

Minutes of Bear Flat Association AGM 21st October 2022

Apologies: Winston Duguid, Alison Born, Judith Eversley, Gareth Somerset, James Gibbons, Timothy Cantell, Deborah Jane, Cat Smith

Item 1: Minutes of the 2021 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record and there were no matters arising

Item 2: Chair's Report (Nick Francis)

The Chair's report was accepted. NF thanked Bob Hughes for all his hard work throughout the year; Jerry Trenchard for stepping into the role of Secretary at rather short notice and to the three ward councillors for their continued support

Item 3: Treasurer's report and presentation of 2021/22 accounts (Mark Richardson)

The accounts for 2021/22 which had been approved by the BFA Committee, were received by the AGM. There were no questions from the audience. MR encouraged members of the audience to consider potential projects, to which our monies might be allocated.

Item 4: Presentations by subgroups of the BFA Committee

(a) Planning & Transport Group (Jill Kingaby)

The report was accepted. JK responded to a question from D Lewis on the time frame for the Vision for Bear Flat, stating it isn't possible to give a precise date for implementation. Progress has been delayed as we wait for the report from WECA on the A 367 Corridor initiative. JK said the focus on Hayes Place would be retail, ensuring local businesses are involved. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, LTN, are being considered by BANES. JK also said the Government was reviewing their Neighbourhood Plan Statement

Diana Francis thanked the association for the work done on this, asking that we remain realistic on what the council could afford

(b) Membership (Jeremy Trenchard)

The report was accepted. JT confirmed that we had 437 current members with 58 that had expired. JT stated that there was a need to expand the membership and asked that everyone thought about how we could make the Association appeal to a broader base of interests.

c) Food Group

The report was accepted.

Helen Scamell confirmed the 26th of Nov as a date for the Xmas market

d) Friends of Bloomfield Green (Clyde Hunter)

The report was accepted

CH confirmed that next years 'Gathering on the Green' would be on the 11 th June 2023

CH responded to a question from Sue Evans confirming that a Cedar of Lebanon would be planted as part of the 100th anniversary celebrations

e) Friends of Alexandra Park (Jeremy Trenchard)

The report was accepted. JT confirmed that next year's Picnic in the Park would be on 2nd July.

The FoAP team are looking for someone who has event management experience who would be willing to help with the organisation of the Picnic in the Park.

Sue Evans stated that new volunteers would always be welcome. SE also said that they were considering installing an outdoor gym. Raising finance for the project would be a challenge. NF suggested that our Environmental Group might be able to help with this.

NF responding to a question from D Lewis was able to confirm that the council would continue to fund the opening and closing of the Park gates for the rest of the financial year

D Fenton expressed his concern at the proliferation of signage in the park and at the recent installation of concrete kerbs.

Item 5: Election of Officers

The following people were elected to posts:

Chair: Nick Francis

Vice Chair: David Morgan

Treasurer: Mark Richardson

Membership Secretary: James Gibson

Secretary: Jeremy Trenchard

Item 6: Any Other Business

A member expressed concern over the increase in the number of Scooters being left on the pavements and the risk they pose to the public.

There were no other items to be discussed and the meeting closed at 8.05 pm with a vote of thanks from JT for everyone attending

Alex Lockton from Bath & West Community Energy gave a very interesting talk on energy conservation within the home and how energy bills could be minimised. He also talked about the role of BWCE as a community benefit society in helping communities to generate renewable energy. He cited the recent installation of solar panels at Beechen Cliff School as an example

A link to his talk will be put on our web site