

Minutes of Berwick St. James

Annual General Meeting

Monday, 8th May, 2017.

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Total in attendance: 32

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. **Welcome & Introduction – Chairman**

Action

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00pm, welcoming Cllr Darren Henry to the meeting. He also extended a welcome to new residents Dave Fielding and Jessica Dibben, as well as Andy Gilbert, the new Druids Estate underkeeper, and his partner Lucy de Pee.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Kate and Julian Glyn-Owen, Stephen & Ailsa Bush, Jane Lock-Smith, Wendy and Brian Armstrong, Anika and Chris Lange, and Nigel Rodgers.

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

A decision on the cricket pitch and playground was deferred to this meeting. This is possibly the last year that the cricket club will use the pitch, which would mean the land would revert back to Charlie Street and both pitch and playground would cease to exist anyway. As it is used very infrequently, it was suggested that the frequency of grass cutting of the playground by Richard Brasher be reduced and that in September the playground would be officially closed with a notice pinned to its surrounding fence to indicate its closure.

Chairman
R. Brasher

The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the last meeting.

Proposed by Bill Hiscocks. Seconded by James Hardy. All in favour.

4. **Council & A303 matters – Chairman**

Julian Glyn-Owen asked that this proposal be presented to the meeting:

"Given Ian West's 26+ years as a local councillor, Kate and I wanted to propose, as part of the AGM minutes, deepest thanks to him for his un-matched contribution to life here. Ian's knowledge and contacts in the local community and his evident standing in Wiltshire Council are something we will miss greatly."

All in favour

Julian Glyn-Owen and Neil MacDougall went to Bristol on 3rd March and personally handed copies of our reports to Arup Atkins. Henry and Cllr Ian West also spoke at the Wiltshire County Council meeting on 14th March and reported back that WCC are officially in favour of the Northern route at this stage. Approximately three quarters of the funds raised have so far been spent or allocated to investigations and reports. Letters, together with the reports have been sent to Natural England, Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Wiltshire County Council and the Environment Agency. It is believed that the investment made by the CPSTV on behalf of the residents of Berwick in the services of the

consultancy firm Mabett is proving to be a sound one. Although there was presently little of substance further to report, the chairman assured the floor that if significant information concerning the Winterbourne bypass became available, residents would be informed via the village email system or at a specially convened meeting.

AECON have won the contract for the construction of the tunnel and all information we have given to Arup Atkins will be passed on to AECON.

5. Local Footpaths – Mary Gatling

Mary & Tony Gatling hosted a meeting of our present MP John Glen, Cllr Darren Henry, and Neil MacDougall about the footpaths that would be lost if the Southern route were chosen and their usage. They had previously asked users of the footpaths to sign and date a form to give evidence of the number of walkers using the footpaths. Within just 2 weeks they had 350 signatures. Cllr Henry sent a copy of the list to Wiltshire Council and Derek Parody.

6. Election/Re-election of Officers

With no other nominations, it was proposed that the 4 current officers Neil MacDougall (Chairman), Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chairman), Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer) and Helen Riding (Secretary) be re-elected.

Proposed by Mary MacDermot. Seconded by Pauline Stephens. All in favour.

7. Accounts & Funding Requests – Bill Hiscocks

Funds raised for the A303 project are in the Community Fund and are ring fenced for its use only.

The Precept Account: Opening balance was £809.90 and the Closing balance was £890.34. The Community Fund Opening balance was £4378.47 and the Closing balance was £1,807.79. The A303 fund raised £19,500 and the current balance is £4,317 after all reports have been paid for.

The approval of the annual governance statement was proposed by Nicky Street and seconded by Jane Campbell-Johnson.

The approval of the annual accounts was proposed by Charlie Street and seconded by James Hardy.

Bill proposed that we pay £500 each to the Reading Room and the Graveyard Maintenance fund from the Precept account.

Proposed by Ian Gibb. Seconded by Gill Brasher.

Bill further proposed that we pay £400 each to the Reading Room and the Church from the Community Fund, with the possibility of paying more later in the year.

Proposed by Al Smith. Seconded by James Hardy.

Community Event/Fundraising Options – Olivia Marchant

- 8.** At the last meeting people expressed a desire to have some sort of fundraising/community event this year, and a request went out for someone to identify themselves as willing to organise such an event. So far, no one has, but the general feeling remains that the community does want to get together for a fundraising event, but on a smaller scale than previous years. The Marchants are willing to host a family oriented event at the Clock House. Kate Glyn-Owen will email families to ask for suitable dates. There will be a meeting at 6pm on Friday 12th May at the Boot Inn for those interested and willing to help and share ideas for activities.

9. a. Speedwatch – Marie Perry

Since our Speedwatch started in Jan 2014, we've had 175 sessions with 7,283 vehicles and 550 speeders recorded. There are 53 schemes across Wiltshire

and in February 2017, 1771 letters were sent out to speeders.

The highest speed of 70 mph, was recorded in Durrington. The highest speed recorded in Berwick was 43 mph in February. If anyone is willing or interested in helping, please email Marie at perrymc@btconnect.com or phone her on 790884.

a. Neighbourhood Watch/Flood Prevention – James Hardy

There has been a marked increase in car thefts involving cars of dogwalkers. Police ask that we report offroaders that are displaying antisocial behaviour. We should not stop or approach them, but report them, with number plate details if possible. Amesbury police are under stress currently as all the new housing developments are falling within the Amesbury area, as opposed to Salisbury, and they do not have extra manpower.

The gullies in Berwick have been cleared in the last 10 days.

Telephone scams are ongoing. James himself was subjected to one and was called on several consecutive days. He asks that we be vigilant and not to give out information.

b. Parish Steward - Chairman

Simon Simms comes once each month. Last week the grass and hedge at the Guide Centre were done. He also cleared the drains but we are asked please to clear any rubbish from drains & ditches if we should notice any build-up.

d. Reading Room & Village Diary – Nicky Street

Reading Room – The AGM is on Monday 15th May at 7pm. One of the plans is to move the door from the street to be almost opposite the door into the Reading Room itself, and so create much needed storage space in the current corridor. The plans will be available at the AGM to look at.

Village Diary - The cancer research Big Breakfast on 2nd April raised £695.82, with thanks to all who attended, and especially to Marilyn and Vicki.

Girl Guides – Friends of Berwick AGM on Thursday 11th May 6:45 for 7pm with a talk about Raptors and Owls.

British Legion Quiz on Sunday 14th May at the Boot Inn.

Wine and Sausage night on Friday 26th May at 7:30pm at the Boot Inn.

We are also reminded of the plants and produce table outside the Reading Room – proceeds to Cancer Research.

Any Other Business

- 10.** Cllr Henry said that while canvassing before the election, the respect for Ian West in the community was obvious. He has given 26 years of sterling service to the community. He has agreed to keep in touch with Ian to access his knowledge. He will be listening a lot in the next few weeks to what people have to say and is looking forward to meeting everyone.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings