

BECKLEY & AREA COMMUNITY BENEFIT SOCIETY LTD

Minutes of Annual Members' Meeting

On: Monday, 18th November 2019, 7:30pm

At: Beckley Village Hall, Beckley

Present: 35 Members holding voting rights
1 Joint Member

24 Members being required for a quorum, the meeting was declared to be quorate

1. Chairman's welcome

Mike Hobbs (Chairman) welcomed all attendees to the Annual Members' Meeting of the Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS).

2. Committee Reports

2.1. Chairman's Annual Report

Mike Hobbs (Chairman) presented a summary of the Annual Report of the Society, including an update of the *More than a Pub* initiative. A copy of the report is attached.

2.2. Treasurer's Report

Gabriel Brodetsky (Treasurer) presented a summary of the Financial Accounts. A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached.

Two formal resolutions were put to the meeting, as follows:

Resolution	
To receive the Financial Accounts for year to 30th September 2019	
<i>Result</i>	Carried unanimously
To authorise the Management Committee to substitute an accountant's report in place of a full audit of the accounts for the year to 30th September 2020, as permitted by the Rules and applicable legislation	
<i>Result</i>	Carried unanimously

2.3. Membership Report

Adrian Hampshire (Secretary) reviewed the Society's policies. He reiterated the Society's Membership Strategy which is unchanged from the previous year. He reviewed the changes in membership during the year and the updated distribution of membership by geography and value of shares by type. A copy of the Secretary's report is attached.

2.4. The Accessibility Project

Gabriel Brodetsky, as client Project Manager for the Accessibility Project, summarised the successful completion of the project together with a forecast of the final cost and sources of funding.

2.5. Results of elections to the Management Committee

Mike Hobbs presented the outcome of the Election to the BACBS Management Committee of the BACBS. He noted that the term of office of three members of the existing Committee had expired and that two had stood for re-election. He thanked Mike Baker, who is leaving the area and did not stand for re-election, for his valuable service throughout the three years of his tenure. He also noted the earlier resignation of Sam Francis and, again, thanked him for his valuable service.

As a result of the election, the following have been elected to serve on the Management Committee for a 3-year term.

Elected Member
Clarke, Sam
Drew, Dave
Jepson, Susy
Stradling, John

Note: Whereas communications about the 2019 election stated that there were 4 open positions, one of which would be filled by a co-opted Member, leaving 3 positions to be filled by election, in the event, 4 Members stood for election to the 4 open positions – including the Member who was to be co-opted to the Committee – thus obviating the need to co-opt a Member to the Committee.

3. **Good Neighbour Scheme**

John Stradling reviewed the setting up and progress of the Good Neighbour Scheme by him and Cathy Davies noting that its aims, as agreed at the Annual Members' Meeting in 2018, are to:

- serve Beckley, Elsfeld, Stanton St John, Forest Hill and their surrounding rural areas. (Islip, Noke, Woodeaton already have a scheme [3 Parishes], as does Horton-cum-Studley).
- Provide lifts for community social events at The Abingdon Arms or the Village Hall, and subsequently to include Islip surgery
- Focus the service on those without their own transport who would find such trips difficult to arrange.

John outlined the working of the scheme and noted that take-up has, so far, been modest. Lifts outside these early destinations are at driver's discretion. Various questions were posed about the future direction and activities of the service. Lifts to a bus stop in the Barton area are likely to be available. It was agreed that a formal review of the service should be carried out in 3 months' time.

4. **Community Survey**

Susy Jepson summarised the results of the recent Community Survey and noted:

- Frequency of visits by survey respondents confirms that the pub must attract visitors from outside the area to be able to survive as a business
- The majority want the pub to provide good food (standard pub fare as well as high quality catering) plus good choices for vegetarians and vegans.

- Strong support was shown for a better range of non-alcoholic drinks and gin, and higher quality wines.
- Most respondents are happy with the layout and décor of the pub and do not want significant changes, but many would like to see access to the terrace area to be provided for those who are not able to use the existing stepped access from the garden door.
- Requests were received for better provision for children, though there is no evidence at present that the current facilities are a deterrent to custom. In any case, the survey suggests that a balance needs to be struck between provision for children and the needs of other customers and the pub's neighbours.
- Better communication of the pub's business, activities and menus through social media and email was a significant theme in the survey results.
- And finally, the survey underlined that the key criteria for repeated visits are good food, reasonable prices, a warm welcome (and a warm pub) and committed tenants.

5. Open Forum

5.1. Toilet twinning

In response to a question on the progress of Toilet Twinning (as discussed at the 2018 Annual Members' Meeting), Mike Hobbs noted that action on Toilet Twinning had not been progressed during the year preceding this AMM, in part because the new accessible toilets were under construction but also because of feedback received from a few Members who questioned:

1. whether the Society should make donations of the Society's funds to any charity
2. whether an AMM (being only a subset of the full Membership) could take decisions that bind the whole membership without advance notice of the motion
3. whether the Society, being a secular society, should make donations to causes connected to religious organisations.

On behalf of the Management Committee, Mike Hobbs undertook to discuss the matter at the Committee and report back to the next Annual Members' Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

Attachments

- Chairman's Annual Report 2018
- Treasurer's Annual Report 2019
- Secretary's Annual Report 2019
- Accessibility Project – Financial forecast
- Annual Members' Meeting presentation slides