

# Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting. Monday, 23 April, 2018.

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In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)  
Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)  
Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Guests: Tim Wilton, volunteer from Bobby Van Trust  
Darren Henry (Councillor for Till & Wylve Valley)

Total in attendance: 42

## Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

### 1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

### Action

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed the guests.

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Tim Marchant, Jane Lock-Smith, Barbara Last, Mary MacDermot, Henry Colthurst, the Days, the Baileys, the Goulds, the Lovetts, the Bushes, Ian Gibb, Robin Richards, the Bibbys and Jane Rowe.

Neil informed the meeting that Marilyn Wood was in hospital following a fall on Saturday, and that the Farm Shop would be closed for a week. A card and flowers would be sent to Marilyn on behalf of the village.

### 2. Council Updates

Darren Henry reported that a number of items relating to individuals had been dealt with, including further discussion at the Wiltshire & Swindon Countryside Forum on the issue of hare coursing, with representatives from Druids' Lodge.

He had attended the last Community Forum, which take place every two months and is a forum for discussion of local issues related to the A303 works. (Next date to be confirmed.) It was felt extremely important to have a Chair who is independent of Highways England. An independent charity called Planning Aid has been given the task of recruiting a Chair. Darren explained that the Development Consent Order is really about 'are we OK with the plans?'. The Legacy issues (to be discussed in the Forum) are not the same, and will cover many different aspects (byways etc) that affect local communities and will continue until 2026, when the project is completed.

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

Neil said that all matters arising would be covered in this meeting, for example, Data Protection and Speed Watch.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed unanimously to be a true reflection of the meeting – proposed by Julian Glyn-Owen; seconded by Pauline Stephenson.

**4. General Data Protection Regulations - Treasurer**

From 23 May 2018, the government will require us to have a Data Protection Officer (DPO). Accounts need to be published, including expenses, as well as listing the Village Officers. Bill Hiscocks, in his capacity as Treasurer, attended a seminar on the subject in Swindon, and has kindly agreed to take on the role of DPO for the village. While there is clearly some logic behind the legislation, as data has to be protected, a large number of charities at the meeting expressed extreme disquiet at the extra bureaucracy, additional costs and the threat of significant fines for non-compliance that are involved.

Bill Hiscocks

The village has to register, at an annual fee of £40. Our village data is a simple spreadsheet with residents' name, address, phone number, and (where applicable) email address. We would never sell it for marketing purposes and have taken steps to safeguard it. All emails are sent out with other addresses hidden, all information is kept up to date and old information removed. A privacy notice will be put up on the village website. We have to report any breach of data.

Chairman

DPOs: some third parties are offering to take on this role (for a minimum of £800 pa) but for an organisation such as ours, with a 'turnover' of £3000 pa, this is unnecessary and Bill will take it on. Wiltshire Council may set up some umbrella organisations to cover several villages.

**Key Points:**

As a general rule, please take care not to forward emails with other people's addresses on unless previously agreed.

Please respond, if you have not yet done so, to Neil's email that allows you to agree to remain on the village email list. It will be sent out again next week (less than half of those emailed have responded) and once more before 26 May. If you do not respond in the affirmative, you will not get any village emails after that date.

All

**5. Village statutory and non-statutory positions**

Neil outlined the situation for a Parish Meeting such as ours. The trustees and statutory positions are the Chair (currently Neil) and the local councillor (currently Darren Henry). Other positions on the Village Committee are non-statutory and can be taken by those living outside the village. At the Village Meeting at the end of May, it will be time to elect or re-elect the committee. This year Olivia Marchant,

Helen Riding and Bill Hiscocks are standing down. Bill will become the DPO. Kate Wood has kindly allowed her name to be put forward for the position as Secretary, and Martin Gairdner for Treasurer. Martin does live outside Berwick but as the above makes clear, this is no barrier to him taking up this role and as a chartered accountant, he would be most welcome. **Action**

#### 6. **Open Gardens 2018 update - Chairman**

The date is 23rd-24th June, from 1pm – 5pm. Neil showed and explained the map design, and the tickets. Jane Lock-Smith is kindly printing these.

Cyril Emm's wonderful restored tractors (dating from 1927 and 1941) will be on display.

We need more volunteers for the car parking. Please let Neil know if you can help with this. **All**

Plants: Anyone sowing seeds or splitting perennials: please think of growing/nurturing some for the plant stall.

#### 7. **Speed Indicator Device (SID) proposal – Chair and Marie Perry**

Marie gave an overview of Community Speed Watch (CSW). The initiative was set up four years ago and was based on a metro count of an average of 600 vehicles a day passing through Berwick. The volunteers have put in 488 hours of work, in all weathers. The situation is significantly worse at the north end of the village, where cars come in from the 303. Those living off the main road or at the southern end may not be aware of the level of speeding. From their own CSW stats, Marie says there is about 1 car every minute between 7.30 and 9 am. Of these, an average of 7% exceed the speed limit.

CSW have looked the effectiveness of at different traffic calming devices: speed bumps, speed gates, chicanes, Speed indicator devices (SIDs), and CSW itself. Traffic calming (bumps) are no good for farm machinery and buses. Speed gates positioned at the entrance to the village are effective but we do not have space on the verge for even the narrowest design. SIDs do have tangible impact both short and long term and are supported by local authorities. Four years ago, CSW borrowed a SID and it proved very effective.

CSW are proposing that a SID for the village is purchased and positioned at the north end of the village, opposite Woodsprings on council-owned land. The suggested solar-powered model produced by Evolis has 3 settings: within the speed limit, it reads 'Thank you', 'Slow Down' between 30 and 40 mph, and 'Too Fast' if over 40 mph. It also records useful speeding data of traffic travelling in both directions so CSW can, for example, plan their sessions at the busiest times. But the key benefit is that the SID acts to slow down traffic speed 24/7, which CSW cannot do. It comes with a two-year guarantee and there are no servicing costs, just insurance.

This radar speed sign would cost a total of £2,115.60 which includes VAT. We

expect to get matching funding from Amesbury Area Board, so the calculation is that village would need £1,057.80 from Community Fund, which we would hope to raise through the Open Gardens Weekend. Matching funding, once secured, last for 12 months. **Action**

Much discussion ensued. A key point made was that while it is widely felt that a SID is ugly, speeding motorists are worse. Also, the village survey, done some 8 years ago, showed 85% of the village was concerned about speeding. If we do get a SID, it would be on for, say, a 3-week period and then the display is switched off for a while (but still recording data), so people don't get used to it and/or start ignoring it.

Neil agreed to see if there was any possibility of Druids allowing the verge to be widened so that white gates could be positioned at the village entrance **Chairman**

Neil also agreed to see if we could borrow one of this model of SID for a trial period. He thought this unlikely but would investigate. **Chairman**

At the end of the discussion a vote was taken to see if those present were in favour of having a radar speed sign: 32 agreed. No one objected.

## 8. **Village Diary – Nicky Street**

Nicky took the opportunity to give an update on Reading Room Planning Application, which it turned out we did not need. Quotes are now being sought from at least three builders. We will then explore grants. **Nicky Street**

Past events:

The Wiltshire Air Ambulance Big Breakfast made an impressive £741.79. Many thanks to all involved.

Georgina Lange ran the London Marathon in about 6 hours: many congratulations! She is raising money for Spinal Research: see <https://ukvirginmoneygiving.com/georgina-lange-teamspinal> if you would like to support her.

Future events:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April: Children's Film Night 6pm in the Reading Room. 'The Trolls'. For more details see Kate Glyn-Owen or Linda Doggrell

Zumba and Pilates: every Thursday at 6.15.

Monday April 30<sup>th</sup> – Art History talk at the Reading Room. Doors open 7pm. 'Vincent in Arles and the Yellow House'

The sweep has been booked for May 17<sup>th</sup>: contact Margaret Mustill if you wish him to visit.

## 9. **Bobby Van Trust Cyber-Crime Presentation -Tim Wilton**

This was an extremely informative and helpful session, outlining how to keep safe online and to create effective passwords, as well as detailing the different kinds of

online scams and crimes one might encounter, and how to deal with them. The **Action** Bobby Van Trust (BVT) is an independent charity working closely with Wiltshire police, and their team of volunteers offer basic practical skills, support and reassurance, and information about other helpful resources.

They have visited over 25,000 homes advising the elderly and the vulnerable on all kinds of safety and security issues, not just cyber-crime. They go to people referred by the police and by various support organisations, but you can also request their assistance yourself if you are over 60 or 18+ and registered disabled. Cyber-crime is fast growing, and today is far more common than robbery: 19% of over 60s have been targeted more than 10 times. The average loss is £600. The talk contained a wealth of information, so if you would like to know more about how to protect your computer and your data, there are some relevant details on the village website.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

**Neil MacDougall**

**Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings**