

Minutes from meeting 16.09.25

Attendees: Chris D, Chris. Geoff, Alan, Corinne, Suzie, Sian, Pete, Simon

1. Minutes from previous meeting were handed round by Chris and approved.
2. There was an update on playing field maintenance.
 - 2.1 Austin Phippen has now cleared away the old wire and rotten fence posts behind the wooden panels and this area is now ready for the required maintenance as set in the minutes of previous BAG meeting. This essential maintenance has also been costed and it's estimated that each replacement post will cost £20 (inc postcrete)
 - 2.2 However work on the fence is delayed as in the meantime the goalposts have become loose in their footings and found unsafe in the latest ROSPA report. Dealing with this now takes priority over the fence.
 - 2.3 Chris D has taken the unsafe goalposts down and certifies that the footings can be reused.
 - 2.4 From the supplier it's been established that much more post-crete is needed than was used previously. We will need approx four bags per post.
 - 2.5 Pete suggests new holes which are more perfectly fitted to the postcrete are dug and he offers to help with this using a rounded shovel that produces a perfect hole.
 - 2.6 Very shortly Chris D will meet with Pete and Sian to decide on the locations of the resintalled posts. This will be marked so the holes can be dug as and when. (Chris to confirm a date for this asap.)
3. Playing Field Camp Out
 - 3.1 This is still being considered but is postponed until late spring/early summer.
4. Update on the Strawberry Fayre.
 - 4.1 This was considered a great success. Approx £450 profit was made from almost £1300 in takings. This surplus will go forwards as seed money for next year's fayre.
 - 4.2 A date for next year is already agreed. 12th July, which is Wimbledon final day.
 - 4.3 A similar format is planned.

4.4 The Strawberry Fayre team request more assistance on the day. Some of the volunteers were on their feet for over 12 hours this year.

5. Plans for purchase of the new mower

5.1 The old mower has survived the summer as the grass has barely grown due to lack of rain.

5.2 Susie shared Parish Council's requirements as owner and maintainer of Mower.

5.3 Chris D reported back from the Parish Council meeting on July 3rd and communicated that he had agreed to their requirement that all users of the new mower will receive appropriate training from the seller.

5.4 Chris D will report back to the Parish Council at their next meeting on 16th Oct with a cost estimate of new mower and update on fundraising.

5.5 Sian estimated the cost of the new mower adequate to the job as £5000. A second hand one could be £3-4000 but that is a question of luck. (This from Norton Garden machinery.)

5.6 Sian also reported that although the fundraising site is up and running it has not properly begun yet because it was overtaken by the need for emergency funds for 5 Alive.

6. Update on Buckland Walks

6.1 Corinne reported back the first walk was a real success raising £40 from the 8 participants which has been passed on to 5Alive.

6.2 A second walk is planned for 28th Sept.

6.3 There was a discussion about how to spread the word on this walk. It is already an event in the village chat. Chris will make sure it's on the website and Simon will put it on the village Facebook page.

6.4 Corine said she plans six walks and then will see what happens. It is as much a social thing as a money making exercise.

7. Christmas Concert

7.1 Chris came along to talk more about an idea she has put forward in the village chat. She – along with her partner Jason - run Buckland Singers and last year they did

Christmas carols around the village. She proposed going further this year and putting on a Christmas concert – perhaps in the church.

7.2 Chris's proposal was generally very well received. Chris will undertake to organise but needs help find performers.

7.3 Chris will contact church to select a date – prob early December but not 5th dec.

7.4 Once a date is agreed, Chris D will approach at least one other performer but others will help too.

8. Christmas Fair

8.1 Simon said a date is agreed 5th Dec. Fri night is best.

8.2 Simon says they charge £5 per stall and are looking for local artisans. They have most stalls sorted: Twinkleberries, Raffle, Chocolate Tombola, Wood Art, Craft Candles, Stained Glass...

8.3 They are looking for a cake stall and Sian volunteered this could be done within the village – perhaps to raise money for the playing field mower. TBC.

9. Missing Link

9.1 Alan reported on latest development, which is a £10,000 grant to complete the next stage of the cycle path towards Frome. (Thanks to John Reckless for his work on this.) This is the stage which will go from railway bridge at Hapsford to A362.

9.2 Alan says the grant requires local involvement and so asks for volunteers. Sian offered to help immediately. Chris D also offered. Chris D also suggested Alan approach the horse riding community, especially with paddocks beside the path whose rides will be much improved by the link. Chris D can help Alan reach out to them.

9.3 There is no schedule yet for this work because the grant has only just been given.

10. Fireworks

10.1 Last Nov 5th Lyle and Ben organised a firework display behind the Bell Inn. This was well attended but not properly ticketed. It was felt by the BAG that this is a missed fundraising opportunity. Simon agreed to approach Ben and Lyle to ask if they plan to do this again, and if so could we help with more effective ticketing and fundraising – perhaps towards the mower.

11. A date of 21st October (again 7:30 at Village Hall) was agreed for next BAG meeting.