

Minutes of Berwick St James

Special Village Meeting re: Covid support Plan(online)

Monday, 9th November, 2020.

In attendance: Christian Lange (Chairman)
 Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)
 Kate Wood (Secretary)

Total in attendance : 33 online + phone ins

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm, welcomed everyone and explained that this was a special meeting to discuss the present lockdown and discuss possible activities for the village at this time. He also said the meeting would be recorded and the online voting system would be used.

Linzi and Brent Allman were welcomed to the village

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th September 2020 were deemed to be a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Gill Brasher and seconded by Neil MacDougall.

Matters arising

The Reading Room re-flooring was discussed, various flooring options had been looked at and a decision had been made on the final flooring choice but the details were yet to be confirmed.

Mike Riding mentioned that at the last meeting he had requested that the Reading Room accounts should be posted on the village website, but he had noticed this had not yet happened. Nicky confirmed that it would be arranged.

There had been no further proposals regarding the village playground, and this was therefore presently a dormant issue.

The bus shelter is to undergo repair, the work will cost £200 and will be carried out by Chris Barthorp. (Chris accidentally gave a different name at the meeting)

Covid Support during lockdown

Sally Hiscock said that everyone in the village was being very careful and considerate regarding the Covid restrictions and adhering to general safety measures. She encouraged anyone who could, to order shopping online and seek help if needed (possibly from either family or buddy groups). Chris confirmed he would send out the revised buddy group list to all concerned.

Chris also confirmed that the Farm Shop would be open as normal during the lockdown and Marilyn was happy to arrange deliveries where needed.

The Boot Inn will be closed until 3rd December or the end of lockdown.

Hayley Burrey confirmed that the village social media platforms, WhatsApp & Facebook were still up and running and if anyone would like to be added to them they should contact Hayley for Facebook and Sarah Humphreys for WhatsApp.

Some of the surgeries are delivering medication but there have been some difficulties with the system. Several people offered to help with collections if needed. This will be coordinated via Sally.

Greener Berwick

Christian explained that he is reviving the existing 'Greener Berwick' group which was formed before lockdown. This group was formed to look at ways in which Berwick could become more sustainable. The next meeting is being held on 10th November and anyone interested was welcome to join in. The idea of inviting other local villages to form a larger group will be explored.

Gabbi would also be prepared to give a talk for anyone interested regarding methods to reduce Co2 emissions.

Activities and suggestions for Berwick during lockdown

There were a number and variety of suggestions for events and group activities.

Carol Service – Stephen Bush and Christian suggested that following on from the success of the Remembrance Day service being broadcast on loudspeakers outside the church, a similar arrangement could be planned for the Christmas Carol Service. The suggested date was 22nd December but this may be subject to change depending on the weather (as it would require the village to stand outside their houses as before). A carol sheet would be circulated and the music (played on the organ by Martin Gairdner) would be via the loud speaker outside the church; there could also be a small choir present in the church and readings would be planned. An online vote for this proposal showed 100% of the meeting were in favour. The possibility of holding some of the service on Zoom was also discussed. Details for the service to be discussed further between Christian and Stephen.

A treasure hunt in the village for anyone interested (may particularly appeal to the

children) – suggested by Hayley, a vote showed 70% in favour. Nicky Street agreed to help develop some ideas with Hayley.

An online wine tasting evening, those interested would be tasting in their own homes and supply their own wine, possibly half bottles, to be held perhaps on a Friday evening – suggested by Bill, showed 54% in favour. Greville agreed to help Bill develop this idea further

A village ‘bake-off’ - whereby anyone who would like to join in could bake in their own homes and put photos on social media or the website (during a 2 week set period) – this was suggested by Gabbi, a vote showed that 9 people would be in favour and Chis felt that was an appropriate number to make it viable.

Art Talks Neil MacDougall suggested that Brian Armstrong may be prepared to build on the success of his art talks and do these online.

Pub quiz Neil also suggested that Mike Doldon may be prepared to run an online quiz (which he could do from Bridport) as the pub quizzes when the pub was open seemed popular. Chris said he would contact Mike to discuss it.

Online art classes – It was suggested that Jane Rowe may be prepared to give a talk on watercolour painting.

A ‘winter gardening’ or ‘Xmas decorations’ talk was suggested by Gill Brasher (for anyone with the appropriate expertise to present) volunteers would be welcome to contact Chris.

Stephen Bush would be happy to give a demonstration of ‘pruning fruit trees’ from his home in January or February for no more than 3 people at a time and anyone interested is welcome to contact Stephen to arrange this on 790445.

Any other business

Chris informed the meeting that Sally Hiscock’s daughter, Rosie, was making and taking orders for Christmas hampers and anyone interested could contact Sally or find information online at barleytwist.co.uk.

Neil has updated the village information handbook and website with useful contact numbers for local trades people and groups.

Neil suggested that perhaps an email could be sent out from Chris or Sarah to promote the use of the Salvation Army clothing bin in the village as it brought in useful revenue for the village. Chris will action this.

Janey Campbell- Johnson extended a thankyou to Chris for all his efforts and hard work for the village during this and the previous lockdown.

The next meeting will be held in January 2021, date to be confirmed and the

meeting closed at 8pm.

Christian Lange

Berwick St James Village Chairman.

