

Buckland Dinham Amenities Group –

Minutes from meeting 21.04.26

Attendees: Chris D, Suzie, Sara, Sarah Barnett

- 1. Minutes from previous meeting were handed round by Chris amended and approved.**
- 2. Discussion about merging BAG with other village groups Committees.**
 - 2.1 There is presently a Village Hall Committee and a Playing Field Committee both of which overlap with the BAG. Chris has proposed that at the very least all three combine their meetings so to reduce the management involved. Chris has volunteered to chair all these meetings and take minutes etc but only if they can be arranged to all happen on the same day.
 - 2.2 There are issues with the Village Hall Committee being a registered charity which is answerable to the charity commission, but it is felt that this can all be worked out and some degree of merging should take place.
 - 2.3 The Parish Council is on board with this plan.
- 3. Recruiting more volunteers.**
 - 3.1 It is hoped that (to whatever degree it happens) the merging of the business of these three committees might help spread the workload of volunteer contributions in the village which at present is falling on too few shoulders. In particular, Suzie needs help with the cleaning and maintenance at the Village Hall.
 - 3.2 It was agreed that the annual village gathering should be used to reveal how much work is done to keep the village amenities functioning and to recruit more volunteers with some of this day to day management – in particular of the Village Hall.
 - 3.3 The system for online booking of the Village Hall needs to be made to work as at present most bookings still go through Suzie who then also has to update the online system, which means a system introduced to reduce the workload has increased it.
 - 3.4 It was agreed that the online system has to become the *only* way of booking the Village Hall - even at the risk of losing some bookings.
 - 3.5 Chris volunteered to look into how other village halls (Great Elm?) manage bookings and maintenance.
- 4. A date of 16th May has been set for the playing field Spring Clean, which is just prior to the annual inspection.**
- 5. The Mower.**
 - 5.1 The plan is for Pete to sell the mower at the end of this summer. Therefore we need to raise the money to buy the new mower sometime this coming winter.
 - 5.2 The funds from the sale of the mower will go to the Parish Council (who own it) but it is expected they will use these funds to contribute to the cost a new mower.
 - 5.3 However the shortfall for purchase of the new mower must be raised by the playing field itself.
 - 5.4 Some funds have been raised but it is only a few hundred.
 - 5.5 Therefore it's time to for the mower's go fund me page to go live with a target of £2500. Chris will contact Sian and Libby about this. The annual village gathering (Chris will send Sarah B a Chis blurb for her to include in AVG literature) and an upcoming Bucks Quiz can be used to draw attention to this fundraising effort.
 - 5.6 Other ideas for fundraising were put forward. A sponsored bike ride/run around the playing field by village kids - similar to that which raised money to help fund the new goalposts. Sarah

B suggested an open gardens event. (The last one raised £600!) And a playing field camp out. (See point 7 below.)

6. Playing Field Camp Out

6.1 This remains on the cards and Chris will contact Libby about doing it in early summer. Now the mower is on a timeline perhaps that will galvanise this project.

7. Strawberry Fair.

7.1 Suzie reported back on latest from Strawberry Fair. Music is being arranged as is other food including a BBQ, cream teas and Tibetan Dreams. There is also a bouncy castle.

7.2 Crucially: Help is needed on the day to set-up, behind bars and in the kitchen and then clear-up. The Fair runs from 12-5 but including set-up and clear away help is needed from a further 6 volunteers (at least) to do bits between 11-6 and some setting out the night before.

8. A Scarecrow Trail.

8.1 Sara and the TTT group are proposing a scarecrow trail, which was done with some success in Beckington.

8.2 This involves villagers making and erecting scarecrows outside their houses.

8.3 Then a map will be produced so villagers can walk the scarecrow trail and there will be a competition awarding prizes in various categories for the best scarecrows.

8.4 The purpose is twofold. It is partly an attention grabbing effort to remind those drivers who pass through the village to slow and consider the villagers whose homes they are driving past. It could also raise money for the village by charging entrants (scarecrow makers) a small fee.

8.5 A date was proposed of Sunday 4 October as this is harvest festival. Although the scarecrows can remain in place for sometime after this date.

9. A date of 13th July (7:30 upstairs in Village Hall) was established for next meeting of BAG