

Minutes of the Beverston Parish Council meeting held on 8th April 2025

Present: Mr Oliver Preston (Chairman), Mr David Morris, Miss Caroline Lowsley-Williams, Mr Dermot McMeekin, Mr Jorn Rixen-Osterbro, Ms Zara Kirk (Clerk).

District Cllr Tony Slater was in attendance.

1. Apologies: None, though County Cllr Stephan Fifield was aiming to attend but could not make it in the end, sending apologies via Cllr Slater.

2. Approval of Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2024 were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and these are now published.

3. Matters arising not on the Agenda: The Clerk mentioned updating the current website and all agreed this was much needed. To discuss with current web designer to agree what can be done by the Clerk and what needs to be done by All about Sites.

District Council Report: Cllr Tony Slater reported on recent news from CDC. They are looking for a new Chairperson and it will most probably be the deputy. There is currently a Chair and a Leader of the Council. Leader Jo Harris is stepping down as Leader.

Thanks to Cllr Slater.

County Councillor Stephan Fifield sent his County Council Report detailing the Chavenage Road update of action to be taken.

Thanks to Cllr Fifield.

4. Planning: Cllr Lowsley-Williams reported on the planning application for a new permanent licence for The Barn Cafe for evenings, instead of the temporary one currently in use which requires a new application for each event. It was made clear of the intent to keep any late noise down, as much for nearby tenants as for the surrounding area. The application is for the possibility of everyday opening until 10pm. Cllr Lowsley-Williams declared that she has an interest. The Parish Council is neutral. Cllr Slater said people must inform him if they have an objection.

Cllr McMeekin asked if it would lead to future wedding events but Cllr Lowsley-Williams said there were no plans for that.

Cllr Rixen-Osterbro expressed his view that the Barn Cafe is a positive development as it stands.

Cllr Preston confirmed that the windows of No.7 Beverston were not as quoted and will be replaced when feasibly possible. Everyone was in agreement that the frontages in Beverston should remain in keeping with the style of the period being a conservation area.

Highfield House has lowered roof of parking garage for horse lorry and applied for planning in retrospect.

5. Babdown Industrial Estate: There have been reports of speeding from the many new drivers employed recently. Cllr Rixen-Osterbro stated that the big increase in traffic from the skip lorries and what seems an increase in tonnage is certainly causing damage to the road in the vicinity and large potholes are appearing. MacCarthy Marland is not the small local company

which Valley Trading was but operating as far as Bristol and there was a question as to whether the tonnage limit was being adhered to. Cllr Morris said it needs to be monitored. Cllr Slater said it is probably better for him to communicate with Cllr Fifield and there may be a need to approach The Environmental Agency. Cllr Morris said they should be submitting regular updates to the Environmental Agency as they said they would do at the time of applying for the 75,000 limit.

Cllr McMeekin said in conclusion that Cllrs Slater and Fifield would be best place to follow through but also a good idea for Cllr Preston to write a letter to McCarthy Marland expressing PC concern about speeding. Cllr Preston agreed and that there had been a number of complaints from the parish.

6. Roads and Traffic: Regarding Chavenage Road potholes the Clerk was asked how the action came about and she mentioned the efficacy of the County Council 'Fix my Street' and 'Report Potholes' through their website. The Clerk contacted Avening Parish Clerk who asked County Cllr Fifield for help and further repairs are due in May.

Cllr Preston reported fly tipping in the lay-by on the approach to Beverston from Tetbury and that he has reported it via the CC website and has also been litter picking himself.

The traffic speed has been mentioned again by residents along the Beverston road – A4135. Cllr Rixen-Osterbro gets overtaken often and it has often been noted the amount of over-taking which takes place outside homes. There has been much discussion in the past that an A road cannot be granted a 30mph limit but Cllr Rixen-Osterbro pointed out that Petty France on the A46 has just been granted this limit. Cllr Slater encouraged us to engage with Cllr Fifield on this matter.

7. Approval of the unaudited Parish Council receipts and payment account 2024/25: These were approved by all and signed by the Chair and the Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer where appropriate.

8. Bank Balance: This was approved.

The Clerk brought up the question of Assets and a register and Cllr Morris pointed out that in fact the amount mentioned on the previous AGAR form was incorrect as in fact the Village Hall has never been an asset of the Parish Council although gifted to the village – it went straight from the Estate of Jane Rook to the BVHT charity. This will be corrected for the current one and internal audit. Parish assets remain the Notice Boards x 2, computer and the Memorial Garden. To be confirmed.

The Business Savings Account was set up in January.

9. Arrangements for the Annual Meeting: It was agreed that the AGM of the Parish Council will be 13th May at 5.15pm followed by the Annual Parish Meeting – drinks at 6pm, Meeting from 6.30pm. Cllr Slater may not be able to attend. The Clerk will send out the invitations and agenda to the Parish, newly elected Councillor, Police representative, Gill Fry as Church Warden and Vanessa Jordan as secretary of the Village Hall Trust.

Cllr McMeekin to bring Nibbles, Cllr Preston Red wine, Cllr Lowsley-Williams – Rose and glasses, Cllr Rixen-Osterbro – soft drinks.

Its was agreed that help would be welcome for setting up.

10. Any other Business: Cllr David Morris informed us that he was standing down with immediate effect from 8/04/2024, after the PC meeting. He would not be attending the BVHT meeting afterward.

Thanks was given for all David's hard work and valued contribution, and role as Deputy Chair.

Cllr Preston said we would advertise in due course for a replacement.

11. Date of Future meetings:

Next Meetings: 16th September 2025 6pm
2nd December 2025 6pm