

# Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting

## Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 19:00hrs

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In attendance: Christian Lange – Chairman

Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair

Bill Hiscocks - Treasurer

Hayley Burrey - Secretary

Total attendees: 38 people

Apologies received and read out: Gillian Bibby, Greville Bibby, Henry Colthurst, Sophie Colthurst, Stephen Bush, Ailsa Bush, Ian Gibb, Martin Gairdner, Gail Lovett, Jane Lock- Smith and Brian Armstrong.

### ***Summary of agenda discussions, actions and decisions agreed:***

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Chairman (Christian Lange) opened the meeting at 19:00hrs and welcomed everybody in attendance to the meeting. Christian made a couple of announcements. It is with great sadness that Tim Marchant and Lionel Duffey have both passed away very recently - on the same day. Our thoughts and condolences are very much with both Olivia and Margaret. We also have good news of a new arrival in the village 'Aoife O'Neil -Street' born to Ellie and David - our congratulations to them all.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising**

- ***Jubilee Party Update***

Christian showed some slides of the village photos (pls see [village website](#)) and gave a summary of how great it was. Made special thanks to both Tim and Olivia Marchant and enormous thank you to everyone involved. We had 117 people to the luncheon with approximately 10 others joining throughout the day. We spent £1350 and made £1048.

- ***Jubilee Memorial Garden***

Christian and Bill Hiscocks will be meeting with Johnathan Plough in November to discuss ideas with a view to holding a public meeting sometime in December or January. It is hoped that work may start in the early spring.

- ***Election of Officers***

Christian reminded everybody that this will be both his and Sarah Humphreys 'last year as chair' and to encourage any interested parties to please come forward and contact them.

- ***Broadband***

A brief discussion was held and the consensus was that things had improved and that Julian Glyn- Owen had the matter in hand.

- ***Solar panels etc – Wiltshire Council Scheme***

Regarding the solar panels, there has been some feedback on costings etc. We will revisit again in the future.

- ***Time Capsule***

We are still planning to do a Time Capsule to raise money and may implement it leading up to the Coronation next year.

Chairman (Christian Lange) said that the minutes have been on the website for a few weeks and asked if all were agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting.

Neil MacDougall asked if Ian Gibb's question regarding the Kissing Gate had been resolved – it was confirmed it had already been fixed.

Proposed by Carolyn MacDougall and Seconded by Charlie Street. All in favour and no objections.

### **3. Village Finances Update**

Treasurer - Bill Hiscocks presented a slide with all the accounts (Please see web site for the slides and details) Bill made mention that we had previously agreed for £1,620 to go to the Cricket Club for a new wicket and gave 'many thanks' to Sarah Humphreys who has been liaising to arrange this. Bill made mention of the initial £20,000 which we raised to fight the A303 Southern route proposal– and that at some point, we need to decide what we do with the residual sum of £614. We also still have several mugs for sale from the Jubilee – open to anybody wishing to purchase them.

### **4. Reading Room Update**

Nicky Street provided a brief update and made mention that the re- thatching had begun. Nicky gave a reminder that Brian Armstrong's Art talk was taking place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October and that there would be the return of the Christmas Coffee Morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December. There will also be a new monthly 'get together' for a coffee/chat/ cake and magazine exchange in the afternoon on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Any suggestions will be happily received. Christian thanked Nicky and the Reading Room Team for starting a great initiative.

## **5. Berwick Farm Shop**

Chairman (Christian Lange) raised the subject of the Berwick Farm Shop. Marilyn is now retiring and looking to sell her retail business. There are a couple of people who are interested in taking it over and for now we should let business take its natural course. Should the risk arise that nobody takes over – we could then have a special village meeting to discuss what we do, as we have registered it as a community asset with Wiltshire Council for the next 5 years.

Christian asked for confirmation that all were in agreement that we should have a watching brief for the moment. Carolyn MacDougall mentioned that she is helping Marilyn to advertise the business across the parish.

## **6. Community Speed Watch**

Marie Perry presented a slide on the latest statistics of the Community Speed Watch (Please see web site for slide and stats) For the benefit of our new residents, Marie explained that we have two methods to control this – one is SIDS and the other is Community Speed Watch sessions, monitoring speed both incoming and outgoing the village. Marie made mention that the highest speed recorded 'leaving' the village which was at 83MPH. The highest speed recorded 'coming into' the village was 69MPH. Having established the patterns – we are aware that we have a regular 'speeder' coming through the village at 5:30am each day – which is a little early for the Speed Watch volunteers to be out for. We currently have 10 volunteers and to date this year- they have done 40 watches. Marie asked if there is anybody in the village interested in joining them? It would require 45 mins of their time a month. Please email Marie for more details. Keith Lovett raised the question of informing the police of speeders. Marie explained that the local constabulary regularly review the data from the SIDS. Carolyn MacDougall asked if there was any possibility we could buy another SIDS for the other end of the village. Neil MacDougall said that we had received a grant for the first one which was £3,300. Marie explained it would be unlikely that we would receive another grant. Neil MacDougall stated that Marie does a wonderful job – all agreed with a round of applause. Bill Hiscocks asked if we could monitor the very large lorries that pass through the village. Marie explained that we have been contacted to do 'Lorry Watch' which is currently on hold and can easily be signed up, but we do need volunteers please.

## **7. Village Plant and Produce Table**

Marie Perry went on to present a slide on behalf of Christine McConnell to cover the results of the Village Plant and Produce Table (please see village website for slide) Christine has worked extremely

hard for the last 7 years with the table and raising much needed funds for Cancer Research. In total Christine has raised a whopping £3421.43 and received a round of applause. Christine has already raised £560 this year. Marie mentioned that Christine has now made an alliance with Cancer Research Salisbury who are banking the monies and providing us with laminated certificates. Christine McConnell gave special thanks to all the villagers who have supported her in the cause throughout the years and to Clive and Marie Perry for assisting in banking the money. Christian mentioned that Berwick would not be the same without the table and that we do really appreciate all that Christine does. Well Done!

#### **8. A303 – NB Chatty Van 13<sup>th</sup> October**

Chairman (Christian Lange) referred to the A303 pop-in meeting, which is being held in the Reading Room on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October. Carolyn MacDougall provided a brief update and encouraged all interested villagers with any questions to call in between 3pm and 7pm. Christian then thanked Carolyn.

#### **9. Village Fete / Coronation Plans – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

Chairman (Christian Lange) covered that we now have a date for the Coronation next year, which is on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. What do we as a village want to do? Christian said we could leave it until our next meeting in January, or we could put a working group together now and hold a meeting. Christian said we are looking for ideas and suggestions and asked was anybody interested in getting involved. The consensus was that we do have a village party. Christian explained that due to marquees etc getting booked in advance it would make sense to get a working party going.

Keith Lovett, Derek Kelly, Rosie Gairdner, Nigel Rodgers and Neil MacDougall each said they would happily be involved. Neil MacDougall suggested that we have a provisional meeting specifically for the Coronation in December and all agreed. Keith Lovett suggested that we now book our own marquees in advance. All agreed. Anne Hughes suggested that if meeting in December we could combine it with the Jubilee Memorial Garden meeting. A brief discussion followed, and it was established that as they are two different things - it be best to keep them separate.

#### **10. Oak Tree Trimming**

Charlie Street expressed a concern regarding the Oak Tree by the bench (millennium Stone) in the middle of the village. It needs trimming, as anybody coming out of Langford Way on a tractor will have restricted vision. Christian suggested that we contact Dominic Ridley and ask him to lift the canopy. All were happy with this proposal.

### **11. Cost of Living Issues**

Chairman (Christian Lange) wished to discuss the imminent cost of living crisis. At the moment we are not sure if the charity in Shrewton will cover Berwick. So, in the interim, as this will be tricky times for all – Christian asked ‘should the village arrange some support if anyone is struggling’. Christian showed the slide with some useful web sites listed – which can be accessed on the Berwick Village Web Site. Bill Hiscocks mentioned that Gail Lovett could be a good source of information, as she used to work for the Citizens Advice Bureau. Keith Lovett mentioned that some people do not have computers, to which Christian agreed and said that he is happy to be a point of contact should anybody need advice. All agreed that we leave it at that for now.

### **12. Planning Application – Kate & Julian**

Julian Glyn-Owen gave a presentation on their plans for Magna House and showed slides with the architectural drawings, which they are submitting for a planning application. Please see website for slides. Kate also mentioned that they had sold Appletree Cottage to a lovely family ‘Jo & James and daughters’ and that they would be moving into their new house on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October – we should all be sure to welcome them.

Kate kindly then answered several questions on timings, location, windows, garden trees and where the application goes etc... Chairman (Christian Lange) explained that the village chairman will be asked by Wiltshire Council to comment on the plans on behalf of the village. In order to avoid the need to hold a special village meeting to establish the views of the village he asked for feedback from the village meeting. Assuming that there are no significant changes to the plans shown this evening, a vote was taken. There was overwhelming support and a full show of hands (with one abstention – pending a private discussion) and all were happy. The application will be submitted in the next month or so. Once the letter is received, Christian will contact those involved prior to accepting it. Kate again explained that she is very happy to receive any further questions and her contact details are on the website.

### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

Chairman (Christian Lange) and Co-Chair (Sarah Humphreys) stated that the next village meeting will be held in January 2023 – with a date to be confirmed.

### **14. Any other business**

Carolyn MacDougall asked if it was possible to persuade the 'Shoot' to stop wading through the river at the North of the village. Neil MacDougall commented that they have King Fishers which also need protecting. Charles Street explained that the Dogs will need to go in to collect any remaining birds. A discussion took place and the plan agreed was that Carolyn would provide Christian with some bullet points and Christian will contact Stuart and check.

Kate Glyn-Owen requested that Druids please notify the village when/if they are having a party as the noise travels. All agreed that Christian would speak to Stuart Langdown.

Nigel Rodgers notified all that his email had been 'hacked' and that anyone receiving strange emails from him should be cautious.

## **15. Conclusion**

Chairman (Christian Lange) then thanked everybody for their input and then the meeting closed at 20:16 hrs.