



Members present: John Mackay (Chair), Tim Barlow (Vice Chair), Lesley Barlow (Secretary) Alan Kiel (Treasurer), Jean Slater,

Apologies received: Anne Dickinson, John Dickinson, Claire Dunn, Andrew Moore, Sarah Moore, Sheena Mounsey, Keith Woolley, Margaret Woolley.

The meeting had been scheduled as a second attempt to hold 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 February as part of a Coffee, Cake and Chat (CC&C) session. 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 23 July 2024 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

2.1 Bank Account (Ref 2.2): Change of Bank account remains ongoing.

2.2 Beckermet In Bloom (Ref 2.6): The village had been awarded a Silver Gilt Award. The team had scheduled a meeting on 12 November to plan for 2025. Everyone who had contributed to this achievement was thanked for their efforts.

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. 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, activity shows:

- a) a current balance of general BVA activity of £12,325.80 – including funds specifically held for the 5 year defibrillator maintenance and first aid courses (just under £3,000) and the recent GDF grant of £7,909. This grant was to cover CC&C and 12 film nights, as well as funding for a social evening and summer outing specifically for those who attend CC&C (around 30 people).
- b) the Village Lottery (171 members) with an annual total of £4,273 – after operating costs this is split equally between prizes and worthy causes
- c) Beckermet in Bloom: a current balance of around £4.00 after the recent purchase of bulbs.

5.2 Village Lottery: The increase in the number of lottery members for the current year would be reflected in an increase in the number and the pattern of prizes across the year (now standing at 96). One request for funding had been approved this lottery year (bulbs for Beckermet In Bloom) and efforts would be made to encourage other applications. A formal report of last year's activities had been made to the lottery council. The talk by the three teenagers who had received funding for trips last year had been well-received.

5.3 First Responders Update

Alan Kiel gave an update on the finances of the First Responders accounts for the year to date: no financial activity and the balance remains £1,508.21.

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 Landscaping work in parts of the village: the work on Nursery Road at the cherry trees was just about complete with additional work to be undertaken at the bus stop facing the junction of Morass Road with Braystones Road. Additionally, a grant application had been made for the car park at the cemetery at the end of Morass Road to be upgraded and resurfaced.

7. GDF update

- 7.1 It was understood that a bid had been made by the Reading Rooms for phase 3 of the redevelopment - it was unknown if this included kitchen refurbishment.
- 7.2 The GDF was to host a “vision session” in the Reading Rooms on Thursday to allow people to have a say in how the area should be developed.

8. Matters of concern to residents.

- 8.1 Speeding at the point of Nursery Road where the houses finish was becoming a greater problem. The Parish Council had raised the need for a 20mph limit with the MP and would chase it further.

9. Any other business

None reported.

10. Dates of next meeting:

The next meeting would be held as part of a CC&C session – exact date to be decided – and would incorporate a third attempt at an AGM.

Given the poor attendance, possibilities of reducing the number of meetings and making use of the CC&C sessions for one or more of the meetings would be explored.

Lesley Barlow
Secretary
November 2024