

**MINUTES OF BRAG MEETING HELD ON
Thursday 10th May 2018
In the Village Hall, Bryn**

Present:

Mr Paul Bulmer, Chair & Trustee	Mr Daf Bowen, Trustee
Mr John Thomas, Trustee	Mrs Dianne Thomas, Trustee
Mrs Val Merriman, Member	Mr Peter Phillips, Webmaster
Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy	Mr Mark Dummer, Treasurer
Cllr David Whitelock	Mrs Sue Phillips, Minutes
Ms Morgan Thomas, Rugby Club	Mrs Erica Williams
Mr Stephen Hughes, Rugby Club	Mrs Elaine Jones, Afan Environment Volunteers

Apologies:

Mr Gareth Jones	Mr Dylan Morgan	Mr Zach Dixon	Mr Royden Rogers
Miss Louise Hopkins	Mr Alan Thomas	Mr Robert Davies	Mr David Eckton
Mrs Gaynor Jones	Cllr Rhidian Mizen	Mr Martin Fitzpatrick	Mrs Jennet Eckton
Mr David Yorwerth	Mrs Delyth Wanklyn	Mrs Helen Rees	Ms Michelle Jones
Mr Luke Rosser	Ms Michelle Williams	Mr Shaun Tobin	Mrs Tracy Cooper

The Chair welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 7.00 p.m. He introduced the guests to the meeting. He thanked Sue Phillips for taking the notes for this meeting.

Minutes of last meeting & Matters Arising

Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated by email before the meeting. These were accepted in the meeting with no changes.

The actions from last minutes were reviewed as follows:

Field Drainage: Dianne reported the actions she had taken but without any success. Rugby Club representatives stressed once again that this was much worse since the trees had been removed. Councillor David Whitelock suggested this was a general problem in the area and proposed we raise it with our AM David Rees. Agreed to contact the other stakeholders to progress this. **Action All.**

Bryn Beast Event Champion: No such volunteer yet established therefore no Bryn Beast Event this year.

Raise Funding through Tesco Bags of Help: Action completed with successful outcome.

Funding BRAG's maintenance commitments: Discussed on main agenda.

Accept Christmas Tree proposal: from Councillor Charlotte Galsworthy. Done

Accept putting Bryn planning applications on village website: as proposed by Councillor Charlotte Galsworthy. Done

Increase attendance to Councillor Surgeries: None held since last meeting. Councillors do attend the BRAG meetings where general issues are covered. Councillors can always be contacted on individual issues so possibly no longer a need for surgeries?

Increasing Interaction between all Bryn Village Groups

Paul stated that this is still an objective as part of making Bryn a Nice Place to be. By other groups being represented at the meeting, it provides a chance for them to give a quick update and exchange information between the different groups in the village. It also provides an opportunity to talk about joint participation on future projects.

Paul asked all those present to put forward any ideas they have on how we can continue to build on this working together initiative. **Action: All**

Richard Burton & Bryn Beast Race Report

Richard Burton Race, now owned by Bryn and Cwmafan Events registered charity, is now open for online entries with 155 entries made in the first week of opening. Over 2000 entries anticipated again for this year. BRAG continues to support and promote this race.

It was agreed, there would be no further Bryn Beast event until an event Owner can be identified. **ACTION – All Present**

Future Events

1 Tennis Coaching:

Paul explained how the provision of free tennis coaching had formed part of the Tennis court project but how after about three years of failed attempts due to weather and proposed Tennis Coaches dropping out of agreements, this had still not been delivered. The current avenue Paul has been progressing is with Kyle Harkett from NPT and Luke Williams from Tennis Wales. It was suggested in the meeting, By David Whitelock, that Derek Jones could be another contact for this.

2 Party in the Park:

As part of our proposal to the Tesco Bags of Help fund, we had proposed organising a “Party in the Park”. After discussion, it was suggested we organise something along the lines of the Tennis Courts opening event but include elements of the “Sunday Fun Day”, which had been rained off when we last tried to organise this event. Agreed to contact other groups to ask if they would be involved. Suggested input from other groups such as Cricket taster, Bowls, football, etc. Rugby Club could also provide food and entertainment. All present were asked to discuss this proposal with their contacts and feedback on ideas. Further meetings to plan this event would be organised. **Action All.**

It was also suggested that this would be best held on a Sunday, as it would better avoid conflicts with matches, which generally take place on a Saturday. Charlotte also informed the group that a marquee could be available via the council if required. August Bank Holiday Sunday 26th Aug was proposed as a possible date.

3 Halloween:

It was agreed this would be in the Rugby Club again. They have their adult event on the Saturday before Halloween so a day between then and the end of October was proposed. Sue agreed to book an entertainer and confirm the day. **Action: Sue**

4 Christmas:

It was agreed this would also be in the Club this year. What type of entertainment for this year was discussed and it was felt the village had tired of pantomimes and a different approach should be considered. Children’s entertainer? Something for the

adults? Plenty of time yet but agreed we should be discussing with our contacts to get a consensus of what people would turn out for. **Action All**
Peter had expressed his concern at the small turn out at last year's event. With such a small attendance, this event is not sustainable in its current form.

5 **AGM**

Paul suggested the BRAG AGM would probably be the next BRAG meeting sometime in early July. Awaiting the audited accounts. Could also use the meeting to finalise a Party in the Park event.

6 **Other:**

Other suggestions for events included a Tea Dance. This had been done in the past. Dafydd agreed to canvas interest for repeating this. Paul may still have some of the contacts we used before. **Action Dafydd**

Youth Section Activities

Paul had not received a report for this. It was noted that as Dylan and Zach were now getting older, possibly they should now be classed as adult members and new youth members be selected. Paul to discuss this with them. **Action Paul**

Maintaining Village Assets

1 **Tennis Courts:**

John and Dianne raised concern about recent behaviour in this area. They had recently had to clean up an excessive amount of broken glass bottles, chocolate smeared on the skateboards and general rubbish discarded. Need to remind the users of this asset that it is owned by the village not the council and if it is damaged, we do not have the money to repair it so it would probably have to be closed. The users of this facility need to police it themselves as they are in the best position to do so. David Whitelock did agree to ask the PSOs to increase their monitoring of this area. **Action David**

It was also suggested we install CCTV the same as the Bowls Club. John to get details off the Bowls Club. **Action John**

Paul reminded the meeting of the ongoing maintenance costs for this facility such as safety inspections, repairs, insurance, etc.

2 **Nature Reserve and Heritage Walk:**

Elaine Jones reported on this topic. She explained how she ran a voluntary group called Afan Environment Volunteers who met up on the first Wednesday of each month to help improve the environment. She described some of the work her group had undertaken recently on the Bryn Heritage Trail and the Bryn Nature Reserve. The next working party will again be on the Bryn Heritage Trail on the first Wednesday in June at 10am by the picnic area opposite the Royal Oak. Everyone is welcome to join in. Please let your contacts know. **Action All**

Elaine also reported on the Cwm Walking group who organise walks on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings. These are publicised on the Bryn website and Facebook page.

Paul reported some additional work he was aware of including work by the Council to repair the fencing around the Nature Reserve and improving drainage and

clearing some shrubs. He also reported on proposed work by Margaret Elsey who has said "Bryn Tip will be Part of our 'Working with Nature/ Celebrating our Local Nature Reserves' events we plan on doing an orchid walk in June and Linking in with Elaine's walking group, once we have the poster I'll send it over to you. I have been working with the National Autistic Society and have arranged a task day with them to clear some of the Himalayan Balsam on Bryn. We hope to do a corporate day to clear some of the scrub and bramble over summer."

3 **Bryn Beast Trail:**

This is still with BRAG to maintain. There are some sections becoming overgrown and some signs missing. This needs to be attended to before the next NRW inspection.

Since there is currently no race using this route, it was asked what other uses could be made of it. It was suggested that a bike club might wish to use it. The meeting agreed to make enquiries. **Action All**

4 **Village Hall:**

Paul reported that the Centre recently underwent a deep clean and the small hall and kitchen had been painted. A new boiler is required and is being progressed. The Broadband into the centre is currently due to end at the end of May.

It was reported that a number of people had tried to book the hall for parties and other events but their requests had been turned down. The Council had reported that this was because of the cost of providing a caretaker. It was suggested that Paul organise a meeting with Paul Walker, the community centre manager, and the key holders to see what could be arranged. **Action Paul**

Newsletters

Peter had tabled a first draft for comment. This was agreed with a few additions and small changes. Paul also read out a submission by Scott Davies that was to be included.

Chairman's Report

Since the last meeting, BRAG has:

- Applied for grants with Tesco, Co-op and Tata. The Tesco application was successful as detailed earlier in the meeting. Still awaiting the outcome of the other two applications.
- BRAG is currently preparing an application with The Big Lottery Heritage Fund on the heritage of the Bryn area.
- Worked with other local groups on many other issues such as those covered elsewhere in the meeting.
- Worked with Youth Services to continue the Youth Club but attendance is currently very poor. Paul asked the meeting for any ideas on ways to improve this. **Action All**
It was suggested that a lower start age would help, especially since the school had closed. Paul had been told their insurance did not allow this when he had asked before. However, he agreed to raise the issue again. **Action Paul**
- BRAG has liaised with the Councillors on issues relating to Bryn such as water, roads, planning, etc.

- BRAG are still looking for new committee members to help share the load and particularly we require a volunteer to act as secretary for the group. Paul asked the meeting to ask their contacts and let him know if they wish to become involved. **Action All**
- The BRAG Trustees continue to focus on our compliance requirements as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Treasurer's Report

Terry Filer had agreed to audit our accounts again this year. Mark has passed the information to her to perform this task. Mark gave an overview of the accounts and explained the total income for last year had been £3481.27 and the total expenditure was £4,663.98. The audited accounts will be posted on the Charity Commission web site as normal.

Historical Society Report

Dafydd reported that the late Peter Dixon, from Bryn, who had emigrated to Australia in 1960, wished to have his ashes scattered in Bryn, possibly on the old colliery tip. This is to take place on 13th June. Dafydd to make further information available to the village when he receives it.

Any other Business & Review of Next Steps

Dafydd outlined work by the Water Board to better control water flow in the flood plains and the proposed work on the river through Bryn.

Date of next meeting

TBC. See earlier note on AGM.

Paul thanked all those present for their constructive input to the meeting then declared the meeting closed at 9pm