

Youlgrave Bangbutt Village Link

8th Annual General Meeting

Held in the Village Hall

15th April 2011

Apologies - Connie Knowles, Nichola Humphries and Louise Page.

Present - Carol Sutcliffe, Glenys Moore, Dianne Hewitt, Carol and Graham Sellors, Maggie Ford, Val Cornish, Trish Donnison, Brian Mallaliu, John and Doreen Blackwell, John Bishop, Barbara Scrivener, Kath Blackshaw.

Chairperson Dianne Hewitt welcomed everyone and invited everyone to read and approve the minutes of the last AGM. They were approved.

Matters arising - John Bishop asked if the Clinic building in Bangbutt was being used for purpose. He had previously done fund raising specifically for the clinic project and was therefore particularly interested on an update. Confirmation was given that it was not being used as a clinic and that a teacher was currently in residence. Brian Mallaliu suggested provision of training for someone in Primary Health Care who could then provide medicines on a rolling programme and a primary response would be a way forward. People possibly trained by the nearest Clinic (one male and one female). Brian confirmed that there are Primary Health Units (PHUs) in SL. and said he would do some research. Brian also stated that Villagers should be more involved and pressure should be put on to stop the dependency culture. The difficulty of no longer having contact with Bangura was mentioned. It was felt however that this issue should be resolved by driving it forward and possibly contacting the equivalent of the local government.

Chair's report - it was stated that the future focus is to fund the provision of wells in the Tonkilili district, further north than Bangbutt. The project would be with the help of the CBO's and Village Aid (who have put us in touch with someone who works for them in Freetown). The villages chosen for the first well construction would be those who are currently reliant on water from the river.

£2000 has been provided this year to train 8 women to convert from Traditional Birth Attendants (TBA's) to Maternal Health Promoters. This training was given by charity Health Poverty Action and Zoe Vowles, a British midwife doing fieldwork in northern Sierra Leone developing maternity services.

Village Aid is also working with Ann-Marie Caulker who we met previously in connection with the problems caused from Female Genital Mutilation or Female Circumcision. She also works with VA and Katanya Womens Development Association who have set up a community school providing children with free education, food and uniforms. The current project is to build a bakery to provide work for the older children. We have provided £2000 towards this project but Village Aid are holding the money until plans for the Bakery project are clarified.

Attention was also drawn to the success of the Breeze and Wilson fund raiser. The amount raised was more than any other fund raising event. Thank you to Graham and Carol, who played a large part in making it possible. Graham has taken on the job of publicity officer this year and has been very active in promoting our public image.

Questions from Chair's report - John Bishop asked how the training of Birth Attendants went. It was confirmed that training is now complete and that a meeting will be arranged when Zoe Vowles is back in UK and available to talk to us about this valuable work.

Val Cornish asked if further money would go to this cause in the future. The answer was that it would have to be muted and maybe specific fund raising could be done for this charity.

Financial Report - given by Glenys and approved. Glenys pointed out that the fund was only getting a very low rate of interest in the charity account. She will look into this, although she had been unable to find a better rate for a charity in the past. The contribution to a projector shared between V. Plan, Sustainable

Youlgrave, Parish Council and BVL has been hired out on 12 occasions this year, success!
John Bishop was proposed and seconded to audit the accounts for another year and he kindly accepted.

Comments arising from the report :-

Brian felt the money needs to be used as speedily as possible and wondered if more than one well could be under construction at the same time. It was felt the success of one well being constructed, used and maintained locally should happen before embarking on others. He also asked if Village Aid were helping with this project, the answer being that they have not got the necessary experience to move things forward. Help from other organisations, with more experience, is currently being investigated to move forward as quickly as possible.

Maggie commented that some funds could possibly be used to further the work with Zoe, rather than the wells project and this would possibly attract more of our own villagers interest. It was suggested that we hold fire on any decision making with this regard until Zoe is here, only a few weeks away!

The following people were proposed and seconded :-

Chairperson - Dianne

Secretary - Carol

Treasurer - Glenys

Minutes secretary - Kath

All were willing to continue.

AOB - Barbara, query on changing name? Still links with Banbgbutt so retain the name for now.

Meeting ended 3.30 pm. Cup of tea and delicious Hot X buns very welcome!!