

Minutes of BRAG Annual General Meeting

Bryn Community Centre

Tuesday April 18th 2023

Present

Paul Bulmer (Chair & Trustee)	Dafydd Bowen (Trustee)	Dianne Thomas (Trustee)
John Thomas (Trustee)	Eric Bailey (Secretary)	Val Merriman
Phil Morgan	James Sullivan	Gaynor Bowen
Martin Fitzpatrick	Catherine McKenna (CVS)	Debra Crowley

Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Sue Phillips, Amy Thomas, Cllr David Whitelock, Craig Coston, John Morgan, Karen Davies, Delyth Wanklyn and Caroline Bailey.

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of Last AGM

Last year's AGM minutes were on the village website for public viewing and hard copy circulated to the meeting.

The minutes were reviewed and actions reported on.

The action on Paul to fill the secretary role had been progressed and filled by Eric and Caroline Bailey.

The action on Paul to progress Youth Representative had been progressed with three Youth Representatives joining the committee and interest expressed by a fourth.

The action by David Whitlock to progress the Pact Meeting had been progressed with these now taking place again in Cwmavon. However, a need for a police surgery had been felt more appropriate for Bryn. BRAG had met with Community Police Officer Karen Davies to discuss this option. It was agreed to trial this with a first meeting scheduled for Tuesday 16th May in the Bryn Community Centre from 18:30 to 19:30. If this is successful, regular surgeries will be set up every other month. Paul added that some of the issues raised in the village had also been discussed with Karen, including speeding through the village, cars not stopping at the crossing when on red, off road bikes, parking and the use of drones. **Paul** to organise a meeting room and publicise the surgery.

The meeting asked how many PCOs now covered the ward. Karen now has a trainee working with her and they are looking to recruit a third officer.

The Youth Club had resumed and the scouts had started on a Monday and Thursday and a Karate club on a Wednesday. However, the scouts may be moving back to Cwmavon. **Paul** was to follow up on this.

Sports coaching had been discussed in the last AGM. **Paul** mentioned some of the discussions he had recently had on this topic and the purchase of sports equipment as requested by the BRAG youth members. He also agreed to discuss funding for coaching and equipment with **Catherine**.

Gaynor asked how some of the older people in the village, who were not online, could find out about events. Paul mentioned that some of the committee who run the over 55 club receive BRAG updates and are able to pass on relevant information to their members. Information is also posted on the BRAG noticeboard outside of the community centre.

The meeting accepted these minutes 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.

Paul thanked Terry Filer on behalf of BRAG for her work and expertise in auditing and preparing our accounts in line with the charity commission requirements each year.

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. With interest rates now improving, **Paul** will look into this option.

John Thomas accepted that the trustees had their own copies of the report but felt the full meeting should have copies. Paul explained that these reports were publicly available on the charity commission website as well as these minutes that all attendees receive.

The meeting asked how the funds raised from the Bryn Beast had been spent. Paul explained how donations had been given to the groups of volunteers who had supported the race. Money had also been allocated to facilities for the village. Phil asked why only £2500 was showing as income from the race. John explained that this was the value obtained in the 2022 financial year. BRAG was still awaiting a further payment from the company. John had expressed concern about how much we trust the company when organising the next race. Paul made the point that no other company had offered to run the race for us in the past. He also said that he had been in discussion with the company, about

a price per runner rather than a flat rate. This would provide a greater incentive to grow the race. John was very concerned about the poor communication from the company.

Debra had asked about the kids parties. Dafydd explained what events BRAG provided for children and how popular these were.

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.

Val thanked the trustees for all the work they do. John said that Paul deserved a special thank you for all the work he puts into the village.

Election of Committee

Paul stated that he was prepared to stand as chair for a further year. This was approved by the meeting. He also described how a vice chairman role was often created within other groups he was involved with to enable a future chair to build experience before taking on the role of chair and suggested BRAG could take a similar approach if anyone was interested in the role.

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

The existing holders of the other posts were re-elected for another year.

Paul read out the list of names currently held on our members' list and stated they had all been emailed the AGM details and no one had requested to be removed from the committee.

Val mentioned that Beti Williams was no longer a key holder and should now be removed.

Paul said 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 stated that the many activities that had been undertaken in 2022 were all now documented on the BRAG website, complete with photographs of the many activities. See the link <https://brynporttalbot.wordpress.com/2023/04/10/brag-in-2022/>

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.

John thanked Dafydd for all the work he put into planting and maintaining the flower boxes around the village.

Dianne also mentioned the work Martin had done in planting up the roundabout in Brynhafod. Paul said the work should be publicised on the village Facebook site as it may encourage others to do the same in their areas of the village.

Paul then concluded the formal part of the AGM for calendar year 2022. Current and future activities could now be discussed.

Current and Future Activities

Website

Paul outlined the work Mark Sutcliff had been doing with the village website. He also reminded people of the new material being added to the site, especially relating to the local heritage. James updated the meeting on some aspects of local heritage he was currently working on which will also be added to the website soon. Paul outlined some of the positive feedback he has had relating to the website, especially the heritage parts of the site.

Trim Track

Paul tabled the latest safety inspection report for the BRAG assets in the village. Although the facilities had all been passed as safe, the report did flag up that longer term the trim track was going to require a major overhaul or would need to be removed. The Meeting felt that every endeavour should be made to keep the facilities. Dianne raised the point that because it used to be in the school it was part of the village heritage. Paul stated that he was arranging quotes for the work but this could run into thousands of pounds. **Catherine** agreed to explore funding options with **Paul** for the work.

Painting of Storage Container

Charlotte had arranged with Welsh Water to provide BRAG with a storage container. They had also provided a grant to purchase green paint to paint the container. Paul stated that he had obtained the green paint and the required tools to paint this container green so that it blends in with the surrounding trees and undergrowth.

However, since obtaining these we had not had any predictable dry weather to complete the work. It was hoped this situation would change in the near future. Volunteers will then be required.

John asked about the painting of the Rugby Pavilion. **Paul** agreed to speak to Rob Thomas to see what could be arranged.

The meeting asked about the unsightly building in the area. Martin said it used to be a workshop. The meeting asked if anything could be done to tidy it up. Dianne stated that it was privately owned.

Litter Picks

The same weather issues had delayed these, which normally start in late March. Would look to get these organised in the coming weeks. The roadside areas on the road to Cwmavon was identified as an extra area requiring attention this year.

John thanked Deborah for the work she does litter picking along that area. The meeting asked if signs requesting people to take their litter home could be put along that road. **Paul** was asked to raise it with the councillors.

Paul explained the use of the Facebook group NPT Litter Pickers.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4142733749072066>

Dram Road, Flower Boxes etc.

Some of the many other areas in Bryn requiring maintenance this year were discussed. **Phil** offered to look at some of the work with **Paul**. It was also asked if benches could be obtained for along the Dram Road.

It was stated that it would be nice to see wild flowers growing in the well area on the Dram rd.

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 able to attend the meeting but had provided a written report, which Paul read out to the meeting and then tabled.

Delyth had also provided the planning application for Foel Trawnant Wind Farm at Bryn. This had been submitted on 7/7/22 and was approved on 4/4/23.

Community Centre

Paul provided an update on the repairs recently undertaken on the community centre and the ongoing work.

Bryn Ukraine Support Group

Gaynor and Dianne brought the meeting up to speed on the work performed in support of Ukraine. The 25th large van will be leaving for Ukraine this week.

AOB

Martin raised the safety issue of the raised concrete on the old skateboard area. **Paul** to contact the councillors to review this safety issue.

Paul thanked everyone for their support over the last year.

John thanked Paul for pulling everything together.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm
