



Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery Residents' Community Association

Registered Charity No. 279592

BADGER FARM & OLIVER'S BATTERY RESIDENTS' COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 16 JULY 2008

Present:

Ian Millar (Chairman); John Pettet (Treasurer); Elizabeth Barrett (Exec Committee + Winchester TKD); Anne Sole (Exec Committee + Pre-School Group); Loraine Martin (Exec Committee + Hampshire Wildlife Trust); Jane Foster (Exec Committee + Pre-School Group); Jan Dawkins (Bookings Secretary); Ken Webster (Whiteshute Bridge Club); Will Hawthorne (BF Parish Council); Hilary Cope (OB Parish Council); Robin Owens (local resident); David Spender (City Councillor); Andrew Whittick (Social Club representative); Mo Bloomfield (Country Market); Denise Tosdevine (Pre-School Group); Douglas Richardson (St Luke's Church); Joan Millar (Dance Group.)

1. Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Rachel Skinner (Vice-Chair) and Keith Taylor (BF Parish Council)

2. Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 18 July 2007

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2007 AGM were proposed by Denise Tosdevine (Pre-School Group) and seconded by Joan Millar (Dance Group.)

3. Matters Arising

In reply to a question regarding the responsibilities of the Association, the Chairman read the Objects of the Association from the Constitution to update everybody.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented the following annual report:

'Welcome to this year's Annual General Meeting. At the end of my annual report last year, I said that we looked forward to another interesting and busy year. My wish was certainly granted. It had been both interesting and very busy!

Improvements to the Centre

During the last year we have needed to have work undertaken to bring the building up to current standards. The main expenses were made on renewing the lighting units in the entrance hallway and in upgrading our security system. In addition, as part of our energy audit of the building, we are replacing all single light bulbs with energy saving versions and have had PIR controlled water and lighting units installed in the toilets. Some carpets had also been replaced under warranty due to faulty fitting. Under Health and Safety, we had replaced the old kettles used on the gas hob with electric kettles together with another electric hot water urn and have had extra sockets installed in the kitchen to cater for the additional load. Internet access has been installed in the Bushfield and Warren rooms at no extra cost for those groups, which wish to use the facility.

Events and Activities

Our big event this year has been the Open Day 2008, which was held on Sunday 22nd June. We opened our doors to all residents of both parishes and anyone else, who had an interest in the activities of the Centre; entry was free of charge. The event allowed us to show-case some of the activities that regularly take place within our walls: there were demonstrations with public participation and various stalls run by many of our User Groups; for the children there was a free bouncy castle, face-painting, art and crafts and a friendly clown; for refreshments there were teas/coffee with light snacks and a BBQ and hog roast, with the Social Club bar open to all. The Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester visited the Centre and saw some of our community work for themselves. The day was enlivened by the music of a local traditional jazz band. The weather was also kind to us with sunshine and blue skies. We were delighted that several hundred people visited the Centre during the day. The event was a great success!

The annual bonfire and fireworks display was held again at the Oliver's Battery recreation ground and was even more popular than last year with large numbers of residents attending. Once again, our sincere thanks goes to all those volunteers, who gave so freely of their time to help make the evening such a memorable occasion; we are grateful to the Scouts group and the British Red Cross for their participation. Our thanks are extended particularly to Kevin and Barbara Hitchings and Greg Wood, who after some seventeen years of organising the event have finally stood down. At this time, we are still looking for a volunteer to help organise the evening and without whom, sadly, the event will not take place this year.

Community News continues to be produced by the Association and delivered to every household in the two parishes free of charge. We are grateful to everyone, who is involved in this: contributors, advertisers, the editor and our deliverers. It is still a much-appreciated vehicle for news within our area.

We see the Social Club as an important part of the Community Centre and, despite a difficult time last year, a new Committee and bar steward are in place. They are trying now to increase membership and interest in the Club. With the nearest licensed premises being some distance away in Stanmore and Hursley, the Club is ideally situated for those who live in our two parishes.

The Association continues to support the community work of the many varied activities within the Centre such as art, dancing, exercise, martial arts, pilates, sport, toddlers, pre-school, special needs and wildlife. These activities have been included in a new Information Leaflet produced this year for first-time and regular visitors to the Centre.

Staffing and Training

We have had a change in staff early in 2008, when Jane Fielding, our editor of Community News and Website Administrator, left us. I am very pleased to report that our Bookings Secretary, Jan Dawkins was willing to take over as editor and that Sarah Munns is now our new Website Administrator. Our thanks are extended to Jane, who over the years has consistently produced interesting and eye-catching editions of Community News. We wish her well for the future.

Jan and our caretaker, Mervyn Hall, attended an 'Emergency Aid in the Workplace' course and I have continued to represent the Association at various meetings organised by Winchester City and Hampshire County Councils. I also attended a seminar organised by Hampshire County Council on the new Vetting and Barring Scheme, under the Independent Safeguarding Authority, due to come into force next year.

Thanks

I should like to thank the Executive Committee members for their help and support during the last year, especially for their involvement in our Open Day. I should also like to particularly thank Jan, who took on a huge amount of extra work for this event. Both Jan and our caretaker Mervyn are the cornerstones of the Centre, without whom we could not function smoothly. And, as ever, I have relied upon the sensible counsel of the Association's Treasurer, John Pettet. So, thank you everyone.

And Finally!

If re-elected, I have decided to carry on as Chairman for one more year, but after three years in the job I shall be looking for my replacement in 2009.'

In a reply to a question regarding future Open Days, the Chairman said this was not being ruled out but a lot of work was involved. He was looking at 2012 as a possible year for an event in line with the Olympics taking place.

5. To Receive the Accounts/Treasurers Report

John Petett (Treasurer) circulated copies of his report and the accounts. He reported that total income for the year had increased by just over £3000 to £68666. This reflected a satisfactory increase in Hall bookings total and was not far short of our record figure achieved in 2006. Regarding Charitable Expenditure, he reported that costs for operating the premises reflected a reduction from £34705 to £27979. However, the accountants had capitalised certain items of expenditure and the total for repairs and maintenance had therefore dropped by nearly £10000.

There had been increases in utility and cleaning costs reflecting the higher level of gas, electricity and water charges and additionally the higher cost of sub contract cleaners. Direct wages had increased from £21773 to £24074.

Governance costs showed an overall reduction from £7987 to £7454. The main reason for this was the reduction in computer costs of £759.

There had been a slight increase in administration wages of £112.

On the basis of net incoming resources there was a surplus of £2 for the year.

Cash resources had increased by £15 to £45345 and total assets stood at £65076.

In reply to a question on the budget for next year, John stated this had been set between £5000/£7000. He said that the Reserves policy's aim was to have enough surplus cash to run the Community Centre for one year without additional income.

In reply to a further question, John explained that direct costs were items capitalised over a four year period.

John's report was accepted by the meeting on a proposal by Andrew Whittick (Social Club representative) and seconded by David Spender (City Councillor.)

6. To Elect the Officers of the Association

Ian said that he (Chairman) would stand for a further year and Rachel (Vice Chair) had agreed to stand again. The other members of the Committee: Elizabeth Barrett, Anne Sole, Loraine Martin, and Jane Foster were all willing to stand again. There were no other nominations.

Will Hawthorne proposed and David Spender seconded the re-election of the Officers and Committee Members.

The Officers and Committee for 2008/2009:

Chairman: Ian Millar
Vice-Chair: Rachel Skinner
Treasurer: John Pettet (non-voting)

Committee:

Elizabeth Barrett
Jane Foster
Lorraine Martin
Anne Sole

7. To Appoint Auditors for 2008/2009

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

8. Any Other Business

In reply to a question from a local resident concerning the possibility of the Community Centre holding a New Year's Eve dance, the Chairman advised that normally the main Battery Hall was used by the Social Club for this event.

There was no further business. The Chairman thanked everybody for attending and reminded people that the Association was there to help residents of both parishes and was not just about running a Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8.25.pm

The date of the next AGM is Wednesday 15 July 2009 at 8.00pm.