Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group

Meeting: Wednesday 19 March 2025

Held at The Institute

Chair: Jackie Batchelor

Secretary: Helen Wolf

Present: Martin Bennett, Sue Daldorph, Caroline Ormond

Apologies: Sheila Harding, Marvin Harding, Sharon Capel-Evans, Sean Barker

Item	Notes	Action/ Responsible
1. Apologies & Introductions		
2. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 14th January 2054 were approved.		
3. Open Gardens 2025	Steering group has been formed and members have obtained positive responses for the following open gardens so far: • Walk rounds -5 • Peepovers – 4 • Woodland – 1 This falls short of our minimum requirement of 12, although the deadline is 31.3.25. An email to elicit more positive response to be circulated, Caroline Ormond (CO) to liaise with Sharon Capel-Evans (SCE) and circulate an email by 23.3.25. A meeting of the OG steering committee will be held on 1.4.25 when a decision will be made about whether Bolehill Open Gardens 2025 will go ahead.	CO/SCE to action OG committee to meet
4. Summer BBQ 2025	Dates were discussed by attendees, and it was agreed that the later part of the school holiday would be best. A date of August 31st (the weekend after August BH) was suggested, subject to John Treanor's field being available then. Jackie Batchelor (JB) to check date for field availability with John Treanor.	JB to action
5.BIG Bank Account	Monthly bank charges are now £4.25, and Sue Daldorph (SD) asked if this was financially sustainable. Those present agreed that it was not. SD suggested changing to an online bank (e.g. Monza or Starling) to avoid charges. JB suggested that she also explore Unity Trust, a banking service set up for community led groups. The downside of moving online means that we will need to explore different options when the need for large amounts of change arises. The change of bank signatories request was signed and witnessed	SD to action and advise those present of outcome by email HW to add to next agenda
6. Better Derbyshire Dales Fund (BDDF) Grant	An application for a grant from the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund was submitted to cover equipment costs of £543 on 31.1.25 and a grant of £436 has been subsequently awarded to 'Bolehill History Group (BGH) – a subgroup of Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group' for display related items. i.e.	

	a gazebo, feather flag, Velcro fixings, display boards. The payment has been made to BIG's bank account. The gazebo detailed in the application list was ordered to benefit from a price reduction (£50 discount) and has been received this week. JB stressed the need to check contents, and there is a 30 day returns period. It was agreed that at least four people would get together to check all gazebo items during a partial assembly on a level surface. Caroline Ormond (CO) suggested that this could be done on part of her family's parking space and then stored in their garage. HW to liaise with BHG and arrange a convenient date for 'assembly'. JB suggested that we make all aware of receipt of the award and Helen Wolf (HW) said that an item will be submitted for the next edition of Community Fayre. She added that evidence of purchase and use of the items will be sent to funders and photos (mainly outdoors) will be needed. Helen Wolf (HW) asked whether the feather flag should bear BIG or BHG's logo. Those present agreed that the BIG flag could be more useful and HW noted that a design and wording will need to be submitted to the suppliers. She will talk to fellow BHG member, Jackie Carpenter (JC) and BHG's next meeting on 24.3.25 Remaining items to be bought	HW to arrange date for action HW to invite JB/SD and CO BHG to maintain photographic record of events for BDDF & BIG HW to liaise with JC and BIG BHG to confirm choices and order
7. BIG Storage	As BIG has no dedicated storage space, items are currently held at various private addresses. An inventory of various location needs to be put together. For discussion at next meeting	HW to add to next agenda.
8. Community Project Ideas	The following potential community projects were discussed: **Recreation Ground** Discussion about a possible bench and tree planting. Plans to plant trees are already being progressed by Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) to improve drainage. There was a general acknowledgement that the area is underused. Martin Bennett (MB) pointed out that some residents did not know of the recreations ground's existence and signage is inadequate. Caroline Ormond (CO) said that some play equipment was of poor quality leading some families to use Fanny Shaw's recreation field in Wirksworth instead. Obtaining some household data and the possibility of a survey was raised. JB to contact the council about the maintenance programme. **Recognising Heritage** The possibility of mounting green plaques (the local equivalent of the national blue plaque scheme) on some of Bolehill & Steeple Grange's older properties was discussed as well as the possibility of local interpretation boards. **Dog Fouling** Caroline Ormond (CO) raised this problem and outlined how a local campaign could be run, e.g. by BIG to change attitudes and shape dog owners' behaviour. (CO) has experience of running such campaigns and offered to lead it. This suggestion was agreed upon as the first project. CO will liaise with Emma Mortimer at DDDC.	Discuss at a future meeting Discuss at a future meeting CO to action
9. Spring Litter Pick	Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' is on between 21.3.25 and 6.4.25. The date for BIG's Spring Litter Pick will be on Saturday 29.3.25. Meet at the defibrillator box 10.30. Email to be circulated	CO to action

10. Condition of Roads & Footpaths	Jackie Batchelor introduced Marvin Harding's (MH) roads and footpaths plan which included graphic and photos of problem areas as well as a map. Some present mentioned more spots they thought should be added. It was suggested that adding a text-based report and a number-based key to photos would emphasise community concern about the problem areas More photos will of be taken by other residents (e.g. Sue Daldorph) to add to the document. JB to liaise with MH then Highways Dept. Martin Bennett (MB) reported that contractors for Severn Trent have spent two days working on Bolehill Road adjacent to Parkers Piece on the potholes and the problems now seem to be resolved. This occurred after a 2.5-year campaign and a letter from MB to the chief executive of Severn Trent.	All to note Relevant photos to be submitted to MH HW to add to next agenda
11. Updates from previous meetings (where possible)	○ **Quiz** LO and MH not present. ○ **Garage Sale** LO and MH not present. ○ **Holiday Let Vehicles** MH not present. ○ **War Memorial Maintenance** – Sean Barker not present. ○ **Bolehill History Group -** Next exhibition is a 'work in progress' exhibition about Bolehill Pubs at Wirksworth Library in April. A member of BHG will be present every Thursday afternoon, 2 – 4pm. To be promoted by social media, posters and by email to the circulation list. ○ **Parker's Piece Risk assessment -** discussed at Wirksworth Town Council meeting of 3.2.25 but no official feedback received. Minutes state "…the Town Council does not undertake risk assessments for outdoor furniture." ○ **Benches** Martin Bennett has received no suggestions from residents. No further action. ○ **Speed Limit Signage** – Await outcome of council elections.	HW to add all items to next agenda All to note BHG to promote CO to email posters to list JB to speak to Town Clerk HW to add to next agenda HW to add to next agenda
8. Any Other Business	○ **Website update -** Being scheduled for April. All items must therefore be added by the end of this month. ○ **BIG Mailing list** - Caroline Ormond (CO) to adopt newsletter format for multi-item circulation list emails when appropriate. ○ **BIG Mailing List** - Local councillor contacts lists to be updated following elections on 1.5.25.	Officers to note CO to action CO to action

Meetings in 2025:

Tuesday 6 May
Wednesday 15 July
Tuesday 9 September
Wednesday 19 November

All meetings to be at **Bolehill Institute at 7pm** unless varied nearer the time.