

## Annual Members Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024, The White House Pub, Bladon

John Anson, the Chair opened the meeting. It was declared quorate with 92 members present in the pub or voting by proxy. The Chair thanked all who came and welcomed them to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Hugh Bladon, Emily Bladon-Wing, Mark Houghton, Stella Wentworth and Dave Wedd.

### 1. Approval of previous minutes and matters arising

The minutes of the previous Annual Members meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were sent to members by email. The minutes were approved having been proposed by Nicky Rogan and seconded by Andrea Main.

### 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 for Society affairs running from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 (the end of the Society's financial year). A copy of the report is available on the BCBS website <https://bladoncommunitypub.org/annual-members-meetings>. He outlined a number of future improvements that are needed for the pub. The highest priority is to upgrade the electricity supply from single phase to 3 phase. We are looking into what this would cost, and also to explore assistance in the form of grants.

### 3. To declare confirmation of committee members for the year 2024-2025

All the present committee except for Calum Greer have declared an interest to remain on the Bladon Community Benefit Society Committee for a further term of one year. BCBS is grateful to Calum for the vital contributions he has made as a member of the Committee. Clare Edwards is returning, and Andrea Main has agreed to join the committee.

The Society rules state that we can have up to a maximum of 10 committee members. As we only have 9 members wishing to stand no vote was necessary for them to continue to serve. The Chair introduced the other members of the committee: Gwyn Bevan (secretary), Mike Edwards, Robin Jones, Linda Oliver (Treasurer), Liz Owen, Nolan Richmond (vice-chair).

Questions to the Chair were asked under AOB.

### 4. 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 2023 to 31st December 2023. 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](mailto:treasurer@bladoncommunitypub.org) and are available to all members.

No questions were asked on the Treasurer's report.

## 5. Vote on Annual Audit Exemption

Due to our relatively low asset value, BCBS is not legally required to undertake a full audit. The cost for a full audit would be £4K. The annual financial report prepared by the accountants cost the Society £740. 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.

## 6. AOB

The Chair announced that a raffle was on offer at the bar raising money for prostate cancer; and Ben is offering a 10% discount on food from all shareholders in March.

### *Questions to the Chair from the floor*

**Q:** Is it possible to raise a special share issue to finance the development of phase 3 electricity?

**A:** This good idea will be considered by the committee.

**Q:** Newcomers to the village wonder about whether they could still buy shares in the pub, so what is the committee planning to do to explain that we are keen that they do so?

**A:** It is welcome news that newcomers are interested in buying shares. The Committee will consider this suggestion alongside that of a special share issue

## 7. Close

The Chair thanked the members for attending the meeting and closed the meeting at 8.03 pm.