

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION : AGM : 11th October, 2023

Attending : Steve Dawe, Trevor Kimber, Frank Holliday, Chris Perks, Catherine Gundry, Richard Bryant, Barbara Bryant, Tom Crook , Nick Barbour, Gill Breeze, Mary Woolliams, Chris Simlett, Tina Dick, Albane Smilga, Matthew Kirk, Terry Smith, Mark James, Mathew Kirk.

Apologies : Pat Kennedy, Hazel Dawe, Phil Jones (City Council), Shirley Nelder, Steve Aldis, Liz Brighthouse (County Councillor), Linda Smith (City Councillor), Krzysia Gossage (7o'Clock Club).

(1) The minutes of the 2022 AGM were read and approved.

(2) Matters Arising : The new building was completed in late November 2022 and the trustees were handed the keys on the 16th December. The community centre re – opened for use by groups and lets in early January 2033.

(3) Trustee Report on the year April 2022 – March 2023. Richard circulated the Report. He noted that the Charity Commission required a report and that it was useful to have one available for grant applications. The report highlighted how the building of the new centre had proceeded during the year with relatively few delays and hitches. Thanks were recorded to Oxford Direct Services and Jessop and Cook for their excellent communication with the trustees during the process of the re – build. After the new centre opened there was a rapid take up of use by groups and one off lets , particularly children's parties. By the end of March 2023, fifteen groups were meeting at the centre on a weekly basis, many of which were groups who had used the old community centre before the COVID lockdowns and the redevelopment. This build - up of lets has continued. The report also noted the work the trustees had undertaken on negotiating a new lease for the community centre, developing a new system for booking lets and making grant applications. Over the year £10,000 was received in grants.

The report finished with thanks to our trustees and volunteers, the local County and City Councillors, Otis Williams, our Building Manager and Pat White for her many years of committed service to the community centre. Richard was thanked for his report.

Looking ahead we need to recruit new trustees and volunteers and attract more long - term lets for the rear hall.

(4) Accounts for 2022 -2033. The audited accounts, produced by Martin and Fahy, were circulated at the meeting. Trevor reported that the deficit was due to the community centre being closed for most of the year. We still incurred expenses (eg; insurance) and had, towards the end of the year, spent funds on new equipment for the kitchen and new tables for the main and rear halls. Our main source of income during the year was from grants, with income from lets beginning to build up after the start of 2023. The full running costs of the new centre will only become apparent once we have been in the building for full year and have a better understanding of the energy and other running costs. Trevor was thanked for his report.

(5) Constitution. There were no proposed changes to the constitution.

(6) Election of Officers and Committee

Chair : Steve Dawe stood down as the Chair and as a trustee. No nominations were received at the meeting and the committee will appoint an acting chair at our next meeting in November.

Steve was thanked for his work over the last eight years and for the significant role he played in the negotiations with the City Council over the redevelopment of the community centre.

Secretary : Richard Bryant – proposed by Trevor Kimber and seconded by Chris Perks. Accepted by the meeting.

Treasurer : Trevor Kimber – proposed by Chris Perks and seconded by Nick Barber. Accepted by the meeting.

Safeguarding Officer : Barbara Bryant and Catherine Gundry – proposed by Trevor Kimber and seconded by Tom Crook.

Health and Safety Officer : Barbara Bryant – proposed by Chris Perks and seconded by Nick Barber.

The following were nominated and re-elected as Trustees - Frank Holliday, Chris Perks, Nick Barber, Pat Kennedy. Pat was unable to attend the meeting but had indicated that she was prepared to be nominated.

Hazel Dawe has stood down from being a trustee. Hazel was thanked for her work for the BCA over recent years.

(7) Other Reports

Web – Site Tom Crook reported that he was pleased with how the web – site had developed and would welcome suggestions about how it could be improved. Richard commented that he had received positive feedback about the web – site.

Facebook page : Gill Breeze reported that our facebook page has been running since May and is best accessed via the BCA web – site. The number of contributions are slowly building up.

Up – date on Current Activities : Barbara Bryant reported on how the grants had been spent, this current year, to equip the building and develop new activities. Registering as a Food business has enabled us to cook ‘in house’ for the Community lunch, which is followed by a speaker. This is developing well and attracting up to 30 people, thanks to the hard work of the volunteers. The Rear Hall is now being used for groups and training events and parties continue to be very popular. With support from Bogstars, we are once again running a Christmas Fayre on 2nd December.

(8) AOB – Open Discussion on priorities and plans. Several suggestions were made about how the community centre could be improved:

Should we purchase a projector for talks and training events.

Could musical events be held at the community centre e.g. a children's choir from local schools.

Could the atrium of the centre be used for art exhibitions

Can we run a community party in the summer – using the recreation ground.

Several people complained about the lack of signage for the community centre. The community centre can be difficult to find and the small sign on the Slade is not in a prominent position. Richard commented that the BCA and Shirley Nelder had previously raised this issue with local Councilors and that we should re – new our efforts to improve the signage on the Slade and other roads.

Thanks to everyone for attending.

Date of Next AGM – October 2024 – date to be arranged.

Next committee meeting – Tuesday 7th November at 7.30pm in the meeting room.