

BEVENDEAN COMMUNITY PUB AGM

Minutes

1st October 2015

1. Attendees, apologies and quoracy

Attending:

Babarba and Paul Loman, Jonh Dean, Ian Tatum, John Jaap, Daphne Pavey, Alan Pavey, Kate and John Lawson, Ken Valder, Sue Duncan, J Monsoon, Pam Kivia, Ray Metcalfe, John Marchant, Warren Carter, Jim Fry, Terry Blake, Pearl Brown, Jenny Adam, Shane Speed, Steve Adams, Shirley Knight, Alice Howe, Simon Lefer, Bruce Demainestone, Adam Muirhead, Matt Clay, Brigit Clay, Steve Buston, Peter Hartley, Father John Wall, Lee Osborne, Andrea and Bokarr Nife, Donna Ricks, Karina Moron, Jenny Hawke, Matt Armstrong, John Graham, Patrick Paragells, Adam Dorrington, Maxine Joesph, Mervyn Elve, Tony Cimino, Connor Elve, Dan Yates, Chris Pobjoy, Danny Crutchley, Bob Smith, Mark Smith, Lee Turner, Max Turner, Daren Davies, Mime Parsons, Stephen Judge, Lloyd Stafford, Aly Cannell, Matthew Wilson, Catherine Senger, Matt Williams, Heike Feldpausch, Catherine Eden, Georgina Mills, Dave Beale, Bill Murray, John Horsfield, Malita Dennett, Craig Jones, Phil Jacobs, Emma Fitz, Lyndsey Adams, Linda Robbins, Paul Barrett, Adam Dalling, Laura Perry, Helen Jones, Nicoli De Conde, Scott Hortop, Sam Meaden, Amanda Nicholas, Dave Fellows, Phil Mumford, John Williams, Michelle Guyatt, Carly Teah, Matt Teag, Iain Chambers, Tracy Hill

Apologies:

Geoff Earl, William Thomas, Ruth Harrison, Ben Duncan, Felicity Davies

With 89 members present the meeting was declared quorate

2. Minutes from last year's meeting.

Last year's minutes were presented and agreed.

3. Management committee

Natasha Kilsby, Catherine Senger and Karina Moran all resigned during the year. Committee would like to thank them for their commitment and support.

Remainder of the previous committee voted back on.

Additional committee members approved:

Iain Chambers

Peter Hartley

Adrian Towler

Committee now:

Warren Carter (Chair), Helen Jones (Secretary), Father John Wall, Michelle Guyatt, Lee Osborne, Jenny Hawke, John Horsfield, John Williams, Peter Hartley, Iain Chambers, Adrian Towler

4. Chairs report

Warren Carter outlined the progress since our last AGM:

"Thank you for coming tonight to the first Bevy AGM where we are actually open. After nearly 5 years of boring everyone who would listen about how it would be great to re-open the Bevy as a co-op pub, I often just sit at the end of the bar having a beer or 2 thinking bloody hell we actually did it. A bunch of pig headed bloody minded residents who refused to give up finally flung open the doors just before Christmas. Harvey's horses turned up and duly shat over our freshly tarmacked front drive (which we used for the roses), the press loved the story and we featured on ITV's flagship affairs programme while Father John very quickly made the Bevy the most blessed pub in Britain.

We have already shown that we are more than just a pub with 40 groups using the Bevy – everything from felt making to history groups, WI knit and natter, monthly repair café to our weekly senior tea club, community choir, running club, spiral disability group on a Wednesday our bikers bash BBQ, men and women darts teams, the list goes on. We've also held our first wedding where at one point there were 11 vicars in the house all helping themselves to a Bishops Finger. We have loads more plans for the future including health checks, a garden fayre where we invite you to get pickled in the pub and today is of course our first mini beer festival. We are always open to new ideas for events, especially if you can help organise them, so don't be shy.

It's not all been plain sailing, like any new businesses we have suffered from cash flow problems, building problems, staff problems and talk about bloody management committee problems. Although can I also thank our staff for being such great ambassadors for the Bevy. When we do get it wrong we get it in the ear, but we have a suggestions box for those of you that can write, and actually most of the people complaining do so because they want the Bevy to work as well. It's their pub.

We know that once we can get people through the door they can see our vision for a community centre pub. A village hall where you can get a beer. When we are busy and see people helping clear glasses and plates we know people feel like they are part of it. We recently had people from PWC chatting to punters and it was heartening to hear how much value having somewhere to meet on the doorsteps had – one of them saying it was a godsend, where they can meet people and feel like they are back in the human race.

Now open for 9 months, I've met as many people on the estate as I have in the last nine years – some I wish I hadn't but at least my missus knows where I am now. You can also never quite know whose gonna be in the pub with so many different activities happening.

Getting the Bevy up and running has been like turning around a tanker, but we reckon we have a blueprint of how we can stop the tide of 29 pubs closing a week by making them more than just pubs. We have spoken to people from Rosehill, Cuthbert and Lectern Pubs about re-opening their locals and I have met with other community pub campaigners that are springing up all around the country.

But when you boil it all down, it's about knowing your neighbours and creating jobs, wealth and opportunities that will make Moulscobm and Bevedean better places for us all to live and work. Over a beer of course. Cheers"

5. Secretary's report

Helen Jones also set out details about the vision and ethos of the Bevy:

The Vision and Ethos & Why did I get involved?

I got involved because I like the idea of a local community space where everyone's welcome. As a group, we agreed that what we wanted was for the Bevy to 'be more than a pub' and to offer something for everyone from kids to grandparents and to feel that this is THEIR place, somewhere they feel comfortable, safe and welcome and have a sense of ownership.

Quote on the Phone Co-op website sums up where we were /are coming from

"Our project is about power in the hands of people. We are trying to say that things don't have to have a massive profit margin; they don't have to be run by big directors; they can be run by people like you and me. And we can achieve what we want by coming together and having a say in things not being told what to do but deciding co-operatively what we want to do"

So, as well as a place to drink and eat our vision was of a place to meet, hang out, hold meetings, run groups and activities, and to embrace what local people want to see whether that's a pigeon fanciers group or lunch club, a running group or a repair café and a place to meet your neighbours and feel part of the neighbourhood and in this respect as I've said to lots of people lots of time – the Bevy is really a back to front Community Centre!

It provides space and resources for a wide variety of groups and individuals as well as having the very serious job of running a community business in the shape of the pub and café

And this is why I got involved at the second ever meeting in St Andrews Hall in October 2011 when I ended up sticking up my arm and agreeing to be secretary when no one else wanted to. At the time we were a campaigning group and I was involved in all sorts of things from taking minutes, constituting as a group, talking to the council, going to meetings, working on the prospectus and Share Issue, being interviewed and filmed for the Council funded film by Homegrown Films, talking to Jo public when you came to open days, helping run Pop Up Bevy's at fund raising events and even a local wedding!

It is important to stress, that I along with the rest of the committee have NEVER earned a penny let alone a pound from the hours, weeks, months and years we have all spent in various ways working to breathe life into what is now your local community pub and cafe! And we have done it alongside our full-time jobs, families, partners, children and homes

So it has been a journey and one that has required us to adapt along the way. Like I said B4 we started out as a campaigning group four years ago. Now though we're actually up and running and in rather a different position – responsible collectively for a community business, 'the first Community Pub on an estate in the country' in fact!

So what I want to say is that things have changed – we're open – we're no longer campaigning – and THAT IS a great achievement, the fact that we're all here now with beer flowing and full up on chilli! It is a great achievement and there are still plenty of challenges and hey no one ever said it would be easy..

So to finish I wanted to say two things – one is that in changing from a campaign group to a grown up community business requires different things from a committee. Running a business is much more serious and the skills people need are different. That's not to say many of us won't be staying on board and working on specific sub-groups such as marketing or finance. BUT we do now need to look for people with specific and relevant business skills and some of us will be stepping down to make room for others with the skills and experience to steer the project through the next part of the journey..as I said we will still be around.

So the second thing I wanted to say is it seems to me that this journey is like a relay race with different people involved at different times to do different things. Now we're at the point when some of us will be passing on the baton to others who can offer the relevant skills, experience and time

Because it does get tiring, you do start to flag, it's not always possible to keep up the same level of commitment to a voluntary project because things in life change... which is where the relay race comes in – why it's so different running a community business. We've come a long way and still have a long way to go and it is time to hand over the baton to people with to people who not only have the skills but who are fresh, enthused and energised. So I want to say DON'T BE SHY, come on board – stand as a committee member if you have specific and relevant skills, join a sub group OR just join in when you can – there are lots of one off jobs – a few hours delivering leaflets or putting the marquee up or down...

Lastly to continue this analogy of the Relay race I want to say that just as important as the runners is the audience – they race wouldn't exist without them and without their support. PLEASE continue to support us – be our critical friends – we know things are not perfect and the staff and committee members alike are working to make things work, iron out the mistakes and deal with the many obstacles along the way to create a pub café and community space we all want to use

We need you, our customers and share-holders to be our Critical Friends and tell us what is working and what isn't in a non-blame way – a way that fosters positive communication and works towards solutions not just moaning about what doesn't work and what went wrong. Help us find ways of fixing things – get involved because this is ALL OF OURS.

6. Accounts

We could not present the full accounts to the board.

It was agreed by members that under Rule 6.2 of the society's rules, the society would not require the next year's accounts to be audited and did not appoint an auditor, subject to the requirements of the Act.

The meeting was adjourned until full accounts are presented to management committee