

## The Othona Community

### Annual General Meeting

held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at the Parish Hall, St Michael & All Angels, Turnham Green.

#### MINUTES

Present: Sheila Maxey in the chair; Pat Price-Tomes and Margaret Lydamore acting as secretaries, and about 50 other members.

1. Sheila opened the meeting with **prayer**
2. **Welcome and Outline of Meeting:** Sheila outlined the format of the meeting, welcomed all present, and spoke of Richard Armstrong's serious illness and conveyed his love to the meeting. Pat Price-Tomes had been Acting Community Secretary since Richard had had to withdraw. A card for Richard was made available for those present to sign.
3. **Apologies for Absence** had been received from Clare Marshall, Laurie Tuckey, Brenda Motley, Flavia Miller, Richard and Trish Mulkern, Jennie Knight, Carole Atkins, Harry Titley, Marge and Geoff Langwith, Margaret James, John West, Vera Higginson, Tina Seckleman, Kate Mulkern, Polly Leonard, Laurence and Margaret Whitford.
4. **The minutes** of the AGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2006, having been laid round, were unanimously agreed. There were no matters arising.
5. Presenting the **Annual Report and Audited Accounts** for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006 (copy in Minutes Book), Roger Pygram, treasurer, explained that the Charity Commissioners had changed requirements re the format of accounts. 2005-6 had, like the preceding year, been tough financially. Some general funds had been transferred to Bradwell to help with the changes there. The major proportion of expenditure under 'Governance' had been recruitment for the Bradwell Manager, and under 'Furniture and Equipment', new offices, WC for disabled people and signage at Bradwell. Burton had replaced a car with another secondhand vehicle.  
  
In response to a question, it was agreed that bed-nights at both centres (they are recorded at both) be made available in future.  
  
Elizabeth Sayers proposed, Tim Fox seconded, and it was agreed unanimously, that the Report be accepted.
6. **Election of Treasurer:** Roger Pygram had been proposed by Robin Stallard, seconded by Tim Fox; agreed unanimously.  
  
Sheila mentioned that Roger wished to relinquish this role.
7. **Election of Community Secretary:** Pat Price-Tomes had been proposed by David Williams, seconded by Jan Marshall; agreed unanimously.  
  
Sheila explained that Pat did not wish to take on the Community's insurance, which Richard had undertaken in addition to his Community Sec. duties. A volunteer was needed. Tony Sinden's offer to take this on was gratefully received.
8. **Appointment of Auditors:** Roger Pygram proposed the reappointment of Tiffin Green; agreed unanimously.
9. **New Rules for Election of Executive Committees:** Sheila introduced the new system agreed by the Trustees and outlined on a paper which had been laid round (copy in Minutes Book). It was received with general assent. In response to a question, Sheila explained that the functions of these committees are laid down in the Trust Deed.
10. **News from the Trustees:** Sheila briefly introduced all the trustees, emphasising that they are all members of the Community. She expressed appreciation of all that is given to the Community by all its members, particularly (sometimes sacrificial) financial giving. She reported that the Othona website is being

re-designed, that Christine Cox (membership secretary) is working on a membership database for improved communication – the information is for use by trustees and the two Centres only; willing members are urged to let Christine have their email addresses as soon as possible. Sheila encouraged members to ‘spread the word’ about Othona and the good things offered by the Community – new members are vital. Audrey Day’s thanks to Sheila for all her work for Othona were endorsed by a round of applause.

11. **News from the Centres:** *Bradwell:* David Williams, Centre Manager, began by expressing warm thanks to all who have helped and contributed to the running of Bradwell during his first few months. He needs, and the centre does its best to act on, feedback from visitors. Once they have visited, people like Bradwell, and David urged members to tell and bring people, and to tell him of any organisations who might bring groups – he will be glad to visit such organisations to ‘sell’ the centre. The website is currently being developed.

Jonney Aldridge reported on a successful Summer. A wireless internet connection has been installed on the stoup and new play equipment will shortly be in place. The profile of volunteer training has been raised, in particular by inclusion in the programme. A working weekend 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> March will focus on refitting, fence repairs and pruning. Information can be found in the e-zine and the MSN website – a buddy system operates for people who are not on-line. He stressed that ‘bursaries are there to be used’.

Ann Froggatt, speaking on fundraising, explained that the fundraising committee, which has 6 members, is benefiting from consultancy from Sheila Maxey’s husband Kees. The committee seeks to raise Bradwell’s profile as well as funds. First priority is mains electricity, next replacement of Bank, then other developments agreed in the original 1990s plans, and they hope to raise half from members, half from outside bodies. Fundraising events have been held and more are planned. Members should have received copies of the Business Plan and associated leaflets, the result of much hard work. She asked members to suggest any possible donor organisations to Ruth Bull who is now employed to fundraise. The committee offers many ideas for fundraising to members who would like to participate. A ‘contact cascade’ is planned once members’ agreement has been ascertained.

*Burton Bradstock:* Tony Jaques, Warden, directed attention to the notes which had been laid round (copy in Minutes Book). He explained that Harry Titley, who should have participated in the presentation, was unwell. 2<sup>nd</sup> hand furniture and electrical goods in working order are needed for the refurbishment. The re-launch has proved a boost to energy and morale. A new website is in process here too.

12. **Date and venue of next AGM:** 16 February 2008 at St Michael and All Angels

13. **Community Feedback.** The following points emerged:

- a) Fund raising from outside the Community had, in the past, proved very difficult. Members need to be prepared to give, and to encourage other members to do so. The Trustees are not yet intending to apply for lottery funding.
- b) David Williams hopes, but considers it unlikely, that the gap between expenditure and income at Bradwell will be closed this year.
- c) Members were assured that the Community website is being completely redesigned and that it will, of course, have links to the two Centre web-sites.
- d) Although some members consider en suite accommodation an unnecessary luxury, consultation at Bradwell had shown that visitors do want it. Bradwell is trying to respond to what people want in any new building – e.g. young people had actually asked for a common room for where they could be noisy without disturbing people – no one was trying to push them away.
- e) Community members with relevant skills are assessing the new recruits for Burton by particular criteria.

The **concluding act of worship** led by Bob Whorton was followed by tea and socializing.