

## **Buckland Dinham Amenities Group –**

### **Minutes from meeting 14.05.25**

**Attendees:** Susie, Libby, Pete, Rob, Sian, Chris

- 1. Minutes from previous meeting were handed round by Chris and approved.**
- 2. Chris asked for suggestions about how to create core a BAG group so that there was consistent attendance.**
  - 2.1 Libby suggested occasional more informal meetings -perhaps at the pub or round someone's house which could also act as a recruitment drive.
  - 2.2 A proposal was put forward by Sian to coincide the BAG meetings with the Playing Field Committee meetings. It was decided this was a good idea although to keep these groups (and any bank accounts etc) separate.
  - 2.3 However, Chris volunteered to become secretary of the Playing Field Committee and so some BAG meetings will deal with Playing Field business, and we'll see how that turns out.
- 3. Chris asked for feedback on BAG communications.**
  - 3.1 Not everyone is getting the messages through the BAG WhatsApp group which only has 28 members.
  - 3.2 It was generally agreed that the more ways we communicate the better, although there is a limit to how much this can be done as WhatsApp is efficient.
  - 3.3 Libby suggested we announce BAG meetings using the announcements in the Village Chat as well as within the BAG group. This will happen from now on.
  - 3.4 Rob suggested using 5 Alive, although there is a lead time issue here.
  - 3.5 While it's generally felt that not enough people are on the WhatsApp group is it growing and it was decided to continue that way with informal ad hoc use of other comms. EG relay to the coffee mornings at the church.
- 4. Update on the Strawberry Fayre.**
  - 4.1 Simon messaged that the Fayre now has booked in: Strawberry Cream Teas, Ice Cream, bar, two food vendors, town crier, bouncy castle, music.
  - 4.2 The next meeting of the Fayre committee is 28<sup>th</sup> May.
  - 4.3 Susie explained that the Fayre does not yet have a bank account. So organisers are paying up front and looking forward to being reimbursed from the takings. But where to put any profits has not been established. It has been agreed that any profit from the Strawberry Fayre should remain in a bank account to fund the following year's Fayre and that perhaps this could happen in a ring-fenced section of the Parish Council Account. Libby will look into this.
  - 4.4 We hope to hear more from the Fayre at the next BAG meeting as this will be the last before the Fayre takes place.
- 5. Update on Playing Field Spring Clean**
  - 5.1 All agreed the spring clean was a success, though there remains a small amount of ivy to hacked off which Chris will do as and when.
  - 5.2 Susie is also clearing out any overgrowth around the flooring in the play area, as this may be considered at trip hazard at the next safety inspection by ROSPA.
  - 5.3 The next big task is to repair the wooden fence along the northern side of the playing field. This involves A) Ripping out and disposing of the old wire fence and then B) putting in new posts to

hold up the wooden lapped fence which is okay but the posts are rotten. All this can be done by volunteers. About four people are required to do task A and remove the wire fence. And then new posts and postcrete must be purchased by the playing field committee so task B can be done. Because both tasks requires access from the Phippen's land it was agreed that the first thing is for Chris to contact Austin Phippen and explain the situation. Once we have their go ahead we can schedule a date to begin task A.

#### **6. A new mower for the playing field.**

- 6.1 It is established that the present mower is not fit for purpose. However, Reeds who sold it to the Parish Council will not take it back.
- 6.2 A new mower suitable for the job costs around £4500, but Pete will explore cheaper second-hand options from Norton Machinery.
- 6.3 The Parish Council may also be able to recover some money from the sale of the old mower which is perfectly good for mowing a lawn just not an entire playing field.
- 6.4 Meanwhile Sian will set up an online funding page to raise the money to buy a new mower.
- 6.5 Chris will accompany Susie on 3<sup>rd</sup> July when she presents all this to Parish Council.

#### **7. Closure Community Swap**

- 7.1 Chris reported that this is no more because it is happening and thriving on the village chat anyway.

#### **8. Other projects – St Michaels**

- 8.1 Rob talked about the church and how to support it. Ideas put forward were, music concerts, xmas tree festival, and an art exhibition.
- 8.2 The idea that seemed to most catch imagination was an art exhibition at the church because, unlike in the Village Hall the works could remain exhibited in the church for a while.
- 8.3 Rob suggested reaching out to the community at the church by attending one of their coffee mornings. It's a different set of villagers who attend and maybe a way of uniting all the energy in the village.

#### **9. Other projects – Babysitting circle.**

- 9.1 Libby said she is trying to organise a babysitting circle. It would likely begin in September at the start of the school year when it would be launched with a barbecue. More to follow on this.

#### **10. A provisional date of 24<sup>th</sup> June (again 7:30 at Village Hall) was proposed for next BAG meeting. This has since been confirmed.**