

Minutes of Berwick St James Online Village Meeting. Thursday, 4th June 2020.

In attendance: Christian Lange - Chairman
Sarah Humphreys – Deputy Chair
Bill Hiscocks – Treasurer
Kate Wood - Secretary

Guests: Cllr. Kevin Daley – WCC
Mike Doldon – New Publican (The Boot Inn, BSJ)

Total in attendance: 30 online + phone in.

Apologies received: Jane Lock-Smith, Richard Francis & Gabbie Gvo, Stephen & Ailsa Bush, Sally Hiscock, Howard & Barbara Tolley.

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm, he explained the meeting was being recorded and welcomed the guests.

2. Minutes of last meeting and Matters Arising.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting on April 30th 2020 – Proposed Bill Hiscocks, seconded Neil MacDougall.

3.

- **Buddy Groups** – These are still in place and working well but reducing in need and intensity as the present Covid 19 crisis appears to be easing and therefore regular meetings were not deemed necessary.
- **Co-Ordination of Shopping** – Hayley is now co-ordinating any additional shopping requirements for the village but has only had two requests so far.
- **Social Media (Whatsapp & Facebook)** – both still in use by the village and appear to be going well.

- **Pub Quiz** – This is still taking place online weekly and very much enjoyed by all who join in. The quiz for 5th June was not going ahead although it would be commencing again from 12th June. On 19th June John Stephenson proposed that the quiz be in aid of a local Cancer Support Charity. This will be going ahead and people are encouraged to take part. Details to follow.
- **Medication Collection** – There now appears to be a reduced demand for this, although the availability remains there if required.
- **Farm Shop** – Marilyn is still being kept quite busy with orders for food, although the demand has reduced somewhat lately. Georgie Lange is no longer available to help but Harry & Rosie are still assisting with orders and all emails regarding orders will now be directed to Harry.

4.

Reading Room Update & AGM.

Nicky explained that some of the furniture has been removed from the Reading Room generally increasing the space available and therefore Pilates and Yoga will now be able to resume as there is the sufficient amount of space presently required for distancing.

The Reading Room committee took the opportunity to hold their AGM during this meeting.

Nicky Street the Chair gave a quick summary of the year's events. Firstly, that all the building work had finished. There are WCC business grants available which, if claimed by the Reading Room, could cover losses incurred due to Covid 19. All details regarding this and a treasurer's report are available on the village website.

The re-election of officers for the reading room committee took place, Sarah Humphreys has informed the committee that she will be standing down and those proposed for election to the committee are as follows:

Chair – Nicky Street (Prop. by Bill Hiscocks) – all in favour.

Secretary – Anika Lange (Prop. by Charlie Street) – all in favour.

Treasurer – Fiona Bailey (Prop. by Janey Campbell-Johnson) – all in favour.

Other members proposed for election to the general committee: Sarah Humphreys, Claire Whatley, Nigel Rodgers, Olivia Marchant and Sally Hiscock – (Prop. By Neil MacDougall and Christian Lange) – all in favour.

5.

The Reading Room committee is therefore re-elected for 2020 and there were no questions in relation to this forthcoming from the meeting.

The Boot Inn.

Mike Doldon.

Christian introduced Mike Doldon as the new publican of The Boot and extended a warm welcome to him on behalf of the village. Mike explained that general repairs and some general refurbishments were taking place at The Boot prior to re-opening, although he emphasised that no changes would be made (following some suggestions from Red Oak Taverns), without either his approval or the village as a whole being consulted. He could not give any firm date at present for the re-opening as, due to Covid 19, no definite opening date had yet been announced for restaurants and pubs and the present requirement for 'social distancing' was not practicable in such a small pub. He did however hope to run some events in the pub garden possibly featuring pizza/paella as soon as allowed and he looked forward to

welcoming and meeting all BSJ villagers.

Christian asked if anyone had any questions to put to Mike regarding The Boot but there were none at present, therefore Christian thanked Mike for joining us.

6.

WCC update

Cllr Kevin Daley.

Christian welcomed Kevin to the meeting and Kevin remarked on the very positive response from the BSJ villagers with regard to the Covid crisis. He also explained that there were very few meetings taking place at WCC at present and therefore not that much to report, although he did point out that WCC had redirected £25,000 from the transport budget into the development of new cycle routes and encouraged BSJ to apply for some of this funding if it was of interest to the village.

Other updates: Recycling waste at the tip – dates now had to be booked in advance.

Financial help was available from WCC for anyone in hardship (paying rent etc) and those affected should apply.

Chris invited any questions from the meeting regarding WCC services -

Shayne asked if Kevin could suggest any more ways of reducing the speed of traffic through the village. Kevin said he was not aware of any other schemes at the moment and that WCC's priority at present was on the development of cycle routes.

7.

Neil asked if face masks were going to be made compulsory when travelling on public transport in this area and Kevin felt that this present ruling would probably apply nationwide.

V. E. Day commemorative photo album

Chris explained that the album consisted of photos of the villagers of BSJ taken outside their own houses. It contained 66 pages of photos (Taken by Jim Whatley) and with sufficient orders from the village albums could cost £50 each instead of £75 (for smaller order numbers). Chris invited anyone interested in purchasing an album to email him and asked if there were any questions regarding this from the meeting.

Janey pointed out that she had noticed some mistakes regarding spelling etc and asked if these would be corrected for the final copies and Chris confirmed that they would.

Keith suggested a digital version for the village to be available to view online and suggested this may be a more cost effective way for the majority of people to view it. Chris said that the pictures are already on the website and he will look into whether a virtual book could be created.

8.

Village Lottery

Chris said that there had been very little response regarding the idea of a village lottery as a means of fund raising for the village and invited comments on this from the meeting.

Chris will again try to gauge support for this in the village.

9.

NHS Tea

Chris referred to the suggestion made by Jean Hibberd that the village should contribute to the provision of a 'Tea' by way of a thank you for staff from the NHS what had worked on the Covid 19 wards. Jean had proposed the meal to be held at The White Hart, Salisbury. Unfortunately it was generally felt that this may prove impractical as the numbers of NHS staff employed at Salisbury District Hospital was enormous and, particularly in the present climate, that would prove impossible due to the social distancing rules. Others did offer suggestions, Gail Lovett suggested that a small piece could be entered in the Salisbury Journal to gain support from a wider area than just BSJ, Keith suggested a plaque saying "Thank you from BSJ" could be placed in the Hospital entrance and Marie suggested a collection to raise money to donate to the NHS.

Chris said he would look into the suggestions give a follow up in due course.

10.

Any other business

Chris asked if there was any other business and invited comments/questions from the meeting. He also asked if anyone felt there was anything else we as a village or the committee could do for the village either at present, regarding covid, or in the future.

Neil said that due to the increased incidents of speeding through the village the sooner we could get the community speed watch (CSW) going again the better. Marie replied that there were no plans from the Wiltshire Police for it in the near future.

Peter Day suggested that the speed limit at both ends of the village should be dropped from 50 to 40 mph and felt that as there was an increase in the number of cyclists now it was an additional danger. Kevin Daley said he was aware of the concern and suggestions and Chris suggested it be reviewed at a future meeting.

Bill suggested the AGM (to include re-election of the village committee) should be held after the lockdown ended.

Rosie & Martin Gairdner (presently staying in Cornwall) sent their greetings to the village and expressed their eagerness to return as soon as possible.

Keith repeated a thank you to Chris from all the village for his efforts during the crisis and praised the lighting both during the crisis for the NHS and also for V.E Day.

The date of the next meeting is TBC but will probably be late September/early October and as there was no other business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Christian Lange

Village Chairman.

