

**Grwyne Fawr Community Interest Company  
(GFCIC)**

**Annual General Meeting**

**September 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**@ Nant-y-Bedd**

**Present:** Ian Mitchell, Ian Mabberley (Directors ex-officio Members), Tim Collins, Marie Mount, Sue Mabberley, Jackie Mitchell.

**Apologies:** Iain Paterson, Sarah Paterson, Judith van der Voort, Nick Slocombe, Robert Bell, Caroline Fairclough, Oliver Fairclough, David Hughes, Sue Hughes, Vicky Jones, Grant Muter.

**Non-members also present:** George Foster, Judith Anderton, Stephen Anderton, Jennifer Bradley, Linda Townley, David Tullett, Bradley Morgan.

Ian Mabberley (IMa) welcomed members and non-members and apologised for the late change of venue which was due to plumbing problems at Gwern y Bustach. He also apologised for the number of proposed dates put forward for the meeting, but explained that trying to get everyone to agree a suitable date was proving so complex that one had to be selected. This had led to a lower number of members than would have been hoped, but a quorum was achieved so the meeting could go ahead.

IMA noted that there had been a number of changes of ownership in the valley and welcomed those new to the area and returning.

**Finance and legal**

IMA told the meeting that all Companies House, Commissioner of Community Interest Companies and HM Revenue and Customs requirements had been met and on time for the financial year 2016-2017.

Thanks to the Mitchells, we were able to get the accounts produced free of any charge to the CIC. No liability for tax was incurred in 2016-17.

Membership for the year stood at 15 individuals.

The current bank balance stood at £360.24p.

IMA reminded people to either renew their membership or join the CIC at a cost of £10 per person per annum, as soon as possible. Bank details are: Barclays. Sort Code 20-00-85 A/C 43694771

## **Broadband**

Ian Mitchell (IMi) explained the many difficulties that he had encountered over the year in trying to source a reliable, non-satellite, Broadband solution for the whole valley. The initial potential provider had given up on the project, a second had declined to proceed and the third, Dyfed IT, was able to offer a partial solution but felt that coverage of the top of the valley was probably uneconomical.

The situation is being further complicated by the Whitehall Government failing to give clear 'steerage' on the obligations of BT. Should the Government insist on the Universal Service Obligation (USO) for high-speed broadband, then companies like Dyfed IT would be unable to recoup their outlaid costs.

IMi apologised to the meeting for being unable to come up with a solution and asked those assembled if they would like to have a go at making sense of it all. George Foster (GF) took up the challenge, albeit on a short-term basis. GF was thanked by all present.

There was further discussion about the technicalities involved in the USO and also of different approaches to the current satellite solutions.

IMi was thanked for the efforts he had already put in to this project.

## **Conservation**

IMa outlined the work done with NRW last year which had brought a partial solution to the off-road motor bike problem. He also told the meeting about the transfer of some of the assets involved to NRW, which had been given clearance by the Commissioner of CICs.

He asked that anyone hearing or seeing off-road bikes in the forest or on the hill should report them on the BBNP website at [www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/report-it/reporting-illegal-offroading/](http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/report-it/reporting-illegal-offroading/) The more people reporting, the better.

IMa also commented on the raves in the Valley this year. He was continuing to liaise with both Police Forces, but matters were complicated by regular changes of personnel in both. There is a new Inspector in Powys and the Gwent Inspector is about to retire. IMa will continue to maintain contact with both forces. IMa also met with Chris Davies MP (Brecon & Radnor) to highlight the problems in the valley.

On a more positive note IMa explained about the saving of the grey telephone box and it's on-going restoration, which has been hampered by the weather, but hopefully can be finished at least externally before the end of the year. Thanks particularly to Tim and Nick for the work they have done so far.

A bid for funds to install an Automatic Number-Plate Recognition camera was unfortunately not successful and we need to decide how to proceed in this matter.

Finally, following on from the discussion about a sign-board denoting the location of the houses in the area from last year's meeting, IMA circulated a sheet showing the locations and telephone numbers of all properties in the valley. This had originally been produced to assist the Police in notifying residents about potential problems. A draft copy, without phone numbers, is attached. If anyone has any objection to numbers being included please contact IMA as soon as possible.

*If published in full, it will come with the proviso that the information is understood to be all in the public domain and that no numbers are ex-directory. It is for private use only and cannot be published.*

### **Re-election of Directors**

Both Directors indicated their willingness to continue and were unanimously re-elected for a further year.

### **Election of New Directors**

It was agreed that no new Directors were required at this stage.

### **Black Mountains Land Use Partnership.**

IMA passed on information about the BMLUP, as supplied by Iain Paterson. It was welcomed by all present and synergies between the two organisations were noted. The meeting wished BMLUP success with its projects.

### **Other Business**

Marie Mount (MM) raised the matter of a defibrillator in the valley. Locations were discussed and it was thought that either of the Car parks were too liable to potential vandalism. Nant-y-Bedd, being part way between the two, was considered as a possible site. MM to follow up contacts provided by GF and report back to the Directors.

Tim Collins (TC) raised the matter of the excessive traffic on the road late at night. To the surprise of some, TC reported that the top Car Park was a known 'dogging' site and that this was probably the cause. He proposed a time-based traffic restriction order (TRO) which would make it easier for the Police to deal with any untoward goings-on, including Raves. The meeting asked TC to look into what could be done and IMA said he would put him in touch with the Police Inspectors when he knew who they were.

Sue Mabberley asked if any others in the area would be interested in having a veg box delivered. She used to get a box from Riverford, but they are unable to deliver to only one property. (details about Riverford can be found here [www.riverford.co.uk](http://www.riverford.co.uk)) If anyone is interested please contact Sue on 890219.

Meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm