

TVRA AGM Minutes

Thursday 5th September 2024

Attendees

A register of the attendees was taken of which the TVRA has retained for its records. Councillors Karen Rampton and Matt Gillett were also in attendance.

Chairman's Report

It is with great pride that I present the Chairman's Report for the past year, summarising our activities, achievements and the challenges we have faced together as a community.

Community Activities and Achievements

Over the past year, we have successfully organised several events that have brought our community closer together. Our children's and adults' Christmas parties were a resounding success, with good attendance and positive feedback. The children's party was particularly joyous, and the adults' event provided a great opportunity to socialise with fellow residents. I am pleased to announce that, in collaboration with Bournemouth University, we will be hosting another children's Christmas party on December 1st organised by our events coordinator Carrie. We are also in discussions with L'arte for the adults' Christmas event too and will let you know a date in due course.

Although these events, as outlined in the Treasurer's Report, ran at a financial loss, I want to emphasise that their purpose was never to generate profit. These events are about bringing our community together, providing enjoyment at a subsidised rate and fostering the sense of unity that makes Talbot Village special. The benefits we gain as a community far outweigh the financial costs.

In addition to our festive gatherings, the Meet Up, Clean Up events have also been a great success. These initiatives have not only helped keep our village tidy but have also strengthened the bonds among residents who share a common goal of maintaining our environment.

The committee has also been actively reporting various incidents on behalf of residents to key stakeholders, including our Ward Councillors, BCP Council, the Police, Bournemouth University, and Arts University. Most issues were resolved, some more promptly than others. Recently, we addressed an unauthorised encampment by informing Talbot Village Trust and Dorset Police. While our Councillors responded swiftly, there was an unfortunate delay from the Police. As a result, I wrote to the Police and Crime Commissioner, who visited me to discuss the situation and ensured that future incidents will be handled more efficiently. I also liaised with Fowler Fortescue, the new agents for Talbot Village Trust, to discuss enhanced security at Highmoor Farm to prevent further unauthorised access.

In terms of reporting matters, while we are more than happy to assist, it is best practice for residents to report issues directly to the relevant authorities as soon as possible and the TVRA can step in if further help is needed such as the graffiti issue that needed an MP's intervention!

The TVRA secured funding for two new community noticeboards, which serve as vital communication tools for the village. Unfortunately, our efforts to progress with these noticeboards have been delayed due to complications with BCP, who initially confirmed ownership of the land, only for us to later discover issues with this claim. I am committed to resolving this matter promptly so that the noticeboards can be installed and serve their intended purpose. We have also engaged with local businesses who have kindly provided TVRA members with a discount on presentation of the membership card. A list of these businesses can be found on our website which was created by Matt and updated regularly by Nick.

Community Advocacy and Planning Issues

One of the most significant challenges we faced this year was the planning application submitted by Talbot Village Trust and Nuffield Health to build on Highmoor Farm. This proposal sparked considerable concern within our community and the committee worked tirelessly to support the many residents who opposed it. I attended numerous meetings and engaged closely with our three efficient ward Councillors Phil, Karen & Matt, Nick Dobbs and our neighbouring residents association in Talbot Woods. I attended the planning committee meeting and was permitted to speak on behalf of the village. Collectively we objected to the application which was refused. However, this led to an appeal by the applicants which prompted further meetings and eventually an Inquiry where I was permitted to speak again, yet despite our best efforts, it did not conclude in our favour. Nevertheless, we did not stop there. I sought assistance and secured funding through the Environmental Law Foundation for a Barrister to review the Inspector's report. Regrettably, the review found no grounds for a Judicial Review, as there were no procedural errors by the Inspector.

While we may have lost this battle, our commitment to protecting our environment remains unwavering. We will continue to work diligently to ensure that the developers adhere to the Section 106 agreements, which are legal obligations ensuring that developers contribute to the community by providing public facilities and services as part of their planning approval.

Ongoing Challenges

In addition to the delays with the noticeboards, we have encountered significant issues with the replacement of the bus shelter on Fern Barrow. The primary challenge has been the lack of communication and updates. Unfortunately, BCP lacks the funds to replace the bus shelter and we are now waiting for the conclusion of a long and protracted police enquiry concerning the RTC and subsequent insurance claim. Until these matters are resolved, the replacement of the bus shelter remains in limbo.

Future Goals

Looking ahead, we have several exciting initiatives planned for the coming year. We are working to secure funding for cycle racks and a community defibrillator, both of which will significantly enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and visitors to the village. I believe one of the key objectives of the TVRA is to foster a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the university and residents, particularly given the strain that past University expansions have placed on this relationship. We are beginning to see improvements but I believe there is much more we can do together.

After a meeting with Layne Hamerston, I have written to the new Vice Chancellor, Professor Honour, as I envision an initiative where universities and communities collaborate closely to promote health, wellbeing and social cohesion.

“CommUNlty - Bridging Knowledge and Community for a Healthier Tomorrow.”

This initiative could include joint events, educational programs and community outreach activities that emphasise the importance of working together to improve overall quality of life. Examples of this could be:

CommUnity First Aid Sessions. I have already requested the use of a room at the university to hold two first aid sessions, one a paediatric first aid session for parents the second a more generalised one featuring heart attacks, cardiac arrest, strokes etc. These sessions would teach essential life saving skills to residents, equipping them to respond effectively in emergencies.

Bi-Monthly Health and Wellbeing Talks featuring guest speakers from BU or local organisations covering a wide range of health and wellbeing topics, such as mental health, nutrition, fitness, cyber crime. ‘Tech Help for Seniors’ would be most welcome, where students could offer workshops teaching older residents how to use technology, including smartphones, social media and online health resources.

Discounted BU Sports Facilities Access

Community Volunteer Programs where students and staff from Bournemouth University could engage in service projects within Talbot Village. We are currently in discussion to organise the painting of a mural on the walls of the underpass which would tell the story of Talbot Village and hopefully discourage graffiti.

Environmental Health Projects encouraging students and staff to participate in the ‘Meet up Clean up’ events to enhance the area we live in.

I am also writing to the Talbot Village Trust to request a meeting to discuss the possibility of a small community building that we would be able to utilise for a variety of different events such as those I have discussed and other community groups. I feel it would be an appropriate time for the Trust to give something back to the very community it was founded to help. I will of course update you with any significant updates.

In order to achieve this and much more, we will most likely have to seek charity status which we have looked into previously, however would be far more achievable now with these goals for the future. Charity status would significantly enhance our ability to serve the community allowing us to access additional funding opportunities and collaborate more effectively with organisations. I believe the potential for collaboration between Bournemouth University and TVRA is vast, particularly in areas

related to health and wellbeing. By working together, we can create initiatives that benefit the university by providing valuable real world experience for students and the Talbot Village community by building a stronger, healthier and more connected community.

Secretary's Report

Since the last meeting, TVRA has seen significant growth in membership. We have reinvigorated membership and welcomed new members, bringing our total membership to 208 households. This increase is attributed to our recent community outreach efforts, including door-to-door visits and social media campaigns, with special thanks to the stellar efforts of Membership Secretary Nick and additionally framework for managing membership by Matt.

Communications with residents have been maintained through our regular newsletter, emails, and regular updates on our website and social media pages. We have received positive feedback about the relevance and helpfulness of the information provided. Updates were given to the increased and renewed membership numbers supported by a new inventorying of the estate and digital membership list.

Treasurer's Report

Other matters

There were complaints about overhanging vegetation and greenery both on private land and on council owned land. Chair Jo Keeling advised that where this was council owned, reports could be put into BCP to cut back where infringing on footpaths etc, and this had been done with some success around Fern Barrow in last few months. Certain greenery and hedging was not cut by council during bird nesting season. Where issues were on private land Cllr Rampton advised that private landowners were still under obligation to manage their trees etc so as not to obstruct public walkways and could be compelled to do so by the council. Residents of Cutler Close complained about overgrowing greenery obstructing pavements. One resident mentioned overhanging trees from the Wallisdown Road side of the village encroaching into their property. Chair will take up with BCP, where possible, others were also welcomed to take action. Residents were reminded that they should not wait for action from the TVRA for incidents especially when of an urgent nature. The BCP have a reporting system available for residential matters which can be used by all.

Chair Jo Keeling shared thoughts and potential future developments for the TVRA and how this could be used to shape the health and wellbeing of the residents. This included making the best of future development outcomes from TVT's successful appeal for the development of Highmoor Farm. Ideas were proposed for a community room which could be used for residents and other community groups and would enable use of its own space to hold talks, wellbeing events or meetings of the TVRA.

Guest Speaker

Nick Dobbs gave a fascinating insight into what inspired him to become a naturalist, from his upbringing and early interest in flora and fauna, through to meeting Gerald Durrell himself (and some choice insights into the famed author's character!)

Members of the TVRA gave special thanks to the hard work of Chair Jo Keeling and the committee for the work achieved this year.

Closing Remarks

It has been an honour to continue representing the Talbot Village Residents' Association as your Chair. I really hope that you are pleased with the work that the new committee has accomplished in its first year. We remain committed to advocating for the interests of our community, organising events that bring us together and addressing the challenges that arise with determination and perseverance. I want to take this opportunity to thank the committee members for their time and dedication to help achieve everything we have. I would also like to thank our Councillors, Karen, Matt & Phil for their assistance and advice. This year has been tough with the planning saga and you have all been a considerable help. Thank you all so much. Special thanks to Bournemouth University for hosting the AGM and supplying refreshments at no charge to the TVRA. Layne Hamerston and his team have been most helpful to the village, helping significantly to foster a positive relationship here in the village. This is a great sign of things to come.

Last but by no means least, thank you all (residents) for your continued support. I look forward to working with you all in the coming year to make Talbot Village an even better place to live.

Signed L. Simpson

Signed J. Keeling
