

BRACKENFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023 at 6.30pm
at Brackenfield Church Hall**

Present:: Catherine Tomlinson; Stefan Priest (Treasurer), Cath Pilsbury (Chair) , Pat O'Brian, Lynn Keeton, Graham Keeton, Diane Hooton, Christine Edwards (Secretary),

Apologies: Linda Walker

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM of Brackenfield Village Association, the first since activities were curtailed by Covid 19 measures.

Chair's report:

The Chair reported on the work that continued during the period of Covid restrictions to complete the Heritage Trail and install the Interpretation Panel on the Green in time for the very successful Trail Launch event in July 2022. The success of the on-going Heritage Café meetings and the Platinum Jubilee Party were also noted. Neighbourhood Watch has continued to operate throughout this period and two drop-in sessions have been arranged thanks to funding from the NW Scheme. The Chair outlined plans for events through the coming year, which started with a very successful celebration event to mark the Coronation of King Charles. The passing of Mike Edwards in December 2022 was noted with deep sadness and his commitment to the local community was acknowledged. The Chair gave huge thanks to everyone who has helped make past events successful and warmly invited anyone who would like to get involved in any way. The BVA and Heritage Café have helped to encourage a much greater development of community within the village and it is hoped that this can be maintained.

Approval of Chair's report:

Proposed by Stefan Priest; Seconded by Lynn Keeton; Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report:

The BVA is in a secure financial position. Thanks were expressed for grants from Brackenfield Parish Council and Neighbourhood Watch. Events which resumed in June 2022 have been well supported and have generated sufficient income to cover on-going costs and the organization of future events. Capital expenditure included the completion of the Heritage Trail with the remains of the grant funding from DCC. The Treasurer thanked everyone who has supported the BVA and looks forward to future events through the coming year.

Approval of Treasurer's report:

Proposed by Lynn Keeton; Seconded by Cath Pilsbury; Unanimously approved.

Elections to the Committee:

Pat O'Brian: Proposed by Stefan Priest; Seconded by Catherine Tomlinson

Diane Hooton: Proposed by Christine Edwards; Seconded by Cath Pilsbury

Both nominees were elected unanimously and welcomed to the committee.

Election of Officers:

Chair: Cath Pilsbury: Proposed by Diane Hooton; Seconded by Catherine Tomlinson

Treasurer: Stefan Priest: Proposed by Christine Edwards; Seconded by Lynn Keeton

Secretary: Christine Edwards: Proposed by Cath Pilsbury; Seconded by Stefan Priest

All positions were elected unanimously.

AOB:

Coronation Celebration event on 7th May 2023

There was fantastic support for this event which was well attended and very successful. A large team of helpers worked well together which helped make the event enjoyable for all.

Possible future events:

Ideas will be discussed further at the next committee meeting on 17th July at Green Farm:

- December/Christmas event with refreshments, possibly carol singing (Children?), some kind of market....
- Walks
- Litter picking (subject to completion of 30mph speed limits)
- Suppers;
- Saturday afternoon tea;
- Italian night (as cancelled in 2020)
- Valuation and Auction (Lynn and Christine to find out more info before the next meeting.)

The point was raised that it would be good to get more Brackenfield residents involved and to find out what they would enjoy and support. This is an on-going process as the BVA has only really been active for two or three years and has achieved a lot in that time. It was also acknowledged that we are a small community and there will always be people who choose not to take part for whatever reasons.

Closure: The Chair thanked everyone for their input. The meeting closed at 1930