

BELTHORN VILLAGE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2023
at 6.00 pm in the Dog Inn, Belthorn

Members Present:

Marianne Davies Yvonne Brown Judith Hamilton Collette Wilson
Graham Slater Lesley Dunn

Also Present: Belthorn Days Administrator, Jennie Cook

	Action
<p>1. 100 PLUS CLUB – April 2023 DRAW</p> <p>The March draw was overseen by a customer.</p> <p>Winner of the 1st prize of £58.45 - ticket number 153, G Flynn</p> <p>Winner of the 2nd prize of £33.40 - ticket number 69, R Brown</p> <p>Winner of the 3rd prize of £25.05 - ticket number 23, P Coughlin</p> <p>Winner of the 4th prize of £16.70 - ticket number 61, D Holden</p>	
<p>2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Cathryn McGurk, Sean Starkie and Tina Walker submitted apologies for absence.</p>	
<p>3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</p> <p>As Secretary of the Dog Inn Board, Yvonne Brown submitted a declaration of interest but there was nothing contentious for discussion on this month's agenda.</p>	
<p>4. MINUTES OF THE 1st MARCH MEETING FOR APPROVAL</p> <p>The minutes were agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES</p> <p><u>Pond Notice Board</u> - Marianne advised that she had not heard from Dean Ellwood as to whether or not he was able to make a replacement notice board for the pond area. She will chase it up.</p>	Marianne
<p>6. CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>No correspondence had been received.</p>	
<p>7. TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>Judith circulated her report prior to the meeting and reported that she had finalised annual figures to be added to the Charity Commission website.</p>	

She was investigating on-line banking of the Committee bank account for ease of access to recent activities	Judith
<p>8. TEENAGERS' SOCIAL MEET-UPS</p> <p>After discussion Yvonne offered to produce a reminder flyer for circulation reminding interested teenagers to attend the Saturday 15th April launch of the village Youth Club to be held in the upstairs room of the Dog Inn.</p> <p>Some of the suggested equipment had been bought after funding obtained. Further funding was sourced and awaited after a couple of club nights held to gauge attendance for a better idea of equipment needed.</p>	Yvonne
<p>9. PROTECT OUR GREEN BELT FIGHT – UPDATE</p> <p>Following the February Independent Hearing, a decision from the independent arbiters was expected in approximately six weeks' time. Meanwhile the POGB Group were to producing a Wild life survey of the affected area. Further funding would be required to fund the survey because the remaining funding held by the group was needed to help towards a formal Appeal if the decision to release land from the Green Belt was granted. Therefore further fundraising, for the survey, was to take place ASAP.</p> <p>Yvonne reiterated that whatever the outcome of the Hearing, the local Guide/Belthorn group objecting to their proposals had given 100% effort and was warmly thanked by the Village Committee.</p>	
<p>10. SPRING/SUMMER SOCIAL EVENTS</p> <p><u>Easter Village Trail – April 1st to April 16th</u> – as detailed in the distributed Flyer.</p> <p><u>Children's' bonnet (provided) decorating craft session</u> will take place on Saturday 8th April between 2.00 and 4.00 pm. Tickets £2 per child/</p> <p><u>Easter Egg Hunt</u> – and biscuit decorating will be held in the Dog Inn on Easter Monday 10th April between 2.00 – 4.00 pm.</p> <p><u>May Day Parade</u> – will be held on Monday 1st May with bacon baps served from 10.30 am before the Parade starts at 11.00 am. Nominations for a May King and May Queen to lead the parade are to be submitted to the Dog Inn. Jennie to be asked to decorate the pub for the occasion and Elspeth asked to provide a greeting card for the winners.</p> <p><u>King Charles III Coronation</u></p> <p>Arrangements to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 5th May – Monkeymen booked • Saturday 6th May – Murder Mystery evening (£25 tickets) • Sunday 7th May – Party in a marquee (big lunch). Jamie will provide a buffet from 12 noon – 3.00 pm. There will also be a Children's Entertainer from 3.00 – 5.00 pm • Monday 8th May – Dog Show (11.00 – 1.00 pm) and Village Litter Pick (Big Help Out) starting at 2.00 pm at the pub. 	<p>Judith</p> <p>Judith</p> <p>Yvonne</p>

<p>Further details can be found in the flyer distributed around the village.</p>	
<p>11. FACEBOOK - BELTHORN DAYS WEBSITE ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>As Administrator of the village Belthorn Days website, Jennie Cook attended the meeting to report to the committee her recent upsetting nasty messages received from a member of the small group of villagers who, for reasons best known to themselves, seem intent on destroying the reputation and hoping for the downfall of the community owned Dog Inn pub.</p> <p>She read out the abusive Facebook messages received, subtle threats against her personally to such a degree that, encouraged by supporting Facebook friends and villagers, she agreed to have the police involved. A police officer offered to speak to the main offender but Jennie kindly refused help at this stage unless she received further negative and troublesome messages from him or members of that small group when she would take the matter further.</p> <p>It is acknowledged throughout the village that Jennie, as a volunteer, does a fantastic job in many ways for Belthorn. The Village Committee therefore agreed to fully support Jennie in whatever action she decides to take in this matter, either now or in the future.</p> <p>To help relieve the pressure on Jennie, villager Tim Rawson had volunteered to also act as Belthorn Days administrator. Jennie and Tim were thanked for their work for Belthorn and in support of our popular Dog Inn community pub.</p>	
<p>12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p><u>Fly Tipping at the Top of the Village</u></p> <p>Following the recent increase in fly-tipping at the top of the village, new Committee member, Sean Starkie, had requested that the issue be discussed at this meeting with a view to the village Committee getting involved in trying to resolve the problem.</p> <p>The Village Committee and Dog Inn management's efforts to have security cameras installed at the top of the village were explained for the benefit of new members of the Committee:</p> <p>Approximately two/three years ago the Committee and Dog Inn management put in time and effort to try to resolve this on-going fly-tipping problem.</p> <p>The main problem in siting a security camera at the top of the village was the lack of electricity in that area. The only available solution was to ask for electricity access from a farmer's building, via a ditch through their field to carry an electricity cable which could reach a top-of-the range security camera, sited on a pole which would cover the four lay-byes on Belthorn Road.</p> <p>Approval for this help was initially gratefully received from the farmer, full funding sourced, meetings arranged - then a message was received from the farmer cancelling his agreement to the plan.</p> <p>Unfortunately all other options had been thoroughly investigated,</p>	

<p>considered but for various reasons ruled out: ie mobile cameras, dummy cameras etc following discussions with both councils. Unfortunately, despite every effort made by the Committee and the Dog Inn management, the project was finally abandoned.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed that there is no further Committee interest in spending more time and effort on this long-standing fly-tipping issue.</p>	
<p>13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next Committee meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 in the Dog Inn.</p>	