

BERWICK ST JAMES VILLAGE MEETING – AGM

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| DATE: | Thursday 23 May 2024 at 7pm, The Reading Room |
| IN ATTENDANCE: | Julian Glyn-Owen - Chair Bill Hiscocks - Treasurer Hayley Burrey - Secretary |
| GUEST SPEAKERS: | Wessex Internet |
| APOLOGIES: | <i>Olivia Marchant, James and Johanna Hardy, Helen and Mike Riding, Carolyn McDougall, Henry & Sophie Colthurst and Keith and Gail Lovett.</i> |

MINUTES OF MEETING

1. Welcome

Wessex Internet (WI) awarded for Project Gigabit for South Wiltshire by the Government to connect 14,000 homes. Berwick St James in first milestone due first half of 2025. Fibre network starting at Codford. Locally there are 277 properties listed for connection. This includes houses in Winterbourne Stoke. From Berwick there are 30 properties that have registered their interest. Request for others do so via online link shared on the screen. Existing infrastructure – BT Poles and ducting of good supply, we are not expected to need trenches dug. Full fibre cables will reach the house. Four pricing packages - £29 per month is entry package. WI Aim to be 5% cheaper than other suppliers (BT, EE etc). 100mbs download and 30mbs upload. Landline services will change to VOIP.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting & Matters

Minutes of previous Village Meeting approved.

- Chair's email problems from earlier now seem to be resolved.
- Bob Drake's legacy has been delivered.

3. Village Finances and Approvals

- Bill Hiscocks, Treasurer, thanked Martin Gairdner for auditing Village Accounts.
- Description of process to approve payments online by Bill, Hayley and/or Julian
- 3.1 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 – vote approved.
- 3.2 Accounting Statements – vote approved.
- 3.3 Approvals expenditure – vote approved.
- Certificate of Extension – vote approved.
- Note of thanks to Sam, The Old Forge Farm Shop, for the return to the village of the defibrillator reimbursement sum of £25, which she asked to be split between the Reading Room and the church. Bill confirmed this had been done.

4. Election of Officers

- Bill Hiscocks proposed Julian Glyn-Owen is appointed as Chair. Vote is approved.
- Julian Glyn-Owen proposed Bill Hiscocks to continue as Treasurer. Vote is approved.
- Chair proposes Carolyn MacDougall to the position of Secretary. Carolyn has come forward to volunteer as Secretary for Berwick. Statement from Carolyn read out in proposing the post. Vote is approved.
- The village thanked Hayley Burrey for her four years as Secretary for Berwick St James Village Meeting.

5. Berwick Road (B3083) Footpath Update

- Chair described the meeting with John Elliott, Estate Manager for Druids Lodge.
- Footpath to run between Berwick to Winterbourne Stoke along B3083. Mr Elliott's conditions were that the route must be fenced on both sides to keep dogs away from the pheasants and costs met by the village. Track would be untreated and not wide enough for horses.
- Costs have been sought. Thanks were given to Dominic Ridley. Two companies have estimated £12 and £13 per metre. Prices are therefore circa £7-8k. Footpath then needs registering and there are fees for the registration by the council.
- Reason for this footpath is for the safety of pedestrians and walkers currently having to walk along the B3083 with speeding vehicles often witnessed. Rose Grant explains her experience of bringing in the Police to show how dangerous the road is for pedestrians.
- Options were discussed and there is the possibility of raising this with LFHIG. Public Works loan is also possible and an approach to the Stonehenge Area Board for match funding. Neil McDougall emphasised the safety aspects might help with the case.
- **Outcome:** Chair does not have time to progress the footpath so asks for volunteers to come forward then moves to the Asserton Lane issue.
- **Asserton Lane** – condition is so poor residents are struggling to get down the lane in ordinary vehicles. Druids stated that damage to the road is not farm vehicles and they are not owners of this stretch of road.
- **Outcome:** none as this is at an impasse due to lack of clarity over ownership of the lane.

6. Business Signage at the A303 B3083 junction

Chair reports that Berwick cannot change the signage but it is in the hands of the businesses to do so at the junction with the A303.

Outcome: Village awaits local businesses to action.

7. Church update - Bill Hiscocks

- Beech tree has been pruned, thanks to Dominic Ridley.
- Church boiler is broken and is now beyond repair. Estimates for new electrical heating system £15,000. Church of England not allowing oil fired boilers to be installed anymore.
- Church garden is looking good and there is a potential donation of a bench. Anika Lange is leading the garden project.
- Interior of St James needs repainting. Jonathan mentions the new 'paint system' for the church that has been developed. Old paint needs stripping away, left to dry and new paint at £60 per litre is a possibility.
- **Outcome:** Chair asks to be updated by Jonathan about this.
- The new roof occasionally leaks.
- Bill Hiscocks asks Chair for approval of the expenditure for the £500 for the Reading Room and £750 for graveyard. Vote approved.

8. Community Speedwatch – Neil MacDougall

80% of village houses face the main road. Due to the A360 closure there was significant traffic increase. Works on A360 are due to finish mid-July. Three times the number of speeders occurring due to road closure. Much appreciation shared for Neil MacDougall's detailed work on measuring and tracking speeders into and out of the village at the north end. Neil also thanked all those who give their time to Speedwatch.

9. Wessex Water

John Glover at the Girl Guide Hut described winter flooding problem. A non-return valve is planned to be installed and a holding tank for the Girl Guide hut. Wessex Water will return to look at the rest of the village in their next financial year. Christian Lange mentions that non-return valves might create a backing up effect for the village.

Outcome: John to keep in contact with Julian and update on works by WW. Chair asks that village members to report activity by Wessex Water to the Chair as and when it is noticed.

10. Village Questionnaire

- Needs identified in the data were: support for IT matters for members of the village. Chair proposes asking Wessex Internet to come in for some advisory session to members of the village.
- Events and activities for children – Chair asks village members to contact him.
- Fundraising events: a note was made of James and Jo Carpenter’s Chocolate Bingo evening in the Reading Room for the same. A specific fundraising idea generation, hosted at The Boot, had identified a ‘boundary walk’. Charlie and Nicky Street investigated this and reported back that insurance and date practicalities seem to rule this out.
- Ideas raised in the meeting were – Auction of Promises raised. Mike Riding’s idea was shared again; the offer of accommodation ‘room for the night’ for events being held in the village such as weddings. Donations for the rooms would be directly delivered to the village. Game Fair guests and other ideas shared.
- **Outcome:** Chair asked those with ideas or willing to come forward with ideas for 2025. Julian and Mary to discuss the idea of rooms for wedding guests for 2025.

11. AOB

- The Boot as an Asset of Community Value: New signing sheets for residents within the village.
- Electricity supply. Christian Lange noticed that Electricity Supply is peaking at 263V (normal is 230V). To bring voltage down the substation needs to be shut down and adjusted. Suggestion is await SSEs works.
- John Glover explains the new ‘shed’ in the Girl Guide hut is a washing up area. No action.
- Election purdah raised by Ian Gibb in relation to large capital projects, specifically the A303. No action.

Chair closed the Meeting with a thank you to all for attending and contributing. Drinks served.
