



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bear Flat Association on Wednesday 26th October 2016, 7.30 pm at St Luke's Church Hall, Hatfield Road, Bath

Present: Clyde Hunter (Chair), Gareth Somerset (Secretary), Mark Richardson (Treasurer), Bob Hughes (Social), Gareth Bunn (Transport), Timothy Cantell (Planning), Judith Eversley (Food), Thelma Grimes (FoBG), Jane Allan and about 30 members of BFA.

Apologies: Don Grimes, Virginia Williamson, Margo Singleton

Item	Notes	Action
1.0	<p>Minutes of the 2015 AGM and matters arising: it was agreed that the minutes of the 2015 AGM were an accurate, and any matters arising will be picked up under the 2016 agenda.</p> <p>One action was taken by the Chair to reconsider the position of businesses as members of the BFA. It was agreed at the BFA Committee that no change should be made to the constitution and that local businesses can be affiliated members of the Association</p>	
2.0	<p>Chair's Report: Clyde Hunter welcomed members and thanked members of the Committee. Particular thanks were made to Margo Singleton, Virginia Williamson and Gareth Bunn who are retiring from the Committee. Clyde also thanked Don Grimes for his unstinting local work, especially regarding Friends of Bloomfield Green, and extended his and the Associations best wishes to him and Thelma.</p> <p>Clyde concluded his final report as Chair by making a plea for volunteers to assist in the work of the BFA.</p>	
3.0	<p>Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mark Richardson. The Association had a total income of £1,376 at the end of the 2016 financial year (30/9/16) compared to £755 at the end of 2015, a significant increase. This is partly owing to an increase in the number of members and also the very successful Gathering on the Green, which made a surplus of £399. The Association's net assets at end FY 2016 were £1,842 compared to £915 at end FY 2015.</p>	
4.0	<p>Reports from sub groups:</p> <p>Planning: Timothy Cantell reported that the Planning Group have commented on the B&NES Placement Plan, in particular highlighting the need to assess the impact of housing development on transport.</p> <p>Unfortunately, our application to have the Devonshire Roundhouse listed was declined by Historic England.</p> <p>Regarding the Beechen Cliff School Masterplan, not much has happened except for the construction of a new schoolroom block, to which BFA raised no objection. The School's Travel Plan has not been updated since 2012 but the BFA will push for an update.</p> <p>We have an air quality monitor on Bear Flat. We are awaiting data and will alert members if there is an air quality problem.</p> <p>A recent and unexpected development is the application for a change of use for the McColls shop to a financial and professional services use. This arises</p>	



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	<p>from Fidelis Estate Agent wishing to take over these premises. The BFA will be submitting a response to B&NES and will request views from residents. Councillor Shelford has been alerted to the application.</p> <p>Jacqui Hughes gave a presentation on the aims of the SOS (Sort Our Subway) group, looking at improving the crossing at the bottom of Holloway.</p> <p>Transport: This was Gareth Bunn's last report to the AGM before standing down as Transport Group convener. Gareth's report was a summary of the year's Transport Group activities, including observations of traffic flows to ensure evidence-based proposals, meetings with B&NES Parks Dept over removing school parking from Alexandra Park and with Highways over the introduction of RPZs.</p> <p>Regarding Alexandra Park, Gareth re-iterated that parking will be permitted for users of the park. The intention is to stop long term parking by the school or commuters.</p> <p>Regarding RPZs, despite the residents' vote not to accept RPZs, discussions have been held about possible smaller zones for those areas that wanted them, perhaps in 2018/2019.</p> <p>The increase in the BCS roll call of some 140 means greater pressure of traffic. BFA is talking to the school, Highways and B&NES on how to accommodate this extra traffic without impacting the avenues. It is expected that this will be achieved through parking on BC Lower Field.</p> <p>The TROs for yellow lines should be enacted by December 16. Highways are doing further work on school drop-off points although it will not countenance drop-off points on Wellsway.</p> <p>Gareth thanked Angela Trenchard for her hard work on the Group over the years, and wished Jeremy Trenchard well in his new post.</p> <p>Food Group: Judith Eversley presented the Food Group report. Judith reminded the meeting that the Food Group is a separate not-for-profit legal entity called Hayes Place Ltd, formed with the objectives of promoting local food and providing a social space for the local community to meet. Its accounts are reported separately to the BFA.</p> <p>The Community Market runs on every third Saturday of the month and stalls are charged at £5 or £10 depending upon their size (a previous idea of not charging led to financial loss). Thanks to better promotion via Twitter, the range of stalls has become more diverse and there is increasing interest on social media. The Christmas Market will take place on 3rd December</p> <p>Carols by candlelight in AP in conjunction with Bowls Club will be held on Friday 16th December at 6:30pm. Money raised will go to Médecins Sans Frontiers.</p>	



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	<p>History: Gareth Somerset presented the History Group report. The year has been a quiet one for the group, with just one new article on the development of Bear Flat being posted on the website. However, there is a longer-running project to research the history of businesses on Bear Flat. A presentation of the research to date was provided as a wall board at the meeting.</p> <p>Social: Bob Hughes presented the BFA Social report. The year's quiz evening had been very successful and is being repeated on Friday 18th November.</p> <p>The Good Gardening Award led to some 250 residents receiving certificates in July, and the scheme received very positive feedback.</p> <p>A social gathering was held in September for the street representatives as a thank you for the hard work they have put in over the year.</p> <p>The very successful Ceilidh was held in St Luke's Church Hall in October.</p> <p>The BFA has now introduced an incentives scheme with local Bear Flat businesses and we hope to increase the number of participating businesses significantly over the next 3 months.</p> <p>We are looking for new ideas for social events for next year. For example an open garden scheme?</p> <p>Friends of Bloomfield Open Space: The FoBG report was presented by Thelma Grimes. Bloomfield Green has been granted a Local Green Space status this year. The area has now been secured until 2029 and some £16,000 has been made available for Bloomfield Green development. Thelma outlined the improvements already made to Bloomfield Green and those planned, including an improved children's play area and a wildlife area on the throughway to Maple Grove.</p> <p>Thelma also made reference to the 2016 Gathering on the Green and appealed for help at next year's event, as well as a general appeal for residents to join FoBG.</p>	
5.0	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <p>The election of officers commenced with the election of Gareth Somerset as the new Chairman of the BFA. Gareth thanked Clyde for his four years of dedicated service to the BFA as its chairman. Gareth and all other officers were elected unanimously. The officers of the committee are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair- Gareth Somerset;• Treasurer- Mark Richardson;• Secretary – Bob Hughes;• Membership Secretary- Jeremy Opie.	



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6.0	<p>AOB</p> <p>Jill Kingaby asked whether the BFA would be able to identify any volunteers to remove wet leaves (and, in the winter, snow) from pavements in the Bear Flat area, so as to enable pedestrians to walk safely in the area.</p> <p>Judith Eversley explained that residents of Kipling Avenue already did this and were supported in their efforts by B&NES who supplied large refuse bags which were collected after the leaf gathering.</p> <p>Gareth Somerset proposed an article in the next BF Flyer to highlight the possibility of street residents working together to resolve the matter. Clyde Hunter agreed to discuss the issue with Mark Shelford, one of our two B&NES councillors.</p>	
	The meeting closed at approximately 9:00 pm.	