

**Bear Flat Association**  
**2017 AGM – Beechen Cliff Methodist Hall, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Minutes**

**I. Attendees**

Committee Members and the list of attendees is at Annex A.

**II. Introduction**

Gareth Somerset (Chair) welcomed attendees. There was one apology – Bob Hughes (Secretary).

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes were approved as read.

**IV. Committee Reports**

1) **Chair (Gareth Somerset)**

- a) Gareth reported that the BFA currently had around 210 members, or about 10% of the Bear Flat households. All present were encouraged to recruit new members.
- b) The BFA is currently transferring its records and e-mailing from GroupSpaces to Membermojo. Hence, while the BFA Membership Cards Scheme is to be retained, there will be a delay in re-issuing cards this year.
- c) Thanks. Gareth thanked the various social events organisers, including Nicky Moorey and Thelma Grimes (Friends of Bloomfield Green – affiliated to the BFA); the indispensable Street Representatives and the Committee members.
- d) Gareth added that BFA is seeking volunteers for all its roles: in particular IT and publicity.

2) **Treasurer (Mark Richardson)**

- a) Mark reported that the BFA's income is currently around £1500 per annum. This is spent in greater part on printing and publicity for BFA events. A balance of £1800 has been allocated to improving Bloomfield Green.

3) **Planning (Timothy Cantell)**

- a) Timothy stressed that the BFA does not invariably oppose local planning applications: those of the Co-op and Fidelis Estate Agents were cases in point.

- b) The Bear Flat Post Office has been lost; the BFA is seeking a new home for it if possible.
- c) The BFA commented on The Bear pub's application for roof-top air-conditioning equipment: as a result, noise baffles have now been included.
- d) The BFA did not object to the principle of the Powswood (Chaucer Road) development but did insist on safeguarding of the site's trees.
- e) Beechen Cliff School: BFA has pressed them for a Travel Plan, and they are developing one.
- f) Air Quality: monitoring has confirmed that air quality on Bear Flat can be as poor as on the London Road, and as a result B&NES has extended its Air Management Strategy to cover Bear Flat. The government has directed that B&NES will be required to produce an air quality improvement action plan for Bath. BFA will respond to this (both individually and through FOBRA (the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations)).
- g) Houses in Multiple Occupation: B&NES are now consulting re a review of the planning rules. BFA is contributing, through FOBRA. The aim, over-arching the HMO issue, is to press the universities to ensure that any planned increase in student numbers is matched by acceptable detailed plans for their accommodation.

#### **4) Transport (Jeremy Trenchard)**

- a) Jerry announced that B&NES is currently running a consultation on its Transport strategy, and recommended all attendees to go to B&NES' website and /or drop-in sessions to see it. One attendee noted that there is a conflict between B&NES' plans for car and coach parking in Bath, on the one hand, and its air quality improvement commitments on the other. Attendees were recommended to highlight this conflict, using the B&NES website.
- b) Bear Flat Residents' Parking Zone (RPZ) Consultation. BFA's current RPZ consultation is aimed principally at getting B&NES on-side, and making the appropriate budgetary provision, prior to the Council's own consultation later. It does not aim to be very specific about how the scheme should operate. Given its main aim, Jerry stressed that our consultation is very important, and emphasized the need for everyone to vote.

#### **5) The Bear Flat Community Market (Virginia Williamson)**

- a) The market continues to flourish; and a particular feature is that almost all the produce is local. Virginia emphasized that the stalls are relatively cheap, and attendees should spread the word to potential customers and stall-holders.

- b) It is hoped there will be carols in Alexandra Park, organized with the Bowls Club, on 15<sup>th</sup> December; but this is currently subject to Health-&-Safety arrangements being approved
- 6) **History (Gareth Somerset).**
  - a) The Bear Flat history section is up-&-running on the Bear Flat website. Gareth asked anyone with an interest in local history or who has information to contribute to come please forward.
- 7) **Social & Other Public Events (Nicky Moorey)**
  - a) Nicky reported that the Secret Gardens event had been a success: eleven gardens had taken part, and had drawn over 70 visitors. Proceeds were donated to the Dorothy House & Julian House charities.
  - b) There were over 80 at the ever-popular ceilidh this year.
  - c) Forthcoming events include the quiz on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov (now sold-out) and a wine-tasting evening at Great Western Wine on December 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 8) **Social & Other Public Events**
  - a) On behalf of the Friends of Bloomfield Green, Mark Richardson reported that the Green had now been awarded a Green Flag: an acknowledgment that it is a well-run and cared-for village green. The £1800 allocated to it (see Treasurer's Report above) will be spent on planting, including wild flower areas.

## **V. Election of 2017-18 Committee**

Chairman: Gareth Somerset, proposed by Mark Richardson, seconded by Jane Allan.

Vice-Chair: the Chairman called for applicants.

Treasurer: Mark Richardson, proposed by Virginia Williamson, seconded by Diana Lockwood

Secretary: Bob Hughes, proposed by Nick Francis, seconded by Jane Allan.

Membership Secretary: Jeremy Opie, proposed by Mark Richardson, seconded by Judith Eversley

## **VI. AoB**

- 1) Relationship between BFA and Friends of Bloomfield Green. The Treasurer explained the latter is a sub-group of the BFA, and all monies are held together.
- 2) Relationship between BFA and FOBRA (see IV, 2f above). Clyde Hunter answered that FOBRA sometimes goes beyond what BFA would endorse, although it seeks to go with its

majority view. BFA works with FOBRA wherever possible because FOBRA (with around 30 members) has more clout.

- 3) Responding to a question about BFA and its relationship with Neighbourhood Watch, the Chairman said that the BFA newsletter should periodically carry a list of the current NW representatives.

***Signed:***

Secretary: Jeremy Opie (standing in for Bob Hughes)

Chairman: Gareth Somerset