

BLACKBOURNE & WESLEY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Blackbourne, Elmswell IP30 9UH

Report to EPC Meeting of 16th September 2019

The September BWMA meeting was preceded by the 2019 AGM at which the Chairman thanked the user groups at both Wesley and Blackbourne for their co-operation in winding down Wesley activity and their vital input in vacating the hall to prepare for the Wesley refurbishment & rebuild.

The Treasurer announced a record annual turnover of £62,736.25 for the Blackbourne and Wesley combined but pointed out that there will be little or no contribution from the Wesley in the first quarter of next year because of the refurbishment and that, although this income does come to Blackbourne as the temporary venue for village groups, it does seriously constrain the letting potential to external bodies at Blackbourne. 17 user group nominees were duly noted as well as 2 appointee Parish Councillors and 4 non-affiliated elected members.

The Ordinary meeting began by re-electing the current serving officers unanimously en bloc.

The Chairman ran through some minor issues relating to the Wesley renovation and new-build project, all of which have all been successfully dealt with. He confirmed that all of the extraneous hall contents had been disposed of by sale, charitable donation or through proper recycling channels other than the piano which was condemned as unusable and left for the builder's skip. Otherwise, the provision of electric vehicle charging points will be looked into, as will the production of a new memorial foundation stone to mark the new-build. The suggestion of a time capsule is to be investigated in conjunction with Elmswell School. It was confirmed that the old gravestones will be preserved.

Progress in soliciting public support for the proposals at the Greene King site next door to the Wesley goes well and all Members were urged to encourage attendance at the public meeting called for 26th September seeking to confirm the village's backing. Members agreed that there would be a mutually advantageous relationship between the Wesley and the Greene King site, should the village purchase it. On top of the truly affordable properties that the village would gain, the Tavern garden could also serve as the Wesley play area, there would be shared parking. The parallel creation of a Community Land Trust would provide a considerable and long-term benefit as this body could work for the village for ever thereafter. Members declared their solid support for the project.

It was noted with satisfaction the Jubilee Roof repair saga has been concluded and that the litter problem at Blackbourne, which increases as the facilities are more intensively used, has been addressed by the provision of 3 new bins.

A new round of bidding for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding has offered hope that the Blackbourne play area refurbishment, triggered by the deteriorating safety surfacing and currently being planned by Cllrs Sue Roots and Mike Schofield, may secure substantial support and Council is to be asked to revive the possibility of storage & office expansion at The Chamberlayne, including improved ventilation, given that this, too, might attract CIL support.

The Treasurer announced a turnover to date of £28,844.90 including £965.00 from Wesley and confirmed that £9K has been transferred to EPC. He forecast a turnover of £64,154.00 for this financial year.

At the invitation of the Elmswell Amenities Association to appoint a nominee to their Trustee body, the meeting agreed unanimously to ask Philip Shaw, who agreed to represent the BWMA.

Peter Edmonds
Secretary

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