

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bear Flat Association held on Friday 12th October 2012 at 7.30 at Beechen Cliff Methodist Church Hall, Bruton Avenue.

Present: Clyde Hunter, Virginia Williamson, Diana Lockwood (notes), Gareth Bunn, Lesley Baker, Peter Andrews, Wendy Lovell, Judith Jordan, Kim Jordan, Julian David, Tim Cantell, Don Grimes (part), and about 60 members of the Bear Flat Association

Apologies: none received

Item	Notes	Action
1.0	<p>Welcome: Clyde Hunter the acting Chair welcomed all present and thanked them for attending. CH reported that the Steering Group have met a number of times and have been working since the inaugural meeting to draft a constitution. CH reminded members that the BFA was essentially an umbrella organisation, working with existing organisations and new ones which would be mentioned later in the evening. The sub groups: Planning, Transport, and Food have met to work on matters that concern the whole community. There is also a Film Group that meets regularly, and Virginia Williamson has been co-ordinating communications, and has produced several issues of the Bear Flat Flyer.</p>	
2.0	<p>Reports from sub groups:</p> <p>Planning: Timothy Cantell reported on behalf of the Planning Sub Group. He said that the group's approach to dealing with the issues raised at the inaugural Bear Flat Association meeting in June are as follows: Flats: limiting the increase in houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). B&NES proposing tighter planning control. Spaces: protecting existing spaces and seeking to improve spaces. Assets: making a list of community assets. Shops: working to prevent inappropriate changes of use.</p> <p>TC appealed to all to keep an eye open for any planning issues that need addressing.</p> <p>Traffic and transport: Gareth Bunn reported that the group had been working on the following: Surveys have been done to establish up to date traffic volumes around the Poets Corner in early morning. A further survey is planned on October 18th to cover the volume of cars using Devonshire Buildings from Old Wells Road, parking at Tesco, and turning right into Old Wells Road..</p> <p>After discussions with the Council's Transport Planning Department, Bear Flat has been placed on the Action List, but this will not be acted on until 2015. Parking permits were discussed, and although this would resolve the issue of commuter parking, it would also mean the loss of parking spaces because of requirements for passing bays and unloading spaces. Alternative methods will be considered. Meanwhile the group will conduct surveys to establish the extent of commuter parking. In this context, 34% of respondents to the Council survey earlier this year wanted permits, 17% did not, whilst 41% identified commuter parking as an issue. The council now accepts that this is a major problem.</p> <p>Inconsiderate and aggressive driving in the avenues by Beechen Cliff</p>	

	<p>school parents is on the increase. A number of rows have been reported to GB, who has now written to the Head Teacher.</p> <p>Communications: Virginia Williamson reported on the website and Bear Flat Flyer. She said that both the Film and Food Groups had resulted from notes in flyer. The website is currently under construction. There are currently pages about: the Association, Events, Resources, Meeting rooms for hire, local groups and the minutes of BFA meetings.</p> <p>The Food Group: Peter Andrews reported that Cate Le Grice-Mack is buying the former Organic Meat Co premises and is prepared to lease the premises to a community shop and cafe with a focus on locally produced food. The Steering Group (consisting of Peter Andrews, Virginia Williamson, Judith Jordan and Diana Lockwood) has made good progress, but need more volunteers to help set up the enterprise.</p> <p>Peter invited comments from the audience on the proposals for the cafe / shop which were on display at the meeting. He reported that the chosen name is Hayes Place.</p> <p>Film Group: Helen Law reported that it had been decided to keep the group small so that they could fit into the houses available for film showings, but the group may need to look into hiring larger spaces if more people join.</p>	
3.0	<p>Constitution: this has been posted on the website with a link from the recent newsletter. CH invited comments.</p> <p>Nicolette Johns asked what constitution was based on, and whether it was intended to be very general.</p> <p>CH said that it was based on the constitutions of similar organisations and that is has been kept deliberately broad to encompass all possible activities.</p>	
4.0	<p>The election of Officers: Julian David took over as Chair and all acting officers stood down while the officers were elected.</p> <p>The following nominations have been received:</p> <p>Chair: Clyde Hunter, proposed by Virginia Williamson and seconded by Diana Lockwood.</p> <p>Treasurer: Mark Richardson, proposed by Diana Lockwood and seconded by Peter Andrews.</p> <p>Secretary: Diana Lockwood, proposed by Mark Richardson and seconded by Peter Andrews.</p> <p>Membership Secretary: Wendy Lovell, proposed by Virginia Williamson, Seconded by Diana Lockwood.</p> <p>All were elected unanimously.</p> <p>There were no nominations for the position of Vice Chair. CH said that someone may be co-opted to this by the committee. He confirmed that the purpose of this role would be to deputise for the Chair, and be able to succeed to the position of Chair in future.</p>	CH
5.0	The meeting closed at about 8.15 pm`	