

COTFORD ST LUKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 October 2008

The Chairman opened the AGM, introduced herself and welcomed those in attendance. Health and Safety notices were given. She introduced Tim Davison and Kate Pilkington to the meeting, and indicated the General Committee who were sitting at the front.

Apologies for Absence

Barbara Stone, Christopher Wolverson, Joanna Lewin-Harris

Approval of AGM minutes – 2007

Caroline asked if the Minutes of the last meeting could be agreed.. There were no comments or alterations and she asked for them to be adopted.

Proposed: Alison Botarelli
Seconded: Caroline Cooper

Minutes adopted unopposed.

Chairman's Report

See written report attached to the Minutes.

Caroline ran through the achievements this year, which included ensuring the premises are now compliant with Health and Safety rules, the drains have been fixed as has the Partition between the two Halls, both at no cost to the Association. Storage has been improved and the outside of the Halls has been decorated. TDBC has been asked to maintain the tennis courts.

Caroline said that for the first time since the Hall opened it had been necessary to increase hire rates. This happened in January.

At last year's AGM attendees had indicated that they would like Cotford St Luke to have its own Parish Council. The required petition has been circulated and has the necessary number of signatures so this will now progress. Caroline also reported that 50 allotments have been proposed for the village. A committee to take this forward has been established and an Allotment Association will be formed.

Villagers have expressed concern that the Burial Ground is being used by dog walkers who allow their dogs to foul, and children riding bicycles. It is not obvious that this piece of land is a Burial Ground, and the Council has been asked to erect a sign so that people are aware of its significance.

During the spring, there was a litter pick arranged around the village which was well attended and very successful.

In accordance with the Constitution, the Community Association has held regular meetings, and meetings have also been held with the School as part of a Joint Management Group for the Hall.

Communications – the Bishops Lydeard website is updated monthly, and the Association publishes a regular Village Newsletter. There is also a monthly magazine available. The Parish Council notice boards have been maintained, and two new Notice Boards have been erected this year.

Roads, Footpaths and Culverts – see attached written report.

Caroline also reported that there are now road markings at the junction of Burge Crescent and Graham Way. The remaining unadopted roads should be adopted in the next nine months. There is to be a further meeting with the Council and developers in December 2008. All roads except those in private ownership will be adopted.

Caroline closed by thanking Ann Wilkins for producing the Newsletter, Matt for printing it and the distributors for ensuring each household receives a copy. She also thanked Elizabeth Smith for maintaining the Notice Boards, the Social Committee for their work throughout the year, Peter Grover for agreeing to take over the negotiations for a Lease for the Community Centre and all those who give up their free time to assist. She closed by thanking the General Committee for their hard work and support.

Treasurer's Report

Please see Income and Expenditure account attached.

Tim particularly noted the following items:

Income showed a figure of £2700 under “Other”. This was made up mostly of £2600 which had been billed to TDBC. This covered their agreed contribution to the electricity bills since the Hall opened.

In April this year we received £1300 from the Parish Precept, too late to be included in this account, but had it been received by the end of March, the Association would have registered a profit of nearly £2000.

Tim was able to confirm that despite the current financial situation, the Association's funds are protected.

Caroline then asked for a volunteer to act as Auditor of the accounts. Elizabeth Yates kindly volunteered.

Election of Officers

Caroline indicated that the current Treasurer and Secretary were standing down and asked for nominations to replace them. Tom Sanderson volunteered and was seconded by John Hassall.

There were no volunteers for the position of Secretary. Caroline explained that without a Secretary the Association could not continue. Kate indicated that there were only two choices – either dissolve the Association, or call an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting to try and fill the post. She indicated that in view of the extremely low attendance tonight, the latter was a valid option. It was put to the floor and the meeting voted to hold a further meeting.

Caroline indicated that current members of the General Committee who had indicated they wished to continue were Rev Alison Norris, Ron Bush, Ann Wilkins, Lester Featherstone, Caroline Cooper, Don Stansbury, Barbara Stone, John Hassall and Tony Beaven would continue in an ex officio capacity to represent TDBC. Peter Grover volunteered to join the General Committee as did Tony Freeman. In view of the situation regarding the Secretary, no vote was taken.

Any other business

The Chairman reminded the meeting that there would be a Remembrance Service held in the Hall at 10 am, 9.11.08 followed by an act of commitment at the bus stop at 11 am. There will be a Christingle Service at 10 am on 14.12.08 and a Christmas Eve service at 4 pm. Alison asked if anyone knew of a young baby to play Jesus. If so, she asked they contact her.

Caroline said that no alteration to the current Constitution was proposed.

6-12 yr old play area

Tony Freeman opened the discussion saying that he had been unaware that there was to be a 0-5 yr old play area in Burge Crescent, and since it has been erected older youths have been using the area to congregate and behaving badly, swearing. He said that play areas attract older children during the evening and it is hard to police these areas. He said there is already a problem and the local PCSO Sue Thompson supports the residents in the area who oppose this location. The residents have submitted a petition against this as they feel Burge Crescent is not the right area for new equipment. He said the residents feel more equipment will increase the existing problem. He said he believed the new equipment should go in the playing field where there are already facilities and a play area for 6-12 yr olds should be away from a residential area. John Gibson agreed with Tony's comments, as did Tom Sanderson.

Caroline said the first letter received from Tony had mentioned youths smoking, drinking, taking drugs and vandalising. The Association had received no prior indication that this was happening and referred the matter to the PCSO who also knew

nothing of the problem. She pointed out that at the moment this is only a suggestion as so far we have not even heard what the children themselves want and it may be that when we know this, we would have to reconsider. Alison Botarelli confirmed that the children have been asked what they would like and we are waiting for designs to be drawn. There will then be a consultation about where to put the facility.

Tony said that the newsletter was the first the residents knew of the matter. Ann Wilkins told the meeting that a lot of parents had indicated that they would appreciate a few more bits of equipment so that when they are taking their children home, they would be able to supervise all their children in the same area. She queried how this would increase what was acknowledged to be a problem already. Caroline said that most parents would not want young children playing in an area where they could not be supervised.

In response to Tony's assertion that the residents of Burge Crescent were unaware that there was to be a play area at the location, Peter Grover explained to the meeting that in fact the play area had always been planned for Burge Crescent and was included in the master plan in 1995. Because planning permission was not required, ordinary local searches would not have revealed the plans, but the master plan was available to anyone and could be checked by those considering purchasing a property in the new village. Originally, three play areas had been planned, and it had been expected that they would not be restricted to under 6s, as it works well if families can all go to play areas together. Originally the North Villas play area had been intended for older children, but the Council changed their mind.

Caroline acknowledged the views expressed. In summary, there are two issues, one of providing facilities for the 6-12 yr olds and the other providing facilities for the older youths. Lynda Furber has worked hard to get a youth project off the ground and it would obviously be beneficial to address both problems to move this issue forward. In order to do this, the Village will need to find people to come forward for the General Committee and the Youth Project.

Alison Botarelli thanked the current Committee for their efforts during the year, with a particular thank you to Caroline.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

