

Annual Members Meeting 7th March 2023, The White House Pub, Bladon

The Chair opened the meeting. It was declared quorate with 67 members present in the pub. The Chair thanked all who came & welcomed them to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Susan Holifield, Colin Weeden, Phil and Jackie Rumsby, Hugh Bladon, Emily Bladon-Wing, Jill Murdoch, Sean and Lieke Walker, Paul & Susan Edwards, Josh Rush, and Chris Corser.

1. Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous Annual Members meeting of 1st March 2022 were sent to members by email. The minutes were approved having been proposed by Mike Edwards and seconded by Nicky Rogan. A matter arising was discussed under AOB.

2. To receive a report from The Chair on the previous year's progress, the state of the membership and membership strategy.

The Chair presented his report is for Society affairs running from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 (I the end of the Society's financial year). A copy of the report is available the BCBS website <https://bladoncommunitypub.org/annual-members-meetings>

Questions were asked under AOB.

3. Treasurer's report to include the Annual Accounts for the previous financial year; a report on the Society's performance in the previous year, and plans for the current year and next year.

The Treasurer's report is supplementary to, and needs to be read in conjunction with, the annual accounts, that cover the year from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022. The accounts have been prepared by the Woodstock Accountancy Practice. Hard copies of the Treasurer's report were available, and can be viewed in full by emailing the Treasurer: treasurer@bladoncommunitypub.org and are available to all members.

No questions were asked on the Treasurer's report.

4. Vote on Annual Audit Exemption

As our assets are below £5.6 million and our annual income is below £2.8 million we are not legally required to undertake a full audit. The cost for a full audit would be £3.5K . The annual financial report prepared by the accountants cost the Society £700. Members were

asked to vote on this matter. The motion not to have the accounts fully audited was carried with overwhelming support on a show of hands.

5. To declare confirmation of committee members for the year 2023-2024

All the present committee except for Stuart Barclay have declared an interest to remain on the Bladon Community Benefit Society Committee for a further term of one year. BCBS is grateful to Stuart for the vital contributions he has made as a member of the Committee.

The Society rules state that we can have up to a maximum of 10 committee members. As we currently have 8 members wishing to stand no vote was necessary for them to continue to serve. Each committee member was introduced to the members present.

6. AOB

Questions from the floor

Q: Why is there no link to the pub website from the BCBS website? And why does the pub website link to a taxi firm.

A: The pub website is not under BCBS control, but will open again soon.

Q: Could we please explain why we were asked to repay the Covid grant.

A: Those who allocated the grant made a mistake. Our appeal was refused. We negotiated a phased repayment over three years.

Q: At the last AGM it was proposed that the pub would have a suggestion box but none has appeared.

A: We will raise that with Ben. Julie Bignone has previous experience of organised an online version, and we will look into having both an online version and one in the pub.

Q: Why have the exterior finish of the new extensions not yet been completed?

A: This is a longstanding issue with work still needing to be done after the renovation of the toilets, which Blenheim undertook to do at no cost to the BCBS. Unfortunately their subcontractor has been slow complete the rendering of the completed extensions. The committee has been in regular contact with both Pye Homes and the contractor to try to get the work completed.

Stop Botley West

The Committee of BCBS agreed to a request from Frances Stevenson to let members know about action being organised to stop the Botley West Solar Farm. Frances explained that the

Stop Botley West Campaign Group are working hard to master the details of this complex scheme & organise effective opposition. She encouraged members to register with Stopbotleywest.com to receive email updates on progress and get access to an online petition. A questionnaire was distributed for those present to complete. Frances informed those present about an open session of West Oxfordshire District Council on Botley West on 22nd March.

7. Close

The Chair thanked the members for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 8.12 pm.