

Minutes of meeting held at the Royal Oak 6/9/13

Present:- Graham, Paul, Dafydd, Val

Apologies:- Sue, Dianne, John

School Historical Project

Dafydd provided an update. The walk will take place on Wednesday at 1 15pm (weather permitting)

Another visit could be arranged to Afan Argoed or the Maritime Museum.

Presentations include a 15 min film presentation.

Looked at finances - should be funding to make a film.

Mark is still working on the website.

Dafydd is going to take Ivor Parry to be interviewed when he returns from holidays.

Not much progress with historical talks - Daf is looking into possibilities, but it can be embarrassing if a speaker is booked and not many people turn up.

M.U.G.A.

John and Dianne sent an email with their apologies stating that one objection had been received from the disabled society, but it was not local, and NPTCBC had replied accordingly.

Full planning permission should be granted today and if that goes through, the fees will be £750 + VAT.

Mark Dummer has been very helpful, and he can get the necessary professional person to oversee the project if we get the full grant.

Christmas Event

Sue has booked the Community Centre and the panto. It will be Tinsel Tales by Likely Story Theatre and will be the same process as last year.

We will keep the first £100 and NPTCBC will hopefully subsidise part of the payment.

Use sound system for background Christmas music instead of choir.

Presentation Night

Invites have been sent to all groups supporting the race.

Val and Sue to get raffle prizes.

Calendars will be sold on the night. Beast of Bryn to purchase some to give as gifts also.

7 50pm - Introduction 8 20pm - Presentation of cheques 9pm - Bands

AOB

Possibility of a get-together night in October.

Graffiti due to be completed today on building by the Community Centre.

British Heart Society want to meet with BRAG - possible presentation in Community Centre.

Need to look at website and see what can be done to update it. Possibility of having our own domain name (.com or .uk)

Look at Kenfig Hill Historical website, it has some good features.

BRAG Meeting 2/10/13

Present

Dafydd, John, Dianne, Paul, Graham

Apologies

Sue, Val,

Progress update on tennis courts project Now have planning approved. Need a chartered surveyor report next.

John needs to submit an end of term report next. Will then apply for the full grant which will take about 6 months for confirmation of the grant.

Bowls

Dianne has been approached to ask if they can have a discussion with BRAG. BRAG agreed to this and suggested they come along to the next meeting. Dianne to communicate this back to the Bowls committee.

Ground Work meeting

Graham reported on this meeting which he had with Gail today. Discussed the work by the toilet block. Gail to contact David Phillips re the lease for to develop this area. Gail will also prepare a work plan for the walk and submit this to Jonathan Price.

Halloween

Agreed to put this on. Dianne to organise a disco. Need smoke and bubbles as part of this. Need to find a date to suite disco and community centre.

Historical talks

Dafydd to set up talks. These are to start in November. Paul to get this changed in the newsletter.

School project

Paul to issue a spend report on this. Dafydd to find out how long the extension has been agreed for. Still need the blog site setting up and regular information adding to this.

Christmas event

Show is organised by Val and Sue. Marian Lewis will support the event. Dafydd will be the man in a beard. Will agree next week on a role for the Gleemen. Graham is canvassing for funding. Graham to contact the police to invite them to our events again.

Next meeting

Can Paul book the community centre for 7pm next Thursday.

Paul prepare a presentation for this.

Thank you,

Paul Bulmer

- > Meeting held at Community Centre. October 10th 2013
- >
- > Present:- Graham, Dafydd, John, Diane, Paul, Peter, Sue, Val
- >
- > School Project
- > Need to contact Jan Francis to arrange a timeline for the rest of the project.
- > The walk has still not taken place.
- > An extension has been given until February, but there are still a number of aspects to be completed.
- >
- > Christmas Event
- > Tinsel Tales by Likely Story Theatre.
- > Community Centre booked.
- > Need to draw up an agenda for the night.
- > Anthony Bye is available to sing with the children - allow 30mins for this.
- > Can a few choir members accompany him?
- > Need Christmas music in the background.
- >
- > Request
- > There has been a request from Caroline Sheeran to bring schoolchildren along to help with the area by the Community Centre.
- >
- > John and Diane's project
- > They have met up with Carys and ironed a few things out.
- > Account to be closed and then the application will go in for the lottery money and then there will be a 6 month wait.
- >
- > The meeting ended with refreshments - Chinese takeaway and choice of drink!

Meeting held at the Royal Oak Friday 15th October

Present:- Graham, Dafydd, John, Dianne, Sue

Apologies:- Paul

Minutes of last meeting:- these were approved

Police Help:-the guys from Cymmer will be able to help with the Santa parade, as the Bryn/Cwmavon PCSO is not available.

Food and drink:- mince pies from John Hill (Sue to order)

mulled wine, lemonade

There are crisps left from Halloween, choc bars

Posters and Advertising;- Sue has been in touch with Likely Story and there are dedicated posters available.

Hope these will arrive in time for posting around the village.

Information to go in next newsletter.

Marian:- Val to ring Marian and check that help is still available for Santa's transport.

Time Scale:- 5;15pm - Santa leaves from outside Rugby Club

6:15pm - Arrive Community Centre

7pm - Panto starts

Tickets £3.50/£2.50

Anthony Bye will be there.

Date of next meeting:- TBA

AOB:-John and Dianne have met with Carys.

John has to send in an update of what has been done to the Big Lottery Fund for the next stage of the application. This goes in by the end of November.

BRAG meeting Tues 29/10/13

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Present

Graham Rowland, John and Dianne Thomas, Sue Phillips, Dafydd Bowen, Paul Bulmer

Meeting called to plan up coming events.

Halloween

Need to get access to community centre to set up. Find out what can be done. See if we can get in after 4:30. PB.

Got prizes for costumes. Graham to get prizes for best pumpkin.

Sue will not be there until after work, 7:00.

Dafydd to sell calendars.

Will Anthony Bye sing national anthem on Burton run. Will get a free run entry. PB

Disco now booked for £80 for the night. Will arrive before 6 to set up and operate from 6:30 to 9:00

Will sell sweats, crisps, etc, plus tea, coffee, pop and cakes.

Do a raffle. Committee will donate wine for prizes.

Ryan, from Royal Oak, will donate crisps for sale.

Police to be present and will also help with presenting prizes.

Entry fee £1 per child.

It was expected that based on the charges agreed that the event will make a loss which will be subsidised by BRAG. The committee agreed to this.

Christmas event.

Graham to get another tree for the community centre. GR.

Tell community centre warden about our arrangement for putting the tree up. PB.

Further meeting required to plan the detail of this event.

Burton Run

The committee asked for clarification on BRAGs role with this run. Graham explained how this had come about at the request of Tata and how this can benefit Bryn in the long run.

Graham explained how the Burton run is expected to be far larger this year than past years and how support from both Cwmafan and Bryn will be required.

Village Meeting about proposed Wind Mill developments Paul Bulmer briefed the meeting on discussions taking place with assembly members and others to plan a future village meeting about wind turbine proposals.

New members of BRAG

Christine Martin has expressed interest in joining BRAG. Paul to invite her to the next meeting.

Next meeting

To be agreed

Meeting with David Rees AM on Thursday 7/11/13

A meeting with David Rees AM was requested by BRAG to discuss energy developments in the Bryn area and if required, plan a village meeting to discuss issues. The meeting took place in the Royal Oak.

Present

David Rees, Val Merriman, Viv Gauge, Peter Phillips, Dafydd Bowen, Paul Bulmer.

David briefed those present on what he knew about wind farm developments in the area. Applications fall in to two categories, above or below 50mw. Below 50 is approved by local council.

The current proposed applications are within what the local council have control over.

Community funds are provided by the developers of some of the schemes.

£2000 per megawatt is the guide lines for community funds. This is per year for 25 years. David did say this can vary.

The strategic area for wind farms, referred to As Tan8 area, is still a risk for future development. This are extends right down and around Bryn.

Licenses for fossil fuel come from London. Licenses are in place for gas extraction. No drilling done so far. Mainly coal bed methane. A licence for Fracking at St Johns also in place. This could stop Tata steel mine development if it were to be approved.

David stated that Port Talbot council have got good expertise on wind farm planning.

David passed on a Department of Energy and Climate Change Document on shale gas Fracking to BRAG. This documents provides answers to many of the questions around this method of gas extraction.

David suggested that BRAG should Write to the wind farm company's asking for to be formally kept informed. Paul to follow this up.

Paul to Send David the details for the environmental document. For the proposed wind farm SE of Bryn.

Local MP also may have input to wider discussions.

Brag meeting 25/11/13

Present

Paul, Graham, Dafydd, John. Val

Apologies

Sue

PB to send school project details to DB ready for a meeting on 26/11/13
Include spread sheet and initial remit for project.

GR announced that the runs will provide £150 towards the cost of the Christmas events at Bryn and Cwmafan.

PB check how many selection boxes used in the past and let Dianna know. She will then obtain them.

Ask Sue to book the community centre when she knows what set up time is required.

DB to collect mince pies.

PB look to see what carols music we have. DB to also ask Ryan.

Tickets

Just sell on the night.

Newsletter changes noted. PB to send updates to Mark.

Tasks on the day? Jane in kitchen. Diana do mulled wine. Peter do photos. Raffle and tickets on door.

Tin of sweats to go round with Santa. Diana to obtain.

Project carol words or print carol sheets? PB

Next meeting will be on Monday for the race meeting.

Paul Bulmer [paul.bulmer@gmail.com]

Hi Jayne,

below are my notes from yesterday and what I think the next steps are.

We discussed the Foel Trawsnant wind farm proposal and I updated Suzy on the information BRAG had on this proposal so far. We also showed the scoping report and Suzy noted the details so that she may obtain a copy and also find out if there was a more recent documents produced in connection with this proposal.

We looked at maps of the above proposal and also discussed the strategic area proposed for wind farms which was a much bigger concern to BRAG than the above proposed wind farm. Suzy said she would obtain a large hard copy of the strategic wind farm areas for BRAG. This could then be used in any future village meetings addressing the topic.

Paul expressed his concerns about wind farms from an engineering and environmental aspect and asked if the strategic plan had been updated or was to be updated based on the most recent scientific information now available from recent research and experience with regard to renewable energy sources. Suzy agreed to raise this question in the Senate.

The group wondered what actions were being progressed by the other communities affected by wind farm proposals in the South Wales valleys. Jayne agreed to see if she could find contacts so that the relevant groups could stay in touch.

The proposed wind farm on the hills between Goytre and Bryn was also discussed as this appears to have gone quite again. Jayne would obtain an update on this.

BRAG asked what other applications may be in the pipeline for the Bryn area. Suzy was not aware of any but all would keep their ears open and share any information they did hear about.

The group generally felt that solar generation offered less environmental damage than wind turbines and was more open to this being progressed as a green policy.

The question was asked if Wales was being seen as a source of energy for the rest of the UK as it appeared that with the current proposals, including the biomass power stations, the area was going to be generating far more power than it is using. Tata is a large energy consumer in the area but they intend becoming a net exporter in the future if proposed capital investments go forward.

Paul also stated what he had found out about the Swansea Lagoon after attending a presentation at the Swansea (Morfa) stadium on behalf of BRAG. This appeared to be a very good scheme offering both commercial and tourist benefits to the area in addition to green energy. There was also the possibility of some storage capacity from this scheme which is an essential requirement for the larger rollout of renewable energy sources. He asked Suzy if these developments were included in current energy policy for the area. Suzy would enquire.

A Summary of Achievements in 2013

BRAG 2013

EVENTS ORGANISED

✘ BRAG Organised:

+ Halloween Disco on 25th Oct 2012

- ✘ Hallowe'en disco, sponsored by Tesco's Maesteg.
- ✘ Prizes awarded to the most creative youngsters for the scariest looking jack-o'-lantern pumpkins, as well as the creepiest costumes
- ✘ Entry was £1 per person

+ Tues Dec 11th

- ✘ 5.00pm: Santa sets off!
- ✘ 6.00pm - 6.45pm: Gifts in the Grotto
- ✘ 6.15pm: O Come, All Ye Faithful Tata Brass Band will perform a medley of much-loved traditional carols.
- ✘ 7pm: It's Panto Time!
- ✘ Mulled wine and mince pies served all night.

EVENTS (CONT.)

- + Good Friday children's fun day
- + Bryn Beast 1st June
- + Bryn Art Attack
- + Children's Play Scheme
- + Presentation Evening 14 Sept.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

- ✘ BRAG no longer provides a Chair and Secretary. The Councillors informed us that this was the wish of the village residents.
- ✘ Requests have however been made to BRAG that minutes should be reinstated.
- ✘ During this time the Councillors have helped with:
 - + The Bryn Beast

PROJECTS STARTED

× Projects

+ Nature Reserve

- × Now formally recognised
- × Rockery Garden added
- × Great Dragon Ride now passes through this area

+ School Project

- × Funding obtained for
 - ★ Computers, cameras, etc.
 - ★ Trip to Big Pit

HISTORY PRESENTATIONS

- ✘ The Monks of Margam. Oct
- ✘ The Port Talbot Railway. Jan
- ✘ The Development of the Village of Bryn. Feb

FUNDING

✘ Funding

- + Lottery Funding for Tennis Court area
- + Business Donations for Bryn Beast
- + Tesco support of Halloween
- + Lottery Funding of School Project
- + Keep Wales Tidy funding of Rockery Project
- + Welsh Assembly funding of Broadband

PUBLICITY AND NEWS

× Publicity

- + News Letter
- + Flyers
- + Posters
- + News Papers

MEETINGS

- × BRAG
 - + Full Committee Meetings (3)
 - × 20/11/12, 23/7/13, 02/10/13
 - + Many more small working party meetings
- × CRAC
 - + CRAC meetings did stop and we have not attended any since.
- × Projects
 - + Meetings with Groundworks
 - + Meetings with Council for Tennis Courts Project
 - + Meetings with Tata
 - + Meetings with Play Scheme
 - + Meetings for Bryn Beast
 - + Meetings for Burton Run
 - + Attend race events to distribute publicity
- × Funding
 - + Meetings with NPT Council for Voluntary Services (We are Full Members of this group)
- × Calendars
 - + Meetings to agree content and organise the printing of 2 sets of Calendars