

Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting. Monday, 2nd October, 2017.

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Guests: Darren Henry (Councillor for Till & Wylve Valley)

Total in attendance: 36

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

Action

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone, including Cllr Darren Henry who was elected Wiltshire Councillor for Till and Wylve Valley in May this year.

2.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Barbara Last, Bill Hiscocks, Ailsa & Stephen Bush, Nigel Rodgers, Jane Rowe, Henry & Sophie Colthurst, Wendy & Brian Armstrong, Sarah & Toby Humphries and Kate Wood.

3.

Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Neil thanked both Henry Colthurst and Julian Glyn-Owen for the huge amount of work they did on the A303 and bypass project.

The playground is now closed. The cricket team still haven't decided whether they will continue next season or not. A suggestion is that a team is put together from the three villages to represent the Till Valley.

The Parish Steward has done a really good job of cleaning the village – all jobs were done quickly and efficiently.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed unanimously to be a true reflection of the meeting – proposed by Charlie Street, seconded by Olivia Marchant.

4. Report by Cllr Darren Henry

Action

The Council has issued a letter with its Winter updates, as well as one including updates on road sweeping.

There is an app for smart phones and tablets, called My Wiltshire app. Cllr Henry said it would be good to use the services offered on this app, as jobs can be reported at any time, with the possibility of including a photo of the particular problem. This would speed up the time taken to repair or deal with the issue.

Amesbury Council is has set up a Reward scheme for volunteers in the community. There are 3 categories: Individual; Team or Group; and Under 18. Cllr Henry encouraged everyone to look at the details of the scheme and, if applicable, nominate candidates as a way of rewarding them for their efforts on behalf of others.

Although the decision has been taken on the changes to the existing A303, there needs to be continuing involvement to shape the design and future of the road and associated works. We are all encouraged to take part in a Legacy Group.

5. Summer Fun Day – Olivia Marchant

Neil thanked Olivia for a very successful event.

Olivia said that while there was a small core team worked on the arrangements, it was primarily a community effort, with everyone taking responsibility for their particular activity, from teas and the raffle, to quizzes, stalls and BBQ. The date selected suited most families in the village, so there were children of all ages, several of whom also ran stalls. We were lucky with the weather and the generous auction prizes and bids. She thanked everyone in the village for all the different ways they participated, whether by working in advance of the event, helping on the day, making cakes, puddings and salads and contributing to the auction. A total of £3216.15 was raised. At an open 'event' meeting in June it had been suggested that the funds raised be shared 40% to the Reading Room, 40% to the Church and 20% to the Village Community Fund, following previous arrangements. In view of the excellent total, it was also suggested that the £216.15 be donated to a cancer charity. and the balance of £3000 be shared 40: 40: 20. . James Hardy nominated Marie Curie as the cancer charity. After much discussion, the above division was agreed and Marie Curie is the agreed charity.

6. Website - Neil MacDougall

The current village website was built 10 years ago and needs redeveloping. Neil has found a company that offers free websites and has been doing some work on using this new site for Berwick. It gives all the aspects that we would need. The domain name of the current site can be transferred. People felt it looked good and thanked Neil for his efforts and time on this.

Chairman

7. Planning Applications

When planning applications are made, Neil receives a copy of the application as well as a form to complete and return to the Council. There have been 3 applications.

Rotten Furlong: The Bibbys' proposal can be divided into 3 parts and pictures and diagrams of the different parts were shown to the meeting. If the proposal

is accepted, they would hope to have a reply from the Council by mid-October.

Action

Those in attendance at the meeting fully supported the proposed work.

The Clock House: The Marchants would like to convert an outbuilding they refer to as "The Stables" into a disabled friendly bed/sitting room with wetroom. The only externally visible change would be the reversal of the position of a door and a window.

Those in attendance at the meeting fully supported the proposed work.

Gryphon Cottage: The Lovetts would like to add a porch with a pitched roof to their home, which currently doesn't have a front door. Given that Gryphon Cottage is a listed building, they have taken care to find roof tiles to match the tiles on the rest of the roof and the design would be sympathetic to the building. The planning department doesn't have a problem but the conservation person want it to be a modern structure with a flat roof. Neil said that we, as a village, could object to the modern look, which doesn't fit into the village look. Cllr Henry offered to help, to find out the reasoning and to attend the next area planning meeting with Neil.

Chairman

Those in attendance at the meeting fully supported the Lovetts' original application.

8. **Wiltshire Air Ambulance Fundraising – Dominic Ridley**

Dominic provided some background information to a very good cause, one that could be used by any one of us. The WAA charity was established in 1990 when running costs were £700 000 per annum. In 2015, the charity began operating a dedicated air ambulance service for which the running costs are £3.25m per annum. Any suggestions of things to do would be welcomed, as would our support of any fundraising events. There is a dinner/dance event being planned, possibly for March 2018.

Dominic Ridley

9. **Reading Room repairs – Nicky Street**

The ceiling light above the projector has been damaged and is being repaired.

The wall on the High Street needs to be repaired and will cost around £500.

Changing the position of the entrance needs planning. The application was submitted but was lost by the council. It has subsequently been resubmitted and the committee is waiting for a response.

The roof thatch will need to be replaced at some point in the future and money is being put aside for that.

10. **WW1 Centenary Tree Planting – Ian Gibb**

The trees to commemorate those who lost their lives in WW1 are free. We only need to place a bid and then follow the process. It has been established that there were 6 or 7 people from Berwick who died in WW1 so that is the number of trees proposed to plant.

Those in attendance at the meeting, as a village, fully supported the proposal.

It needs to be decided which species to plant, finalise how many and agree the location(s) by the end of November.

Ian Gibb

All comments can be sent to Neil who will forward them to Ian.

11. Village Diary – Nicky Street

Action

A bottle of wine from the Tombola at the Macmillan coffee was left behind at the farm shop. Anyone wanting to claim it should contact Nicky.

The art history talk by Brian Armstrong was excellent. The next talk will be [on 16th October, and he will give further talks on 13 November and 11 December.](#)

Film night: the next film will be La La Land on 24th October.

The Macmillan coffee morning raised £430 with thanks to Marilyn, Vicky, Helen and Nicky.

The defibrillator training was well supported; many thanks to Sally Hiscock.

The Harvest Supper is this Friday, 6th October at the guiding centre. If you wish to go, please tell Jane Rowe for catering purposes.

Reading Room Christmas coffee morning will be held on 2nd December.

12. Next Year's Fundraising Event - Chairman

The main options for a large fundraising event would be either a fete or an open gardens weekend. It was thought that particular gardens need to be suggested before making a decision. Neil would be happy to organise an OG event, but not a fete.

[Chairman](#)

Nicky said that the Reading Room would look into doing an Art/Craft show, as before, for an OG weekend.

The general feeling at the meeting was in favour of an OG event.

13. Any other business

Ian Gibb suggested that future meetings could start earlier, at 6pm or 6:30pm, to make it easier for those who work. The general feeling was to keep the time at 7pm.

The next meeting will be in January 2018.

The meeting was adjourned at 8.28pm.

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings