



Beeches Community Group

Minutes of the Extraordinary Special Meeting held 09/03/17

Present: Stuart Tarr (Chair), Tim Killen (Secretary), Mike Jupp (Social Secretary), Keith Handley, Cllr Nigel Robbins, Malcolm Lewis, Ros Lewis, PCSO Lesley Edgell, David Burgess, Terry O'Flynn, Andrew Betts, Caroline Braidwood, Peter Braidwood, Lynn Hilditch, Paige Lilley, Jane Lilley

1.	Welcome and apologies: Apologies from Jenny Hincks, Paul Maidens, Val Timbers (Stratton Assoc.)
2.	Chairman's Opening Statement: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Extraordinary Special Meeting at Ingleside House. He commented that it was positive to see such a good group and the attendance for the ESM being the largest seen for quite some time. The Chairman stated that he had held this position for over 3 years and during this time the Beeches Community Group had achieved its mandate in supporting local issues, working with residents to resolve issues, liaising more effectively with the CTC and CDC and attending charity events. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burford Road development• Beeches Road clearing• Supporting on the Bus gate issues• Candyfloss stalls at various summer charity events• Corinium Via estate gate opening• Laying gravel path with Local Councillors & CTC• Negotiation investment for roundabout spring bulb and seed planting from David Wilson Homes• Placing dog waste bins throughout the ward• Raising funds for a local community notice board in the Beeches with housing associations• Community Speedwatch events on London Road and Burford Road• Creating a strong Facebook following for the BCG and CVRA But over the last 18 months the engagement with the local community on priority issues had reduced and because of this, attendance at the meetings had tailed off to usually the core Committee members. The lack of community issues and social events meant it was also very difficult to attract new members to the BCG Committee. The Chairman also advised that he had recently moved outside of the Beeches and would be focusing his time on his CTC Councillor duties as well as running as an election candidate for the Gloucestershire County Council Beeches Division in May of this year. Over recent months the Committee had discussed how best to take the BCG forward. It was felt that the group needed to pursue a new direction in order to get more engagement and more active members to focus on the new priority issues for the group and to kick start the social side of things. Therefore the Extraordinary Special Meeting was called to discuss and agree on the new direction for the BCG.

3.	<p>Secretary Statement:</p> <p>The Secretary stated that he had joined the BCG to be able to support the local community. But that the recent BCG meetings had unfortunately become just administration of minutes for the meetings held, which had little benefit for the community.</p> <p>He felt that for the BCG group to be effective it needed new people with both the ideas and the time to commit to the group and lead new and positive activities to take the BCG forward. It is important and critical to find a way to raise the profile of the BCG and to engage more with the residents of the beautiful area we all live in. So he hoped to see the BCG go forward with more active members and a stronger Committee to engage with all parts of the community and host more social events.</p>
4.	<p>Options tabled for the future of the Beeches Community Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close the group and all associated social media• Potential merger with another group (if possible)• Continue the BCG and elect a new Committee
5.	<p>Discussion regarding the future of the Beeches Community Group</p> <p>Lynn Hilditch commenced the lively discussion and confirmed that she felt the Beeches Community Group was very important and she did not want to see the group close or to merge with another Community group and lose its identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lynn proposed that she would be willing to stand as the new Chairman• Malcolm Lewis (ex Chairman) stated that he would be willing to stand as Vice Chairman• Caroline Braidwood stated she would be willing to stand as Secretary in addition to her current role as Treasurer to the group• Mike Jupp stated that he would also be willing to continue in his role as interim Social Secretary until a new Social Committee was finalised. <p>The agreement in the room was that the group wanted the BCG to continue and to focus on a new mandate of great social engagement, working closer with other Community Groups and to support on the important issues that the community faced in all areas of this growing residential area.</p> <p>It was discussed that the new Committee would need time to agree the plan of action to take the group ahead. It was discussed that an Events or Social Committee would be a good idea to support the social side of the group and that Andy at the Golden Farm could be a part of this.</p> <p>The group stated that they would want to have Councillors continuing to attend the meetings and to support the BCG in the future and would explore the use of Watermoor school.</p> <p>Social media was discussed and it was agreed that Caroline and Peter Braidwood would take responsibility for the BCG Website hosting and admin. There was another lively discussion regarding Facebook and it was agreed that that the incoming BCG Committee would set up a new Facebook page for the group. Tim Killen stated that he would discuss with Paul Maidens to continue to support the existing CVRA/BCG Facebook page until such time as the new BCG Facebook page was up and running.</p>

6.	<p>New Beeches Community Group Committee</p> <p>The group present stated that they would be happy for the new Committee to be established.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman - Lynn Hilditch • Vice Chairman - Malcolm Lewis • Secretary/Treasurer - Caroline Braidwood • Interim Social Secretary - Mike Jupp <p>Keith Handley would continue in his role as NHW and CSW representative.</p>
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was agreed that Tim Killen would produce the ESM minutes and circulate these by email.</p> <p>All Social Media and Secretary information would be shared by Tim Killen with Lynn Hilditch and Caroline Braidwood.</p> <p>The website hosting would be managed by Peter Braidwood before the end of the current hosting expires in June 2017.</p> <p>Stuart Tarr confirmed that the new Notice Board in the Beeches would be positioned by CTC free of charge in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Malcolm Lewis asked for it to be minuted that he thanked the outgoing Committee for their efforts and the great job during recent years.</p> <p>The outgoing Committee wished the new Committee well for the future and offered their full support to make this new chapter a success.</p> <p>The meeting was closed by the new Chairman taking her position and thanking everyone for attending this evening and looking forward to meeting again at the next meeting.</p>
8.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>The new Committee to agree the time, dates & location of the next meeting.</p>



Beeches Community Group

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