.

6. Parish Council (PC) matters

The minutes of the PC meetings are always available via the PC website, the village Facebook page and in the noticeboard at the bus stop but in summary an update of Parish Council business was provided:

- 6.1 The development of a new PC website was progressing smoothly – due for completion by the end of the year.
- 6.2 20 mph speed limit: all candidates had been contacted prior to the election to bring this matter to their attention. The Council will now contact the elected MP to arrange a visit so that he can see for himself the dangers posed by a lack of pavements and speeding cars.
(Post meeting note: the MP met with representatives of the PC and the chair of the BVA to review the matter and has offered his support in achieving a 20 mph limit)
- 6.3 Becoming a Parish Councillor: the PC (and the BVA) does significant work for the community (new play park, maintaining communal land, defibrillator, community social events such as Coffee and Chat) – but relies heavily on volunteers to undertake the work – without participation on the PC or attendance at BVA meetings, such valuable positive outcomes would be lost to the village. There are a number of vacancies for Parish Councillors and everyone was encouraged to consider if they could participate.

7. GDF update

- 7.1 Funds remained available in the GDF allocation for the current financial year (which ends in October)
- 7.2 It was understood that a further bid was being made by the Reading Rooms for phase 3 of the redevelopment.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

- 8.1 Brambles overhanging Morass Road: bramble branches from the churchyard were hanging over the road and were posing a danger to pedestrians. The secretary agreed to refer the matter to the church for action.
(Post meeting note: the chair had raised the matter with the church and the wardens had agreed to cut the branches back)
- 8.2 Poor condition of the 'Cherry Tree area' on Nursery Road: The trees had been removed but no further work had been undertaken and it was looking very untidy. It was noted that the PC has a grant which it intends to use for landscaping some areas of the village – unfortunately, it had faced difficulties in accessing the funds but this was being resolved and action should be imminent.

9. Any other business

None reported.

10. Dates of next meeting:

The next meeting was likely to be October – exact date to be decided – and would incorporate a second attempt at an AGM.

Lesley Barlow
Secretary
July 2024