

Minutes of the Berwick St James Parish AGM on 9th May 2007 No. 23

Apologies for Absence

Ailsa Bush, Leanne Street, Henry Colthurst, Mary McDermot and Olivia Marchant. 19 people attended the meeting.

Ian West

Having been re-elected it was good to see Ian West and Colin Mills attending our meeting. Their alternative plan for the A303 passing Stonehenge by dualling the road is the most popular with the locals and Wiltshire councils except Salisbury District Council. As he and Colin Mills were attending two meetings Mr West was asked to give his update before we followed the agenda.

It seems that their plan will only be considered if the main plan fails. Planning for the Stonehenge Visitor Centre has been given with conditions. Only if the tunnelled route goes ahead can the Centre be built with the land train.

One Council. No District Councillors, except those at Trowbridge, think that one council for Wiltshire will be more efficient. Robert Key and other MP's such as Michael Ancram strongly wish to make their disagreement known. SDC is at present building a new council house but this will have to be put on hold until July when a decision will be made about one council.

Both Councillors were thanked and then left.

Minutes of the Last Meeting and Actions Arising

The Minutes were approved and signed. No actions arising.

Election of Officers

Diana Gifford Mead proposed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk should be re-elected en bloc and the Meeting agreed. Proposed and seconded by Nicky Street and Gill Brasher.

Accounts for 2006/07

Those present each had a copy of the Accounts for 2006/07 and they were read and approved. Proposed and seconded by Ian Fisher and Veronica Sumner.

Neighbourhood Watch and Police

Our PCSO team is headed by PC Wyeth, Telephone number 0845 408 7000 Extension No. 747817. His number is automatically re-routed to our nearest local Police Station out of hours. Ian Fisher and Richard Brasher are going to meet him to ask for suggestions for the overhaul of our Neighbourhood Watch scheme which is not working well at present and has not integrated any of our new neighbours. Jean Hibberd asked if PC Wyeth could walk around the village and make himself known to people as very few have met him. Mary Gatling asked if he could be invited to our next meeting. Richard Brasher to contact him and to put his phone number on the notice boards. Tina Woodford to put his number in the Parish Magazine.

Church and Reading Room Fete

The Village Fete will be held on 30th June at Berwick House. There will be a Dog Show and a Photographic Competition – the theme is water – as well as all the usual fun stands and tea and cakes. Tina and Richard volunteered to run the gate. Jackie Webb is in charge of publicity although of her 60 letters asking for prizes 28 have not replied and only Tesco have sent a £10 voucher. Stephen Bush asked people to bring

friends as well as family.

One Council for Wiltshire

As stated earlier by Ian West most people and councillors are against the scheme. Henry Coulthurst wanted us to know that he is strongly opposed.

At present the district councillors' number 245 and this would reduce to 98 and, supposedly, make an annual saving of 15 million but it would cost 18 million to set up. Ian Fisher said it would be sad to lose someone like Ian West who is our excellent point of contact. Richard Brasher will write on our behalf opposing the plan.

Any Other Business

Ian Fisher as Treasurer of the Reading Room Committee asked for a cheque for £250 for maintenance.

Jean Hibberd asked if we could repair the Reading Room notice board as it is a bit wobbly. Tina Woodford asked to contact Chris Snell, CJS Handyman Services Tel: 01722 726721.

Nicky Street asked if we had changed our policy of calling meetings for planning applications. If so would we put planning applications on the notice boards. Mary Gatling would like planning application meetings reinstated and has asked for a debate on this.

Richard Brasher and Stephen Bush will arrange to meet the Head of Planning in SDC to discuss planning applications.

Finally, we have received a letter asking for a No Smoking sign in the bus shelter. Nicky Street said she could supply one as they have to put them all around the farm.