

Badingham Community Council

Registered Charity no. 274549

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9th November 2023 at 7pm at the Village Hall, Badingham

Present:

Trustees: Robert Johnston, Bill Dicks, Wendy Birtall, Michael Skinner, Sonja Russell, Pauline Skevington, Celia Cracknell

Villagers: Patricia Anderson, Andy Anderson, Rosemary Keeble, Martin Clark, Annie Clark, Charles Bainbridge, Wendy Bainbridge, Gill Pickford, Malcolm Knott

Apologies:

Rita Ruffles, Bob Foster, Ann Foster, Sonya Dicks

ITEM	AGENDA OBJECTIVES	DISCUSSION / ACTION	RESPONSIBLE
1	Record apologies for absence	Recorded as above	Wendy
2	Point of reference	Simon stepped down as Chairman. Robert has stepped in and Sonja would like to thank him. We would like more BCC members to join the committee to help with events.	Sonja
2	Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting	Asked if any objections– in the absence of any objections Rob and Sonja will sign the minutes as being a true reflection of the meeting	Rob / Sonja
3	Annual Report by the Chair, Robert Johnston	Full report available at the end of these minutes	Rob
4	Annual Report on the Accounts by the Treasurer, Bill Dicks	Accounts are posted on the website, which has been completely revamped: Community Council - badingham village Analysis: The BCC has emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we now have an increased income, and we are also able to spend more of our funds.	Bill

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To approve the annual accounts of the Charity b. To approve the re-appointment of Glen Rae as Independent Inspector c. Formally appoint BCC Trustee roles for the future 	<p>The accounts show a negative balance, which is a good thing – the BCC is looking to subsidise more events for community benefit. The only substantial change to the financial accounts this year is that we now show our reserves – the BCC has a much better understanding of our responsibilities as a charity. The BCC currently has designated reserve of £7000. BCC Trustees have designated one year to decide how to spend funds available. The BCC has also looked at finances in the context of other reserves – some of which has been given for specific reasons. The time has now come to spend this in a useful way and within appropriate terms of reference. The BCC are also able to apply for grants to support the current fund. We will have clear plans in the future and will be transparent about those plans. Overall assets have only seen a 2% change since last year – the BCC has had a balanced year. The BCC is now also able to keep far better accounts; the proceeds and deficit account for every event we run helps us understand the money we have available to subsidise future events. Questions encouraged from those present – no questions asked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approve annual accounts – Bill approved, Sonja seconded, all agreed. b. Propose Glen Rae – all in favour – approved. c. Need to formally appoint roles for the future: Additional proposal – this meeting resolves Rob proposed, seconded Celia – approved. 	
5	<p>Election of Officers Ordinary resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To re-elect Simon Goodson, Robert (Rob) Johnston, Bill Dicks, Wendy Birtall, Michael 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposal to re-elect the Trustees as a whole by Rob, seconded by Bill, approved by those present. 	

	<p>Skinner, Sonja Russell, Pauline Skevington, Rita Ruffles and Celia Cracknell as Trustees</p> <p>b. To call for and if appropriate elect new Trustees; no nominations have been received</p> <p>c. Proposal for Rob to continue as Chair</p>	<p>b. Elect new Trustees – none received. Rob said that he has joined earlier in the year – enabled him to make friends, would like to extend an invite to any present to join as a Trustee.</p> <p>c. Rob proposed to continue as Chair by Pauline, seconded Celia, all in favour.</p>	
6	<p>Any Other Business (none received in the 48 hours prior to the meeting)</p>	<p>Mentioned on the evening:</p> <p>a. Sonja: 11th May 2024 booked singer, entertainer and presenter – more information in the new year.</p> <p>b. D-Day celebrations to be arranged – nothing yet planned by BCC, the plan is that everyone in the village will work together.</p>	

Meeting closed at 19.39hrs.

Chairperson's Report (Rob Johnston):

'Good evening.

This has been an interesting year for the BCC,

Perhaps surprisingly, several of the challenges we have encountered remain issues related to lockdown and changes it caused in people's behaviour.

Nevertheless in my estimation we met these tests robustly and our achievements have followed an upwards trajectory across 2023 - and we already see this continuing into the coming year .

So, we sold the shed. Pause for applause and BVHC are doing a good job of developing the site. Should be an excellent resource for the village when complete.

We were fortunate to begin the year with Simon Goodson as our chair. Simon set us up a with innovative agenda for the year ahead. Unfortunately, midway through the year, changes to Simon's work schedule meant he has been forced to spend a lot more time up in "that London". Pressed to allocate his time more carefully he has chosen to put feeding his children and paying his mortgage ahead of the tasks we had planned for him, that's young people and their priorities these days, it's all self, self, self

Nonetheless, we remain optimistic we will eventually see him return either back at the helm or in some other capacity as his time allows.

It is always much harder to fill the shoes of someone who has been a strong and effective colleague. When people leave due to gross moral turpitude or

financial impropriety those remaining behind are likely to be satisfied with a replacement of any quality, Simon on the other hand has set us a high bar, however given how the remainder of this year has unfolded I trust he will not be disappointed with how we have progressed those items he initiated. In this context, it has been invaluable to have access to the knowledge and expertise of Wendy in relation to how committees like our own should operate. In a very large part our ability to continue so seamlessly has been down to her input.

Let me commence with describing a drier aspect of our work this year, before moving on to our more exciting achievements.

Dry may be but still very important. We had become aware that our documentation was not as complete as we wished. We have spent considerable time this session in remedying this situation. We now have several Policy documents which we believe are more transparent in describing how we hope to operate.

An overarching aspiration of the BCC is to be flexible in how we can meet the needs and wants of our community. We choose not to see ourselves as imprisoned by our paperwork, but rather wish these new documents to ensure we are in compliance with our responsibilities as a charity, increase the visibility of our internal processes to our members and improve our ability to achieve our goals in a way that seems both rational and even-handed. We do not wish them to tie our hands.

We are indebted to Bill for the tremendous amount of time and effort he has invested in drafting these papers and I am especially grateful to Michael for both chairing and hosting working groups which have allowed their refinement. And naturally to other committee members who contributed their time to those ad hoc groups. We do hope members will look at these documents and feedback their thoughts so we can continue to shape them over time.

Making plans for the fete this year was considerably hampered by finding the correct site on which to hold it, thus delaying our ability to make final decisions until quite late in the year. We remain grateful for the offers we received from various parties who were prepared to host us. In the end we were delighted to be able to return to the White Horse. I would thank Pauline and Michael for their efforts in both organising the day and re-establishing relations with the new owners and manager. Despite persisting changes in people's behaviour caused by lockdown, we were pleased to see so many villagers at this event. Far too many people contributed to making this a successful day, to allow me to name check them all, but having watched Rita and Pauline toil away distributing cake on what was the hottest day of the year, their part should go unremarked.

We are lucky to have many very energetic and proactive committee members who have staged and supported a number of successful one off events throughout the year. For my part, I have found it exhausting simply watching them.

Michael's coach trip to the Sherlock Holmes Matinee back in March was extremely popular and an outstanding success, though now seems such a long way back now, certainly time for another one soon.

Sonja's music evening to coincide with Coronation celebrations brought many villagers out to celebrate together. So many villagers and so much celebration

that we needed to restock the bar part way through the evening. Again, we hope this can be repeated soon, not another coronation, let's wait a while for that, I mean a music evening

Most recently Celia's bingo evening in October has opened up a new activity which we hope will become a regular event. This will go forward on a trial basis in January and if it continues to be well attended we will fund it as a permanent event along similar lines to the monthly quiz night.

It is always our ambition that events like these should either make money or break even, but our main goal, this year especially, is to bring neighbours together in a way which makes our village a more joined up and friendlier place to live in.

In this spirit. We will shortly be seeing Wendy's wreath making evening in later in November 27 and soon afterwards Michael's Xmas lunch in December 10. Both of these events are already fully booked or very close to it. Sonja already has another music evening in place for May next year.

Inevitably, some sectors of the community are easier to reach than others, but our goal is always to be an amenity for the whole of the village. To this end, we have continued to fund the Echo and thanks to the sterling work of Tish this remains a valued and entertaining resource for the entire neighbourhood. We have recently recommenced the regular Natter and Chatter mornings started by Simon at the beginning of the year. This program is intended to try to help combat the loneliness we know has become endemic to communities similar to our own, but more modestly we also see it as another opportunity for folk to meet with their neighbours and promote communication across our village.

Finally, as usual at this time of year, we will shortly be starting to distribute Christmas biscuits to our friends and neighbours who have reached the age of 70 and above. Refreshingly, many people are looking so youthful these days we might soon need to ask for ID. But new for this year we have extended this festive celebration to the other end of our age demographic by funding the presentation of gifts to children from Santa at the Winter Market later in the month.

So, in conclusion, a full year and in my opinion a successful one and I commend it to you.'