



Minutes of the Binsted Fete & Flower Show AGM – 8pm - 8 November 2024 – The Sports Pavilion, Binsted

1. Attendance

The following committee members were in attendance:

- Matthew Arrowsmith (Chairman)
- Aimee Macleod (Creative director)
- Susan Forrester (Joint Dog Show Organiser)
- Sarah Womersley (Sponsorship secretary)
- Findlay Sinclair (Photography competition organiser)

In addition, the following volunteers and local residents were in attendance:

- Graham Jones
- Tammy Yates
- Tulia Forrester
- Sam Young
- Chris Moore (President)
- Pam Smith
- Lester Corney
- Dennis Smith
- Cathie Weldon
- Mark Weldon
- Jason Ralphs

2. Apologies

Apologies were received and passed on from:

- Alix Arrowsmith (Stalls Organiser)
- Kim Butler (Joint Dog Show Organiser)
- Linda and John Kenward (On-the-day treasurer)
- The Croom-Johnsons
- Sue Clarke

3. AGM Minutes from 2023 and Accounts for 2024

The minutes prepared following the 2023 AGM were circulated and noted by those in attendance as being a true representation of the event.

The accounts for 2024 were circulated to attendees for their information and consideration.

4. Chairman's Introduction and tabling of draft Constitution

Matt introduced himself and welcomed attendees.

Having displayed the draft constitution for the Binsted Fete Unincorporated Association at the meeting, Matt went on to explain that the committee feel that it would be sensible - and helpful for future funders and committee members - for the Fete committee to adopt a simple form of constitution advising people what the Fete committee do, what the objectives for the day are and how monies and meetings of the Fete should be managed.

Aimee MacLeod formally proposed that the Constitution should be adopted by the Fete committee, and Chris Moore seconded the motion. Matt agreed to the adoption and that going forward matters of the Fete committee would be conducted in accordance with the Constitution.

5. Chairman's Report

This year, I'm going to keep my summary very brief, and mainly just say lots of thank you's.

Kim & Susan alongside their awesome families and friends put on another amazing dog show. The dog show continues to bring in huge numbers of attendees and forms an integral element of the day.

I would like to say a big thank you to Sarah, who not only is a huge part of the planning for the fete, co-ordinated all the sponsors, and then on top of this, stepped in and ran the Flower and Produce Show on the day.

Findlay's second year on Photography went even better than his first. He's definitely feeling more comfortable in this role and we are very grateful for his hard work.

Aimee for her continued drive to make the fete more beautiful every year! Her work on the black boards and across the site make it the wonderful event that it is.

Thank you to Alix who sadly can't join us tonight who, this year alone, has built an all new website, been the joint brains with Sarah in organising everything down to the make-up and location of stalls, and kept the accounts - all whilst making it look effortless.

This year, I was sensible and took Friday off work, I was joined by the workhorse pairing of Stephen Tarrant and Alex Ellvers. Alex did an amazing job of restoring A-frames and trestle tables. What a difference having the Fete container has again proven. Stephen and I, with great help from Toby, managed to pull together lots of other physical aspects - even repairing Ron's driveway!

Thanks to Bentley Church for the loan of their PA system. We again had two PAs this year which allowed Rock Choir and the Stringalongs not to disrupt the Dog Show!

A huge thank you to Judith and John Stephens, as well as the Binsted Inn, for the loan of their fields for the day, and for the Rotary Club to handle the parking with aplomb - as despite having two car parks, we still were 1 in 1 out by about 2.30.

Talking of cars - I hope you all got a chance to see Monty's wonderful Rolls Royce up close. We were very fortunate to be lent it for the Fete. Thank you Mark Weldon for organising this treat.

Big thanks also to Amy G for her excellent Dog Show and Fete photography (there is a link to her photos on the website), to the Rock Choir & Alton String Alongs for performing and to the Milk Club and Loos for Dos for supporting the Fete with supplies and equipment at no cost.

We would also like to reiterate our sincere thanks to Jo and Chris Moore for their very generous donation of around £1,000.00 earlier in the year which was used to purchase an all-weather high quality gazebo for use by the Fete and other local community organisations. This made a huge difference to the Fete and will be widely appreciated we know by other organisations in the future.

I have a full list of Volunteers to be recognised and thanked in the minutes. The Fete Committee would especially like to recognise all the help and support Stella and Andrew Croome-Johnson have given over the years. They have been a fixture of the tea and cakes for many years and we hope that next year they will enjoy actually visiting some stalls as will be stepping down from their role in the tea tent going forward. Perhaps they will enter the produce competition next year!

Other volunteers who must be thanked and noted include:

Entrance	Anne Shelley, Ann Mann
Grand Raffle	Sarah Womersley & Sarah Baker for contacting local companies and gathering prizes. On the day - FOBS - Michelle, Caroline, Marie, Sarah, Aimee, Jenny, Rosie, Alex, Kerry
Tea Shop & Whole Cakes	Andrew & Stella C-J, Alan Shelley, Catherine Hadfield, Sam Barrow, Fiona
Bouncy Castle - Small	NA - donations only
Facepainting/ Craft	Messy Church - Cathie Weldon, Angela Dunne
Bouncy Castle - Obstacle Course	Stephen Tarant, Alex Ellvers
Beat the Goalie	Binsted FC - Sophie Robinson
Bar	Geoff Clark, Scott Sanderson, Tony De Sousa, Ant Yates
Flower Show	Sarah Womersley,
Photography Comp	Findlay Sinclair
Welly Wanging	Jason & Tash Ralphs
Dog Show	Kim, Susan and their band of many helpers
Tractor Rides	Mat Miles (Hawbridge Farm)
BBQ	Paul & Debbie Brooks, Sue Hodder, Ben Hinshelwood, Robin Warnes, Claire Burdett
Tombola	Graham & Sheila Wright
Hoopla	Vicky Sanderson, Dennis Smith
Bottle Tombola	Alex Winkworth and her helpers
Plant Stall	Lisa Wallis Adams
Second Hand Books	Lisa Wallis Adams
Coconut Shy	Nial Dunn & Barry Spicer
Parking	Alton Rotary Club

Floater	Venetia Ellvers
Money Man	John Kenward
Set Up/ Take Down Help	Hugh Ross, Stephen Tarant, Alex Ellvers, Chris Moore
Signage & Styling	Aimee
Stalls Co-ordinator	Alix Arrowsmith
Chair	Matt Arrowsmith

The event would be nowhere near as successful if it didn't have the support of a whole array of local stallholders and sponsors as well. Our thanks in particular go to the event sponsors for both the Fete and the dog show:

Main event sponsors:

Martin Cashmore
Mint Condition
R A Croft
Bentley Joinery
Bliinx Eyecare Studios
JB Architecture – who sponsored the Petting Farm
Aerworx
Moore Dumper Hire

Dog show sponsors:

Browns of Alton
Helping Hounds - free
Snazzy swimmers
White Horse Alton
Savannah's sunbeds
Groovy grooming
Vincent Tool Hire
Cassidy's Bar
Kings Farm Estate
Caravan Tressie
Sid & Lola
Progressive Dog Training
Mint Condition

6. Report on accounts

Matt read out the finance report which had been prepared by Alix Arrowsmith:

“After last year’s AGM, we were thrilled to be able to donate a total of £3,075 to 14 local charities and good causes, helping a wide range of groups in the community including Binsted School, Holy Cross Church, Hive Helpers, The Border Collie Rescue Centre, Alton Women’s FC and Holybourne Cricket Club. I think we can all agree that being able to help fund such important causes in our community is one of the main benefits of putting on such a fabulous fete!

Looking at the overall summary of the finances, the 2024 Fete absolutely smashed the 2023 takings in the majority of areas. In total, it is very exciting to announce that we took a total of £11,230 in pre-event and on the day takings. From that, we made an amazing £6,010 profit.

The Entrance took £964 of donations and as we only ask for the adults to pay, I think that we can assume that we had a footfall of over 1,500 on the day.

Our other big earners, the BBQ and Bar, did fantastically well. Having learnt from last year, where we overstocked both the bar and BBQ, we decided that it would be better to sell out than have an excess of stock at the end of the fete... little did we know that we had to put in an emergency call to Hands of Rowledge asking for an additional 100 burgers after only an hour of opening! Thank you to the BBQ team for handling this and ensuring the smooth flow of burgers and hotdogs throughout the Fete, taking an incredible £2,087!

The bar also sold out and so we will think about ‘backup’ options for drinks, buying on a sale or return basis to ensure we can serve drinks throughout the fete, without incurring large costs for unsold items.

Other highlights include the Grand Raffle which took £985, the Tea & Cake pavilion which made £866, the Bottle Tombola which made a very healthy £800 profit and particular note that the plant stall took an amazing £175, a massive £116 more than last year!

Another huge “thank you” to all of the Local Businesses who support and take part in the Binsted Fete every year. The Commercial Stalls brought in £479.50, the Local Business Sponsors raised £750 and the Dog Show Sponsorship added £292 to the final total.

Although it is brilliant to make such fantastic profit, our main aim for the Binsted Fete is to create a family friendly, traditional village fete with activities and entertainment for everyone to enjoy, no matter their age or how much money they spend.

The Flower, Produce & Photography Competitions, the Dog Show, and the Young Entrepreneur Village are not the biggest earners, but are so important to making the Binsted Fete unique and inclusive. We also feel that it is important to provide free activities such as the Tractor Rides and Petting Farm, as well as having the team from Messy Church offering facepainting and crafts.

As always, we are very open to suggestions of how we can improve the Binsted Fete and so if you have any thoughts or ideas, please do share them with the team tonight or at future committee meetings.

Looking forward, we currently have £8,840 in the bank. From this, we would like to maintain a £3,000 buffer in the bank to cover the pre-event costs of next year’s Fete.

We also need to replace a few essentials in the store cupboard - notably a new gazebo after one of our old ones broke and some more heavy duty bunting - so propose that we re-invest £1,840 into equipment.

Therefore, we propose that we can donate up to £4,000 to the local charities and good causes that have applied this year.

7. New volunteers

Sarah Womersley explained to attendees that the team were now in need of new volunteers to take on leading roles for the following areas of the Fete:

Raffle – collect prizes, prepare prizes and display, order and sell the tickets in advance and run the stall on the day. Sarah Baker from Isington helped for 2024 which was a huge help. Graham Jones kindly then agreed to take on this role for 2025.

Teas Tent – a massive thank you to the Croom Johnsons and Tammy for many years of help but they wont be able to assist for 2025 so we are looking for new team members.

Flower Tent – Carol Blunden expressed her willingness to help run the Produce tent during the 2024 judging, which the team will follow up on. We now need a Flower Show and Craft Show team.

8. Distribution of funds

The attendees discussed how the Fete has previously helped some great local and regional good causes. Matt detailed for the attendees each of the requests for funding which had been submitted ahead of the meeting for consideration.

The meeting heard from several representatives from various local organisations as well as local residents who wished to nominate others and it was suggested that the following donations be made, all of which were agreed:

*subject to confirmation after the meeting that the football club took proceeds of at least £100 on the day of the Fete. If not, the Fete committee will top them up so that their total income from the event was at least £200 overall.

Organisation	Specific project funds requested for	Nominated By	Donation Amount
1st Bordon Rainbows	Parachute	Aimee Macleod	£75
ACT (Action & Compassion for Tanzania) https://act-tanzania.org	Helping people of the Mtwara Region of Tanzania	Findlay Sinclair	£225
Alton Pumas Football Team	Tour	Susan Forrester	£225
Binsted Community Fund	Emergency funding for Binsted residents		£450*
Binsted School	2023 Art Project Outdoor Tile Display	Aimee Macleod	£250
Binsted Football Club	New equipment - goals, gazebos & team kits	Nicky @ Loos for Dos	£100 *
Blacknest Fields	Volunteer Outdoor Shelter	Sarah Womersley	£500
Butterfly Conservation Project, Bentley Station	Fundraising	Milk Club	£50

FOBS	Replacement of IT	FOBS	£500
Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance	Fundraising	Alton Stringalongs	£100
Hive Helpers	Minibeasts Club	Erica Evans, Susan Forrester and Sarah Womersley	£300
Holy Cross Church	Building Upkeep Church Bells	Cathie Weldon	£500
Monty's Grave	Maintenance	Mark Weldon	£150
Saving Abandoned Fly Grazing Equines, Crowthorne	Fundraising	Kim Butler	£225
SUDEP (Sudden Unexpected Death from Epilepsy) Action	Fundraising & Raising Awareness	Roger and Sandie Scrivens via Nick Upshall	£100
Tennis and croquet club	Maintenance - ring fenced funds from 2023	Graham Jones	£250
		TOTAL	£4,000

9. Election of Committee for 2025 Fete & Flower Show

The Chairman noted that under the new Constitution, current committee members no longer needed to be formally voted in again. No resignations had been received ahead of the meeting which was brilliant news and therefore all committee members would remain elected for the 2025 Fete.

Matt asked whether any other attendees were keen to formally join the committee and the following persons were nominated and seconded with their approval to join the committee:

Sam Young

Tammy Yates

10. 2025 Fete & Flower Show Plans

The Chairman confirmed that it is proposed that the date for the next Fete & Flower show will be 12th July 2025.

11. Any other business

Attendees were pleased to hear about upcoming plans for the Binsted Christmas Fair and other local craft fairs.

12. Closing of meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.