



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association

Registered Charity No. 279592

BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – HELD WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2007.

Present:

Ian Millar (Chairman + Tea Dance Group); John Pettet (Treasurer); Elizabeth Barrett (Exec Committee + Winchester TKD); Anne Sole (Exec Committee + Playgroup); Loraine Martin (Exec Committee and Hampshire Wildlife Trust); Jan Dawkins (Bookings Secretary); Denise Tosdevine (Playgroup); Keith Taylor (B F Parish Council); Douglas Richardson (St Luke's Church); Joan Millar (Tea Dance Group); Matt Short (Big Bearded Group); Representatives of the Social Club.

1) Apologies: Rachel Skinner, Jane Foster, Barbara + Kevin Hitchings, Geoff Sharman.

2) Minutes of the 2006 AGM.

Acceptance of the minutes of the 2006 AGM were proposed by Denise Tosdevine (Playgroup) and seconded by Keith Taylor (BF Parish Council).

3) Matters arising.

There were none.

4) Chairman's Report.

Welcome to this year's Annual General Meeting.

Improvements to the Centre

The last twelve months have been a busy time for the Association. We have seen many changes and have been very active in refurbishing the Community Centre. The office, entrance hallway and connecting corridors have all been redecorated and re-carpeted and new carpets have also been laid in the Bushfield and Whiteshute rooms. The toilets have had new units to replace old and damaged ones and replacement floor coverings have been laid. A 'Welcome' sign has been put up in the entrance hall and notice boards have been redesigned. We have also purchased new furniture for the office to replace old and worn out items and a storage cupboard for use by the caretaker. Outside, paving has been laid in both gardens to facilitate access to the final exits on emergency evacuation. A safety rail was also installed on the ramp at the rear and the gates were altered to open outwards to the car park. With the co-operation of our local Sainsbury's superstore, the path outside the main entrance has been cleared of overhanging foliage, making the area lighter and less threatening for hirers and visitors.

Events and Activities

The annual firework display was held once again at the Oliver's Battery recreation ground and was a great success with a large number of residents attending. Our gratitude goes to all those volunteers, who gave up their time to help make the event go so smoothly, particularly Kevin and Barbara Hitchings, Greg Wood, Colin Stride, Robert Makepeace, Dave Thomas, the Scouts Group and St John Ambulance staff.

We celebrated also the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Centre with a reception for trustees, staff, users and those volunteers, who regularly deliver the Community News. The Social Club and Pre-School Group also held their own well-attended parties to mark the occasion.

Use of the Centre continues to grow with regular and one-off bookings. We have a varied mix of activities on offer to residents and we are keen for this to continue. We recognise the support given to the Centre by all the User Groups and we value their continued involvement in our community.

Staffing and Training

We have had a change in staff at the beginning of the year with a new Bookings Secretary, Jan Dawkins. She is now making her presence felt in the day-to-day running of the Centre's business and is a welcome asset to the team. Together with our caretaker, Mervyn Hall, Jan attended a Fire Safety at Work course. The Committee's Health and Safety officer, Loraine Martin, attended an H&S Risk Assessment course and a Control of Substances Hazardous to Health course. I also went on a Fire Risk Assessment course.

New Legislation

We have seen the introduction of two major pieces of new legislation: on 1st October 2006 in respect of Fire Safety and on 1st July 2007 in respect of a Smoking Ban in enclosed public places. The former required considerable work in undertaking a fire risk assessment throughout the Centre together with the necessary documentation, which has to be available to the Fire Service in case of an inspection. In this connection, we have held two day-time test emergency evacuations in the last few months involving several groups and I am pleased to say that our procedures worked well.

With the latter, the Centre already had restrictions in force on smoking on the premises; it affected the Social Club more, where smoking had been allowed. Smoking is now restricted only to the garden outside the Warren and Bushfield rooms. The Social Club continues to be the focal point of the Centre and it is to be hoped that the ban will encourage more residents to join as members.

An health and safety risk assessment was also carried out by Loraine with only minor points needing attention. This highlighted the fact that the work undertaken in previous years by our predecessors had been well thought out and well done.

Thanks and Valediction

I would like to end my report by thanking the Executive Committee members for their help and support during the last year. In particular, I would wish to single out those, who are retiring after many years service: namely Barbara Hitchings, Kevin Hitchings and Ray Bennett. As you will be aware, Barbara and Kevin have been the driving force for the annual fireworks display and the distribution of Community News for very many years; they will be greatly missed. I would also like to thank Elizabeth Barrett, who is standing down as secretary, for being so helpful and conscientious. Fortunately, Elizabeth has agreed to continue on the Committee. It would be appropriate here to mention also the effort and care that our treasurer, John Pettett, puts into his work on our behalf. I have greatly appreciated his support and advice to me personally during the last twelve months. My thanks must also go to Jane Fielding, who consistently produces such an interesting Community News each quarter.

It is perhaps disappointing to note that nobody has come forward from either of the two parishes to volunteer to serve on the Executive Committee for this coming year. So, we shall have to manage with fewer trustees; a situation, which is far from satisfactory. Finally, I cannot let the opportunity pass without thanking our permanent staff, Mervyn and Jan, who are the Centre's day-to-day representatives and the 'public face' for hirers and visitors. Their efforts are much appreciated.

And Finally!

We look forward to another interesting and busy year!

5) To receive the Accounts/Treasurers Report:

John Petett (Treasurer) circulated copies of his report and the accounts. John reminded the meeting that the accounts were now examined by an accountant rather than audited.

There were questions from the floor:

- 1) What was the landscaping work? Ian replied that this cost was for paving laid in the back garden.
- 2) Had there been a loss on bookings as the figure was down on the previous year. John replied that this was a reduction in income not a loss.
- 3) Why had heating + lighting costs increased? John said this was due to increases in the price charged by the utility companies.

Ian mentioned that he was planning to carry out an energy audit of the building to see if costs could be reduced.

John's report was accepted by the meeting.

6) To elect the Officers of the Association:

Ian said that he (Chairman) and Rachel (Vice Chairman) had agreed to stand again. Ian paid tribute to long standing committee members Barbara+ Kevin Hitchings and Ray Bennett, who had decided to stand down. Elizabeth was standing down as Secretary, but was happy to remain on the Committee. The other members of the Committee: Anne Sole, Loraine Martin, and Jane Foster were all willing to stand again. There were no other nominations.

Keith Taylor proposed and Matt Short seconded the re-election of the Officers and Committee Members. Ian asked those attending the meeting to consider volunteering to join the Committee.

The Officers and Committee for 2006/7:

Chairman: Ian Millar

Vice-Chairman: Rachel Skinner

Treasurer: John Pettet

Committee:

Loraine Martin

Elizabeth Barrett

Anne Sole

Jane Foster

7) To appoint examiners of the accounts for the coming year

John proposed that the Association should continue to use the services of David Early as auditor. This was agreed.

8) Any other business.

There was none

The meeting closed at 8.25.pm