

BULLINGDON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION : AGM : 10th October 2024

Attending : Frank Holliday, Chris Perks, Tom Crook, Catherine Gundry, Trevor Kimber, Barbara Bryant, Richard Bryant, Councillor Judith Harley, Phil Jones (City Council), Otis Williams, Caroline O'Connor, Gill Breeze, Marie Broyde, James Torniley, Terry Smith. Mary Woolliams. Apologies : Pat Kennedy, Stephen Briggs.

(1)The minutes of the 2023 AGM were read and approved.

(2)Matters Arising : We have not yet appointed a new Chairperson. Richard has been the 'acting chair 'over the last year. With reference to the suggestions made at the 2023 AGM. We have now purchased a projector. After a long delay a new and improved road sign for the community centre has been put up on the Slade, next to the bus stop before the turning off into Wood Farm Road. A community picnic was held in July on the recreation ground.

(3)Trustee Report on the financial year April 2023 – March 24.

Richard presented the report. This was the first full year following the opening of the new centre in January 2023. It has been a very successful year in terms of the number of groups who are using the centre. Currently there are 22 groups using the centre ,on a regular basis, plus other groups who use us on a more occasional basis. Also, there is considerable demand for children's and family parties at the weekend. We estimate that around 350 people a week visit the centre and we have received very positive feedback on the look and design of the new centre. For the first time the centre is now hosting welfare services, including Oxford Citizens Advice and NHS Health Checks. Because of the high demand for lets and the need to allocate time for the cleaning of the centre, we have not always been able to meet all the requests we receive for bookings. The income we generate from lets makes a major contribution towards covering the running costs of the

new community centre. Apart from the income from lets our only other source of income is grants, which brought in £4,500 during 2023 -24.

There have been some disappointments during the year. Orinoco decided not to return to Bullingdon after the re – opening. Orinoco had been based at Bullingdon for nearly twenty years and had been one of the centre’s major activities. Also, Bullingdon Youth, our junior football team, did not return and are no longer playing at Peat Moors. For the first time since 1986 Bullingdon does not have a football team.

There are challenges ahead. We need to attract new trustees for the management committee and volunteers to help with the activities which the BCA directly runs at the centre, such as the Community Lunch, the Repair Café and the Parent and Toddler group. A number of our trustees are not getting any younger and if we cannot attract new trustees, over the next few years, the future of the centre could become rather uncertain. Also, we could face future financial challenges, especially if there are cuts in the City Councils support for community centres. The possibility of this happening should become clearer after the government’s budget is announced at the end of this month.

Thanks to the trustees and volunteers who keep Bullingdon going, the local Councillors for their support and the City Council officers for their advice and support. Thanks to Otis Williams, our building manager, for his work in keeping the community centre so clean and tidy and for handling the many requests for booking the centre.

Richard was thanked for preparing the Trustee report and the report was accepted. Catherine commented that she uses the Centre a lot and a wide variety of people now use the centre and enjoy each other’s company.

(4)Treasurers Report : Trevor presented the accounts. He reported that the BCA had made a surplus of £6,105 during 2023 -24, which was mainly due to the income generated by lets, together with grants. Trevor was thanked and the Treasurers report was accepted.

Barbara commented that, despite having solar panels and good insulation, the energy costs incurred in running the new community centre are relatively high due to the cost of electricity.

Caroline suggested that the BCA should devise a fund raising strategy. Richard commented that the BCA is planning to produce a new 'business plan' and that a funding raising strategy could be part of this exercise.

(5)Other Reports : Mary reported that the monthly free Community Lunch is now well established and is attracting around 30 people, many of whom attend on a regular basis. The lunch is usually followed by a talk from an invited speaker. More volunteers are needed to help with the preparation and serving of the food.

Tom reported on the BCA web – site and Gill reported on our face book page. Both stressed the importance of the community centre having a social media presence.

(6)Constitution : There are no proposed changes to the constitution. Trevor highlighted that, under our new CIO constitution , trustees have 'limited liability' for the financial affairs of the community centre.

(7) Election of Officers and Committee.

Secretary. Richard Bryant was nominated by Trevor Kimber and seconded by Chris Perks. Agreed unanimously.

Treasurer. Trevor Kimber was nominated by Barbara Bryant and seconded by Tom Crook. Agreed unanimously.

In the absence of nominations for the Chair, Richard agreed to continue as acting Chair.

Trustees. Pat Kennedy was unable to attend the meeting but had indicated that she was prepared to stand as a Trustee. At the meeting Frank Holliday, Tom Crook, Chris Perks, Catherine Gundry, Barbara Bryant and Mary Woolliams indicated that they were prepared to stand as Trustees. They were all nominated by Richard Bryant and seconded by Trevor Kimber. Agreed unanimously.

Nick Barber had indicated, prior to the meeting, that he wanted to stand down as a trustee. Nick was thanked for the positive contribution he had made to the BCA over many years, particularly his facilitating of on – line meetings during the COVID lock downs.

Currently the BCA has 9 trustees. Under our constitution we can have a maximum of 15 trustees.

(7)Open Discussion : Phil Jones , on behalf of the City Council, thanked the trustees for their work over the year. Marie suggested that the BCA should organize more social events for families with young children. Caroline suggested that the BCA should have a ‘donate button’ on the web – site.

The meeting finished with the showing of a short video, made by the City Council, on the activities of Oxford Community Centres, which included a contribution from the 7o’clock Club. Thanks to Tom for showing the video on the new projector.

Date of next AGM – to be arranged.

Date of next trustee committee meeting – Tuesday 12th November at 7.30 pm.

RB/BB : 15/10/2024

