

MINUTES OF VILLAGE MEETING - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE:	Thursday 29 th May 2025 at The Reading Room
IN ATTENDANCE:	Julian Glyn-Owen – Chair Bill Hiscocks – Treasurer Carolyn MacDougall – Secretary/Clerk
APOLOGIES:	Sarah and Toby Humphreys, Gillie Bibby, Wendy and Brian Armstrong, Gill and Richard Brasher, Martin and Rosie Gairdner, Alison and Ed Faulkner, Gayle Lovett, Ian Gibb, Christine McConnell, Helen Riding, Janey Campbell-Johnston
No. ATTENDING:	19

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>1. WELCOME – Julian Glyn-Owen</p> <p>Julian Glyn-Owen welcomed all attendees. A warm welcome to Berwick to Caroline Ainsworth, Moss Collins and Tiana Scott. Welcome baby Jasper to Johanna and James Hardy and baby Flora to Abi and Jack Mynott.</p>	
<p>2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING – Julian Glyn-Owen</p> <p>Minutes of the previous Village Meeting were agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting. No action items were carried forward. Proposed by Derek Kelly and seconded by Mary Cochrane.</p>	
<p>3. VILLAGE FINANCES AND APPROVALS – Bill Hiscocks</p> <p>Bill Hiscocks opened with thanking Martin Gairdner for auditing Berwick St James accounts.</p> <p>a) Annual Governance Statement Bill Hiscocks explained the need for the village to approve the Annual Governance Statement. This stipulates that Berwick St James has a sound system of internal controls in place. The Treasurer provided some examples. [Refer to slides for forms to be completed and signed] Approval: Proposed by Nicky Street. Seconded by Charlie Street 100% in favour – motion approved.</p> <p>b) Accounting Statements The Treasurer then presented the Certificate of Exemption for the year 2024/25 showing income of £2442 and expenditure of £2278. The Treasurer explained that Parish Meetings were allowed - where both Income and Expenditure were less than £25,000 - to complete and submit this form without further examination. The Accounting Statements for 2024/5 were presented to the Village Meeting showing cash Balances at the year-end of £5,690 (2023/4 £5526). Fixed Assets were the same as the previous year at £6,694 and the Treasurer presented a breakdown of that figure. Approval: Proposed by Shayne Gould. Seconded by Olivia Marchant 100% in favour – motion approved.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>BH</p>
<p>4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Julian Glyn-Owen</p> <p>Julian Glyn-Owen stated that due to difficulties in his future work commitments he would be unable to continue as Chair. Due to no applicants coming forward he will continue for a period of time with assistance from both Bill Hiscocks and Carolyn MacDougall who has taken on a lot of the work recently for which he thanked her.</p>	

Re-Election of Officers:

Chair Bill Hiscocks proposed Julian Glyn-Owen as Chair. 100% were in favour. Motion carried.

Treasurer Julian Glyn-Owen proposed Bill Hiscocks as Treasurer. Nicky Street Seconded. 100% were in favour, motion carried.

Julian Glyn-Owen thanked Bill Hiscocks for his valued work over the last ten years.

Secretary Julian Glyn-Owen proposed Carolyn MacDougall as Secretary and seconded by Mike Riding. 100% were in favour. Motion carried.

5. B3083/A303 CLOSURES – IMPACT ON VILLAGE

A. A303 CLOSURE ISSUE – Carolyn MacDougall

Berwick concerns

Following an unscheduled A303 closure for more than 4 hours on the afternoon of 22 May, which impacted Berwick St James's access and egress into the village due to the B3083 road being closed at the southern end [bridge repair]. Despite the fact that we had highlighted that such an incidence was more than likely to occur and that we could be affected, it was felt that the parties involved were unaware of this predicament.

Follow-up by Berwick

Since Carolyn MacDougall's initial investigation following the closure, two very useful contacts have been established. Firstly with Bob Eccleston who is the single point of contact between Local Highways, National Highways and other partners and stakeholders on all traffic related matters. Bob Eccleston is not responsible for police staffing or availability.

Secondly with Chris Hilldrup who is Route Manager Gloucestershire and Wiltshire South West Operations who liaises directly with Bob Eccleston.

What occurred that day

On 22 May a number of incidents took place along this stretch of the A303, starting in Winterbourne Stoke at 11.18, followed by a Road Traffic Collision (RTC) at 14.12 and another RTC at 16.56. The main issue here was assistance in removing a HGV. In these circumstances road closures are assessed on a case-by-case basis. On this occasion there was no alternative but to close the A303, which also lead to a gridlock situation around Longbarrow Roundabout – the design of which does not allow for 'Yellow Boxes' to be added. The sheer volume of traffic that day further impacted the situation. There is no doubt that the lack of police availability on some occasions can lead to frustration and misunderstanding by motorists and local residents alike.

Positives

1. All concerned are now fully aware of the situation in Berwick regarding current road access restriction.
2. They have reassured us that all concerned can learn from this incident.
3. In future they will do their utmost, where possible, to assist us but we need to manage expectations.
4. We have established direct contact with key personnel.
5. Overall acceptance that the volume of traffic on the A303 is increasing and thereby has a knock-on affect on local villages and towns.

B. B3083 BRIDGE REPAIR UPDATE – Julian Glyn-Owen

[Refer to slides for Update from the Engineer] The footbridge should be completed tomorrow and seems to work well. The tarmac that has been laid will be removed at end of works. Removal of the deck completed within days after landing the new beams. Earlier days lost due to size of scaffold crash deck will hopefully be recovered and that the work "should" be completed on schedule. Onsite engineer Chagos is very helpful.

The B3083 to Stapleford has an excellent new surface and a good opportunity to use it for safer walks and cycling.

A question was raised as to what was happening in the field opposite Stonehenge. This refers to works to remove boreholes sunk for the tunnel project as an exploratory survey measure to assess water table levels.

7. BERWICK VILLAGE FAYRE, 7th June – Carolyn MacDougall

Carolyn MacDougall updated the village on the upcoming Village Fayre. There has been sufficient information and communication about the afternoon to Berwick and surrounding villages via Parish Magazines, WhatsApp, Facebook pages, Girl Guide Centre and Stonehenge Campsite plus poster distribution thanks to Rosie Gairdner. [Refer to slides for Programme which lists lots of activities and items at the live Auction of Promises and Closed Bids] Funds raised by the Auctions will go to Wilton Riding for the Disabled Association. A big thank you was given to Olivia Marchant for allowing the village to use her garden, without which this event could not take place. All that is required now is for as many residents as possible to support the event and for a dry afternoon.

8. AOB

A. Road Closure impact on The Boot and The Old Forge - Julian Glyn-Owen

The Chair highlighted the need to support The Boot and The Old Forge Farm Shop in light of loss business due to bridge repair road closure.

B. Tree Maintenance Issues –

- I. Charlie Street requested that the Oak tree in the centre of the village be cut back as it is causing a visual obstruction for his farm vehicles accessing the B8303. Once the road is fully re-opened, this will be a real safety issue. Julian Glyn-Owen agreed to deal with it.
- II. It was reported that the Cherry tree by the bus stop shelter appears unstable and needs looking at. Julian Glyn-Owen to contact the family that planted the tree in memory of their daughter.
- III. Neil MacDougall put a suggestion forward that the Lime tree on the bank by the barn on the north side of the village, which was planted for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, should have a 'Tree Preservation Order' placed on it. Julian Glyn-Owen to investigate.

JGO
JGO

JGO

C. B3083 Road Signage – Poppy Ridley

Our youngest by far Berwick presenter, Poppy Ridley (aged 7), delighted the meeting with her presentation about the dangers that young horse riders experience on the B3083, especially along the stretch close to the Kissing Gate. There is a dangerous bend where horses and riders are obscured from sight by the oncoming traffic. A very appropriate road sign has been designed and presented by Poppy, which is hoped, will help keep riders safer. Negotiations are on-going to allow the sign to be erected on the bank belonging to Druids.

D. Reading Room AGM – Nicky Street

The Reading Rooms AGM will take place on Wednesday 18th June and all are welcome. Nicky Street reported that the deal with Wessex Internet is in progress and waiting for approval for cabling via Jean Hibberd's property.

E. Wessex Water/Shrewton Sewage – Neil MacDougall

Neil MacDougall briefly outlined a proposal that he understood had been put forward by Wessex Water to correct the groundwater influenced storm overflow problem experienced by the Shrewton Sewerage farm. This was occurring on a regular basis and adversely affecting both the quality of the water in the River Till and the ecology of the land bordering it. He believed that the proposal was still under discussion and he would try to find out more and keep the Chair informed.

NM

The Village Meeting closed at 19.52 and residents invited to stay for wine and chat.