

Present: Sylvia Green, Liz Hughes, Ruth Herrlinger, Annette Van Maurik, Jo Bridger (part), Helen Peter, Mary Sheehy (part), Ruth White, Stewart Owen.

Apologies were acknowledged from those unable to attend.

Summary of Discussion

1. Purpose of Extraordinary General Meeting

The meeting was held primarily to deal with the proposal to wind up *widcombewest* as an organisation with a constitution, elected officers and an audited bank account, due to the difficulty in finding local residents willing to stand for office and fulfil the requirements of the constitution.

It was also proposed that the *widcombewest* bank account should be closed (current balance just over £200) and the cash funds held by Annette on trust, provided that an annual reconciliation of funds be informally presented to supporters.

These proposals were passed unanimously, so *widcombewest* is now simply an informal group of local residents who are happy to get together for social events and for helping to keep our area of Bath looking good.

2. Personal Issues

a) A Big 'Thank you'

In grateful recognition for all the work that Ruth H as secretary had put into *ARCH* then *widcombewest*, she was presented with a 'Thank you' present that had been organised by Jo. All supporters should be aware that a large part of the group's success has been due to Ruth's drive and enthusiasm over a number of years - a hard act to follow!

b) Best wishes

Best wishes for a speedy and full recovery were recorded for Tanya following her recent hospitalisation.

3. Review of 2017

It was generally agreed that the main social events of the year: Open Gardens, BBQ and Xmas Party, had been successful and that they should be repeated in 2018 (see below).

A couple of litter picking/area tidy-up events had been held, making a big difference to the area, but participants were mainly 'the faithful few' and more residents are urged to help with such activities - particularly as the levels of Council services continue to decline.

Volunteer work clearing and planting in Magdalen Gardens and by the path in Beechen Cliff Woodland continued throughout the year. The path and steps through Magdalen Gardens have been resurfaced and interpretation panels have been set up. Public response has been very favourable.

Changes to the arrangements for recycling and collection of domestic waste have not gone without problems, notably the non-collection of bags of rubbish not correctly presented and by continued non-segregation of recyclable materials from rubbish. Residents are urged to send photos of the resulting street litter to Council Connect and/or to speak to the offenders if they are known.

Completion of the Bike Shed Project was accomplished; this has been a very successful example of community/business cooperation. The organising team, especially Alex, Garry and Tanya are to be thanked and congratulated for all their efforts.

4. Items of local interest to residents

a) Helen reported that B&NES have decided to retain the subway under Claverton Street and not proceed with the alternative surface crossing. The subway will be refurbished after works to solve the drainage problems are completed (Wessex Water are also improving roadway drainage nearby). B&NES are being asked to make the subway fabric proof against vandals and graffiti artists. A large part of the project budget is to be spent on protecting pedestrians from traffic crashing onto the approach ramp.

b) B&NES have been shown to be responsible for the strip of land between St Mark's Community Centre/Artists Studio and Claverton Street thanks to investigations by Alex & Cara Sykes. This information will be helpful for targeting comments on tree/shrub maintenance.

c) Incidents of anti-social behaviour by a small number of Beechen Cliff schoolboys as they walk through the woodland area have regularly been observed; further incidents are to be recorded for informing the School Governors.
Similarly, if further anti-social motorbike riding in Calton Gardens causes unacceptable nuisance, it should be noted and reported to B&NES.

d) There is a proposal by residents of Alexandra Road that street access on certain days is to be restricted so as to allow street-based social activities. No details or dates are yet known.

e) Ideas are being floated for setting up a 'Garden Club' based at St Mark's Community Centre. If you like the sound of this and would like to know more about what is being proposed please keep an eye on the Centre notice boards for information.

f) B&NES are soon to be carrying out engineering works to some aspects street design left over from the end of the Rossiter Road Project, particularly around the White Hart junction. Time will tell whether these works result in improvement!

5. Important Dates for Your Diary

Dates for the following events have been set:

- OPEN GARDENS - Thursday 24th May from 6 pm onwards
- GARDEN BBQ AT ST MARK'S - Sunday 15th July
- XMAS PARTY AT ST MARK'S - Sunday 9th December
- LITTER PICKS throughout the area in MARCH and OCTOBER (dates to be advised).

The success of all these events is totally reliant on volunteer help, so please come along to the PRE-EVENT MEETINGS to help with the organising. Meetings to organise each event will be held 2-3 weeks beforehand and details will be circulated to everyone via email.

To start things off - will everyone who is willing to let people wander round their garden drinking a glass of bubbly on the evening of MAY 24th please contact either:

Stewart (M: 07905 888365) or Ruth H (E: office@ruthherrlinger.co.uk)

so that we can work out an itinerary. Newcomers will be extremely welcome.

If you know of local events that would interest our supporters, please let Jo Bridger know at jo@jobridger.co.uk so that she can put the details on our website.

There being no other business, Annette was sincerely thanked for be kind enough to host the meeting.

Note for your address book

Email addresses for *widcombewest* Secretaries:

Jo Bridger jo@jobridger.co.uk and Mary Sheehy mbsheehy@hotmail.com