

# **Bryn Residents Action Group**

## **Minutes**

Date	Wednesday September 16 <sup>th</sup>
Venue	The Royal Oak Pub
Present	Graham Rowland Paul Bulmer, Ray Morgan, Alan Jones, Joyce Jones John Thomas, Dafydd Bowen, Heather Head, Margaret Edwards, Mark Williams and Sue Phillips
Apologies	Viv Gage

Graham opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Graham then read out the minutes from a BRAG meeting held at Bryn Village Hall on July 23rd and at Bryn Club on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Both minutes were accepted. Proposed by Dafydd Bowen and seconded by Heather Head.

### **Chairman's Report**

Graham thanked everyone present for their support that he had received so far and felt that in a short space of time this group had made a significant impact in the village.

BRAG has now established a relationship with our local police force through PACT (Partnership and Communities Together) which will be invaluable to our community.

Julie Moore and Graham had approached Jan Francis, Head teacher of Bryn Primary School, with regards to putting on a Memorabilia night in the Village Hall for everyone but which in turn would help to educate the children in the history of the village.

LDP - BRAG as a group succeeded in communicating to the whole village the proposals that were being put forward for future developments in the village. It was agreed that the Open Meeting held at the Village Hall had been a resounding success and had brought the whole village together to express their concerns.

For the future we will look to hold our own PACT meetings with the local police and volunteers were needed to lead specific projects to share the work load of the group.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Paul stated that there was just over £100 in the account as a result of contribution money and money raised from the open meeting.

Paul had had a meeting with NPT council which has resulted in BRAG now being recognised as an official group. Match type funding would now be available so ideas for events were needed.

Re mining application- Rees Jeffries's letter to the council was circulated to the group and M Lewis from the council has offered her support to us on this matter.

A newsletter and website for BRAG were discussed as being required in the near future as a focus for communicating to the village and possible meetings could be held every 1-2 months.

Dafydd Bowen suggested contacting the coalfield re-generation group who could possibly make money available to our group

Alan Jones will look at setting up a website.

The community would decide on what goes into the newsletter which would then be distributed before every village meeting

Marion Lewis had offered to print these newsletters at a cost to BRAG for just the ink and paper.

With regards to the Bryn Surgery meeting held on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, it has been noted that the councillors write their own notes which often are not actioned.

This time a list of actions is ready for the next surgery meeting:

Holes at Maesteg Road and Bryngurnos Street

20 mph sign at the school been removed

Water holding on the old railway line

Weight restrictions at Station Terrace

Road sweepers required in Bryn

Land outside school to be cleared

Car park and toilets left side of comm. Centre

Flip chart required for next meeting.

LDP - council had been impressed with over 300 responses having been received from the village since the open meeting was held.

It was noted that Rees Jeffries had been seen at Meadow Row measuring up !

New applications on the LDP website were mostly residential but the general opinion was that all applications should have been brought to the attention of BRAG before the Village meeting and a full pack is given to Graham in advance. This could then be made available for viewing at the next village meeting.

It was felt that BRAG should chair at least part of the surgery meetings. These meetings need to be advertised and a banner had been requested.

A request to the council for an Events Board outside the community centre has also been made.

### **Future BRAG Projects:**

Dafydd Bowen - History of Village involving Bryn Primary School - to gather as much history as possible. Currently translating 40 fascinating notebooks from Janet Ecton's grandfather about Bryn.

Graham has asked the children at Bryn Primary to design a logo for BRAG.

Graham and Dafydd to meet with Jan Francis with regards to organising a memorabilia night

John Thomas and Graham to get involved with PACT

Heather Head to work with Paul re funding for the tip area to be made into a natural wildlife area which is unique to Bryn,. Possibly extend the car park next to village hall, reopen toilets, fence off a walked area, set up marker posts and notice boards with the history of Bryn on and picnic tables to be put in place.

All proposals to be in place by December so that hopefully funding would be available by the new tax year in April.

Fundraising Event - possible Carol concert with the school children.

Newsletter details to include dates of next village meeting

LDP details  
PACT information  
Any future events e.g. history evening  
Information of BRAG

Joyce Jones suggested that future committee meetings to be held at the community centre  
A show of hands was taken and carried. Raffle and a £1 donation from each committee member would be required to pay towards the rent, again agreed and carried.

John Thomas expressed his concern regarding the state of the entrance into the village i.e. the old garage and had been in touch with the environmental health  
As a result of this planning permission for this site expires on 31/9/09 and a notice has been served to demolish this building within six months.

**NOTE : To set up a petition against the garage at the next village meeting**

**NEXT Committee Meeting 7pm Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>  
At the Community Centre**

**NEXT Village Meeting to be arranged at the above meeting**

Graham closed the meeting.

# **Bryn Residents Action Group**

## **Minutes**

Date            Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>

Venue           Bryn Community Centre

Present           Graham Rowland Paul Bulmer, Alan & Joyce Jones  
                         John Thomas, Dafydd Bowen, Heather Head, Sue Phillips,  
                         John & Myra Jones.

Graham opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. Graham then read out the minutes from a BRAG meeting held at The Royal Oak on September 16th.

Minutes were accepted. Proposed by John Thomas and seconded by Dafydd Bowen.

### **Chairman's Report**

Re: PACT

At the Surgery meeting last Saturday, PACT explained to those present what was expected of both parties. It was hoped that our own PACT would be available in Bryn but we were told this was not the case. Graham will contact Mr. Filer to see if this can be made possible. The first Bryn PACT meeting will be at the next Village Meeting.

Re: Bryn Heritage Project

Dafydd had only received a few photographs to date. All present asked to help out with either contacting people or looking for photos. Colin Tudor and Dafydd Williams to be contacted.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Re : NPTCBS

Possibility of further funding available to cover the cost of hall for committee and Village meetings and also to cover new car park, picnic area at the old tip for the nature project.

Earlier this evening Nia from Corus came up to see the plans for the new nature Project and said that Corus might be able to give some funding towards this Project even if it was just the labour costs by using their apprentices.

An invite had been received from CRAC inviting Bryn residents to join them on a walk on Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Re: LDP

Rees Jeffries had put in a letter asking for the names and addresses of the BRAG Committee members and of those who had sent in objections to the Council plus other information relating to the Village Meeting that he had attended. This letter had been passed to Marian Lewis to obtain guidance on what information should or should not be provided in line with any legal requirements to do so. Marian provided a draft letter by way of example. Graham was to complete the letter and send back to him. It was agreed that it was advisable to answer his letters but not to provide any more information than he should be entitled to have.

Re: Surgery Meeting dated 10th October

The draft minutes from this surgery were tabled. The following points were noted.

1. Flip chart now in place for these meetings.
2. Fly tipping had been collected from the old tip area. A forensic test would now take place to see if the owner could be identified.
3. Mr Tanner had tried to close the right of way along the river path at the grofton.
4. Council asked to issue a contract to the Bus Company as there is now only one bus per hour service between Maesteg and Port Talbot.
5. LDP proposals to be updated for the next village meeting with possibility of a slide show.
6. David Williams to look into lorries turning at the bottom of the hill.
7. Maldwyn Jenkins asked for the use of land adjacent to his bungalow. (As a result the farmer has now been asked to remove the fence).
8. Grass cutting has taken place throughout the village, litter picking is now needed as a follow up.

Next Surgery Meeting will be held on Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> 10 to 12am.

Next Village Meeting will be held on Thursday Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Community Centre.

The following agreed:

Welcome, raffle and register	Joyce Jones and Heather Heard
Refreshments	Jane Rolands
Displays	Sue Phillips
Bryn Heritage Project	Dafydd and Graham
BRAG Logo	Dafydd and Graham
PACT	John Thomas and PC Shaun
Christmas Event	Sue Phillips, Jan Francis and Myra Jones
LDP Update	Paul Bulmer
Feedback	Graham
Newsletter	Alan Jones

Re: Christmas Event

Sue Phillips to contact Jan Francis to see if Thursday Dec.10<sup>th</sup> is convenient for the school, Doors to open at 6.30pm Carol Concert to start at 7pm, coffee and mince pies to be served.

Next BRAG Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at the Community Centre.

Graham closed the meeting.

## **Bryn Residents Action Group**

### **Minutes**

Date Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup>  
Venue Bryn Community Centre  
Present Graham Rowland, Paul Bulmer, Alan & Joyce Jones,  
Dafydd Bowen, Mandy Millar and Sue Phillips.

Graham opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Graham then read out the minutes of the last committee meeting 13<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Minutes were accepted . Proposed by Dafydd and seconded by Alan.

### **Actions not covered**

The letter which was originally received from Rees Jeffries had been given by Graham to the Council Committee who have mislaid the copy. No reply sent to Mr Jeffries as yet but Paul and Graham to draft a letter.

### **Chairman's Report**

Re : PACT Graham had received an email off Shaun to say that he will only be able to attend the Saturday Surgeries when his shifts allow him to do so. Our village contact is to be John Thomas.

Graham thanked us all for our support at organising the Village meeting on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup>. The number attending was disappointing but good positive feedback had been received from those who had attended.

The possibility of a different day was mentioned for the next meeting as perhaps more members of the Old Age would then attend .

The presentation at the back of the hall had been very well done and Graham said that we should be proud of our achievements and remain focussed as a committee in improving our village.

Graham had attended a meeting with the council utility services to discuss issues raised at the last surgery meeting. A list of work was presented and areas of concern were inspected.

Graham had attended a successful speed camera session at Bryngurnos Street with Shaun, Marian Lewis and John Thomas. Warnings were issued. Hopefully the results will improve the safety of traffic passing through our village.

A community notice board has now been put up outside the community centre where we will be able to advertise our events and display minutes of the meetings.

Graham had held a right of way meeting with the council to define the access in and around the village. Details / maps were shown to those present

### **Treasurer's Report.**

Balance of Account £201.04. Full balance sheet shown to those present.

In the future perhaps we could call upon the business people of the village for their support?

Sources of funding: Further meeting with NPTCVS held and with the help of Carys from CVS, our form has now been submitted to obtain a grant which could possibly cover the cost of hire for the community centre for meetings.

Application also made to BT communities to support the cost of a laptop, which could be used for the heritage project.

Tour given of BRAG documents to date using the computer and projector.

Coalfield regeneration funding application ongoing.

Re: the tip – planning now granted, details to be followed up.

Re: LDP current position was presented in detail at the Village meeting on 12/11/09.

### **Historical Society**

Dafydd reported that a meeting had taken place last Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at the Royal Oak in order to form a Historical Society in Bryn (as a working party of BRAG). 12 people had attended.

*Future meetings will be held on the last Thursday of every month.*

Alan Thomas will speak at the January meeting.

Advice on the structure had been sourced from historian John Adams, and will include Celts, Romans, Religion, Agriculture & Farming, Transport, Industry, Sport, Social History, Shops, Societies, Pub / Clubs, etc.

Means of research given to Dafydd.

The possibility perhaps of selling calendars of Bryn next year to raise money was suggested.

### **Any other business**

More support from committee members requested for the Saturday Surgery meetings which are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month between 10 -12 o'clock.

Sue Phillips to take future minutes at these meetings.

Hopefully we will receive a good turnout at our Xmas event on Thursday Dec.10<sup>th</sup>

Welcome,registerraffle - Joyce Jones and Mandy Millar

Refreshments - Sue Phillips to buy, Jane Rowland to serve.

Choir - Graham and Dafydd

Mari Lwyd - Dafydd

Ken Pearson - Graham

Pianist - Caroline Davidson (Sue to liaise)

School Children -Jan Francis

Running Order - Dafydd and Sue to meet with Jan 1/12/09 3.30pm

Programme and posters - Alan and Paul

Next meeting - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Graham's house 6pm

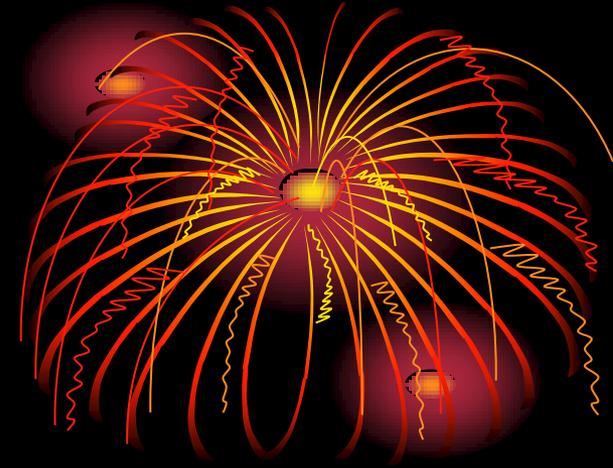
Graham closed the meeting.



**BRAG 2009**

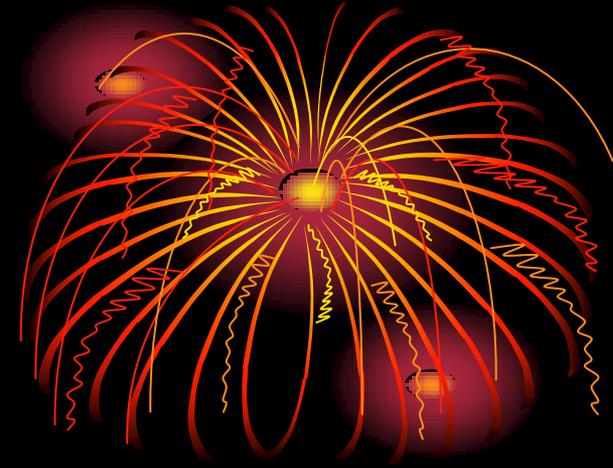
**A Summary of  
Achievements in 2009**

# Events Organised



- **BRAG Organised:**
  - **Village Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> Aug**
    - About 200 people Attended
    - Introduced BRAG to the residents of Bryn
    - Provided a platform to find out about the LDP and feed back the views of the village
  - **Village Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov**
    - About 50 people attended
    - Addressed the wider aspects of the LDP not just the mining proposals
    - Introduced the many other activities being addressed by BRAG such as the Historical aspects.

# Events (Cont.)



- **A Christmas Event 10<sup>th</sup> Dec**
  - **About 250 attended during the course of the evening**
  - **Santa went walk about in Bryn and welcomed the children back to his grotto**
  - **Solo by Naomi Hyatte Golding**
  - **Songs by: Children of Bryn Primary School**
  - **Accordion Played by: Ken Pearson & Friends**
  - **Mari Lwyd**
  - **Christmas Carols**
  - **Maesteg Gleemen Choir**
  - **Reading of the 12 days of Christmas**
  - **And much more**

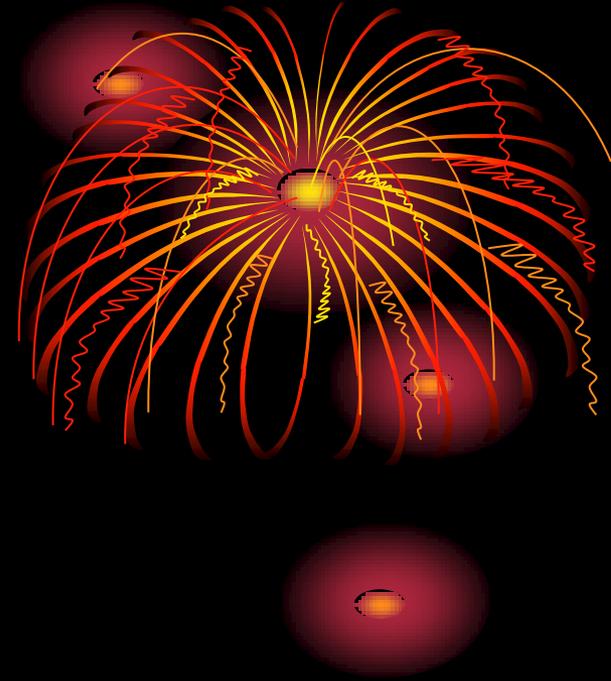
# Councillors Surgeries



- **BRAG now provides a Chair and Secretary**
- **During this time the Councillors have helped with:**
  - **The Demolition of the Bungalow at Petrol Station**
  - **Grass cutting and tidy up in the village**
  - **Repairs and servicing of Drains**
  - **Repairs to roads**
  - **Sweepers**
  - **Village Notice Board**
  - **Speed Checks**
  - **Road Signs**
  - **Etc.**

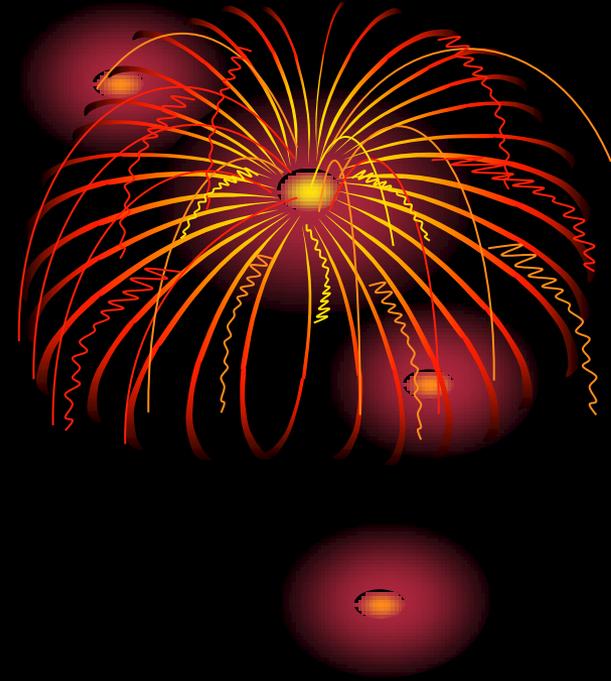
# Projects Started

- **Projects**
  - **Bio Diversity**
    - **Car Park**
    - **Fencing**
    - **Information Boards**
    - **Way marked walks**
    - **Pick Nick areas**
    - **Land Management**
  - **History**
    - **Photos**
    - **Recording of Memories**
    - **Working Party set up and many activities already under way**

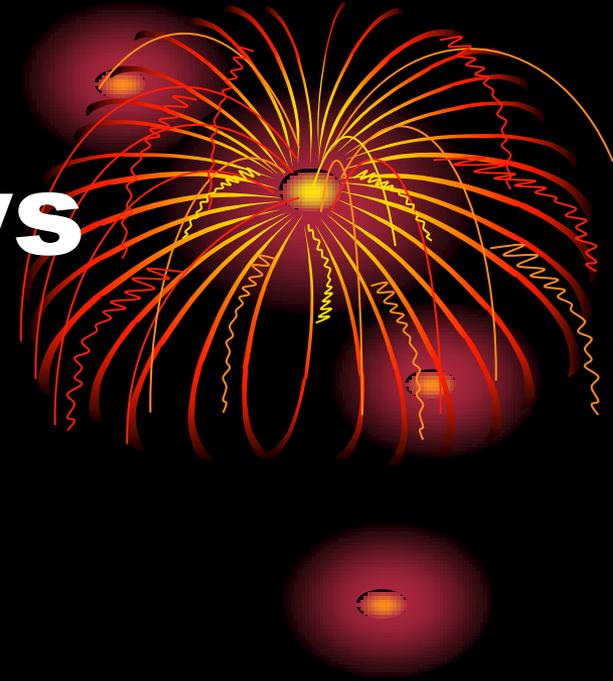


# Funding

- **Funding**
  - **Lottery Funding**
  - **BT Communities Connect**
  - **Donations**
    - **Raffle Prizes (Councillors, Committee and shops)**
    - **Meeting room costs (Committee)**
    - **Printing Costs (Councillor)**
    - **Christmas Event (Shops and local business)**
    - **More to come?**



# Publicity and News



- **Publicity**

- **News Letter**

- **Flyers**

- **Posters**

- **News Papers**

- **A natural remedy for off-road pests**

- **Bid to transform tip into wild life haven**

- **Meeting updates villagers**

- **Children win bragging rights**

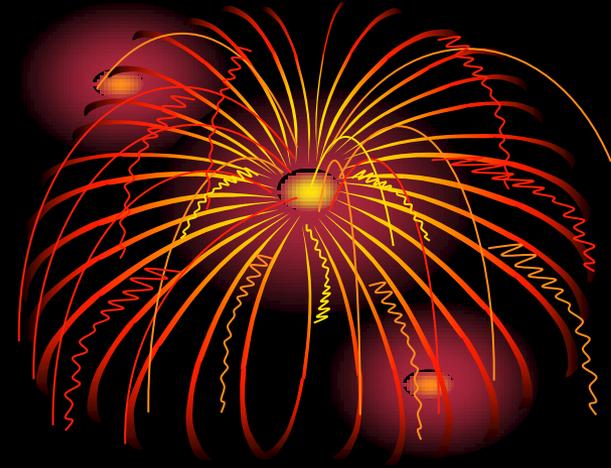
- **And more.....**

# Meetings



- **BRAG**
  - **Full Committee Meetings (9)**
    - 6/6/09, 13/6/09, 14/7/09, 23/7/09, 19/8/09, 16/09/09, 13/10/09, 26/11/09, 14/01/10
  - **Many more small working party meetings**
- **CRAC**
  - **Graham & Paul have attended these meetings at Cwmavon to learn from them and represent Bryn on PACT discussions**
- **Historical Society**
  - **Inaugural meeting at Royal Oak with further monthly meetings planned**
  - **Many workshops organised for gathering and collating information**
- **Projects**
  - **2 Meetings with Bio Diversity Group**
  - **2 Meetings with Council re planning for above project**
  - **1 Meeting with Valleys Strategy group**
  - **2 meeting at Bryn with Corus plus further meetings in Corus**
  - **2 meetings with Western Logs**
- **Funding**
  - **4 meetings with NPT Council for Voluntary Services (We are now Full Members of this group)**
- **Web Site**
  - **Teleconferencing to set up a Bryn Web Site**
- **Others**

**And that is not the  
End  
Just the beginning!**



- **BRAG should be proud of these achievements to date and be encouraged to make 2010 an even greater year**