

Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting. Thursday 30th May 2019

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)
Christian Lange (Deputy Chairman)
Bill Hiscock (Treasurer)
Kate Wood (Village Secretary)

Total in attendance: 42

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm, he reminded all present that this would be his last meeting as chairman and expressed how much he had enjoyed the job for the last 7 years and explained that he would continue to follow up certain projects which he had initiated. He also paid a tribute to the late Robin Richards, who sadly died following an accident in his field on bank holiday Monday 27th May. Neil then extended a welcome to newcomers to the village, Arner & Jeniffer Batu and Tracey Nutley.

Apologies for Absence were received from Olivia & Tim Marchant, Veronica Sumner, Mary Mc Dermott, Jane Rowe, Martin & Rosie Gairdner, Greville Bibby, Shane & Alice Gould and Leanne Street.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

Devizes Textiles

Bill Hiscocks

Bill has received a cheque for £120 from Devizes Textiles (£60 still owing). It appears that Devizes Textiles may be going out of business and the bins in the village owned by them are overflowing and need to be collected. It is hoped that the Salvation Army will take over from Devizes Textiles in the provision of bins and Devizes Textiles have been informed that they now have 2 weeks in which to remove the bins or they will be adopted by the Salvation army, emptied and repainted.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection – proposed John Stephenson, seconded Ian Gibb.

3. A303 update.

Julian Glyn-Owen

Planning Inspectorate.

Open floor hearings were now closing but specific hearings had been held throughout June. A site inspection took place in May and another is due in August and the Secretary of State is expected to make the decision April 2020 according to the timetable.

Highways England (HE)

HE have been facilitating PI work, overseeing further archaeological searches (nothing found), pursuing benefits & legacies and contractors have been invited to look at the project and enter assessment phases.

Benefits & Legacies – more ideas are required from the community with key emerging themes being local economy, skills and employment plus maximising social value and local businesses & resources. Previously 5 ideas from the village have been submitted but if anyone has any more please contact Julian, Anika, Greville, Neil or Ian.

National Audit Office

Report and summary, concluding remarks given.

Unesco.

Have stated that “it is preferable that the tunnel be itself extended” by 0.5m but this is an additional estimated cost of £540m and the suggestion was dismissed.

(as Darren Henry was not in attendance no council update was given).

4. Village Accounts.

Bill Hiscocks

Bill presented the village account balances as of March 2019

A303 account balance - £638.80 (following the return of £3,859.00 to donators) – approved by Nicky Street and seconded by Stephen Bush.

Community fund balance - £1,418.13 (income £6,839.88, expenditure £6,673.00)

Precept - £877.59 (income £1,320.00, expenditure £1,460.16)

Approval and Governance statement – Bill explained that all compliance obligation and audit requirements had been met and asked for approval from the meeting – approved by Ian Gibb, seconded by Al Smith.

5. Shipping Container.

Chairman

Neil explained that the exact placement of the container was yet to be agreed and although several possibilities had previously been considered, John Stephenson had offered a site on his land (slides shown) that appeared to be ideal due to the level concrete base, central and easily accessible location in the village and also well concealed. As far as funding of the container is concerned, Neil hopes the full cost of £3032 can be met from Sec 106 monies (£1726) and Amesbury Board match funding (£1306) but this is yet to be confirmed and Neil therefore asked the village to confirm the requirement and purchase of the container, and to agree to allowing a contingency fund of £500 to be available in case it was needed. There were no objections from the meeting - proposed by Ian Gibb and seconded by Nicky Street.

6. Assets of Community Value.

Chairman

Neil informed the village that The Boot had been put up for sale by Wadworth's Brewery together with 25 other pubs in the area. The concern for the village is the potential loss of the pub, because whichever brewery or consortium buys this basket of Wadworth pubs could submit planning applications for a "Change of Use" for those that it considers unprofitable or doesn't want, and try and have them re-registered as private houses. By registering The Boot Inn as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), it would delay any move to close the Boot as a public house for up to 6 months, thereby giving the village an opportunity to find a buyer or organise sufficient resources to keep the Boot Inn functioning as a pub. Neil also suggested that the Farm Shop should also be registered as an ACV.

A vote was taken on the above proposals and all agreed.

7. Fundraising event "Tea at the races".

There will be a meeting held in the reading rooms on Thursday 6th June at 7pm to discuss the organisation of the above event, all welcome and anyone interested in helping either on the day or by providing cakes etc please contact Sarah Humphries or Anika Lange.

8. Speedwatch update.

Marie Perry

Marie informed the meeting that 27 sessions had been held between March and May this year in 3 locations in the village – the northern end, at the bus stop in the centre of the village and also opposite Berwick house; 934 vehicles had been counted of which 33 were speeding (this was mainly at the northern end of the village). Marie also presented a slide outlining the statistics which showed that 72% of vehicles were within the speed limit when entering the village from the A303, but 53% exceeded it when exiting it in that direction. It was interesting to note that more cars enter the village on a daily basis from the northern end than leave in that direction.

9. Village Diary.

Nicky Street.

Nicky outlined the forthcoming events -

9th June - Race for life, Nicky and Claire Whatley will be taking part (donations can be made at the farm shop).

20th July "Tea at the Races" (meeting on 6th June in the reading rooms to discuss & plan).

Nicky also informed the meeting that the thatch on the reading room roof would need replacing before too long and the funding for this (£8000) would hopefully be aided by various village fund raising activities.

10. Photographic Competition.

Chairman

There had been a good response to this competition, 26 entries had been received for "Spring 2019" (Neil showed a selection) but he informed the meeting that anyone still wishing to enter for "spring" had only until the end of the next day (31st May) to get their entries in. Barbara Last will be judging and Neil will announce the winner by email (and the website) and will personally present them with a bottle of wine.

11. Re-election of officers.

Chris Lange

Chris informed the meeting that Sarah Humphries had volunteered to take on the role of Deputy Chair (as she was reluctant to undertake the public speaking necessary for the role of Chair but was very willing to share the workload).

Neil will continue to run the website, the photo competition, as well as be responsible for the newcomers welcome package and will oversee the purchase and placement of the shipping container and the ACVs (assets of community value).

Voting then followed to reinstate the officers –

Chris Lange (Chairman) – proposed by Bill Hiscocks and seconded by Julian Glyn-Owen
Sarah Humphreys (Deputy Chair) – proposed by Janey Campbell -Johnson and seconded by Charlie Street

Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer) - proposed by Ian Gibb and seconded by John Stephenson

Kate Wood (Secretary) – proposed by Janey Campbell-Johnson and seconded by Sally Hiscock.

Chris paid tribute to Neil and congratulated him on all his sterling work for the village over the past 7 years and presented him with a card (signed by village members) a case of wine and an Orvis gift voucher for £250, all from generous donations collected in the village.

Neil expressed his thanks to the meeting and again reiterated how much he had enjoyed his 7 years and how he intended to remain involved in certain village projects.

12. Any other Business

it was agreed that the village playground equipment would be advertised for sale on EBay.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8.10pm.

The next meeting will be held in October 2109 (date TBC).

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings.