

**Banstead Village Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022**  
**Held at Banstead Community Hall, Park Road, Banstead**

**Welcome by the Chairman**

Committee members Sally Hull and Richard Heath welcomed all members to the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, in the absence of Chairman David Talbot was unable to attend owing to illness.

**Minutes of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Due to technical issues with the production of last year's minutes, it is proposed that these will be posted on the BVRA website when available. There was no objection from anyone present.

**Matters Arising**

In the absence of last year's minutes, there were no matters arising.

**Presentation by Stuart Sweetman of Banstead History**

Stuart Sweetman, Chairman of the newly formed Banstead History Group gave an interesting presentation under the title 'Banstead 100 years ago'. He started by explaining that Banstead History has been formed by the coming together of The Banstead History Research Group and the Banstead History Centre. The combined group started in April 2022 with the intention to study the history of Banstead District and make it available to everyone.

Stuart took the audience on a walk through history via slideshow, from one end of the Banstead High Street to the other, pointing out that the roundabout was once a pond and taking in the graveyard where some 5,000 souls are buried, up to 3 deep in the graves. The Village School had separate entrances for boys and girls and the Headmaster, Henry Knibbs, was in business as well as running the school. Buff House, which had a seven acre garden, donated stables to be the first police station in Banstead and the Well was eventually superseded when piped water arrived in 1904.

Banstead History is looking for those with time and the inclination to be involved as new and active members for research. There are currently 28 members and it is hoped to grow this to 100. The first quarterly newsletter is launched and will be issued to every member of Banstead History. Stuart also provided some copies for AGM attendees to take away.

**Chairman's Report**

Our Planning Team, Catalina, Ben and Mel, review all planning applications for the village and feed comments back to the Council. Emphasis here is to try to protect the village as far as possible. One of our main on-going problems is the redevelopment of the allotments in Wellesford Close.

Alongside this we try to strengthen our village infrastructure. Our efforts, and those of local residents, have resulted in Winkworth Road being partially resurfaced and we supported a local school's initiative to improve road safety for school children in Court Road and surrounding roads.

The improvements to Banstead station are nearing completion thanks to the efforts of former committee member, Gerald Bridge. The major outstanding item is the attention to the dangerous trees on the embankment by the platform.

Additionally, Cliff Glanfield has arranged for many of the tree stumps to be removed around the village and Brian Ransom is in the process of refurbishing our original village signs, thanks to Surrey County Councillor Luke Bennett for his member's allocation to support these changes.

Our normal activities were dealt a blow in December when our long-time Treasurer and Membership Secretary, David Gradidge, sadly passed away. We have had to rethink our approach to the work that David did and have divided the village into a number of sections with each section being managed by one of the committee. One of the benefits of this approach is that there is a local contact for each part of the village and our road stewards do not have to traipse halfway across the village to deliver cash collected. Indeed, we have further supported this change by encouraging subs to be transferred by bank transfer or cheque. Unfortunately our bankers, Lloyds, have decided to close the branch in the High Street, so we must continue to simplify this process further.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Richard Heath presented the accounts and commentary on behalf of David Talbot, explaining that this year's accounts are broadly in line with the two previous years as shown in the accounts distributed to attendees and contained within the last newsheet. The accounts have been independently examined by Cliff Houghton.

We have slightly changed the presentation of the accounts to separate the balances (on page 2) from the details (on page 3). We hope that this makes things a little clearer. We have also tried to present our expenditure under the headings of 'running expenses', 'discretionary spend' and transfers to our long-term funds for our tree work and our village sign refurbishment.

Receipts this year are a little down on last year, but closer to the year before. We know that covid has had an impact on subs collections and we hope that we will soon be back to normal.

Our donations are, as before, mainly in support of the Banstead Business Guild Christmas lights appeal and Banstead Village in Bloom.

Our main expenditure is to support our tree stump removal programme. Great progress has been made last year and even more this year across the village.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Ben Martin, seconded by Cliff Glanfield and the vote was to accept the accounts.

### **Election of Executive Committee;**

David Talbot, Chair and Treasurer; Martin Matt, Secretary; Cliff Glanfield. Sally Hull, Ben Martin, Melanie Ramsay; Brian Ransom, Richard Heath.

Proposed by Malcolm Cumming, Seconded by Brian Ransom, carried unopposed.

Election of the existing **Hon. Secretary** Martin Matt and **Hon. Treasurer** David Talbot, who have been re-elected above will be ratified by the Committee at the next Committee meeting, as they are prepared to continue in their roles.

Cliff Houghton has offered to continue as our independent examiner..

### **Questions to Councillors:**

Reigate & Banstead Cllrs Sam Walsh and Nadean Moses were welcomed and spoke to the meeting before taking questions

*Sam* commented on the interesting and challenging times. The Local Development Plan is about to review and he had come from a meeting discussing Green Belt and protecting it from a developer locally.

*Nadean* was elected in 2019 and subsequently re-elected. She aims to attend local events and was appointed to the Commons Conservators, where Council funding is difficult to secure. *Nadean* is now involved in licencing rather than planning. She is actively involved in the Christmas event taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> December, as well as working with *Marion Haynes* and BVIB on the Lady Neville Park including resurfacing of the tennis courts, paths and play areas.

CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is £9million for the whole of the borough. It is 80% strategic but also allocates to local community needs.

Questions from the floor;

*Marion Haynes* – When will the play park be installed. *Nadean* advised the contractor is currently tendering, although it was expected to be installed for June/July. Focus of Lady Neville will be for all ages, gym equipment is intended for Chucks Meadow.

*Harry Simmons* raised the lack of litter picking at weekends which was debated. *Sam Walsh* confirmed he had seen the poor state after a visit to the Cricket Club and this was addressed after contact with a council officer. *Nadean* has resorted to picking up litter. It was felt that a ‘Please keep this area tidy – take your litter home’ sign might encourage some people to act more responsibly.

Overgrowing hedges continue to be a issue. It was confirmed as a Surrey County Council responsibility but SCC has relayed responsibility to RBBC. *Sam* pointed out that legal ownership of hedges is the issue.

Concern about dog-walking in Chucks Meadow when children use the area was expressed.

*Sam* is trying to contact the freeholder about the frontage at ‘Oscars’.  
MedPlace is apparently subject to a family dispute, hence having not reopened

*Ben Martin* reported graffiti on a tree through the on-line facility and it was removed within a day.

There have also been two recent incidents of fly tipping in Fiddicraft.

*Ben Martin* of the BVRA planning sub-committee mentioned that 5G mast applications will be required whether we like it or not. There is no perfect site and it will be a case of the least worst option. *Sam* confirmed that the colour depends on the site.

Despite CCTV in the high street, unfortunately the culprits who set fire to the post box topper were not captured. A discussion about the CCTV coverage and changes from analogue to digital and targeting the areas of most crime took place.

The question of Banstead being the poor relation to Reigate was raised and what the Council and the residents can do to address this. Amplify Banstead’s voice wherever possible.

**AOB:**

*Sally Hull* proposed that we would undertake another questionnaire to members, as we had done some years ago for feedback on today’s needs in the Village.

*Brian Ransom* gave a vote of thanks to the BVIB (Banstead Village in Bloom) volunteer litter pickers.

There being no further business the acting Chairman thanked residents and Councillors for attending, the Committee for their service and invited all present to continue their discussions over refreshments. The evening concluded at 9.20 pm.