

Minutes of BRAG Annual General Meeting

Bryn Community Centre

Tuesday August 2nd 2022

Present

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| Paul Bulmer (Chair & Trustee) | Dafydd Bowen (Trustee) | Dianne Thomas (Trustee) |
| John Thomas (Trustee) | Val Merriman | Craig Coston |
| Phil Morgan | James Sullivan | Cllr David Whitelock |
| Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy | | |

Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Martyn Pallant, Rhidian Mizen, Sue Phillips, Martin Fitzpatrick, Daniel Garnell and Amy Thomas.

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Last AGM

Last year's AGM minutes were on the village website for public viewing and displayed to the meeting. The meeting accepted these as a true record of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Paul presented the attached slides and summarised the accounts report that had been independently inspected by Terry Filer. This report was submitted to the Charity Commission. The Charity Commission website shows all registered charities submissions.

The independent report stated that the accounts were in good order with no issues to note and one recommendation that some of the balance be placed in an interest generating account.

Paul showed the meeting how to access the submitted accounts on the charity website and expressed BRAGs appreciation for the voluntary input that Terry provides in her inspection and formatting of our accounts to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission.

Paul explained that a Grant for the Bryn Heritage project had been obtained in 2019 that was spent in 2021 /2022. This was part of the expenditure of 2021. Paul reminded people that all our accounts are public and may be viewed on the government's charity commission web site.

The meeting was happy with the report with no further questions raised.

Election of Trustees

Paul reported that all trustees had indicated their willingness to stand for a further year. No new trustees had been proposed to the meeting.

Paul proposed that all Trustees were re-elected on block and this was approved by the meeting. These are Paul Bulmer, Dafydd Bowen, John and Dianne Thomas.

Election of Committee

Paul stated that he was prepared to stand as chair for a further year. This was approved by the meeting.

Mark had informed Paul that he was happy to continue in the role of treasurer. This was also approved by the meeting.

Paul asked those present if anyone would like to take over the role of secretary. There were no volunteers in the meeting so this role remains unfilled. Paul asked that if anyone knew anyone else who might be interested, then please contact Paul or any other current member of BRAG so that this may be arranged. Dianne suggested that **Paul** also post a request on Facebook.

Paul also stated that the vacancy for a second youth representative had now been filled by Dan Pallant. The meeting agreed that a third role could also be created and a prospective member put in place. **Paul** to progress this.

The new role of digital champion had been filled by Mark Sutcliff. James Sullivan has also taken on the role of historian working alongside Dafydd Bowen.

Paul read out the list of names currently held on our members' list and stated they had all been emailed to ask if they wished to be removed from the committee. No one had requested to be removed. He did say he would look to confirm this with all current members who had not attended the AGM or sent their apologies.

The remaining committee members were re-elected back on to the BRAG committee.

Chair's Report

Paul presented the chair's report to cover the period of the financial and calendar year 2021. The slides used will be added to the village website along with these minutes.

The report summarises the Events, Funding, Publicity, Meetings and Projects involving BRAG.

When the PACT meeting were mentioned, many questions were raised on the topic. Why had the meetings stopped? Why no visibility of policing in the village? **Cllr David Whitelock** agreed to raise these issues with the relevant authorities.

John Thomas asked what was currently happening with the football club. **Paul** agreed to ask Ryan James for an update.

Paul emphasised how BRAG was successfully working with other groups both within Bryn and across the Ward to deliver benefits for Bryn and the Ward. Examples of the latter being Cwm Walking and Afan Environment.

Paul thanked all the BRAG members and others who had voluntarily given up their time to contribute to the many activities that BRAG had been involved with in making Bryn “a nice place to be”. Many people have put months of effort in to achieving these outcomes.

Paul then stated that that concluded the formal part of the AGM for calendar year 2021 and that current and future activities could now be discussed.

Heritage Project

This project has now been completed with the heritage lottery. However, new information continues to become known and this will be documented and added to the website.

The information board for the Dram Road documenting the local heritage had been requested at the last AGM and was commissioned and installed at the start of this year.

Dram Road, Flower Boxes, etc.

Paul outlined how he had been working with volunteers, landowners, biodiversity groups and the council to make Bryn a nice place. To date Martin Fitzpatrick had made up flower boxes, which have been placed in the village with help from other volunteers as posted on Facebook. Agreement had now been reached with the owners of the land along the Dram road, surveys carried out by biodiversity groups, and initial plans drawn up to enhance the Dram road for both nature and the residents of Bryn. Work on this project has continued by both the landowners and volunteers. Volunteers had been attempting to control the Balsam, which is an invasive species. However, there was too much balsam and not enough volunteers so Paul had managed to secure the help of contractors via a request to Rose Revera, the biodiversity officer.

Dafydd had replanted the flower boxes for spring and summer and had kept them tendered and watered resulting in a wonderful display and welcome to the village. Everyone thanked Dafydd for his work. Dafydd also mentioned the help he had received from the residents of The Willows who had maintained the flower box at that end of the village.

It was also agreed that at the end of summer, the box on the Maesteg side of the village would be moved to the triangle of land by the Royal Oak as this will provide safer access for maintenance and will still be a prominent welcome to the village.

Halloween

It was agreed that a Halloween event would be organised again this year in the Rugby Club. **Dianne** agreed to agree a date with the club and organise an entertainer.

Community Centre

Paul provided an update on the extensive community centre work that had been completed and plans for future improvements. Charlotte did not have any further updates on the kitchen work yet. She did inform the meeting about the storage container obtained to store items not in regular use, such as Christmas decorations, freeing up space in the community centre.

Youth Club

The youth club had been stopped due to Covid. It had not restarted due to a lack of youth workers. This situation has now existed for well over a year. **Charlotte** continues to monitor the situation.

Remembrance Sunday

Paul informed the meeting that BRAG will purchase a wreath to be laid at the Bryn Cenotaph and this service will go ahead. **Dianne** agreed to speak to the other groups in the village about them also laying wreaths. **Paul** will speak to **Sue Phillips** about arrangements for the day.

Christmas Events and Decorations for the village

It was agreed a children's party would take place on the last Sunday before Christmas (18th December). Details to be agreed with the Rugby Club. It was agreed **Dianne** would enquire about a Christmas themed entertainment for the children. Paul was not sure but thought the Maesteg Gleemen had already been booked by the Rugby Club for the evening. A similar plan will be used to what was delivered in 2021. Further details would be planned, with the Rugby Club, after the Halloween party.

Beast of Bryn

Paul confirmed that after months of initial planning and working with a partner (Run Afan Forest), the Beast of Bryn went ahead on Sunday 29th May 2022.

It is intended to repeat the event next year on Saturday 6th May.

Publicity material for this event will now be made available but there was a lot of work ahead for the committee and many additional volunteers as possible will be needed to deliver this event.

Y Bryn Wind Farm

Paul brought the meeting up to speed on the discussions that had taken place to date on this proposal and recent emails with the company.

Delyth was unfortunately not at the meeting to provide further details.

Ukraine Support

Dianne brought the meeting up to speed on the work performed in support of the Ukraine refugees and the most recent requests she had received about the most urgently required provisions. She was expecting another vanload of aid to be shipped from the community centre this week.

AOB

Charlotte had information on the new Council LDP showing details of proposed land use around Bryn for housing, renewable energy and recreational activities. This was shown to the meeting and **Charlotte** agreed to send details to **Paul** to place on the Bryn Website.

Paul thanked everyone for their support over the last year.

John thanked Paul for pulling everything together.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm
