

Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting
Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 19:00hrs

In attendance: Christian Lange – Chairman
Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair
Bill Hiscocks - Treasurer
Hayley Burrey - Secretary

Total attendees: 24 people

Apologies received and read out: Julian Glyn-Owen, Kate Glyn-Owen, Nicky Street, Charlie Street, Ian Gibb, Henry Colthurst, Sophie Colthurst, Jane Lock-Smith and Gail Lovett.

Summary of agenda discussions, actions and decisions agreed:

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chairman (Christian Lange) opened the meeting at 19:00hrs and welcomed everybody in attendance to the meeting and delighted at how many people were there, considering the short notice and brief agenda. The apologies were read out and acknowledged.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

Chairman (Christian Lange) said that the minutes have been on the website for a few weeks and asked if all were agreed that they were an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Proposed by Keith Lovett and Seconded by Derek Kelly. All in favour and no objections.

Matters arising from the last meeting covered were.

- The stones outside the Campsite – it seems they have now been removed, so Christian didn't need to write a letter to complain.
- With reference to the footpath on the walk to Winterbourne Stoke, which Alice Ridley was going to investigate and write a letter to the Estate Manager – it was agreed we would review this at our main village meeting in May.

3. Memorial / Community Garden Update

- Chairman (Christian Lange) began the update, by remarking on how fantastic it had been to have so many volunteers turn up.
- There were 23 people on the first Saturday and the numbers remained the following week and work carried on for 4 weeks running.
- A slide, with a photograph of the garden (plus highlighted activity) was shown and Anika Lange provided an update.

- Anika explained how we had cleared a large area of brambles, which has been raked, mown etc and that meadow grass seeds have now been sewn. It now needs to settle and may be untidy for a little while.
- The area planned for wildflowers was highlighted, where snow drops have already been split and replanted – Anika mentioned that Rosie and Martin Gairdner had been amazing with this part. There is some existing Campion, that will come back in this part too.
- Lots of stinging nettles and their roots have been removed and should anyone wish to go and remove more and make nettle soup – please feel free.
- Both Bill Hiscocks and Olivia Marchant have donated some wildflower seeds and these too will be sewn. The plan is to sprinkle those over this year and see what happens.
- The trees, Bill Hiscocks is waiting to hear if we can plant them, so hopefully that will be done in the Autumn.
- Once the grass has grown and mowing completed, a message will be sent out to the village, inviting all to use it.
- We are also waiting to hear if we have permission for the bench.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) mentioned that previously there had been some concern expressed about the expenditure of this project. The total incurred to date is just £40, which is great and due to the number of willing volunteers who are happy to participate and avoid using contractors. Really good effort.
- Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks) mentioned that other villages are using Probationers for the work in their Church Yard.
- Co-Chair (Sarah Humphreys) stated that we used to do that many years ago and Bill confirmed that he would investigate this.
- A brief discussion was held regarding the name of the garden – and all agreed we will bring to the next meeting.

4. Coronation Party Plans

Chairman (Christian Lange) recapped on the plans for our Coronation Party and covered what was agreed previously.

- A meeting had been held on the 8th of November last year, where a plan had been hatched and we were going ahead with this.
- The party will be held on Saturday May 6th from 4pm, once the formal proceedings are complete. Some villages are holding their parties on the Sunday however, we will stick with the Coronation Day.
- It will be held in the Boot garden and Derek Kelly will be arranging for the village Marquees to be erected, a few days before.
- We can then decorate the marquees and Christian Lange will provide some lighting.
- Food – will be to bring your own, to which the Boot has agreed.
- Teas will be provided and please bring cake.
- Keith Lovett will be doing the village BBQ, to which there will be a small charge.
- Linda Doggrell updated all on the children's entertainment. The families with children have had a catch up and agreed to organise an Inflatable Obstacle Course (which adults can also use), Face Painting, Tattoos plus Arts & Crafts.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) said that although, the parents had offered to pay for the inflatable, he felt the Village Community Fund should cover it – especially as there would probably be adults also enjoying the fun.

- The cost is £280 including VAT and Christian then asked for a show of hands for those in favour. All in favour and approved.
- Neil MacDougall asked if insurance was needed for the inflatable? Linda Doggrell explained that standard insurance of public liability (which means we need to supervise it) comes with the hire.
- Co-Chair (Sarah Humphreys) mentioned that we should check this was also agreed with the Boot.
- Linda Doggrell agreed to check with Mike Doldon (Landlord) **Pls note, this has since been checked and agreed with the Boot.**
- Chairman (Christian Lange) said he would provide a sound system with music.
- A brief discussion was held on whether to have a low-level auction and the general consensus was not to have one and just have some fun.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) made thanks to Linda Doggrell for organising this.
- Co-Chair (Sarah Humphreys) raised the subject of memorial coins. A discussion was then held regarding mugs /coins etc and shall we mark it. It was agreed we would leave any merchandise on this occasion.
- Gill Brasher suggested that we mark the occasion with a village photograph.
- Johanna Hardy commented that there was a picture from the archives of the Coronation in the early 1900's and would be wonderful to do this again.
- It was agreed that this is a fabulous idea and a photo of the village could be framed and placed in the Reading Room.
- Action agreed for the Chair to speak to James Whatley and ask if he would be willing to take the group photograph.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) then referred to the Boot Garden and its current maintenance. Christian suggested that as 'The Boot' was kindly permitting us to use the garden, it would be good to put together a working team to prepare it and make it look pretty prior to the Marquees going up.
- This would include some mowing, tiding and maybe some potted flowers.
- Upon asking for volunteers, there was a healthy number of hands raised – all willing to assist in the weekend prior etc..
- Carolyn MacDougall asked if there would be any music? Christian confirmed that he would provide some recorded music on his sound system, as all agreed a Band would be too costly.

5. Planning Applications – Till Orchard & Druids Solar Installation

Chairman (Christian Lange) explained that we had two planning applications to discuss. He then handed over to Stephen Bush regarding Till Orchard.

- Stephen Bush thanked all for the opportunity to present and then showed some slides, whilst talking through their plans.
- There are four aspects to the planning application. They are firstly, to replace the current conservatory, secondly, to create a utility room, thirdly, put a fourth bedroom on the flat roof and fourthly, to replace the garage with a wooden construction.
- A tree is also planned to be planted at the front of the property and some render will be applied.
- Stephen Bush happily answered all questions.
- Neil MacDougall asked when will it be finished? Stephen explained that the builders estimate approximately end of August/September.

- James Hardy asked what colour would the render be? Stephen confirmed it would be clotted cream or something of that order.
- Neil MacDougall asked if the planning permission was already in? Stephen explained that it had been submitted and any comments needed to be in by March 29th, 2023.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) then explained that as we were duty bound to consult and feed back to the council, that we should take a vote.
- Stephen and Ailsa Bush stepped out of the room.
- There was a unanimous show of hands in support and Christian and Sarah will write to/notify the council.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) then informed Stephen and Ailsa of the unanimous support and Ailsa Bush thanked everyone.

Chairman (Christian Lange) then covered the planning application for Druids and the new solar installation.

- It was acknowledged that they already have one solar array.
- A brief discussion was held and established that there were no objections, especially as it is in the progression of sustainability.
- The consensus was that we should make no comment and let it ride.

6. Bob's Legacy

Chairman (Christian Lange) referred to the very sad passing of Robert Drake, the impact of his loss to the village and how sorry we all were.

- Bob was quite specific with his wishes, and it was very kind of him to request that any donations following his funeral, should go to the Village Community Fund.
- Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks) stated that there had been £594.60 in cash donations. At least £270 of bank transfers and still a possibility of money given to the undertakers to be considered. Therefore, approximately in the region of £800/£900 plus.
- Chairman (Christian Lange) said both the funeral and the wake, were very well attended and that this marks the great esteem that Bob was held in, and he will be greatly missed. Bob did a lot for the village, including pumpkin competitions, maintaining the cricket ground and assisting the community.
- Various suggestions of what to spend the money on in Bob's memory were discussed, including a tree, a bench, a 'Bob Drake Cup' for Marrow Growing Competition.
- It was proposed and agreed that we would have a fuller discussion at the main village meeting in May. To choose a fitting tribute for Bob in his memory.
- Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks) said that it would be nice, if we liaise with Jeff Drake once we have decided what the village would like to do. All agreed.

7. Any other business

Chairman (Christian Lange) asked if there was any other business? Nobody had anything to raise.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Chairman (Christian Lange) and Co-Chair (Sarah Humphreys) stated that the next village meeting will be held on Tuesday May 16th, 2023, and will be the AGM and election of members.

- Christian reminded all that this was his and Sarah's last full meeting as chair and that Julian Glyn-Owen, has kindly stepped forward for the role.
- We will then go through the democratic process at the AGM, so anybody else interested should please give notice to Christian and Sarah at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- Gill Brasher asked if there would be an assistant / deputy chair position?
- Christian explained that there may not be that role and we should see how things develop.

9. Conclusion

Chairman (Christian Lange) then thanked everybody for their input and then the meeting closed at 19:45 hrs.