Bedgrove Residents and Community Association

Registered Charity No. 1010279

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 14 May, 2024. 7.30pm

Church of The Holy Spirit Church Hall, Bedgrove

Minutes

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence:** Mark Broad, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. **Apologies** have been received from Tom Hunter-Watts and Ian Hughes

2. **Present:** Sarah Watkins, Bob Perry, Chris Randall, Erika Rudd, Betty Sharp, Marie Hodge, Pat Birchley, Kate & Jonathan Brooks (and Kate's mum), Alan Wilson, Wendy Wilson, Diana Bullard

   Committee members present: Mark Broad, Phil Droy, Jo Cheek, Trish Pullen, Chris Clarke, Julie Edwards, Jay Sasso., Steve Davis

   Councillor member: Mark Winn,

3. **Minutes of AGM held on 20/6/2020: Matters arising**:
   a. **Community Speedwatch:** Unfortunately, Mark Winn received no offers from volunteers to take part in this so the project has been shelved for time being.
   b. **Speed Signs:** these were taken down by the Council as they did not conform to official Council signs. Mark B and Phil have purchased replacement signs that they intend to put up soon. Betty Sharp asked about electronic signs. The Council has very few of these and they are moved around.
   c. **Parking on roads near schools:** Problems remain. More yellow lines are planned for Ingram Ave., Turnfurlong and roads near St. Josephs School.

4. **Chair's report: Mark Broad** reported another successful year for BRACA**.** Planning underway for this years Day In The Park and fundraising for Pump track well underway

5. **Treasurer's report and presentation of accounts: Jo Cheek** Everyone in attendance was given a paper report of the Committee's accounts which at present show a healthy profit due to The Day in The Park income, the Buckinghamshire lottery and funds received for the Pump Track and ring fenced for the project.

5. **Day in The Park: 13 July 2024** The Committee is indebted to Phil Droy for all his hard work in planning for this event which promises to be the best ever. New this year is a miniature railway giving rides to children and pony rides (last time we had donkeys) The popular Dog Show is back as well as other old favourites such as Zorbing, Flying Chairs and other popular fairground rides. This is a biennial event run by a small number of Committee members who are all getting older! If it is to take place again in two years, more volunteers will be needed.

6 **Newsletter: Jo Cheek is the newsletter Editor and Jay Sasso organises the distribution** We distribute the newsletter twice a year to 3,000 households across Begrove, Turnfurlong and Cumberland Park. We are always in need of more volunteers (Street Stewards) to help with posting the newsletters through doors. If you can help (even if just for your road or a couple of roads) please contact **Jay on 07950796923**

7. **Reaffirmation of Committee members:** All committee members present (see above), affirmed their willingness to remain in their roles.

8. **Election of Committee Members: The following officers were elected:**

Name	Role	Proposed	Seconded
Mark Broad	Chair	Jo Cheek	Phil Droy
Phil Droy	Vice Chair	Trish Pullen	Chris Clarke
Jo Cheek	Treasurer	Mark Broad	Phil Droy
Trish Pullen	Secretary	Phil Droy	Chris Clarke

9. **Councillors' Reports: Mark Winn reported:** Budgets reduced and very difficult choices have had to be made.
   a. **Parking charges** across the town have been increased.
   b. **Pot holes** big problem not helped by roads being the wettest in several years There are approx.8 million pot holes across the country
   c. **Water leaks**. There are some (eg junction between Turnfurlong and Camboune which Thames Water say are not their responsibility so Council will have to repair them.
   d. **New roundabout in Wendover road** and cabling work means Wendover Road will be reduced to one-track road controlled by traffic lights for 5 months(!) until October.

Mark also informed the meeting that the Government was lobbying HS2 to release money for repairs and enhancement of the environments affected by HS2 construction.

10 **Concerns expressed by residents present at meeting:**

a **Planning notice** at the Cambourne Ave. Garage for a 7ft high illuminated sign advertising electric charging points. Mark W to look into this. .

b **Cars parking on grass verges.** Wendy Wilson expressed concern about this issue. It was felt by the residents present that signage ("Do not park on grass") would help but really ticketing would be the only deterrent. Mark W explained that Council budgets across the country
had been cut and it was difficult to balance budgets for social care for the elderly and children, education, roads maintenance, etc, etc.

c **Mowing green spaces:** Numerous complaints about this. Mark W has made numerous phone calls re this and it has improved. He will also ask (again) about fallen tree which has yet to be removed and the tree stump which could be dangerous.

d **School Buses** parking in bus stops after dropping children off and leaving them there until time to pick children up again. Obstructs the bus stops for other regular buses.

- Mark W mentioned the **Council Community Boards** which act to support residents to come together and increase community spirit within their local neighbourhood through the delivery of community-based initiatives. Anyone wishing to learn more or to join the Community Board email: aylesburycb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk. Betty Sharp expressed an interest and Mark W said he would contact her.

Mark also mentioned the **Council Helping Hands scheme** which, among other initiatives, helps support 7,500 vulnerable residents, including 1,800 Ukranian families and 25 Afghan families (refugees from Afghanistan who helped the British during Afghan War.

10. **Proposed Bike Pump Track**: The Committee is immensely proud of and grateful to Treasurer Jo Cheek who has done the lion's share of approaching sponsors and raising funds for the track. **Attached to these minutes are her notes** on the history of how we came to be fundraising for the track and a list of sponsors who have all donated substantial funds for the project. Jo also made a proposal that any funds raised from Day In The Park should go to the Pump Track – Vote carried.

11. **AOB**: Betty Sharp raised the issue of anti-social behaviour in Jansel Square and the removal of seats. Mark W stated that the shops and land were owned privately by a Management Company so there is little we can do about it. We do express our views but little notice is taken.

12. **Close of meeting**: The Chair, Mark, thanked everyone for coming and the meeting closed at 9pm after which refreshments were served and conversations held between residents, Committee members and Councillors

Date and time of next AGM (2025) to be confirmed

AGM 2024 PUMP TRACK - NOTES

Background

Ongoing problem with children digging up areas of the Spinney (and the park) to create bike jumps - without council permission – causing the area to deteriorate – loss of vegetation, soil gets compacted, tree roots damaged leading to their decline and potential removal.

The council keep making area safe and are trying to restore this environmentally important habitat that supports 18 species of bird, various fungi and at least 3 species of bat.

The children's efforts demonstrate a need for a permanent facility elsewhere so the spinney can be left as a place for nature to thrive.

Mark Winn came up with the idea of a pump track in the park – can be used by all ages and abilities (not just the few who dug up the spinney) – bikes, BMX, scooters, skateboards and wheelchairs. We have some pictures here.

As well as the issues in the spinney there are other reasons this track would benefit children locally. Childhood obesity is a local and national problem – 38% kids in Yr6 are overweight or obese – this track would help encourage outdoor activity and is positive for physical and mental health.

There are also problems with ASB – particularly Jansel Sq & school holidays. The local police support this project as a diversion away from that behaviour.

The council agreed to track being built in the park between the tennis courts and MUGA and the BRCA offered to take on the project – but we needed to raise at least £100k for a specialist contractor to build a really good facility.

It took a while to get the go ahead from the council but since September I have been busy raising money. We started with £1500 – own funds agreed at last year's AGM + £1500 promised by Stuart. I set up a Go Fund Me page - £1422 inc Gift Aid

I have applied for many grants and in total I have now raised £78k including some council funds and thanks go to the following

THE SHANLY FOUNDATION

THE ROTHSCHILD FOUNDATION

WILLIAM HARDING'S CHARITY

AYLESBURY COMMUNITY BOARD

AYLESBURY TOWN COUNCIL GENERAL GRANT

AYLESBURY LIONS CLUB

THE BERNARD SUNLEY FOUNDATION

THE RECTORY FOUNDATION

MOBBS MEMORIAL TRUST

THE GOSLING FOUNDATION

THE SYDER FOUNDATION

FAIRHIVE THRIVING COMMUNITIES FUND

I continue to apply for more grants and the more we can raise the better the track will be – more features. Once I get to 100k the Clare foundation has promised an additional 10k which will help towards the increased costs since we first got a quote.

I post updates in our newsletter and more regularly on Facebook and Instagram - any support from locals is extremely welcome particularly if you can contribute to our Go Fund Me page.

Once we reach our target we will then be getting quotes and designs drawn up – we will then be asking for input particularly from the kids/users before work starts. The work should take around 4 weeks to complete.

So we're well on target to reach our goal this year and for the project to go ahead.