

Friends of Burton Bradstock Library
General Meeting on Thursday 15th. May 2008
8 P.M. in Village Hall

Apologies for Absence: Mr. R. Froy, Mr. & Mrs D. Naylor, Mrs S. Spencer-Smith, Ms E. White

Current Situation

The chairman reported briefly on the current situation

Recruitment to the Friends of Burton Bradstock Library (FBBL) had been very satisfactory. There were 133 members, 41 Patrons and 1 corporate member (The Village Society) giving a total membership of 175. 36 members had indicated that they were prepared to volunteer to work on the Library Desk, 26 to help fund raise, 12 to help with maintenance and 13 with cleaning.

Purposes of the FBBL

There were two arrangements between the Dorset County Council (DCC), the Burton Bradstock Parish Council (BBPC) being negotiated and one arrangement between the BBPC and the FBBL.

The FBBL is doing 'due diligence' on the costs of running the library building and the BBPC is having a building survey done. When these actions are completed satisfactorily DCC will grant the BBPC a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent in return for which the BBPC will assume responsibility for the cost of running the building for the library service.

The BBPC will then enter into 'A Community Use Agreement' with the DCC to allow the building to be used for the library service.

The BBPC will also enter an agreement with the FBBL under which the latter will undertake to fund raise a substantial fraction of the cost of running the building and to be responsible for the maintenance and support of the building.

Finances – We have done very well so far. With a very generous anonymous donation of a £1000, plus Patrons donations and membership fees we have raised £2900. With Gift Aid tax rebates this will give us well over £3000. This is important in that it gives us time to think through and plan our annual fund raising.

It is worth while to say something about the advantages of Gift Aid. About 80% of the Patrons ticked Gift Aid and about 56% of members. This is really worth while if you pay Income Tax. It does not cost the donor anything extra (if you pay tax at the 40% rate you can claim 18% tax relief on the donation) while FBBL can claim 28% (until April 2011 after which it goes down to 25%) tax rebate on the donation. If you did not tick the Gift Aid line on your membership form, and change your mind, please let us know and we can amend the form.

Library Service

FBBL will enter into an agreement with the Central Library Service to provide volunteers to assist the Library Service to operate the Burton Bradstock library for 10 hours per week when the 'official' library service is reduced to 6 hours per week, the so-called 'core hours' (some time after September 2008).

We plan to provide 2 volunteers per session and do 2 sessions per week. Thus we need 4 volunteers per week, a total of 16 per 4 week cycle, plus 4 'back-up' volunteers to cover illness, family problems and holidays i.e. 20 volunteers in total.

The Library Service is still formulating the training programme, but given that a number of other libraries will need to have their volunteers trained, we propose to select an initial 10 volunteers. When they have been trained and are functioning smoothly on a 2 week cycle basis, we will put forward the second 10 for training. When this group is trained we will phase them into the service so that we end up with each pair of volunteers working a session every 4 weeks.

As far as can be seen, the 'core hours' will not be introduced much before the end of the year.

It needs to be emphasised that we will be assisting the Library Service, who have the legal responsibility to provide the service. Hence we will have to observe their procedures and regulations.

Proposed Constitution and Rules for FBBL Charity

We want to turn the FBBL into a charity because this will enable us to claim an 80% reduction in the business rate on the building and claim 28% rebate those donations given under Gift Aid.

The proposed Constitution and Rules were made available on the Burton Bradstock Web pages (courtesy of Tim Linford) and hard copies were placed in the library. The Working Group much appreciate the efforts of Geoffrey Seward who took a template from the Charity Commission Web site and adapted it to be suitable for the FBBL. We are also grateful to Sandy Adderley and Ian Wigglesworth who helped him with the proof reading. Sam Smith, the Parish Council solicitor, looked through it for us, and clarified the Objects after a discussion between Mike Southgate, Archie Mackie himself and Bob Hynds.

There were no objections and M. Southgate proposed that the Constitution and Rules be accepted. This was seconded by G. Pritchard, and passed unanimously.

Election of 5 Trustees

The chairman explained that the constitution required that we elect 5 trustees. This was a slightly tricky area as we are a new organisation, so relatively unknown to each other. The Working Group had therefore recommended that we propose 5 members of the Working Group, who were familiar with the tasks that we needed to deal with in

the next few months. The trustees are elected on an annual basis, so next year we would have the more usual proposals for trustees from the membership.

This was accepted by the meeting. The chairman therefore proposed the following 5 members as trustees:

Sandy Adderley
Bob Hynds
Carolyn James
Maureen Miller
Ian Wigglesworth

He also said that as we had a lot of work to do we would need to co-opt some additional FBBL members for specific tasks e.g. Sam Van Zyl to handle the activities of junior members of the FBBL.

A.O.B.

The chairman said that a very important part of the work of the FBBL would be communication with the members. This was a village project and it was important that members knew what was happening and when. Information would be put up on the Burton Bradstock web pages, and in hard copy form in the library. Notices would be put up in the Post Office and the library when information was available, and those members on e-mail would receive it on-line.

There was a question and answer session, during which it was confirmed that volunteers to work on the library desk would need to have a CRB check, but that this would not be the extended version.

R.J. Hynds
19.5.08

Note – At a very brief meeting of the trustees after the General Meeting, it was agreed that Bob Hynds would be the Chairman, Ian Wigglesworth would be the Treasurer, and Rosemary Daniels would be co-opted as the Secretary.