

Minutes of Berwick St. James Village Meeting

Monday, 20th May, 2013

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)
Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chairman)
Tricia Burke (Parish Clerk)
Kate Glyn-Owen (Treasurer)

Guest: Councillor Ian West,
Till and Wylle Valley Division

Total in Attendance: 31

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed the village residents to the meeting.

The Chairman also welcomed our guest, Ian West, and congratulated him on his recent re-election. Ian was elected with a vote of 895.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Stephen and Ailsa Bush	Nigel Rodgers
Chris Lange	Jane Rowe
Barbara Last	Veronica Sumner
Keith Lovett	

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes from the last meeting on 17th January, 2013 were not read out as copies had previously been circulated. The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

Reading Room Entertainment System: The Chairman informed the meeting that the system is now in use and is proving to be a very good system. He thanked Chris Lange, in his absence, for an excellent job done.

Neighbourhood Watch – update: Unfortunately Keith Lovett, the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, was unable to attend the meeting. He will provide an update at a later date.

4. RESIGNATION AND RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS

All officers to resign and be re-elected.

Proposer: Diana Gifford-Mead (all 4 positions)

Decision: Passed unanimously

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5.	<p><u>UPDATE ON COUNCIL MATTERS - Ian West</u></p> <p>Ian rose to speak and thank everyone. He informed the meeting that there was a disappointing turn-out on election day – 9% down. Generally, all turnouts were down. Ian’s majority was 250.</p> <p>The Council met for the first time since the elections, on Tuesday last. Jane Scott is still the leader and has chosen her new cabinet.</p> <p>Ian informed the meeting that the A344 is to close permanently on 24th June. He has contacted the Highways Manager to see if surrounding roads could be monitored. The Council have said they will check on and work out traffic patterns – so we will see what develops.</p> <p>He has also been able to keep his position on the South Area Planning Committee.</p> <p>A question was raised from the floor on the Government proposal with regard to available funding for dualling of the carriageway on the A303. Ian explained that matters are in hand which will bring funds and he will keep us informed of developments.</p>	Ian West
6.	<p><u>VILLAGE FINANCES</u></p> <p><u>Treasurer’s Report:</u> Kate Glyn-Owen rose to discuss finances and showed the accounts for 2012/2013 (attached). She gave a brief explanation on what R2 money is (see item dated 14/11/2012) and also explained the figures relating to the two new village noticeboards (see items dated 19/02/2013 and 04/04/1023).</p> <p>No questions raised.</p> <p>Proposal: That attached is a true reflection of accounts Seconded: all in favour</p> <p><u>Agreement on precept:</u> Kate advised the meeting that precept money has to be agreed by the village on how it is to be spent. Explained that precept money can only be spent on certain things.</p> <p>Kate went through three options of how the precept is to be spent, with explanations on each.</p> <p>Option 1: Remaining precept money, after unavoidable annual costs, to be split equally between Reading Room and upkeep of the Graveyard (approximately £440 each). No precept surplus would be used up.</p> <p>Option 2: Contributions to the Reading Room of £500 and to upkeep of the Graveyard of £600 to be made. This means an ‘overspend’ on the annual precept payment, so will use approximately £218 of precept surplus money each year. This is sustainable for approximately 4 years at current values.</p> <p>Option 3: Contributions to the Reading Room and to upkeep of the Graveyard of £500 each. This means an ‘overspend’ on the annual precept payment, so will use approximately £118 of precept surplus money each year. This is sustainable for approximately 7 years at current values.</p> <p>Charles Street made the suggestion that costs will only ever increase in the future for items such as insurance. Kate explained that the calculations she has made are based on current values and are therefore only approximate, in terms of how long the contributions may be sustainable for. She emphasised that the decision to be made today was for the year ahead only and options will be discussed again and voted on annually.</p> <p>Community fund monies can be spent on anything the village wish to spend on.</p>	Kate Glyn-Owen

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Proposal: How precept money should be spent in 2013/14:

Option 1:	0
Option 2:	10 votes
Option 3:	14 votes
Abstain:	2

Option 3 carried.

7. ACTIVITIES

Community Events: Kate Glyn-Owen discussed the next Community Event planned for September and reminded the meeting what Community Events are.

Kate Glyn-Owen

The event planned for September is an “apple pressing” event with activities for children and a BBQ to be hosted at The Clock House. The plan is to build an apple pressing machine and have a go at making such things as apple sauce and cider, as well as apple juice. The BBQ will be something simple along the lines of sausage in a bun and hot soup. The event will be held late afternoon/early evening in September – date to be advised nearer the time. This event is not to be a profit making event.

Any questions or offers to help with the organising, please speak to Kate, Nicky or Olivia.

Speeding Group: Progress report together with a slide presentation.

Carolyn MacDougall

Carolyn MacDougall reminded the village that following the Metro Count results Berwick was entitled to Community Speed Watch (CSW) – this is a free scheme. CSW is a police initiative and not a village home-grown scheme. The whole system has been upgraded and improved. The new Police and Crime Commissioner has highlighted Speed Watch as a key issue.

The village had also been selected by the Amesbury Transport Group as a test case in the area (over and above 20 other Parishes), which would give us a unique opportunity to propose any traffic calming schemes for approval and funding ahead of others. Bill Hiscocks informed the Meeting that the local farmers had been approached regarding speeding and noise caused by their farm vehicles.

The presentation went on to indicate that if we did nothing, road abuse would continue and that the community has a unique opportunity to take ownership and implement measures to try and combat speeding.

Carolyn pointed out the speeding hot spots and proposed a two-pronged approach

- Community Speed Watch

CSW should be available to us late summer. Marie Perry has volunteered to be our Co-Ordinator. 10 volunteers would be needed (CRB checked) for full training and operating the scheme. Training likely early autumn. Full details will be available in due course.

- Traffic Calming Measures

It was proposed that a single measure low cost gateway treatment be considered at both the Southern and Northern entry points. These would comprise of white hardwood picket fences or gates, rumble strips leading up to the 30mph sign and a red colour resin road texture with 30mph roundel – as seen in many rural parts of Wiltshire. The plan, drawn up by the Senior Engineer, Salisbury Transport Team at Wiltshire Council, was shown with all the details. The cost of such a treatment (£5,000 each) would be sought from the Amesbury Transport Group and or Wiltshire Council. Two people raised concern about rumble strips causing noise to the Girl Guides. Carolyn would talk to them.

Another measure was to add solid white lines around the bends on the Southern end of the village to stop

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vehicles crossing to the other side of the road.

A vote was asked for CSW and it was overwhelmingly agreed. A show of hands also indicated that the Gateways scheme proposed was an acceptable measure. Voting on the latter will take place via email/mail later in the week, giving people time to digest the information.

Diana Gifford-Meade raised the issue of the 50mph speed limit from Stapleford to Berwick. Carolyn informed her that it was not something that this Speeding Group were targeting at the moment. The Chairman agreed to work with Ian West to try and convince Wiltshire Council to reduce the speed limit to 40mph.

The Chairman thanked Carolyn for a very good presentation.

Summer Fete: Sarah Humphreys would like to make an application to the Village to have up to £150.00 from the Community Fund to buy 2 gazebos. They are pop-up gazebos (3m x 3m) @ £69.99 each. They are to be stored in the Reading Room and used at any Village event and also rented out with the Village marquee.

Sarah
Humphreys

Proposed by: Bill Hiscocks **Seconded:** James Hardy

Sarah spoke on the upcoming Fete on 1st June. She explained timetable of events and set up on Friday evening (6 p.m.) and Saturday morning (10.30 a.m.). A further request was made for items for the fete such as crockery, plants etc. and who they can be delivered to. Photographs for the photographic competition must be in by 26th May.

Janey Campbell-Johnson stated that more items were needed for the silent auction and also requested that raffle tickets prices be increased to £2 strip of 5 or 50p a ticket. This was agreed to by the meeting.

The Chairman reminded everyone that tickets are still on sale for the duck race. Please buy.

War memorial: Al Smith spoke on the war memorial. He thought it might be interesting to do research on the names mentioned on the Berwick St. James memorial. As 2014 is the centenary of the start of the 1914-1918 war, the Heritage lottery fund can be approached if we want to do something. If anyone does have any information on those named, please let him know.

8. NOTICE BOARDS

Chairman

The Chairman explained who Wayne Thompson was and thanked him for the excellent job done in making the new Village noticeboards.

The Chairman asked the meeting for their decision on whether to leave the Notice boards locked. The decision was made not to lock the noticeboards.

The Chairman also put to the meeting the question whether the Village would prefer to place notices on the boards themselves or continue with current system of the Parish Clerk placing all notices on the boards.

Votes: - Who is happy with clerk present system: **12**
- Who would prefer own posting of notices and clerk maintain boards on a weekly basis: **14**

Decision: **Vote carried that villagers will post own notices and the Parish Clerk maintain boards on a weekly basis.**

New system to be tried out and if there are any problems then we can revisit.

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The question was raised on whether there was a policy on tradesmen putting up notices. It was felt that local trades should be able to advertise.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman

Litter bins: The Chairman raised the matter that the Village only has one litter bin. The bin works out to be around £300 - £400 for the Council to put in. The Chairman thought we had a good case for another two bins. The suggestion is one be positioned by the Guide Centre and the other one at the bottom of the track to the chicken farm.

After some discussion, a vote was requested to be taken on whether to ask for one or two bins. The number of votes for two bins was 10.

The Chairman is to apply to the Council.

Village Dog Warden: Jane Rowe - Chairman explained that Jane Rowe has volunteered to be village dog warden and what that job entails.

Parish Steward Liaison: Richard Brasher - Chairman explained the responsibilities of the Parish Stewards, and what the Council are responsible for around the Village. Richard will liaise with the Council to make sure they do what they are supposed to do around the Village.

Village Marquee: The question was raised as to who is responsible for the Village marquee. Nicky Street explained that the community fund is responsible. Chairman to check on where it should reside.

Village Diary: Nicky Street gave details of June events which are posted on noticeboards.

Date of next meeting: To be advised

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Attachments:

1. Accounts for year 2012/2013