

BREDFIELD TOWNLAND CHARITIES – REPORT FOR APM MAY 2017

The Parish Council has the responsibility for the oversight and running of a small charity, Bredfield Townlands. This was originally an early nineteenth century charity established and run by the church, but in 1987 the trusteeship was passed to the Parish Council. The Trustees are drawn from the village and are either serving or former Parish Councillors or Parochial Church Councillors and it has the remit to “benefit the parishioners of Bredfield” and this has been refined into assisting groups within the parish or where it can be demonstrated that it will benefit the village. As the Chairman of the Parish Council, I also have the responsibility of being one of the Trustees.

Money is derived from investments, which are with CCLA Investment Management Ltd – that’s Churches, Charities, Local Authorities – the money being in units in the COIF Charity Investment Fund and the COIF Ethical Investment Fund. At the last meeting, these investments were worth approximately £30,000, although we do have to be aware that as this money is not cash, but investments, which generate dividends. The returns from these investments typically generate about £1,000 each year – this money then goes into the Charities bank account, and is then made available for grants.

The charity’s trustees meet at least once a year. In the last twelve months’ grants have been approved for the Jubilee Meadow and Orchard and the Village Hall totalling £2,440.

David Hepper

Bredfield Village Shop Report to PC 22/05/17

BVS started as a community shop in 1989 and is rapidly approaching a 30th birthday.

In 2007 the shop was re-formed as a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee with five directors including a Chairman and Company Secretary.

We are also supported by a small number of non executive committee members.

Between 2007 and 2012 turnover in the shop increased on a steady scale. It was always envisaged that we would never be in a position to challenge Tesco but it was hoped that a small annual profit would enable the shop to remain solvent and continue serving the community.

However from 2012 to 2016 turnover has decreased by 9% and losses in 2015 were £860 and in 2016 were £1360.

This does not mean the shop is in immediate financial dire straights as we have a cash buffer in a savings account but these losses cannot be sustained indefinitely.

There are probably several reasons for the above but a changing demographic in the village with older villagers moving or passing away and younger people either unwilling or unable to shop locally is a likely explanation as well as supermarket online shopping with it's attendant local delivery.

Of course our limited opening hours will always be a major constraint but this matter has been discussed by the directors on numerous occasions but unfortunately with our limited volunteer workforce increased hours is unlikely to become a reality.

Finally I would like to make it clear to the PC that I have given notice to my fellow directors that I propose to resign from my position as chairman of the shop at the end of 2018 at the latest and that this is non-negotiable.

Tony Bishop BVS CIC

Bredfield Bowls Club

Parish Council Meeting

Milestones :

- **Membership has increased** - three membership bands introduced :
 - o Social (8) Non-League Players (3) Full Members (38)
 - o Increased visibility of the Club; leaflet drop, 'open days', 'give it a try' days, webpage

(thanks to Anne H), and postings on 'Street Life / Nextdoor' (social, community network)

- **Regular hosting of the Village Quizzes.**

o Increasing interest and awareness of the Club. • **Improvements to the Grounds :**

o new shed, reduced height of the hedges (a literal increased visibility of the Club !!). New Picket fence in front of the Pavilion. In the process of building a sheltered area on to the side of the shed, to replace the Gazebo.

- **Hosting the new Wednesday Open Pairs Tournaments**

o Played over next four months.
o May's fixture cancelled due to waterlogged Green (after 7 weeks without rain !)

- **Continuing our participation in Leagues :**

o Ipswich (Mondays & Wednesdays); Woodbridge (Tuesdays).

- **Staging three invitation Open Triples Tournaments.**

o Have now secured sponsorship of over £400 to support these Tournaments.

Charlie Reed

Village Hall Management Committee Chair's Report

In the last year the Village Hall has been repainted, and the floor and carpet have been cleaned. The foyer was also repainted, new carpet tiles laid and a new notice board and set of shelves for the accident book etc put up. We also have new tables and the Mr D'Arcy kindly purchased the old ones.

Outside the hall we now have a new key safe, which makes it easier for regular hirers. The trees and surrounding foliage have all been trimmed. So all in all, the hall is looking smarter and cleaner.

We now have online banking, which again has improved our service to our customers and is much more efficient than cheques and cash. We hopefully will have a new website soon, thanks to Paul Hutson and Stephen Cook, which again will make the system more efficient and people will have a better understanding of the what a great space it is.

We now have a proper constitution and all members of the committee are trustees of the charity.

The VHMC accepted an offer for Groundworks East to carry out an audit as part of the 'Thriving Community Buildings Project' funded by the District Council. Their report confirmed that the hall was well used and maintained. It made a number of recommendations to assist the Committee with further improvements.

We are going to refurbish the kitchen in August, and have received a grant of £8216 from SCDC, Bredfield Townlands Charities have pledged £1620 and we have applied for grants from Suffolk County and Adnams

We also have a plan afoot to build a 'conservatory' type extension on to the building, which would house the bar and then make the bar into a small meeting room.

One of the successes of the last couple of years has been the new play area which is very well used and much appreciated by all the parents with young children in the village.

In order to make all the improvements we do need to keep fundraising and this year we had StringFillies, a quiz night, carols and ran a bar for Phantom of the Bantam of the Bantam of the Opera. We also had a lovely birthday party for the Queen's 90th, which we paid for jointly with the Parish Council.

We do need more people in the village to become involved in the running, maintenance and fundraising for the hall and we would also like a few more people to join the trustees. Bredfield Village Hall was built by the village and I think it is important that the village is involved in all aspects of it.

Anne Henderson, Chair VHMC