

Minutes of Berwick St. James Village Meeting Thursday, 27th October, 2016.

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Guests: Ian West (County Councillor)

Ivor Noyce

Total in attendance: 38

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

Action

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone, including Cllr Ian West who was recently appointed Chairman of the Amesbury Board.

New residents were also welcomed to the village, including Matt Sherman and Gemma Haggaty and their 2 children and the Glyn-Owen family, who will be returning to the village in November.

We bid farewell to the Pitmans and the Larters who have already left Berwick and the Wiessmullers who will be leaving in November.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Henry Colthurst, Stephen & Ailsa Bush, Marie Perry, Greville & Gillie Bibby, Jane Lock-Smith, Janey Campbell-Johnston, Veronica Sumner, Toby & Sarah Humphreys and Gabrielle Smith.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- a. Storage boxes for both the new and the old marquees have now been purchased.
- b. The final appeal for the campsite to have an onsite warden has been approved and the warden will be resident from mid-February to end October

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed unanimously to be a true reflection of the meeting – proposed by Ian Gibb, seconded by Bill Hiscocks.

4. Report by Cllr Ian West on the A303

Action

There will be consultations next year on the different possible routes the A303 could take. A big question is where the spoil from a tunnel, one of the options, would go.

The Council has also set out its tax objectives for its 4-year plan. There will be a 4% increase over the next 4 years, 50% of the increase reserved for Council services and the remaining 50%, which is ring-fenced, for adult care.

There is also the possibility of capping Parish council spending, with anything over 5% needing a referendum.

5. Accounts Update – Bill Hiscocks

The Community Fund balance is £4908.33. The increase since the beginning of the year is due to the successful Queen's Birthday Party. Last year we gave the Church and the Reading Room £1250 each. Bill suggested that we do the same this year.

Proposed by: Neil MacDougall, seconded by Nicky Street. All in favour.

The reimbursement of the expense incurred by Neil for the storage boxes for the marquees was proposed by Richard Brasher and seconded by Olivia Marchant. All in favour.

The Precept Account showed a slight increase in the balance, ending with £890.34. Bill's recommendation was to keep the precept at £1250 for the next financial year.

Proposed by Carolyn MacDougall and seconded by James Hardy. All in favour.

6. Queen's Birthday Party Finances – Carolyn MacDougall

The income from the Party was £2941.10 and the profit was £658.23, which was due to the generosity of the residents of the village. The committee would like to donate a portion of the profit, £300, to Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Carolyn
MacDougall

Proposed by Carolyn MacDougall, seconded by Mary Gatling. All in favour.

7. Funding event for 2017 - Chairman

The village needs to decide on a fundraising event for 2017. Ideas include a fete, another Open Gardens or a music festival. The MacDougalls would rather not be the ones to organise it, having done more than their fair share in recent years. An event and the name of the person in charge of it need to be in place for the next meeting in January. Any interested parties should contact Neil.

8. Duck Street Bridge – Chairman

It appears that the Duck Street bridge might be in need of maintenance, according to some photographs shown at the meeting. Neil has tried to determine the

owner of the bridge but has had no success so far. He is currently waiting for a response from the land records department of Wiltshire Council. There was some discussion as to the pros and cons of weight restrictions, but it was generally felt that these might have a detrimental effect on those living and working on the other side of the bridge. If the ownership trail has no leads by the next meeting, one suggestion was to find someone to survey the bridge and advise on any necessary repair and maintenance.

Action

9. Playground on Cricket Pitch - Chairman

The playground was set up with a grant, at no cost to the village. Ian Fisher and then Richard Brasher have strimmed the area every 2 weeks every summer for around 16 years, again at no cost to the village. The swings are now in need of repair, and very few families with young children presently make use of it. The question was asked whether the playground should be closed.

It was felt that with a number of new families in the village with young children, the playground is likely to be used more now. James Whatley suggested the possibility of having a rota to do the strimming. It was also pointed out that the playground is for the use of the cricketers' families as well as the village. Neil suggested that if we keep the playground open, the swing seats should be repaired/replaced and responsibility for the care of the ground could be shared with the Cricket Club. As both use and maintenance of the playground is reduced in winter, there is time to explore the views of families with children, seek volunteers for a rota, and for Neil to speak to the cricket club about the issue.

Chairman

10. Other reviews and Updates

Neighbourhood Watch – James Hardy

James Hardy will send out a detailed report but to summarise, he asked us to be vigilant regarding our property and cars. There was an attempted break in for the eggs money box at Berwick Farm and a car was damaged in the village recently. Hare coursing is also continuing and the perpetrators are said to be very aggressive. If anyone sees anything, do NOT approach them, rather call 999.

James Hardy

Flood Prevention – James Hardy

The drains have been cleared since the flash flood on the August Bank holiday weekend. Details of work done and prevention methods in place will follow in James' report.

James Hardy

Parish Steward – Chairman

The company doing the village maintenance once again is Ringway. Our steward is Simon Simms who will be working in Berwick for a half day on 28th October, and will be working in the village for one day every month in future. If there is anything that anyone would like done, they need to contact Neil who will pass on the request to Simon.

Chairman

Reading Room & Village Diary – Nicky Street

The Macmillan Coffee morning raised £428.95, with thanks especially to Marilyn, Vicki and Helen.

The produce table outside the Reading Room is very successful and has fruit,

vegetables and flowers as well as jams, jellies and chutneys.

Action

Harvest Supper was also very successful with many thanks to all, especially those organising the horse racing.

Dates ahead: Christmas Candlelit carol service is on Sunday 18th December at 6pm.

Christmas Day service is at 10:30am

In the Reading Room, the next event is an illustrated talk by Nigel Rodgers on "The Bruegels", the family of artists, on Tuesday 22nd November.

The Christmas Coffee morning is on Saturday 3rd December with tombola, cakes, produce and a Christmas stall – free tea and coffee available.

Christmas cards – the Reading Room committee has photos of the village in winter. These have been made into cards and will be available for sale at the Coffee morning, as well as the original village cards.

Next year there will be a talk by Barbara Last, with photographs, on Tuesday 17th January entitled "Pink elephants and creatures of the night".

11. Any other business

- a. Fireworks: Paula Rapley has asked anyone who plans to use fireworks please to inform her as horses and other pets are very nervous of loud noises.
- b. Speed watch has restarted after a summer break. There are now 2 volunteers at each session, rather than 3.
- c. Neil would like to try holding the village meetings on Mondays in the future.
- d. It was suggested that weed killer be used on the inside of the playground fence. Richard Brasher thought this not a good idea as it might affect young children.

The next meeting will be in January 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings

Attachments

1. Berwick St James Precept Account 1 Apr '16 to 27 Oct '16
2. Berwick St James Community Fund 1 Apr '16 to 27 Oct '16

Berwick St James Precept Account 1 Apr '16 to 27 Oct '16

		<u>2014-15</u>	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>
<u>Balance as at 1st April</u>		£ 895.26	£ 864.94	£ 809.90
25 April 2016	Precept from Wiltshire Council	1,250.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
29 April 2016	Wiltshire Association of Local Councils	-55.18	-56.7	59.40
25 May '16	Community First (Insurance premium)	-225.14	-218.34	250.16
	Grant Thornton (Auditors)	0.00	-30	0.00
10 May - 30 Sep '16	Graveyard maintenance (various)	-500	-500	500.00
9 May '16	C & D King - Marquee			999.00
9 May '16	Wiltshire Council - Marquee Grant			999.00
10 May '16	Reading Room	-500	-500	500.00
July '16	Marquee Hire (x2)			140.00
<u>Balance as at 31st March</u>		<u>£ 864.94</u>	<u>£ 809.90</u>	<u>£ 890.34</u>

(Balance as at 27 Oct '16)

Berwick St James Community Fund 1 Apr '16 to 27 Oct '16

<u>1-Apr-16</u>	<u>Balance as at 1st April 2016</u>	<u>£4,378.47</u>
11-May	Marie Perry - wheelie bin stickers	-47.97
23-May	C & D King-Marquee storage boxes	-126.00
06-Jun	Wine for village meetings	-80.00
06-Jun	Cash (Band £480 + £30 float/prizes)	-510.00
16-Jun	Occasions Marquees Hire (90th celebrations)	-432.00
17-Jun	Cash deposit	1491.03
23-Jun	Cash - 2 cheques re 90th celebrations	110.00
08-Jul	Marquee Hire-Ridley	35.00
07-Aug	A Gatling reimbursement for defibrillator pads	-65.20
26-Aug	Marquee hire- Hiscock	35.00
24-Oct	Devizes Textiles	120.00
<u>Balance as at 27 October '16</u>		<u>£4,908.33</u>