

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Venue: Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath

Chair: Rob Milton

Secretary: Alastair McPherson

Treasurer: Doreen Pedder

#### Chairman's welcome and review of the year

Mr Milton welcomed all to the meeting and said that his vision was to complete our community infrastructure and to increase our involvement with Haywards Heath, as at the moment we can't even walk into town without getting our feet dirty and our political representation includes us in an area outside the village. He said he felt we had turned a corner this year. He explained that the genesis of the BVRA was challenging Crest and that is almost at an end. A liaison has been built up with Haywards Heath town council and the village is involved with a governance review.

He said it had been a positive year and he was looking forward to it being even more positive going forward.

#### Report from Stuart Mieier from Friends of Ashenground and Bolnore Woods

Stuart said that the bridleway through the woods was supposed to have been upgraded for the past 20 years but will now be started on Monday and finished by Christmas.

#### Neighbourhood Watch report

Nicola Coombs said that there are now 282 NW members in the village, and membership packs are being delivered to everyone.

Regional crime messages are posted on the BVRA website and also emailed to those who supply email addresses to the BVRA.

Nicola urged residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious to the non-emergency police number of 08456070999. She reminded drivers to keep to the 20mph speed limit in the village and to report anti-social drivers to [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org)

She appealed for help and asked people to volunteer to help her with Neighbourhood Watch. Any volunteers can email Nicola at [nhw@bolnore.org.uk](mailto:nhw@bolnore.org.uk)

#### Bolnore Arts

Over the past year Autumn workshops have been run in the woods with the Friends of Ashenground and Bolnore Woods and Christmas and summer workshops were run in the yurt. Funding was from Hyde Housing. Bolnore Arts also contributed to the Cuckfield Christmas tree festival.

Close contacts have been built up with the school and a recent fundraiser for the arts was a safari supper. There will be another barn dance organised soon.

### Governance review

Tim Farmer explained that a year ago an idea came up for a parish council in Bolnore Village and a working group was set up and discussed this. The Mid-Sussex District Council governance review of Haywards Heath was formed and although the parish council idea was decided against, Bolnore Village could now get its own ward. People were encouraged to look at the MSDC website and give their views.

### Village Hall Update

Alastair McPherson explained that a year ago the village hall project was just an aspiration. Finance and land for the village hall were a long way down the agenda during MSDC/Crest negotiations and the likelihood of ever building a community space for Bolnore was a long way off.

He said that we still have an uphill struggle to fix finance for the project, but we now have an infrastructure of volunteers committed to helping deliver a village hall to Bolnore. Over the past 12 months a village hall business plan has been published to prove to MSDC and Crest that the residents of Bolnore were serious about building their own hall.

Next, with the intent shown to MSDC they negotiated a deal by which the village received the land and a significant sum of money.

This should be transferred over the next few weeks. The project has also recruited 10 resident volunteers to work on the project in design and build, funding, governance and communication it is hoped that a community consultation on the village hall will be the next stage.

### Sports Pavillion

There will be a meeting with the town council and BVRA on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

### Management companies

The BVRA is looking for a resident to help liaise with management companies Peverel and Andertons. There was a lengthy discussion into issues people were having with management companies, but no-one volunteered to liaise with the companies for the BVRA.

### Treasurers report

Mrs Pedder gave a report on finances.

### Constitutional changes

It was voted to scrap subscription charges for the BVRA and include all residents within Bolnore Village as members. In this way the membership would be inclusive rather than exclusive and if residents so wished they could opt out of the BVRA.

### New committee appointments

The new committee will be as follows:

Chairman – Alastair McPherson.

Vice chair – Adrienne Sale

Secretary – Klare Kennett

Treasurer – Doreen Pedder

Other members: Louise Smith, Nicola Coombs, Rob English, Carlos Leon, Jocelyn Kean, Phil Cotton, Andy Hudson, Tim Farmer, Tony Bridger, Rob Milton, Paul Mickleburgh

#### New chairman's welcome

Thanks for the work Rob and the 09/10 committee have done over the past year.

I moved to Bolnore Lower Village in 2004 and have been involved in various community events and projects such as Carols and the Bolnore School Group over the past few years.

Last year I joined the BVRA as secretary with Rob as Chairman with a primary focus of starting to get some momentum behind the last remaining project to be completed in Bolnore namely the Village hall. With this built, the community would have a focal point, Peverel could have an office and the issues that seem to have held Bolnore back could start to be solved.

With this project slowly gaining momentum with the imminent transfer of the village hall site from Crest , the next year for the BVRA stands out to be a busy and challenging one.

The BVRA will continue organizing the Summer Fete and Christmas Carol Events for the Bolnore Community, but will also be working closely with the Town Council and MSDC on the Village Hall project, the development of the rec site, phases 4/5 and Bolnore in general.

Peverel seems to still be an ongoing concern particularly TV reception. During last year John O'Connor did a sterling job working with Peverel management challenging accounts updating job sheets and evolving the BVRA relationship. Unfortunately he had to leave the BVRA in the early part of the year and we still need a committee member to take on the Peverel job in the BVRA committee so if you feel up to the task please put your name forward and get involved.

Other areas the BVRA plan to work on include, Neighbourhood Watch which is being expanded by Nicola Coombs and Bolnore Arts, and there is a plan to relaunch the Bolnore Newsletter.

Finally we will be evolving BVRA relationship with the school. A few of us have been School Governors and with the school opening in the village a few weeks ago its important for us to build this link over the forthcoming year and beyond.

For all this to happen we have a committee working tirelessly on all these projects but for the projects to be sustainable we need a committee membership not just from upper or middle village but from the whole of Bolnore including Bolnore Heights. Its with this total inclusion within the community that we can get the most out of the facilities that are being planned.

So please don't hold back. Get yourselves and your neighbours involved in the BVRA and the projects we're working on. If you're a cricketer make sure you're a stakeholder in the rec. ground, if you're into Films start up a film club in the Village Hall. We cannot do it on our own. There are going to be community consultation workshops for the Village Hall and the Rec Ground over the next few months and I hope in a years time these plans for Bolnore will have moved on further to become a reality.

Thank you