

BRACKENFIELD VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018 at 6.30pm
at Brackenfield Church Hall**

Present: Stefan Priest (Chair), Cath Pilsbury, Lynn Keeton, (Committee Members);
Mike Edwards (Treasurer), Christine Edwards (Secretary), Martin Philips (Parish Council),
5 registered members and 3 others.

Apologies: Rosalyn Rogers, Nigel Rogers, Lindsay Eyre, Charlie Crockford

Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the first AGM of Brackenfield Village Association.

Chair's report:

The Chair reported on the BVA's first year during which three events were successfully organised and well supported by the village community. Reference was made to the communication channels which had been set up, including the village website, face book page and the Brackenfield Bulletin and thanks given to all those involved who have given time and resources. Thanks were expressed to the various bodies and individuals who have provided grants and donations to establish the website, fund start up costs and organise and support events. The committee have been encouraged by the positive feedback from villagers and are motivated to continue to foster a happy, welcoming and caring community spirit, which is appealing to all.

Approval of Chair's report:

Proposed by Mike Edwards; Seconded by Cath Pilsbury; Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented a summary of the year's financial position and thanked Elaine Kerry for checking the accounts. Thanks were expressed to Councillor Barry Lewis, Brackenfield PCC and the Well Dressing Committee for their financial support and to all the individuals who generously gave a total of almost £600 in donations, making a significant impact on the ability to stage events in the first year. After the payment of Insurance and Website fee there is a balance of £653.54 to carry forward towards events for the coming year.

Approval of Treasurer's report:

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

Adoption of the Constitution:

The Secretary introduced the draft constitution, which was adopted by the committee at its inauguration in February 2017 and explained the proposal of minor changes to bring the Constitution in line with that of similar organisations and ease administration. These were agreed and the vote was taken to ratify the revised constitution.

Proposed by Cath Pilsbury; Seconded by Mike Edwards; Unanimously approved.

Election of Committee:

The Chair explained that the current committee were standing down, in keeping with the existing constitution and therefore 8 committee positions were available. The 5 existing committee members were willing to stand again. Additional nominations were invited.

Catherine Tomlinson was proposed by Christine Edwards and seconded by Linda Walker.

There were no further nominations, so these six nominees were appointed to the committee.

AOB

Events for the coming year:

Martin Philips gave an overview of events being planned for the coming year. The proposed "Litter Pick" may not go ahead due to insurance complications. This is being clarified and an update will follow.

The big event this year is the "Picnic on the Green". The plan is to include a few more attractions and activities to maintain novelty and interest. Last year about half the village attended along with friends and family. It would be good to involve even more villagers this year and everyone was encouraged to get their neighbours to come along. This event would not be possible without the generous donations of raffle prizes. Unwanted gifts and prizes of all kinds for the raffle and any items in glass or plastic bottles for the tombola will be gratefully received.

Following the success of last year's pudding evening, there will be an Italian Evening in October, again hosted by Laura Kay, who will demonstrate making pasta and serve pasta dishes, Tiramisu and Lemon Torte.

There are still a few places remaining on the tour of Ogston Hall in August.

There will be a Christmas Tree switch on with carols, mulled wine and mince pies on 14th December (a pianist is required for the carols – get in touch if anyone can help.)

Funding bids have been submitted to run a "History Cafe" which would be a monthly get together for a group of local people with a range of guest speakers and activities (following the group's interests) over tea and cake. This is a community project started in Leicestershire and spreading into other areas. More to follow.

By organising events we are using our main village resources (the Green and the Church Hall) and hire fees that we pay for the Hall help towards its running costs.

Other ideas:

Ideas were invited for other possible village activities:

Whist – There is quite a lot of local interest. Sixteen people are needed. It could be a daytime or evening event; may depend on the time of year; dark nights. LW will follow up.

Beetle Drive – This could be fun for families and could be part of a games event along with bingo, *pointless* and a quiz. CT will get more information.

Film Night – This could be outdoors in Dobbs Croft (Inflatable Screen/Outdoor Cinema provider) but would be weather dependent. It could be in the Hall. Holloway Film lend/hire out equipment.

Summer event in Dobbs Croft e.g. Midsummer Night's Eve – MP

Community Arts Trail – villagers could participate by creating some sculpture/art work in their garden or by their house to form a trail for visitors (like Scarecrow Festival but with a twist.); Could be combined with Derbyshire Open Arts Festival at the late May bank holiday weekend. There may be members of Open Arts who would like to use the Hall as a venue for their work. Other events could be included over the weekend e.g. a Treasure Trail round the village and a garage sale (maybe a vintage taxi or small minibus could be hired to take people round the village to the different venues.) Clay Cross Arts group might be interested in opportunities to participate and GM has display boards etc.

Christmas party (for older villagers or open to all?) Outside caterers?

Antiques evening/Valuation combined with supper. BM will follow up contacts.

Table Top Sale in the Hall (vendors hire a table)

Morris Dancers; Barn Dance; Line Dancing

Walking Group

Dog Walking

Improving Communication:

There was agreement that the Bulletin is well received and useful. It would be good to reach people who may like to get involved in events but have not done so yet, (recognising that there will always be people who do not want to get involved.)

We could be more proactive in speaking to people and inviting neighbours to come with us.

It was suggested that newcomers to the village could be welcomed with a card, a copy of the Bulletin, a contact phone number and a bottle of wine. This was thought to be a good idea.

Volunteers are always welcome to help deliver the Bulletin.

Closure:

The Chair thanked everyone for their input. The meeting closed at 1940.