



**Minutes of the Breaston Community Forum AGM meeting
28th November 2017**

Present: Julie Rowlinson (Chair), Heather Wrigglesworth (Vice Chair), Jean Lupton (Treasurer), Corinne Poland (Secretary), Peter Hampshire, Helen Elcock, Peter Pepios, June Robins, Dave Bramwell, John Skinner, Dean Keeling, Noel Cook, Richard Cook, Janice Cope, Andrew Kay, Ania Stanley, Robert Parkinson, Anita Haylett, Mark Haylett, Susan Toon, Kevin Miller

Apologies: Chris Smedley, Katy Paterson, Emma Thomas, Julie Simpson, Rebecca Wilkins, Arnold Dixon, Graham Elliott, Nicala O'Leary, Tony Prior, Pat Baker, David Down, Helen Percival, Margaret Gregory, Karen Pykett

Item	Notes
1. Welcome	Julie welcomed everyone to the AGM and explained the purpose of the meeting
2. Chair's report	<p>This year has been even busier than last year which is a good sign as it means that things are happening in the village.</p> <p>We have held 2 more very successful quiz night in the Chequers, both times we were oversubscribed and made approx £400 for fund raising.</p> <p>We held our first Yard sale in April which was also a success. Around 70 residents paid to be on the map and it was great to see lots of people wandering around the village with their purchases. We were really lucky with the weather too.</p> <p>For the May day gala we once again sold Bunting and on the day we circulated and handed out free packets of seeds for children to sow.</p> <p>Of course in the summer we were all very much involved with supporting Breaston in Bloom. Many of our committee are also 'Bloomers'. We were very keen to make the entry a success as it is all aimed at improving the appearance and community spirit of the village, something that of course is also the Forum's aim. I am sure you are all as proud as we are the Breaston in Bloom achieved such a high award - a Silver! We are pleased to announce that we are also receiving a Mayor's Award next month for our work in the Community.</p>

	<p>The Yarn bombers have doubled their efforts this year and have excelled themselves. They produced a marvellous display to support In Bloom by surprising us with daisies outside the Co-op and on Main street and then just recently with another stunning poppy display for Remembrance day. Next year I believe they have something even more elaborate up their sleeves for the celebration of 100 years since WW1. Better get making poppies now!</p> <p>Our 4th Pumpkin party went down a storm with even more excellent entries, dancing and music and the sale of hot dogs this year. Worth all the hard work by the organisers I'm sure you will agree.</p> <p>We now have Christmas looming and the Forum will be once again putting decorated Christmas trees in the Memorial garden and lighting the front of the church and the trees outside the Co-op. It was hoped that this year there would be new brighter lights outside the church which we have been encouraging the Parish council to provide this year, but unfortunately the logistics have meant that we will probably have to wait for next year for these. Some people also bought brackets through the Forum this year to put up trees on the front of their houses.</p> <p>Our publicity has improved also this year. We have continued to issue the new look newsletter to every household, but our Facebook page has also become much more prominent and informative. We also have plans to make improvements to the content on our Breaston.info website, courtesy of the Webmaster Jonathan Lupton.</p> <p>It remains for me to thank our hard working Committee - Corinne, Emma, Heather, Helen, Jean, Julie, June, Katy , Peter H, Peter P. Also Jill & Graham Fisher for their publicity and Facebook support, Jonathan Lupton for his varied help over the year, Kate & Duncan here at the Chequers for the use of their pub on many occasions, and Nicala, clerk to the council and the Parish Councillors who have always been behind us. To the newsletter delivers who do a sterling job 4 times a year. And of course family of the above and the Breaston residents.</p> <p>I apologise if I have missed anyone or anything in my report. Anyone who knows me will know that my memory is not one of my strong points!</p>
<p>3. Treasurer's report</p>	<p>Jean provided a copy of the annual accounts, as of the end of July the forum had £1236.58 in the account. Jean reported she has been overseeing two separate accounts this year, one for the forum and one for Breaston in Bloom. In future, Anita will be dealing with income and expenditure for Breaston in Bloom and keep records, and will pass this information on to Jean.</p>

<p>4. Election of officers</p>	<p>All existing members of the committee were re-elected. Corinne has decided to step down as Secretary due to family commitments, Julie thanked Corinne for her hard work on behalf of the forum and invited anyone who is interested in this role to contact her.</p>
<p>5. Breaston in Bloom</p>	<p>Dave Bramwell provided an overview of the 'in bloom' competition, highlighting that one of the criteria is community participation, which can include other forum activities. He also stressed the importance of fundraising and suggested approaching businesses individually. Dave also suggested focusing on a few specific priorities over the next 10 years, rather than taking on too many projects. He also recommended trying to develop a creative portfolio rather than a list of activities. Other suggestions included linking in Bloom to rainbow/brownie achievement badges, including music at events as this draws crowds and not getting too disheartened by negative social media comments.</p>
<p>6. Ideas</p>	<p>Julie then opened the meeting to all attendees and invited any suggestions for the future of the forum.</p> <p>Mark suggested starting committee meetings with a 15 minute 'open meeting' so that others could attend and share ideas.</p> <p>John suggested inviting local groups to write a contribution for the forum newsletter to help develop links locally.</p> <p>Mark recommended approaching the school about building a greenhouse, Dave suggested that this could be built using pop bottle lids.</p> <p>Helen suggested that the in Bloom group could offer support for the school's gardening group</p> <p>Noel suggested aiming to have a forum representative for each road, similar to a residents association.</p>

Date of next meeting – to be confirmed