

Brackenfield Village Association
Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 29 August 2017 at 10am
at Holly Cottage

Present: Stefan Priest, Cath Pilsbury, Martin Philips, Rev'd Ralph Lawrence, Lynn Keeton, Mike Edwards, Christine Edwards,

Minutes of the meeting on 7 July 2017: Read and agreed

Correspondence:

Christine has received a letter from Nigel Rogers, dated 28 July 2017, returning the cheque for £50 which was sent as a donation for use of the Church Hall at the Village Picnic. Nigel explained that as the PCC had received funds from the Well Dressing and Parish Council this year and the picnic was an event for the benefit of the village, the PCC did not wish to accept the donation on this occasion.

Matters arising: None

Picnic on the Green review:

Feedback has been very positive. Lots of people said how much they enjoyed the picnic and thought it was well organised. There have been quite a few requests for a similar event next year, with maybe a few more activities or stalls. The W.I. have asked about selling their produce. The Plough would like to attend again. There have been inquiries from other craft stall holders. It was good to see groups of family and friends making their own entertainment and even enjoying birthday celebrations together.

It was good to mix with people by taking round trays of snacks and the little horse that was brought along was greatly appreciated.

The sound system did not work so well this year. Mike explained that he only requested one speaker rather than the two we had previously because some people had expressed concern about there being too much noise. People spread out further than anticipated and therefore a more powerful system was required. **Mike will discuss with the friend who supplied the system and seek advice for next year.**

Future plans:

There was some discussion about whether we should restrict a future event to local people and their family and friends or develop it into a fete, advertising to attract more people to attend. If stall holders attend on a commercial basis they could reasonably expect greater footfall. This can be discussed further in September but the committee's inclination is to go a little bigger but to keep it largely as a local event.

We discussed refreshments. Whilst it may be possible to get volunteers to provide teas and cakes etc. for a one day event, it may be preferable to get caterers on a professional basis. The opportunity for fund raising would be less but everyone would be free to participate and enjoy the day.

Mike has provisionally requested an RAF fly-past on Sunday 15th July 2018.

It would be good to build in more opportunities for mixing with people and activities to get people involved. **Christine agreed to contact Colin regarding advice about Insurance cover.**

The PCC are planning a Flower Festival over the Bank holiday in late May and wondered if this could be linked with a Village Association event. Whilst the committee would prefer to keep to July for the village picnic, we discussed the possibility of holding another event that would complement the flower

festival such as an arts trail, scarecrows, open gardens etc, round the village. The Sailing Club also have an open day that weekend and could maybe be advertised jointly. This can be discussed at the open meeting in September.

We discussed having a Christmas tree outside the Church Hall with a carol service, drinks and snacks and a ceremony for switching on the lights. Scotland Nurseries may provide a tree? **Ralph will check with the PCC about their views.**

Other ideas may be generated at the meeting in September.

We discussed how the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Village Association might work more closely together. We need to think more laterally about how our village assets can be used to maximise benefits to the whole community.

- The PC manage the Green and have to be asked for permission to park for events at the Church Hall. **Martin will raise this with the PC to see if a protocol can be developed.**
- **Martin and Stefan will ask to attend the PC meeting in September to discuss proposals for the coming year, present interim accounts and ask for a grant towards next year's costs.**
- Greater sharing of information would aid transparency and co-working. Martin will ensure that the Village Association minutes are published on the website. **Christine will add the PC Clerk and the PCC secretary to the mailing list for minutes.** The PC are looking towards acquiring a second notice board so that there is room for all minutes to be displayed.

Meeting on 7 September:

Martin and Stefan will provide wine, cheese and biscuits. Christine and Mike will bring soft drinks and something sweet.

Topics for discussion will include ideas for activities for next year and whether there is something for which the village would like to raise funds – something the community could get behind and work together for.

Finance – Interim Accounts:

Mike presented a summary of the financial position to date and projected spending for next year. Over £300 was raised at the picnic and there have been donations of around £410. If possible, we need to go ahead with an Awards for All application towards the Life Support training, but we need to wait until the application for the Neighbourhood Plan funding has been dealt with. We will also seek some funding from the Parish Council to assist with next year's picnic.

Life Support Training:

Provisionally arranged for Saturday 28 April 2018. **Martin will add this to the website.**

Other business:

Bulletin: The third edition, focusing on feedback from the September meeting, will be delivered to all homes in the Parish at the beginning of October.

Publicity: Follow up at the next meeting.

Public meeting: Thursday 7 September at 7pm at the Church Hall

Next committee meeting: Monday 25 September at 10am at Holly Cottage

