

BRAMCOTE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the annual general meeting held on Thursday 23rd February 2012

7.30pm at Grangewood Methodist Church's Bramcote Room

1 Present: D. Archer, D. Bannister, M. Bannister, A. Beal, C. Flear, A. Hart, D. Hart, M. Johnson, J. Jones, L. Mason, D. Nicholas, I. Radmore, D. Witcombe, P. Witcombe, G. Yeoman, G. Yeoman and G. Ward.

Ann Hart, Honorary Chair, issued a warm welcome to all those attending and reminded us that next year the BHCA will celebrate its 'Golden Jubilee'. After a brief resume of the changing demographics of our community and the importance of caring for our neighbours and the welcoming of newcomers in our increasingly individualistic society she introduced our speaker.

The Story of Bramcote Care Group – Its history and its future

A talk by Pat Whitcomb

An interesting and enjoyable talk was given on this community group. The 'Bramcote Hills Care Group' was created by Stan Heptinstall in 1980 to run alongside the existing St. Michael's Church group. In 1990/1 the two groups amalgamated under the aegis of Pat Whitcomb who had recently retired.

The information leaflet format was retained and is currently delivered with the St. Michael's Christmas newsletter. A different colour is used each year. Still printed by Arlington Printers the cost is now covered by Pat as any residual funds have run out and the group is not funded.

Various people help to run the group (16 volunteers some of whom are also infirm) which runs on a neighbourly basis, having no funding and making no charge; any donations are given to charity or the church. Most people are lovely although there can be one or two who take advantage. Many clients have become friends (a few examples were given).

As to the future, they are now looking for someone to take over the administration of the Care Group.

M. Johnson suggested the placement of such a request on the Bramcote Today web site

2 Apologies: T. Aikin, S. Heptinstall, V. Hilton and S. Powell

3 Chairman's Report: A succinct review of the activities of the year was given together with thanks to members of the committee who have special responsibility for aspects of the association such as : Laurie Mason who oversees the loan equipment and together with Geoff Ward and Brian Hughes coordinates the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme; Dink and Di who edit the newsletter; Doris Bannister and Di Nicholas who distribute them to our deliverers; the 40 people who deliver newsletters and collect the annual subscriptions; Sheena Powell who runs the Play Scheme and keeps us all motivated as well as hosting all our committee meetings; Claire Flear for keeping our accounts in order.

Thanks were also extended to Mike Johnson of the 'Bramcote Hills Open Space Protection Group' who keeps us abreast of possible developments on the ex-golf course.

It was announced that the long-running Bramcade D of E group has now been wound up.

Special thanks were given to Tim Aikin, who has decided to stand down from the committee, for his service as both chairman for two years and acting-chairman for a further two years.

Constitutionally, due to the current level of activity, it was suggested that a committee of 20 was no longer necessary. Financially our income just covers our costs and is well below the Charity Commission recommendation for external examination.

4 Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts: Claire Flear gave the financial statement of the BHCA as at 31st December 2011. The increase in subscriptions from £2 to £3 per household has ensured the Association is in credit this year. Printing costs were lower in 2011 as we have reduced the number of newsletters to cover only households who have joined the association. M. Johnson proposed the acceptance of the Accounts and was seconded by L. Mason.

5 Reports from Affiliated Sections: As Silvia has now retired the 'Ladies Keep Fit' group has disbanded.

The Honorary Chair read reports from:

Friends of Bramcote Ridge

The 'Friends of Bramcote Ridge', in partnership with Broxtowe Borough Council, continue to maintain the two Local Nature Reserves, one off the top of Sandy Lane, the other off Markham Road. It is now almost thirteen years since the group first met in the Rose Grower on Sandringham Drive and the membership has remained between fifty or sixty since that day.

Each year there is a set programme of maintenance with further improvements included where possible. This past year an area of woodland has been thinned, wildflower areas re-seeded, English bluebells planted to replace the Spanish variety and the Sandy Lane entrance improved. Future plans include the repair of the Thoresby Road steps, drainage work and hedge planting. As well as working sessions the group meet three times a year for presentations by guest speakers.

During late spring the two sites will again be inspected as part of the Green Flag Community Award. Hopefully it will be four in a row. Also this year as a contribution to the Broxtowe Walking Festival there will be a guided walk and talk around the two Local Nature Reserves on the morning of Sunday, June 10th. The walk will start at 10 30am at the top of Sandy lane; all are welcome.

NWR

The Bramcote branch of the National Women's Register meets fortnightly in member's homes. These are social meetings with discussion based on a topic researched by a member. Occasionally an outside speaker is invited. Sometimes the group meet for lunches and there are monthly walks. New members are welcome.

The Summer Play Scheme

Between 97 and 104 children attended over the four days. Visitors included: fencing, football, cricket, owl experience, karate, animal antics, cheerleading, the climbing wall and many, many more. Crafts (at least twelve each day) included cookery corner with pasta salads dips and, swamp cake,

Thanks to a brilliant committee everything was very well organised. The 2012 play scheme will be on 24th – 27th July and most of the preparations are well under way.

Bramcote Cricket Club

The club meet at Bramcote Hills Park and comprises of juniors and two senior league teams. Kwik Cricket and junior coaching is on a Thursday evening and Senior League games are on Saturdays with mid-week friendlies. Indoor nets have already commenced Thursday evenings at Trent Bridge. New members of all ages welcome.

Bramcote Hills Badminton Club

Games are of a competitive nature but in a friendly spirit. We play in the main hall of Bramcote Hills College on Thursday evenings 19.30 -21.00 school term times September to July. There are no facilities for children nor do we undertake coaching, however you are welcome to come along with no obligation to join.

Bramcote Youth Football

Football training is provided for boys and girls from 5 to 18 years old. Teams compete in leagues regulated by Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire FA's. Non-competitive football is played by the under 7's and 8's. Competitive games in 7, 9 and 11 a-side games dependent on age group are played by the over 8,s.

A totally volunteer amateur club affiliated to the Nottinghamshire FA we are funded primarily by subscription which pays for kit, FA and league fees, pitch and training facilities coaching qualifications and specialist player coaching.

We meet on Moor Lane Sports Fields in spring/summer and during autumn/winter at Bramcote Leisure Centre, Bramcote College, Harvey Hadden and Beeston Hockey Club from 5-8pm. Wednesdays/Fridays for training and Saturdays/Sundays for games.

New members always welcome; we currently need a new kit secretary. Special thanks to the WHP Federation on whose facilities we rely.

Bramcote Netball Club

The club is going very well at the moment with regular attendance at training when a paid coach takes the sessions. We play in competitive local leagues and in friendlies as well as participating in fun events.

We meet at Bilborough College's Indoor Sports Centre on Tuesday evenings from 7.00 – 8.30 pm. New members are very welcome.

Wine tasting Groups 1 & 2

Approximately eight meetings per year hosted in members houses usually on Sundays; group 2 try to exclude school holidays.

Although Group 1 is currently at full capacity, Group 2 has space if you enjoy wine in a relaxed atmosphere. You do not need to be a connoisseur.

Verbal Reports were given by:

Orchard Theatre Company Doris Bannister

This year has been very busy for the Orchard Theatre Company. Following the success of BOUNCERS at the Olympia Theatre, Chilwell, the play was taken 'on tour'...to Arnold and Long Eaton, all too critical acclaim.

Having attracted several new members, on the strength of BOUNCERS, we were able to use a bigger cast for the November Production, with another John Godber play, GYM and TONIC, set in a health spa, with reluctant and keen guests. This was also very well received.

After relaxing with a couple of social events we are now preparing for our new production, again directed by Gwyneth Crooks. This time we have a comedy/farce by Derek Benfield. There are several cases of mistaken identity, including an MP, policewoman and pizza delivery boy. FLY IN THE

OINTMENT can be seen at the Duchess Theatre, Chatsworth Centre, Long Eaton on April 19, 20, 21. Tickets are available at £8 (£7 concessions) from the theatre coffee mornings each Saturday from March 11 and are also available on the door. New members are always welcome'

A new initiative from Nottingham City Council is to be held at the Central Library, Angel Row, on Saturday, June 16, where local drama groups are being offered 20/30-minute slots to promote themselves; Orchard Theatre Company hope to take up the offer.

Finally, we would like to thank the BHCA for their support through the newsletters.

Bramcote Care Group Pat Whitcomb

(See Pat's presentation)

Neighbourhood Watch Geoff Ward

Little to report which can only be to the good as local crime has fallen (down 27%, 1 burglary and 3 automobile crimes in the whole of Bramcote). Most people need to be aware of not making things easy for the burglar.

Bramcote Open Space Protection Group Mike Johnson

A scare re: a possible 'Larkhill Retirement Village' development dependent on the owners making a planning request. This gives only 21 days to object. The BOSPG have prepared for a quick response if needed.

Council Meetings are to be opened up and this will be flagged up on the 'Bramcote Today' web site.

No reports were received from Bramcote Community Tennis club although the group is active.

6 Elections of Officers and Members of the Committee:

Tim Aikin has handed in his resignation as a committee member.

Honorary Chair: Ann Hart agreed to continue in this role. Proposed by: J. Jones, seconded by M. Johnson and unanimously agreed by those present.

Honorary Treasurer: Claire agreed to continue in this role. Proposed by: D. Archer, seconded by G. Ward and unanimously agreed by those present.

Honorary Secretary: Still vacant. (D. Archer will continue to act as minute secretary pro tem.)

The following were re-elected: Dink Archer, Doris Bannister, Vicky Hilton, Laurie Mason, Di Nicholas, Sheena Powell, Ian Radmore, John Spencer and Geoff Ward.

The vote was proposed by J. Jones and seconded by D. Whitcomb.

7 A.O.B.

J. Jones queried the continued use of the Football Field, as she had not seen any games/practices since before Christmas. It was decided to keep an eye open as to the return/lack of return of the footballers.

8 Date of next meeting: The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 02 12 at 1 Rivergreen Crescent at 7.30

The meeting closed at 20.55

Dink Archer acted as minute secretary