

SOULBURY MILLENNIUM GREEN

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Registered Charity No 1070738

Minutes of Meeting inc AGM 8 July 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Those present:

Nigel Kemal	Chairman
Wendy Taylor	Treasurer/Sec
Alan Stevens	
Geoff Kiddle	
Carla Bennett	

1	Previous minutes and matters arising	Action
	Minutes of the last AGM (3 July 2023) agreed as correct, ratified and signed by Nigel. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2024 were also agreed as correct, ratified and signed by Nigel. Matters arising: plaque for the Miller bench now on order.	
2	Chairman's Report	
	OFFICERS: Chairman - Nigel Kemal, Treasurer/Secretary - Wendy Taylor. Committee Members: Alan Stevens, *Vic Wright - Resigned 26/4/24*, Richard Caplan, Carla Bennett, Geoff Kiddle, (6 committee members). Sadly, we have lost two important members of the SMG Committee who feel they are unable to serve due to work and other commitments, although both still play an active part with Soulfest sub-committee planning and organisation meetings. We thank Michele Nicholas and Vic Wright for their past valued service and now seek to recruit two members from our community serve on the SMG Committee. 01/07/23 - Soulfest 2023 was,unfortunately, cancelled due to organisational difficulties with acquiring suitable bands and agreeing available dates. 10/09/23 - Picnic in the Park was supported by 79 residents who were entertained by the Heath Band and our resident DJ Scotty Isaacs. Despite the afternoon weather being changeable, we still managed to realise £98.00 profit on the event through donations, food, teas and bar sales. 04/11/23 - Fireworks Night was very well supported, aided by neighbouring Stewkley cancelling their display. The event trialled new entrance arrangements, segregating cash and electronic payments into two queues which worked very well. We also trialled the addition of childrens' fairground rides as an additional attraction with the bungee trampoline proving very popular and was well received. The local funfair donated £70.00 towards the event and provided lighting at the entrance gate. After consulting local livestock and animal owners, it was agreed to use low noise fireworks, although there was an extra premium cost involved. The event raised a much needed profit of £2,385.01, particularly after the cancellation of Soulfest, our other main fund raising event.	

09/12/23 - Christmas Singalong held at the Parish Hall organised by Alan Stevens was enjoyed by all and raised £80 donated towards SMG funds. Many thanks Alan.

30/03/24 - Easter Egg Hunt was very well attended by local families with 16 children participating in the treasure hunt. Despite trying ground conditions, this community event raised an incredible £92.49 through voluntary donations and tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake sales.

06/06/24 - D Day 80th Anniversary was organised Alan and the Social Club and held on the village green by the beacon. The event featured fare prepared to wartime recipes by local residents and live wartime music provided by keyboard pianist David Philips, with Cheryl, a new incoming resident leading us in wartime songs. The Boot Inn provided us with a mobile bar facility on site. The village beacon was lit by Roger Rolls at 9:15 pm in common with other beacons. A lovely time was enjoyed by all, with many tasting wartime food recipes for the first time in their lives! The event raised £452.00 which was donated to The Royal British Legion. Many thanks to all who helped organise and contribute to a successful community event.

22/06/24 - Soulfest 2024 really set Soulbury on the map this year with great music, lovely food, quality tea and coffee provided by House of Coffee, a local coffee roasting bean business, a mobile licensed refreshment bar supplied by Brickhill Cricket Club, and bungee trampoline, inflatable bouncy slide providing childrens' entertainment. The focus of the event was to provide a safe and pleasant location where we could showcase local bands providing good music for all to enjoy, whilst accommodating children/family entertainment, and providing suitable fare and refreshments to cater for most tastes. Many people I have since met spoke very favourably, providing positive feedback on all aspects of the event, with several stating how well they enjoyed it and was the best one ever! The revised layout with the bands playing towards the upper end of the meadow was well received by all. This enabled us to accommodate the childrens' entertainments, face painting, tea and coffee s, bar refreshments, barbeque/salad bar food in the lower field and didn't interfere or detract from the musical performances. The added bonus was having BBC 3 Counties Radio roving reporter, Luke, in attendance plugging Soulfest, the SMG, Soulbury and really putting Soulbury on the map. Well done Scotty for arranging this! I believe the event was attended by around 300 to 400 people, with current updated indications leading us to expect to realise a profit of around £3,800 to £4,200 which will be confirmed when financials are finalised.

A special thank you to all volunteers who stepped forward in assisting on Friday afternoon/Saturday morning with the site set-up and providing help with manning the activities, baking cakes, providing raffle prizes and those generous souls that helped sponsor our running costs by way of charitable donations. Lastly, a big thank you to all on the SMG Committee and Soulfest Planning Sub-Committee for their valued time and effort in making this a very successful event greatly appreciated by all.

FUTURE EVENTS:

02/11/24 - Firework night planned date.

FUND RAISING: We generate funds for SMG through planned events, marquee hire and 100 Club Lottery.

	SITE INFRASTRUCTURE: Earlier this year we replaced and upgraded the children's play area wooden fencing with bespoke metal fencing and self-closing gate. We have also recently spent funds on upgrading our onsite electrics further, by extending the power line to a new post on the other side of the spinney, to be nearer the fireworks site area for future ease of use. The enlarged hardstanding by the entrance gate has now been completed. Tarmac was completely unaffordable and was subsequently completed using Type 1 Road Stone aggregate, dry laid and compact rolled level for £3528.00 incl. VAT with BG Construction Services. This work was completed just prior to Soulfest. We are planning to extend the existing pathway to create a circuitous route round the SMG to make the area more accessible, particularly for those with mobility issues and also for all during wet boggy ground conditions. We are also planning for a semi-permanent sheltered area for future bands and concert use. A feasibility study will get underway to combine the two proposals which we may be able to attract funding for with S106 monies from Bucks Council and possibly our Community Board (a potential funding source). Work on the pond liner has been halted due to excess water from the recent wet weather and is awaiting dryer weather conditions before resuming.	
3	Treasurer's Report	
	Current account balance as at 8 July 2024: £12,645.02 Balance as at financial year end: £8,740.00 Petty cash: £49.01 Bucks Lottery: £8.00 July 2024 For year ending 30 April 2024 total income from Bucks Lottery is £92 down from previous year of £104. Andrew Wood, CGMA, again audited the accounts for us. He commented finances are in a good place and financial reporting still remains good. A gift was again given to Andrew as he does not charge for his services. A small nett profit was recorded for year ending 30 April 2024 of £103. Last year this was a small loss of £355. The bank balance as at the financial year end was £8,740.00 and is an improvement on the balance reported at the 2023 AGM. This is due to some successful events, donations from residents via standing order, increase in the take-up of the 100 Club and expenditure for years ending 2023 and 2024 being very similar ie £7,107 and £7,199 respectively. Utility costs increased from £354 to £577 again due to the increased price of electricity the country is experiencing. The Treasurer did comment that she felt Good Energy are not cheap and were in place due to their 'green' credentials. It was agreed to look around at other providers, ie Octopus, as they too have 'green' credentials. The depreciation charge is £1,157 with is a slight increase due to trimmers and a DJ mixing desk being added to the SMG's assets. The final net book values for the SMG is land £38,061 and fixtures and equipment £2,976 giving a total of £41,037. Wendy circulated the depreciation spread sheet to the committee as requested at last year's AGM. The Account to 30th April, 2024 were also circulated to all present. Treasurer asked that an Asset Register be created with serial numbers etc.	

4	Election of officers	
	Nigel agreed to stand for re-election as Chairman of the Committee. Geoff proposed that he be elected, Alan seconded this and the motion was unanimously carried. Wendy agreed to stand for re-election in the role of Treasurer and Secretary. Carla proposed that she be elected, Alan seconded this and motion was unanimously carried.	
5	Work in progress	
	a: Pond: needs draining so liner can be cut - hardcore and soil can then be moved. Still to be done but at present it is full of water so will probably have to wait until next year when it has drained. b: Gate hardstanding: BG Construction Services completed the job before Soulfest - just!. c: Concrete base with several uprights in the ground over which marquee type sides and roof can be added: to make life easier when organising events as it is not always possible to get enough people to put up and take down the marquees used. It has been suggested that the path on the SMG be extended to create a circuitous route round the SMG making it easier for the less abled to see more of it. Several of the committee have walked possible routes for this but it was decided to wait until after Soulfest to see how the new layout for that works and that will help with siting the concrete base and path. These two projects are in very early stages at the moment. d: To do list amended. Alan suggested the seasons be taken out and just have a list. In the absence of Richard some items were removed as they were known to have been done but could not add anything new.	
6	Events	
	22/6/24 - Soulfest An initial debrief took place. Wendy was unable to give a final figure as there are still some unknowns. She was asked for the costs for the Brickhill Cricket Club bar which for 2024 was £650 as against 2022 being £261. Wendy will look at the breakdown for 2022 and see how it compares with 2024. Discussion took about the amounts the stall holders are donating to the event. They were in place on the basis of donating a percentage of their takings and the net amounts are paltry. It was agreed that the basis should be a pitch fee upfront of £100. It was felt that this would make them work harder to encourage business during the event. A P&L was asked for when final numbers are known. It was agreed to meet for a detailed debrief with Scott, Michele, June and Vic in The Boot. Nigel will arrange this. 20/7/24 - Marquee hire for wedding. Confirmed they need both off site. Price agreed is £150 each and the hirer will be responsible for transport and erection plus safe return. A new marquee has been ordered so there are now two good ones for this hire. Alan and Nigel agreed to let it go the site wrapped as it arrived from the seller. This does assume it comes with no omissions. 24/8/24 - Marquee hire Off site. 2/11/24 - Firework Display Agreed to ask The Boot to provide bar at £200 for the pitch. Agreed a ticket price £5 so TicketSource can be set up in good time for the event as it worked well for Soulfest.	Wendy Wendy Nigel

7	100 Club	
	The 100 Club prize is again £25.00 for 2024/25 Draw was completed for July: The winner is: Oliver Storey	
8	Public participation	
	No-one was present.	
9	Any other business	
	Need two more people to the committee. An altercation has ensued between two dog owners and two dogs. Felt to be a storm in a teacup. 3 gates go onto the SMG from gardens half way up the righthand side of the SMG . One has been added recently. Noted and Parish council will be asked to write to the householders. However, Nigel and Alan will have a look accompanied by Richard to ascertain full extent of the issue as we do not believe anyone has right of access to the SMG from their properties, particularly as it appears they use the gates to bring their garden rubbish in, create a bonfire for the SMG volunteers to deal with and have to fend off objections for the resultant bonfire burning.	
10	Date of next meeting	
	The date of the next AGM is 14 July 2025. The date of the next meeting is 9 September 2024 as there will not be a meeting in August.	

Meeting closed at 20:50 hrs

Distribution: Those present + Richard Caplan, Michele Nicholas

To Do List

- Dig drainage trench from work out zone pathway to pond (maybe)
- Wood chip pathways as and when possible - ongoing
- Continue to fill in 1/3 of the pond
- Continue cutting back overgrown Willow by bins
- Cutback Hazel
- Rebuild work area fence.