

Minutes of Banstead Village in Bloom (BVIB) AGM**Tuesday 16th November 2021 2pm.**

Present	Apologies
David Martin (Chairman) Lynne Hack (Secretary) & Advice on Council Matters Marion Hayns Sponsorship and Fundraising Kerry Garner Volunteers and Media Sally Hale Project Design Gail Fraser, Banstead Horticultural Society Brian Ransom, Banstead Woodland Project, BVRA Maggie James, Banstead Neville Bowling Club Sue Hassanein, All Saints Church Janet Marder, Volunteer Kathleen Churchley, Volunteer Mike Siggery, Volunteer Peter Rogerson, Volunteer Larry Slater, Volunteer Steve Corbett, Volunteer	John Hayns (Treasurer) - unwell Diana Bowes, Banstead Arts Society Daniel Balcombe, Play and Projects RBBC Stella Clark, Banstead Preparatory School Richard O'Hanlon, The Beacon School Bea Campbell, Banstead Business Guild Rev Phil Maudsley, All Saints Susan Major, All Saints Phil Edmunds, Waitrose Colin Bull, CB Swimming Sally Pulsford, Volunteer Carol Stacey, Volunteer

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM

He then introduced the BVIB Executive Committee who were ratified by the meeting

Chairperson: **David Martin**
 Secretary: **Lynne Hack**
 Treasurer: **John Hayns**
 Other Members: **Marion Hayns, Kerry Garner and Sally Hale.**

2. Minutes of the AGM 24th November 2020.

- a. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the AGM.
- b. Matters Arising
 - i. Sutton Lane Roundabout –sight line and footpaths – Reported to Council.

3. Chair's Annual Report

The success of Village in Bloom is wholly dependent on the support given by our wonderful Volunteers, who, under the guidance of Kerry and Sally have, despite the trials and tribulations brought about by the COVID Pandemic, have managed to keep our Village Blooming.

On behalf of the Village in Bloom Executive Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to record our heartfelt thanks – we cannot do without your support

As chair, I would also wish to take a little time to record my personal thanks our Executive Committee Members They have worked their 'socks off' over the last year

- **Avoiding waste, and Recycling Plants** and over the last couple of years, when we have renovated floral displays, we have re-used bushes, plants and bulbs; in addition, tender plants such as geraniums are

taken out of displays before winter sets in, then overwintered and replanted the following spring. We have also bought plug plans – re-potted them and brought them on ready for planting out.

- **Our first CIL bid for £12,150** for five pieces of development – is almost complete;
 - **6 New Planters for the High Street** which have been installed, filled with soil and compost and planted up.
 - **6 New Tables, 24 New Chairs and 6 Umbrellas** for the public area outside Pistachios in the Lady Neville Park-
 - **Library Gardens** – We have had the stumps ground out of the big flower bed in the front, planted this bed and re sited the Large Wheelbarrow therein.
 - **Sleeper Beds** opposite the Woolpack. We have ripped out all the plants; dug out all the roots; removed a ton of old tired soil; added compost and new topsoil; and planted up with a mix of dwarf conifers and bulbs.
 - **Sensory Garden for Lady Neville** – We have built the Sensory Garden. The proposed mural on the side wall of Pistachio's and a cobble plinth beneath the water fountain are being progressed.
- We were successful in a **second CIL bid for £2,500** for maintenance works and we were awarded another **£2,500 for other projects** – the work to be decided by us. **This is the third successful CIL award.** These monies will ensure that we can continue to maintain the High Street for the immediate future.

Marion Hayns thanked David for his kind words, and said that we owe the success we have had to David's drive and vision. He does not only serve Banstead on this committee but is tremendously involved with Banstead Rotary and Garton Recreation Ground. All Banstead residents have reason to be very grateful for his deep sense of public service – he has only lived here for the last 12 years but having moved here upon his retirement from the Police Force he has proved himself to be a true servant of our community. We can all think of many who are very vocal in their condemnation of all that is wrong but very few of these individuals are actually prepared to step forward and get their hands dirty for no other reward other than they wish to make a difference in their lifetime. I should like to ask you all to join with me in thanking David for his inspiring leadership, his deep sense of commitment, his unwavering support for us, his team members and always tempered with his great sense of humour which never allows any of us to take a setback too seriously.

4. **Annual Accounts.**

The accounts were presented and ratified by the meeting. **John Hayns** was thanked for all his work.

We are continuing to build up a contingency, so that if there is another emergency such as last year and we are not able to raise funds, we will have enough money to cover maintenance for a year.

5. **Fundraising, Sponsorship and Donations - Marion Hayns**

As David has already made mention – our wheelbarrows have proved extremely popular and we now have to re-examine our policy concerning the whole issue surrounding advertising and in many instances turn away potential supporters. Initially we offered them to local schools and supportive associations such as BVRA and part of the 'deal' was that these organisations maintained and regularly replanted their barrows. However, as time has moved on situations change and we are in the process of redrafting the policy to reflect our response to this increasing demand. We now have 11 wheelbarrows with another 3 on order from the students at Nescot, arriving in early spring. This we consider sufficient! I am delighted to say that McCarthy & Stone wish to join with us and are to have one of our wheelbarrows at the front of their development which is to be planted up and maintained by the residents, an idea which we think will find great favour with those who have been keen gardeners in the past and are missing having an opportunity to get their hands dirty!

*This brings me to what has become my main focus this year and I must begin by apologising to Kerry! When she and I went forward to receive the RHS Gold Award 2 years ago we turned to each other and vowed that this was it! We were not going to take on any further new projects but just restrict ourselves to maintaining all that we had done so far to the high standard we had already achieved. **However** – at the same time as BViB achieved Gold for all the work in the High Street and its surrounds, the Lady Neville Recreation Ground was heavily criticised by those same judges citing piecemeal planting and a very obvious lack of investment and BViB were encouraged to lobby for better. I felt very strongly that BViB had done our ‘bit’ in making Banstead Village the highly sought after place it has become to work, live and shop and the sorry state of our park, right in the heart of our Village completely **lets us all down**. When I was told that the Lady Neville was only one of many other parks in the Borough, which were refurbished on a 15 year rolling programme and our turn was not due until 2026 – I was just beside myself! Encouraged to come forward with a plan by the Leader of RBBC, Mark Brunt, to whom we turned I have been wonderfully supported by local parents, Catherine & Paul Searle who canvassed local schools to gain ideas from parents and children as to what they would like to see in their local park. Paul, a Quantity Surveyor translated these and other suggestions, into a comprehensive and detailed plan which we submitted to the Council in October 2019. Then Covid intervened! Since then, we have applied to the Surrey County Council’s £1million Communities Fund which is open to volunteer groups, for £35,500 towards the cost of new play equipment and we should hear whether we have been successful in the New Year. However, as a result of all the negative publicity concerning the general state of the park generated by this application, I feel fairly confident that our protestations will produce the outcome we have fought so hard for – and far earlier than 2026! The proposed new mini scooter park (Cate’s idea) to be sited on at least one of the shabby and underused tennis courts has proved to be an extremely popular suggestion.*

We have also been successful in our latest bid for money from the CIL Fund to finance the purchase of an additional 6 benches to be placed in the park itself and also Chucks Meadow to open up that at present unused area. Although the park is not specifically in our remit I feel that with the reputation BViB has now acquired, our actions here, working as a ginger group for the benefit of the whole community is entirely justified. If you have any other ideas or concerns please do let us have them.

6. Communications, Publicity and Volunteers – Kerry Garner

This year we have a total of 74 volunteers, some regular and some on an ad hoc basis. Most of the work is done by a core group of 16 people who look after the Church and the High Street every Friday morning. Our volunteers not only work hard, but they also make good friends. Many come to us because they may feel lonely or isolated, they want to feel useful. Many have had bereavement and find the group and its work good for their wellbeing. This year our success has been to achieve a healthy men’s group. There are 6 men in our Friday group, and have become very good friends.

Litter picking is a very important area for Banstead Village in Bloom a lot of time is spent by a lot of volunteers collecting litter. We have spent thousands of hours litter picking, and I can’t imagine how many purple bags have been filled. Our litter picking group has giving Banstead Village in Bloom a real presence. We were invited to the major’s parlour earlier this year for a thank you. 13 of us went for drinks and nibbles at the town hall and met the mayor and her deputy. Our group has led to many local litter groups being set up. Kingswood and Tadworth, Nork Park, Chipstead and Woodmansterne have all set up litter picking groups.

In three years we have acquired over 1400 followers on Facebook, in the last 28 days 9000 people have looked at our posts. Our website is kept up to date by a volunteer, news items and minutes are

regularly added to site. Our mailing list has almost 250 people, all interested in what we do. Regular updates are sent out to let people know what we are doing and planning.

I think what the volunteers of BViB offer is a place where local people can feel pride in their local area. Residents can get involved in many different ways, as little or as often as they wish. And those that don't volunteer but support us feel as equally involved and engaged in making the village a great place to live.

On a personal level, I'd like to thank Sally Hale for taking over the leadership of the group this year in my absence, she has done a great job and kept everything going. And then a big thank you to Sarah Mewitt, Barbara Salmon and Steve Corbett for doing more than was ever expected of them. And finally thank you to all the volunteers, all this work couldn't be achieved without you.

Sue Hassenain, on behalf of All Saints church, "I would like to thank you for being saviours of the churchyard which has never looked better".

7. Additional Questions and suggestions to Executive.

- a. Lack of maintenance of the footpath in the Lady Neville was commented upon, but hope to be remedied when the works takes place.
- b. Peter Rodgerson suggested that we approach Your Space in Cheam Village, which is now run by volunteers, and may have plants etc which we could acquire at a competitive price.

8. Any Other Business

There was none

9. Date of next AGM

Tuesday 15th November 2022, 2pm, in the Mead Room, Banstead Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 15.15 pm.