

## Minutes of the Berwick St James Parish Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006 No. 22

### **Apologies for Absence**

Tony Gatling, Pauline Cutchey, George & Janie Campbell Johnson,  
Margaret Mustill  
13 people attended the Meeting

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting and Actions Arising**

The Minutes were approved and signed. No actions arising.

### **Reading Room Costs**

Ian Fisher was asked to give an account of the Reading Room Costs.  
Running costs **excluding painting and repairs** amount to £1,100 per annum for Insurance, electricity, water and caretaking.  
For the last five years Improvements and repairs have come from grants from SDC and the Lottery  
Money for running costs comes from the Fete, Rents, Christmas Bazaar and Cream Teas. These sources cover our costs.

### **Increase in Precept**

When the Village took over the ownership of the Reading Room in April 1999 the Parish Meeting voted for the precept (money paid by ratepayers to the SDC and given back bi-annually to the parish meeting) to be raised to £500 so that after meeting the village costs for public liability insurance, auditing and general repairs such as the bus shelter and notice boards and the playground, what was left could contribute towards the reading room costs. The Parish paid £1,450 the last payment in March 2003. Since then Grants covered painting and repair costs.

The Meeting suggests an increase in the Precept from £500 to £750 because we anticipate increases in Public Liability Insurance (already increased from £127 in 2003 to £240 in 2006), Audit fees, the Playground and the running costs for the Reading Room. The cost to a Band D household will be an extra £3.61 per annum. Show of hands 11 for and 2 against the rise. Motion Carried. Tina Woodford to write to Precept Department.

### **Church and Reading Room Fete 2007**

Stephen Bush told us that he was disappointed that the Fete which normally divides their funds between the two buildings that the village have to maintain, i.e. the church and the reading room, decided in 2006 that the funds would go only to the reading room. The annual costs of the church amounts to £6,100 at present which includes to quota, rectors costs, electricity, insurance and mowing. Income is generated by collections, Standing Orders, Donations and tax refund. In 2005 income was £350 less than expenses and 2006 will be worse because of the loss of the fete money. He requested that the 2007 fete be divided again.

Nikki Street said that no-one at the time had questioned the funds going solely to the Reading Room. The meeting voted for the funds to be divided in future and that Fete committees be independent of either building committee. Unfortunately half the 2006 fete money cannot be given legally to the church now they are in the reading room account. Also the precept cannot legally be given to the church. We need more donations and standing orders please.

### **The Optimus Project**

This is a plan set up by our police force to improve their service to us. Ian Fisher went to a meeting to find out more. There will be a local neighbourhood police service (PCSO's) Police Community Support Officers who will improve the communication between the public and police force. The police force have so many specialist branches that it is hard to know who to contact when a problem occurs. The team for our area expect to go live in December. It is probable that they will not be on duty 24 hours a day but we will still have the 999 response if necessary.

IAG. Independent Advisory Group. At the meeting Ian Fisher attended it was stated that IAG members will advise and be critical about the service. The

responsibility for delivering against that advice rests wholly with the criminal justice agencies. The IAG role is strategic advising those dealing with an incident, of the impact of the incident and its policing on communities. Additional IAG members are required and Ian will give further details to anyone who is interested in becoming a member.

#### **Parish Stewards need Lengthsmen**

A Steward has a limited remit. They inspect and repair roads and footways to a limited extent. They conduct routine maintenance on verges, drains, road surfaces, signs, fences and hand rails. A steward will visit approximately every 2 months which is much more frequent than a lengthsmen.

#### **Community First – The Link Project**

The Link Project is a scheme of voluntary groups who offer services such as transport to medical appointments, shopping, attendance at day centres and help for small tasks in the home or garden. The Till Valley Link Scheme have offered to extend their service to include Berwick St James with the other villages of Tilshead, Shrewton, Orcheston and Winterbourne Stoke. At present it is found that help of that kind is given by friends and family.

#### **Notice Boards**

The Meeting suggested that the Notice Board by the Bus Shelter be replaced by a similar one to the one opposite the Boot. Two quotes have been tendered and the Meeting voted to accept the quote for £210.00 provided that the glass front is made from reinforced glass. Richard Brasher undertook to check with Mrs McDermot about posts being concreted in the grass next to her garden wall.

#### **Update – Stonehenge Visitor Centre**

As there is a Planning Appeal being held Stephen Bush hopes to be called to speak against the appeal. He wishes to speak for the village. The vote was unanimous for him to represent the village. Tina Woodford asked for a copy of the 9 page speech for the minute book.

#### **Any Other Business**

Diana Gifford Mead is very worried about the speed of through traffic especially on the corner at the end of the village. It was unresolved what to do as a sign for 'Please drive slowly' was not popular. It was suggested that speed restrictions be imposed. More signs!