

## Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at 19:00hrs

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In attendance: Christian Lange – Chairman  
Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair  
Bill Hiscocks - Treasurer  
Hayley Burrey - Secretary

Total attendees: 35 people – 29 in person and 6 attended on Zoom

Apologies received and read out: Henry Colthurst, Carolyn MacDougall, Jane Rowe, Gail Lovett and Greville Bibby.

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

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chairman (Christian Lange) opened the meeting at 19:00hrs, welcomed everybody attending in person and those joining the meeting via Zoom. Christian also made a special welcome to our new residents Mary and Malcom Cochrane and mentioned that it was Lyanne Street's Birthday. Christian Lange then proceeded to record the meeting to enable all to see it remotely afterwards. Apologies were received Henry Coulthurst, Carolyn MacDougall, Jane Rowe, Gail Lovett and Greville Bibby.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Chairman (Christian Lange) said that they have been on the website for a few weeks and asked if all were happy? Neil MacDougall requested that the rental charges for marquees, gazebos be reflected in the minutes, which was noted and agreed to be put in next minutes. Please see note under Any Other Business in section 12.

Christian then asked if anybody would like to propose that they were a true and accurate record of the last village meeting.

Proposed by Keith Lovett and Seconded by Nicky Street. All in favour and no objections.

#### **3. Matters Arising**

Chairman (Christian Lange) summarised a couple of things. Representations regarding the Lighting/signage application for the Boot have now been submitted as requested at the last village meeting and can be seen on the WC website. Regarding The Farm Shop, the application to nominate it as an

asset of community value has been completed with signatures and a request for those who haven't yet signed to do so at this meeting.

#### **4. Summary of Accounts and Village Precept - Vote**

Chairman (Christian Lange) explained that we would have a quick update on the accounts and that we would then vote for the agreed precept for next year.

Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks) gave a presentation on the Berwick St James Parish Meeting Accounts 2021-2022. The slides can be on the Village Website, using this [LINK](#) (Page 4)

Bill Hiscocks made mention that the village accounts are looking healthier than they have been before. We haven't spent all our money this year – due to the sale of the village playground, two hires of the marquees, however still proposing that we keep the precept at £2000. The average precept amount within the council tax is £28 per household.

Proposed by Bill Hiscocks and seconded by Neil MacDougall. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

#### **5. Proposals for Distribution of Funds - Vote**

Chairman (Christian Lange) summarised that as we hadn't agreed the distribution of funds from the village party prior to the event and hadn't anticipated the surprising outcome of raising over £6000 – we would now review and vote on the four proposals. Christian said he hoped all had seen the paperwork already circulated for these proposals and that this was now to summarise and vote.

The proposals were as follows:

- **St James Church - £2000**

Stephen Bush provided a presentation with slides covering the request for £2000, to go towards the huge expenses of keeping the church alive. In particular, the urgent need for a new vertical access ladder with a cage, to gain access to the Bell Tower.

The slides can be on the Village Website, using the following [LINK](#) (see page 8)

It was questioned by Ian Gibb whether £2000 enough for the upkeep? Christian Lange commented that the bid cannot be increased at this stage, as one must give 10 day's notice – it must therefore be requested at another meeting. Hayley Burrey suggested that we have a separate event to raise money specifically for only the church.

- **Reading Room - £2000**

Nicky Street provided a presentation with slides covering the request for £2000, to go towards further expenses to maintain the building. Including a replacement thatch, repairing the roadside cob wall, interior decoration and a Loop System.

The slides can be on the Village Website, using the following [LINK](#) (See Page 11)

The cashflow was questioned by Mike Riding, who was trying to be fair and asked if there was an operational plan for the upkeep of the Reading Room. A debate took place, and it was stated that the Reading Room is a village asset and needs a buffer. Nicky Street commented that the committee do an amazing amount of work and would like to extend thanks. Ian Gibb commented that maybe next time we see a full breakdown of what's needed.

- **Cricket Pitch - £1620**

Toby Humphreys provided a presentation with slides covering the request for £1620, to go towards the labour costs of a new all weather cricket pitch. Toby further expanded that the cricket pitch is open to the entire village and should anybody wish to play for the cricket club – please ask.

The slides can be on the Village Website, using the following [link](#) (See Page 15)

Neil MacDougall questioned whether if the cricket pitch was donated by the Streets and an asset of the village, as written in the proposal? It was confirmed that this was in fact incorrect and that the cricket club is a private club and pays rent to the Streets for the cricket pitch field and that it remains the property of the Street family. The field is not owned by the village or the cricket club.

Chris Brain, confirmed that the cricket club would allow villagers to use the Cricket pitch free of charge for anybody in the village when not being used by the cricket club. Hayley Burrey clarified with Chris Brain, that anybody from the village wishing to utilise the cricket pitch, can do so at any time by contacting Chris Brain or Charlie Street. The gates are only locked to prevent vehicles accessing without permission

It was also pointed out that this request is a one-off and the club is not looking for ongoing funding.

Christian Lange then directed the meeting to take the following votes.

- **St James Church - £2000**  
It was Proposed by Stephen Bush and seconded by Kate Glyn-Owen. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% unanimous.
- **Reading Room - £2000**  
It was Proposed by Nicky Street and seconded by Pauline Stephenson. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% unanimous.
- **Cricket Pitch - £1620**  
It was Proposed by Toby Humphrey's and seconded by Keith Lovett. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% unanimous.
- **Outstanding Balance to remain in Community Fund.**  
It was Proposed by Charlie Street and seconded by Kate Glyn-Owen. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% unanimous.

## **6. Update on Village Climate Change Survey**

Chairman (Christian Lange) explained that a survey that had been put out to the village to establish whether there was an appetite to progress certain initiatives linked to climate change as a village. Christian Lange provided a presentation with slides showing all the results.

The slides can be on the Village Website, using the following [LINK](#)

A total 52 villagers took part in the survey and 90% of respondents agreed that we should explore ways of working together as a community on Climate Change, even if only for education. There is a huge amount of potential for us to take productive action. As a way forward, it was agreed that we would begin the journey, with a film and discussion in the reading room, date to be arranged by Christian.

Kate Glyn-Owen expressed special thanks to Christian for all his work on putting the survey together, as it's a lot of work and a very important topic.

## **7. New Road Signs on road to Winterbourne Stoke**

Sarah Humphreys showed a slide of the new road signs that are going onto the road from Winterbourne Stoke to Berwick St James. The slide can be on the Village Website, using the following [link](#) (See page 47)

## **8. Village Marquee**

Neil MacDougall presented a summary of the status of the village marquees and their usage this year. Neil confirmed that from the £500 allocated, he has now purchased the new pole bags for £93.00. Neil also said that the marquees make money for the village and its important that we keep what we have, in good condition. Neil reminded the meeting that the village had agreed to either repair the roof, buy a new roof or buy a new marquee. To buy a new marquee, would cost between £580 - £730. However, we now have a quote for a new gala roof for £310.00. All agreed that that we should simply replace the roof as suggested by Neil.

## **9. Village Website**

Neil MacDougall covered the website and how to get the email reminders for all village events and news. He covered how to do this on two slides. The slides can be on the Village Website, using the following [link](#) (See page 51) Christian Lange extended his thanks to Neil on all the work he has done on the website and for all the research on the village marquees.

## **10. Jubilee Street Party**

Chairman (Christian Lange) raised the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee and confirmed that the date for the Street Party is Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Christian asked if there were any volunteers to form a working /planning group. The volunteers on the night were **Keith Lovett, Nicky Street, Hayley Burrey, Bill Hiscocks and Janey Campbell-Johnston**. Co – Chair (Sarah Humphreys) commented that she is looking into any possible grants from the council which we may be eligible for. We also are still unsure where we will hold it. Keith Lovett asked, if this would replace our usual summer garden party. Bill Hiscocks mentioned that we may get a £1000, as we did last time and to note that there will be a wedding in the church on the Friday, so there will be flowers in the Church on the Sunday.

## **11. Any other business**

Chairman (Christian Lange) then mentioned that Nicky Street has asked him to remind everybody that there is an upcoming talk in the Reading Room on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> of November and that any gift donations for the coffee morning, can be dropped off at the Dairy House or Reading Room on Friday 3rd December.

Bill Hiscocks reminded everybody that the Carol Service is being held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Stephen Bush said that all are invited to the Carol Service, and we hope to fill the church up.

However, it is asked that everybody do a lateral flow test on the Sunday morning – should anybody be struggling – Kate Glyn-Owen has kindly offered to be in the Reading Room between 10am and 11am on that Sunday morning, with several lateral flow tests.

**Charges for the rental of marquees, gazebos and BBQ are as follows.**

**Rental Price for Large Marquee (6m x 8m) - £70.00**

**Rental Price for Small Marquee (4m x 8m) - £50.00**

**Rental Price for a Gazebo - £5.00**

**Rental Price for Village BBQ with Gas - £10.00**

## **12. Date of next meeting**

Christian then concluded by stating the next meeting will be in March 2022 with the date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20:16 hrs.