

Meeting Minutes Community Spirit Working Group

Date: 17 September 2023 - 5pm

Attendees: Nathalie Collister, Rob Green, Abbi Barratt

Agenda:

- Christmas Lights
- Goals for the next 6 months

1. Christmas Lights:

The group are very keen to organise another Christmas Lights event for the village in December. Again we wish to invite villagers to an event to celebrate the start of the festive season full sponsored by the Parish Council.

Suggested date: **Sunday December 3rd 2023 5-6pm**

The group considered setting up the event on Pooles Meadow but the lack of lighting and power will make it a difficult undertaking in the very dark conditions in December. Therefore, we would like to ask the pub once more to host us.

Megan and Mike have agreed to host the event for us on the above date. We are very thankful to them for looking after the tree during the season and lighting it on and off every night. We have also really enjoyed the fact that many villagers have stayed at the pub after our event for dinner and/or drinks, making it a very friendly experience.

The date is now on the parish council website calendar and will be published in the Dragon in November and December.

Rob Green will contact a few shops to see if we could get sponsorship for the tree. Nathalie will source additional decorations (which were broken last year) + some glow sticks for the children and the prizes, Abbi will produce the Leaflet to be posted around the village. We will as always provide free mulled wine, squash and cakes and will welcome any donations of minced pies or cakes.

2. Other events/goals for the next 6 months:

Additional Bench in Bell Field

As discussed at the last meeting, we would like to purchase a second bench for the Bell Field, as it has been lovely to see more people enjoying the field since our first bench was installed. We would also like to commemorate the 1st anniversary of the Queen's passing, so we would like to propose to buy a new "pub style" bench which will be engraved "In memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022". We suggest that the words are engraved into the table top (like the engraving for the King's coronation bench), which will be longer lasting than a plaque.

Nathalie to organise the purchase of the bench with Elizabeth Martin

Beating the Bounds

We would like to investigate the possibility of organising a walk around the boundaries of our parish. This is already done in Aldbourne and is a great community event where families and friends walk together and finish at the pub. This would require marshalls and maps but little organisation overall for a great opportunity to be outdoors socialising with other villagers.

Teenager play/social area

It has been raised again at our last “meet your councillor” meeting that there is no provision for older children and teenagers to socialise in the village. The committee will explore possibilities around the village and make a proposal with rough costings hopefully within 6 months.

Thank you!

Nathalie, Rob, Abbi