



## Minutes of Banstead Village in Bloom (BVIB) Council Meeting and AGM

Tuesday 24<sup>TH</sup> November 2020- 2pm via ZOOM

Present	Apologies
<b>David Martin (Chairman)</b> <b>Lynne Hack (Secretary)</b> & Advice on Council Matters <b>John Hayns (Treasurer)</b> <b>Marion Hayns</b> Sponsorship and Fundraising <b>Kerry Garner</b> Volunteers and Media <b>Sally Hale</b> Gail Fraser, Banstead Horticultural Society David Talbot, Banstead Village Residents' Association Diana Bowes, Banstead Arts Society Brian Ransom, Banstead Woodland Project Kathleen Churchley, volunteer Sue Sims, volunteer Sarah Mewett, volunteer Debra Farrell, volunteer Karen Wheeler, volunteer	Diana Beck Fiona Kleinhans, Banstead Manor Tamara Dukes, Sunrise Phil Edmunds, Waitrose Ian Whiteley, All Saints Curate Lorraine Kennedy Karen Murray Mike Sawyer  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Not present:</b></p> <b>Michael Hill</b> RBBC Greenspaces

### 1. Chair's comments on today's agenda

*The Chairman welcomed everyone to the remote AGM.*

*The Chairman thanked the members of the Executive who had stood down during the previous year: "all three were in at the start and can rightly be regarded as amongst the few founding Fathers or Mothers. They were instrumental in achieving improving results year on year, culminating in the Gold RHS award for our Village in 2019. They are **Diana Beck – Our Secretary**, her horticultural knowledge is encyclopaedic; and her drive and enthusiasm unstoppable; **Janet Marder – Our Schools Liaison Officer**, her imagination and enthusiasm is infectious; and her ability to get things done truly remarkable. Last but not least, is **Brian Ransom - Our BVRA representative**, well if you want something built, but not sure how or what – he is your man! His enthusiasm and willingness to help, despite many and varied other commitments - will be sadly missed. All three have left a legacy of which they can be proud, one that we are determined to preserve. We are fortunate to have some very skilled and determined people to fill their large boots. **Lynne Hack – Our New Secretary** – Her background as a businesswoman and Local Councillor are invaluable; **Kerry Garner – Our Member who recruits and looks after our growing band of Volunteers; and deals with Marketing and Social Media** - Her enthusiasm, sense of humour and energy is infectious and quite humbling to behold. **John Hayns – Our Treasurer** - His business background and eye for detail bring the necessary rigor to the management of our monies, and that wise head upon which we can rely; Finally – whilst not a member of the Executive, we are pleased to welcome **Roger de la Perrelle to our Team as our Independent Financial Examiner**. An ex-Head of a Sutton School and Treasurer of two local charities. He brings the necessary oversight of finances and experience in managing money.*

***Marion Hayns – takes on responsibility for Community Liaison, Sponsorship and Fundraising.** Marion is another of the visionary founding Fathers or Mothers – Her quiet persistence, eye for detail, and willingness to take on anything; makes her a most valuable member of the Executive. In addition, we have recently been joined by **Sally Hale** – Sally has the abundant enthusiasm, a willingness to take on any task and an easy-going nature, coupled with some very useful Horticultural Knowledge. All members of this small New Executive in addition to their overall role within the Executive, take on responsibilities for individual projects; including delivery against an agreed budget, organisation, logistics and deployment".*

### 2. Amended BVIB Constitution.

The Chairman set out the rationale for the constitutional changes, which were endorsed by the meeting.

3. **Officers of BVIB.** The following were ratified as officers and members of the BVIB Executive.

Chairperson - **David Martin,**

Secretary - **Lynne Hack**

Treasurer - **John Hayns**

Other Members **Marion Hayns, Kerry Garner and Sally Hale.**

4. **Annual Accounts.**

**John Hayns** presented the accounts, which were ratified by the meeting.

5. **Annual Review of Work – David Martin.**

*The work does not just happen it is **driven by the dedication and selflessness of our Executive and our wonderful volunteers.***

*Each week **Kerry organises, encourages and motivates our volunteers** to turn out to **maintain our floral displays** throughout the High Street and in the All Saints Orchard and Church Yard and **in addition they willingly lend a hand with the new projects.***

**Avoiding waste and Recycling Plants.** *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. A recent example was the relocation of the large wheelbarrow, which you may be aware that a car ploughed into the Library roundabout demolishing it. Following repairs and renovation, the wheelbarrow was relocated in the Library Gardens and all plants reused.*

*We made a successful bid for **£12,150 from the Council Infrastructure Levy** for five pieces of development*

- **6 New Planters** for the High Street, which have been installed, filled with soil and compost and planted.
- **6 New Tables, 24 New Chairs and 6 Umbrellas** for the public area outside Pistachios in the Lady Neville Park- The Umbrellas were provided by BVRA.
- **Library Gardens** – We have had the stumps ground out of the big flower bed in the front; dug out all the weeds and plants; put in compost and new topsoil; and planted up for the winter. In addition, as mentioned above the large wheelbarrow, following repairs and renovation, has been given a new home in the Large Flower bed.
- **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, new topsoil, and planted up with a mix of dwarf conifers and bulbs.
- **Sensory Garden for Lady Neville** – We have developed an initial plan for the Sensory Garden. Following initial comments by RBBC Greenspaces, with the assistance of Joanne Winn a Local Garden Designer we have re-submitted the plan and are awaiting approval. Given the inevitable delays, the work on this element of the CIL Bid will not commence until Spring 2021.
- **All Saints Orchard and Church Yard** – Regular maintenance is carried out by volunteers on a Friday each week. Arrangements have been made to develop a rockery along the top of the front Wall outside the Institute. The Church have made a contribution towards the cost.

**Access to water in High Street** has given us problems given the dry spring and Summer. We have secured access at Waitrose; The Woolpack; All Saints Church Yard; a tap is being installed in the Car Park on the south side of the High Street where the car wash is located; and we have secured funding for an outside tap at the Library and are awaiting its installation.

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

*The work done by our volunteers gives a huge boost to the local economy – lots of people come to Banstead because it is such a pleasant place to visit.*

*The **Quiz Night** has been rebooked for March 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, to be held at the Community Hall if possible. The **wheelbarrows** at either end of the high street are sponsored. The sponsors are asked to replant them twice a year – if this is not possible we ask them to give us money to do it for them. We had a stall at the **Charity Christmas Fair**, where we sold Cards, Calendars and handmade Christmas Decorations, allowing us to raise some much-needed funds.*

## 7. Communications, Publicity and Volunteers – Kerry Garner

*I've been part of Banstead Village in Bloom since Sept 2018. In that time the volunteer group has grown dramatically and I thought I'd take this time to update you on some facts and figures around our volunteering team. To date we have:*

**81 volunteers** doing a range of tasks ie. Watering, gardening, over wintering plants, dead heading. During lockdown we had many new volunteers. People who wanted something to fill their lockdown time, families with children enjoyed having a project.

**We had 20+ people watering at least once a week in the High Street this summer.**

**18 people now regularly help on Friday** at the church and in the High Street. This includes looking after the library flowerbeds and planters, wheelbarrows, High Street planters and flowerbeds, Waitrose flowerbeds, Fadi's shop front, Pistachio's flowerbed, 2 sleeper beds and the 2 flowerbeds at Memorial roundabout.

*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.*

*It's not all gardening! Crocheted flowers have been made by some of our older residents, who were living alone, they were grateful of something to keep them occupied during lockdown. The flowers have been really enjoyed by a lot of people. The school approached us to make some flowers for the return of children, and we even raised over £200 for the NHS from a lady who donated a large amount of knitted creatures.*

*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 **17 regular weekly litter pickers; 30 individuals who have adopted a road**, and pick their local area. We are quite the envy of local areas Kingswood and Nork have set up their own litter picking group and Coulsdon have approached us with a view to setting up their own In-bloom group.*

*In two years we have acquired over **900 followers on Facebook**. I keep our page up to date and post several times a week if we can. **In the last 28 days 6,500 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 **200 people**, all interested in what we do. Regular updates are sent out to let people know what we are doing and planning.*

*So what the volunteers in Banstead Village in Bloom offer is a place where local people can feel pride in their local area. Resident's 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.*

*Diana Bowes – conveyed the appreciation of the Church community for the work done there.*

## 8. Additional Questions and suggestions to Executive.

Sarah Mewett raised the state of the Sutton Lane Roundabout, the height of the hedges on the roundabout has become safety issue. Surrounding pavements are so overgrown, that they are impassable. Brian Ransom added that bushes in the middle also need tackling as they inhibit the visibility of the pedestrian crossing. The Chairman will write to the Council suggesting a change of shrubs, to dwarf varieties.

## 9. Any Other Business

There was none

**The meeting closed at 15.13pm.**