Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group

Meeting: Wednesday 19 November 2025
Held at The Institute

Chair: Jackie Batchelor

Secretary: Helen Wolf

Present: Sue Daldorph, Sheila Harding, Caroline Ormond, Liz Ormond, Sean Barker (left after item 5)

Apologies: Martin Bennett, Lorelei Jarvis

Item	Notes	Action/ Responsible
1. Apologies & Introductions		
2. Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 14 October 2025 were approved, apart from the incorrect date error, to be corrected.		
3. Big Bank Balance	Sue Daldorph (SD) reported that there have been two payments since the last meeting leaving a current balance of £4,430.	HW to add to next agenda
4. Community Projects	<u>Say No to Dog Fouling</u> Caroline Ormond (CO) will deal with the printing and distribution of flyers and posters soon, and the Ormond family will devote Friday mornings to the project e.g. checking for and reporting dog fouling incidents. CO will check the number of reports from local residents with Derbyshire Dales District Council. CO to submit an article to Community Fayre for the spring edition. <u>Recreation Ground</u> Check what has happened to the accessible swing. JB to report back. If the same swing is not to be returned, a 'basket swing' would be preferred. <u>Post Office Booklet</u> There has been limited progress since October's meeting, but Liz Ormond (LO) thinks that a revision could be ready to submit to BIG for proofreading by Christmas. Possible outlets for sale have been discussed, such as BIG and Bolehill History Group events, Wirksworth Book Festival and perhaps Hestia, the new book shop. A further two quotes should be sought, and local (e.g. Ashbourne) and online companies were mentioned. <u>New Proposals</u> ○ Sue Daldorph (SD) mentioned the free young tree plants offered to communities but the seedlings Woodland Trust. However, it was noted that that there is little public space where saplings can be planted. ○ A shrub was proposed to complement the planting (Robina, Brunneria) on the Parker's Piece bench border. Some options were discussed and Sheila Harding (SH) offered to investigate further at local Garden centres (e.g. Hudsons, Scotland Nurseries).	CO to action HW to add to next agenda JB to action LO to action All to note SH to action HW to add to next agenda

5. Updates from previous meetings (where possible)	Local Flood Warden – Sean Barker (SB) reported that a property on The Lanes was flooded at the weekend, when rainfall volume probably overwhelmed drains. Their neighbours were not flooded, perhaps as a result of recent structural work. A flood warden could help to put a flood plan in place. One of the two people previously suggested will not be able to take on the role, but SB will approach the other. Bolehill History Group (BHG) - Met this month when a proposal for an informal spring 'get together' (as suggested by visitors to the summer BBQ display) was agreed. Liz Ormond (LO) is to arrange a date with The Institute. Tea and cake for the event was also suggested. The evaluation for the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund grant is due in January and will be completed by BHG. Unsafe parking - Marvin Harding (MH) not present but, speaking on his behalf, Sheila Harding (SH) reported that while there are still some issues, an improvement has been seen since a 'No Parking' sign was put on the rail on Chapel Hill. It was proposed that holiday let cottage owners without easily accessible parking spaces be contacted to ensure that parking restrictions are made evident at the point of booking. BIG assets inventory - A current (today's date) list of BIG equipment, materials, and their locations as well as additional loan sources was provided by Helen Wolf (HW). To be amended as items and people move. Footpaths and potholes – Liz Ormond, (LO) Caroline Ormond (CO) and Sheila Harding (SH) all reported these and Derby County Council (DCC) marked them in yellow for repair. When the repair team came it could not find the markings so left. LO will take photos to send to DCC. Bolehill Walks – Jackie Batchelor (JB) to liaise with Sue Bradbury about the walk's information used for holiday cottage users. Caroline Ormond (CO) knows of a local kids' trail which she will access. BIG Website update – Richard Daldorph (RD) may have some time to update the website from Joomla 3 to Joomla 5 over the next few weeks. With his own time limited, RD would be happy to hand over management and hosting of the BIG website to someone else. Discussion followed about the BIG website's footfall and whether an alternative to a website might be appropriate and easier for non-specialists to manage, although it was noted that archiving and accessibility of minutes could be problematic. Caroline Ormond (CO) will investigate further. War Memorial maintenance – Wirksworth Town Council (WTC) needs a third quote for repairs but have not found an appropriate concrete specialist for listed buildings. The 20th Century Society https://c20society.org.uk/contact-us were suggested for advice. Verge Overgrowth on Oakerthorpe Rd. – Liz Ormond (LO) showed all the petition to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) had been started and 22 signatures obtained. However, DCC are prescriptive about petitions and ask that their own template be used https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/site-elements/documents/pdf/council/have-your-say/new-petition-template.pdf At least 100 signatures are needed before DCC will consider matters raised by petition. Other ways of achieving a satisfactory outcome from DCC were discussed and the Safer Roads for Wirksworth Group was mentioned. Caroline Ormond (CO) will contact a known local member, Huw Randall, for further advice.	SB to action HW to add to next agenda. BHG to action HW to add to next agenda All to note LO to action JB and CO to action HW to add to next agenda CO to action SB to action LO/CO to action
6. Future events	Christmas Carols Sheila Harding (SH) and Jane Benson will lead the carol singing on Friday 19 December. The use of The Institute has not been confirmed yet, but Jackie Batchelor will contact The Institute. If it is is not available, SH and Martin Harding (MH) have kindly offered to be hosts. SH and MH to provide the mulled wine, Liz Ormond to supply the carol sheets, JB to provide chocolates and mince pies. Flyers and posters are being printed and will be delivered with Community Fayre by the team and emailed by Caroline Ormond (CO).	All to note JB/SH/MH/LO/CO to action

	AGM Date is expected to be 27 or 28 January 2026, subject to approval by The Institute who are to confirm all meeting dates. Jackie Batchelor (JB) has resigned as Chair, to take effect after the AGM. The AGM agenda must be made public least 2 weeks before the meeting. Sue Daldorph (SD) pointed out that she agreed to be Treasurer for 2025, however, if no-one else is willing to take over, she will continue in post. Caroline Ormond to continue as Communications Officer. Helen Wolf to continue as Secretary. Some possible candidates were mentioned at the meeting, and JB and CO will draft an email appealing for volunteers to take on the Chair and Treasurer role. 2026 Activities Suggestions: ○ A quiz at The Institute ○ Garage Sale ○ Litter picks ○ History get together ○ Ragwort pulling ○ Remembrance Sunday ○ Christmas Carols ○ A Bolehill & Steeple Grange Local History Walk led by the U3A Local History Group, suggested by Sheila Harding (SH). BHG are happy to support.	All to note All to note JB/HW to action JB/CO to action All to note SH to progress with U3A
7. Any Other Business	General e-issues Thanks to extra training from Richard /Daldorph (RD) Helen Wolf **thinks** she has now mastered the task of adding minutes to the website. Several people did not receive e-copies of October's minutes, but it was noted that the previous Communications Officer, Sandie Weekes (SW) had intermittent problems with the email circulation list and may be able to help.	CO to contact SW

Meetings in 2026: TBC

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