



Bucks Older Peoples Action Group Meeting 2021 AGM

17th September 2021 at Christ the Servant King, Sycamore Road, High Wycombe

1. Attendees:

Alan Barnard – BOPAG Chairman Marlow bottom Valley Plus
Paula Watts – BOPAG Administrator
Stuart Smith (CSPA)
John Betts - (Stokenchurch)
Jane Osborn - (Lane End)
Wendy Healey - Woodland Manor Care Home
Bernie Hunter – Dementia Action Marlow (DAM)
Linda Richards – BEFAB Burnham/Marlow Groups
Joann Thornby – local resident
Frank Carrie – Local resident
Joyce Melia – Local resident

2. Apologies:

David Whittaker – BOPAG Vice Chairman
Chris Stanners (Dignity Champion)
Vanessa Pilgerstorfer -Trustee of The Tracy Trust
Janet Kenny (OASIS)
Phil Folly (COPAG)
Barbara Richardson (COPAG)
Barbara Poole (Voices & Choices)
Natalie Judson (Communities Officer, Chiltern & S Bucks DC)
Jane Quince – NHS Bucks CCG
Joe Boake -HGV Activities Co-ordinator (Hughenden Gardens Village)
Hannah Blatchly - Service Lead - Live Well Stay Well Parkwood Healthcare

Alan Barnard welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that there was no Agenda today or Speaker as we were unsure of attendance following the pandemic and today was for a catch up and to hold the AGM. The AGM was overdue, and the timing was not strictly in accordance with the constitution, but the pandemic had made it impossible to hold one until now. He also introduced Paula Watts to the group following Andy Truman's departure and explained how BOPAG has updated some procedures including the informative newsletter into a magazine, in order to add more content and attract advertisers and our online Zoom meetings during Lockdown. He reminded the group that Stuart Smith had been elected to the office of Treasurer at the 2019 AGM taking over from Patrick Arbuthnot, who had sadly passed away. He thanked both for their work for BOPAG.

Alan then asked everyone present to introduce themselves to the group.

3. Minutes of the AGM meeting of 15th May 2019 were shown by Alan, all present happy with content being out of date now and the need for a new AGM. It was agreed to accept the minutes into the records as true.

4. Election of Officers – The incumbent officers were unanimously re-elected as follows.

Alan Barnard – Chairman

David Whittaker – Vice Chairman

Stuart Smith – Treasurer

Paula Watts position as Administrative Assistant was confirmed.

5. Treasurers Report

Stuart Smith presented the proposed Amendment to Article 6 of the Constitution set out in the paper annexed to these minutes. The amendment aligned BOPAG's financial management procedures with our current practice, based as it now is on electronic methods. All in agreement.

He then presented the mid-year Finance Report and reserves policy. This report was circulated during the meeting. He mentioned the new sources of income from Advertisers within the BOPAG Hoot and the funding that we have been awarded from Bucks Community Board for the Golden Years Information Day. A discussion followed regarding the reserves which we will keep an eye on as it was agreed that it is a balancing act; too much made it difficult to attract new funding and invited condemnation for not making proper use of our resources, too little risked being unable to cover shortfall in income and other contingencies.

Linda Richards asked if we were independently audited, and Stuart explained that the Steering Group had resolved to discontinue this on the grounds that (i) it is not mandatory (BOPAG is not a charity), (ii) it cost money, (iii) our affairs are so simple there is little to audit, (iv) the sums we handle are small, (v) the SG was confident of its ability to monitor. It was pointed out furthermore that the accounts were in effect audited independently as the Council are regularly updated via the funding application process. Linda also enquired about the Steering Group, raising concerns about how the group was recruited. Alan explained the members are all voluntary and put themselves forward. We also have someone from the council who attends regularly. He was confident that there was no impropriety.

Bernie Hunter asked if we were a registered charity and Stuart and Alan explained that we were not. In discussion it was agreed without dissent that it would be a burdensome and unnecessary requirement with no real benefit to BOPAG.

Alan asked the attendees to explain to the group what they are all currently involved with.

Wendy Healy is linking up with other villages with Dementia Friendly sessions and signposting people to where they can get help. AB asked Wendy if she would be open to have a zoom link for her residents for one of our meetings. PW/WH to work together on this.

Joyce Melia explained that she has a very active church group that she attends. Joyce raised her frustrations with technology but is open to learning. Wendy Healy mention Age UK digital heroes. PW to contact Age UK for Joyce.

Bernie Hunter explained what DAM do and how they help dementia sufferers and their Carers.

PW to link WH and BH via email.

John Betts from Stokenchurch is hoping to get his group up and running again but has concerns. PW to put a note in the Hoot about new committee members. Date of his meeting is the 14th of October. He asked for a copy of our current public liability insurance documentation. PW to send email.

Jane Osborn mentioned that Lane End have started their lunches and coffee mornings so is hoping the meetings can be added on but has concerns about transportation for people in the

area. Joann Thornby said she would be happy to help out where she can and please contact her.

Frank Carrie introduced himself and explained that he and his wife had returned to the area and was looking for some groups for his wife to join. Lots of information given by attendees.

Linda Richards explained that her group have relocated to a hotel for their meetings, she has around 30 attendees and has a Marlow venue too now at Liston Hall on Wednesday mornings concerned about attendance due to people being nervous following the pandemic.

Stuart Smith CSPA (Civil Service Pension Alliance) informed the group that like BOPAG the CSPA recognised the problem of Digital exclusion and was increasingly aware of the need to focus on inclusion rather than exclusion. The aim should be to equip and empower older people to make use of a powerful and helpful technology rather than assume that the solution was to maintain the old ways of doing things.

There was no further business, the AGM was closed, and the assembly resumed a general informal discussion.

2021 Meeting dates - face to face meeting Friday 19th November 10am

Any Other Business - The Golden Years Free Information Day was mentioned, and PW encouraged all to come along next Wednesday 10 -2pm drop in. Leaflets given out.

The meeting closed at 12.00hrs