

Bledington Community Shop Limited  
Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting  
Bledington Village Hall: 10.00 am on 10 October 2016

**Committee members present** : Michael and Robin McCulloch (Co-chairs), Ben Woodward, Heather Pearson, Andrew Packe, Penelope Leather, Benjamin Ball, Peter Davies, Ali Mackesy, Rebecca Allen.

**Apologies:** Sigi Lang, Paul Dickson.

**BCSL Members and Visitors:** Marco Abbate, Louise Angus, Marek Belinski, Caroline Bond, Keith Brown, Terry Cross, Stephen Guy, Mal Huff, Louise Jackson, Nicholas King, Alice Leaman Brown, Emma Leaman, Jonny Leaman, Angela Lear, Pat Mardle, Dorothy Pearson, Sylvia Reeves, John Stow, Gillian Truslove, Sheila Truslove and Hugh Valentine, and others not listed.

1. Michael McCulloch welcomed villagers to the meeting.
2. **Minutes of the 2015 AGM** were approved: proposed by Angela Lear, seconded by Jonny Leaman.
3. **Co-Chairs' Report:** Michael McCulloch thanked all those in the village who had contributed in various ways to the furthering of the shop project during the year, naming many people individually to indicate the breadth of contributions made. He explained that as we have not yet acquired the funds necessary to embark upon building the shop and café to the existing design, the Management Committee has decided to investigate alternative, simpler, and less costly ways of getting a shop and café up and running. His Report is attached.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Ben Woodward circulated copies of the Annual Accounts, year ending 31 March 2016, for both Bledington Community Shop Limited (BCSL) and Bledington and Foscot Community Association (BAFCA). Copies of both are attached.  
  
In his remarks, Ben Woodward thanked Michael and Robin McCulloch for providing new impetus and ideas to the shop group. He then gave a clear explanation of the difference between BCSL and BAFCA, and outlined the details of these accounts, the monies raised, expenditure and the funds in hand.
5. The **Annual Accounts** were adopted: proposed by Angela Lear and seconded by Nicholas King.
6. **Independent examination of Accounts:** Michael McCulloch explained that, as approved at the 2015 AGM, BCSL's turnover in 2015-16 was not enough to require independent examination. BCSL was working with the Plunkett Foundation to identify a potential auditor for next year.
7. **AOB:** Penelope Leather outlined the details of the next fundraiser, a Safari Supper on 26th November 2016, and asked members to sign up to attend and encourage other residents to do so.

8. **Concluding Remarks:** Robin McCulloch reported the Plunkett Foundation's assessment that the most successful community shops are in similar sized villages to ours, which was very encouraging to learn. She stressed that although there are currently 260 members of BCSL, about 52% of Bledington villagers, it would be better if we recruited more members and requested that everyone at the meeting encourage their neighbours to join if they had not already done so. A copy of her remarks is attached.

9. **Informal Question and Answer Session:** Michael McCulloch welcomed both questions and advice from members. Several questions were asked about when the shop will be opened; whether a smaller more temporary structure could get one started; and how that would affect the shop's footprint and costs. Residents near the site asked about how the site could be maintained to a better standard, and several offered to help do this if BCSL could provide some material support. There were requests that the notice board be kept up-to-date, that members be called 'stakeholders', that greater recognition be given to donors, particularly where BCSL sought contributions from local businesses.

Approved.....(Date)

Signed.....(Co-Chair)