

**MINUTES OF BRAG MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 3RD APRIL 2017
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BRYN**

Present: Mr Paul Bulmer, Chair & Trustee
Mr Daf Bowen, Trustee
Mrs Gaynor Jones
Mr Martin Fitzpatrick
Mr David Eckton
Mr Royden Rogers
Councillor David Whitelock

Apologies:	Mrs Val Merriman,	Mrs Sue Phillips
	Mr Gareth Jones	Mr Dylan Morgan
	Mr Zach Dixon	Mrs Jenet Eckton
	Miss Louise Hopkins	Mr Alan Thomas
	Mr Mark Dummer	Mr Robert Davies
	Mrs Dianne Thomas, Trustee	Mr John Thomas, Trustee

Paul Bulmer opened the meeting at approx. 7.10 p.m.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING.

Minutes of the last meeting were circulated around the table.

Matters arising were –

The School photos project is still ongoing. **ACTION – PAUL/PETER**

The Heritage Walk is still on and hopefully more information will be forthcoming in the next newsletter. **ACTION – PAUL**

2017 Calendar – still waiting for photos to be submitted to BRAG. Please circulate this amongst your friends and get the photos rolling in. Your favourite place, view etc is what is wanted.

ACTION – ALL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BRAG is currently waiting for audit completion. Hoping that Terry Filer will have completed at the end of this week (7th April) and then a date for the AGM can be arranged.

There has been a break –in at the Doctor's Surgery early part of this year. The Manager of the Surgery has written a letter to BRAG and Paul is still waiting for a reply back to his calls/emails.

Post Meeting Note: Paul has since discovered the practice manager has been off on long term sick and so he has now discussed the situation with the doctors.

BRAG has received a letter off the Bowls Team asking for help. A meeting will be arranged to discuss options. **ACTION – PAUL**

BRAG has had an invitation letter with regard to House of Parliament Festival Week in November 2017. Paul to check their website. **ACTION – PAUL**

A Wellbeing Meeting is to be held on Friday 7th April at CVS Neath offices. Paul to attend and invited representatives from other groups within the village to join him.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Dummer sent his apologies but has been called away on business. Paul said that all is in order but Mark will give a financial update at the next meeting.

IT CLUB

After the IT Club suspending its sessions in February due to low numbers, the Club is now back in the Community Centre every Tuesday morning between 10.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Current club members are happy with the sessions. New members are always welcome to join.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

Daf Bowen said that the talk by Roy Meredith, held in the Bryn Rugby Club "A Day in the Life of a Miner" was attended by approximately 16 people.

All attending expressed their thanks for an interesting evening. Daf, himself, would like to put on another talk outlining the History of Coal in the village of Bryn.

We are still waiting for NPTCBC to approve planning for the placing of the Dram on the old Bryn Navigation Colliery site. Martin Fitzpatrick to undertake minor repairs to the Dram. Hopefully some arrangements should be in place by the end of April.

YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

Dylan Morgan, BRAG's Youth Representative, was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. In his report to Paul, he stated that the youngsters are happy with the Park area and pleased that the Youth Club is back with fantastic facilities. He wants to know if they can have a Colourfast Party and they would be happy to see a Funday being held. **ACTION – PAUL/TRUSTEES**

BRYN COMMUNITY GYM PROJECT

This project is still being considered and talks are ongoing between Paul Bulmer, Patrick Kapida, Delyth Wanklyn and Carys Mills, CVS. Grants are being looked at by Derek Jones but there is the possibility of a 20% match funding being required, this equates to £4k against the £20k required for gym equipment. Carys has reported that attempted gym set-ups in the Neath Port Talbot area have had little success but she pointed out the difference between a community gym and a commercial gym such as limited hours to fit with voluntary staffing. Paul suggested arranging a visit with a successful community gym to understand their formula for success.

There was also concern regarding the poor attendance at the Keep Fit sessions. Many questions still need to be resolved.

TENNIS COURT AREA PROJECT & FUTURE PLANS

The tennis nets are back in place and we are able to report back to the Big Lottery that the area is well used. Tennis coaching will be organised now that the weather should be better. Although the weather hasn't been kind, the Trim Track too, is well used. The lighting should be in place by the end

of this month and a light sensor and timer is to be installed to allow the lights to come on when dusk and go off at an agreed time.

SURGERY MEETINGS

The Surgery Meetings in the Community Centre have not been successful with only BRAG members turning up for them. The last one held, as a Coffee Morning, with Stephen Kinnock MP, was very constructive and has resulted in a meeting being held with the Council regarding the state of the roads. The rut in the road, on the way to Maesteg, has been repaired within a couple of days of the said meeting. A meeting has also been arranged with Welsh Water for Monday 10th April in the Community Centre. Invitations have been issued to various residents of Bryn. David Whitelock is coordinating all the actions from the initial Coffee Morning. **ACTION – DAVID**

INCREASING INTERACTION BETWEEN BRYN GROUPS

The interaction between BRAG and the various groups of the village is slowly progressing and is very positive. Gareth Jones, Martin Fitzpatrick and Mark Dummer attended a funding meeting to discuss the possibility of one big project at the Bryn Park/Sports venue. Mark, being a Surveyor has examined the Bowls Pavilion and the Rugby changing rooms along with a Council Surveyor. **ACTION – MARK**

Paul has been working alongside the Over 55's group and has obtained a grant of £805 for help with the Minibus payments for Jan-March and the payment of a coach to take them to the Cinema.

Daf & Paul have spoken with the Wednesday night Craft group to suggest possible funding options for them. **ACTION – DAF/PAUL**

BRAG has had a request off the Bryn Bowls for help with their increasing financial obligations. BRAG will meet the representatives to discuss ways of helping. **ACTION – PAUL**

RICHARD BURTON & BRYN BEAST RACE

Shaun Tobin was unable to attend the meeting but reported that they are progressing well with their efforts to become a charity in their own right for the Richard Burton Race. BRAG will no longer be recognised as the owner of the race but will help with the running of the race in the same way as many other local groups and will receive a donation in recognition of their help. Shaun has said that he is willing to help guide BRAG if they wish to restart the Bryn Beast event, perhaps, in a scaled down version. For example, use only second half of the track thereby avoiding any road marshalling with the start and finish being from the rugby field. Need to establish if there is village wide support for this. Further discussions on this still required. **ACTION – SHAUN/PAUL/BRAG MEMBERS**

NEWSLETTERS

Volunteers are needed to cover holidays. Royden volunteered to take on Coronation Street & Brynteg Street, Dave Eckton to cover Nant y Boda and further down the road. Martin Fitzpatrick to cover Welfare Avenue. Need to try and get more volunteers organised. **ACTION – GAYNOR**

The next newsletter will be published around June again with the focus, as agreed in last meeting, now being on future events rather than past events. All to send possible articles to Paul. **ACTION – All**

UPDATE ON LEASES

The last lease to be added to the website was that of the Bryn Bowls Club. Gaynor handed Paul a copy of the new lease that the Bowls have received. Paul and Peter to add to the website. **ACTION – PAUL/PETER**

BRYN VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Paul has been in contact with the Council regarding the freezing of the hire charges for the groups that hold their meeting there on a regular weekly basis. The Council have agreed to this and these groups will not be charged the increase in April.

The alarm has now been sorted. It appears that the emergency door had a fault on it since installation.

Gaynor brought up that some of the Over 55's group has shown concern about the kitchen door being locked and there is no key to it. Gaynor has messaged Alison Edwards with a request to resolve this issue. Paul has also spoken to Alison. **ACTION - PAUL**

Paul has also brought up the issue of the hall being cleaned and painted. Alison's reply was that this is possibly a little more difficult because the building is still owned by the local authority and is governed by the procurement and trade union terms and conditions. Emma Butcher has been in contact with the Skills and training section to see if they can help. As soon as Alison has news she'll report back to Paul. **ACTION – PAUL**

FUTURE EVENTS

The tennis coaching arrangements still need to be made. **ACTION – DIANNE THOMAS**

There is a Charity Bike Ride taking place on Easter weekend. The Race is being ridden in Memory of Mark Stevens who sadly passed away in February of this year. Mark never missed a chance to ride his bike and was one of the Bike Ride's first members. All proceeds to be donated to Kidney Research.

Paul has received correspondence off Swansea Lagoon Representatives offering to give us a presentation of this scheme. All in meeting agreed that this would be acceptable and Martin Fitzpatrick said that the Club would have no objection to it being in the Club one evening. Paul said that Val Merriman had offered to promote this amongst the WI Ladies.

Gaynor stated that she still has the Tombola Prizes in her attic. The Funday will go ahead but in the summer months. **ACTION – ALL**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Martin Fitzpatrick brought up the site where the Old School was located. There is growing concern amongst Bryn Residents with regard to the safety aspects of this ground. The boundary walls are falling down and these walls even have a tree growing out of them. The Council should be contacted and made aware of the situation ASAP. **ACTION – PAUL**

The next AGM meeting will be held in May. Paul to circulate a date in the near future.