

Berwick St James Village Meeting 13th September 2012

Apologies for Absence

Action

Christian Lange, William Hiscocks, Tim & Olivia Marchant, Al Smith.

Introduction

Neil MacDougall introduced himself as the new Chairman, Emma Smith as Secretary/Clerk, and Henry Colthurst as Treasurer. He advised the meeting that Sarah Humphreys will be continuing as Vice Chair. The Chairman continued by thanking Richard Brasher, Tina Woodford and Jacky Webb for their many years of service. Three new families have moved to the Village recently – namely Mike and Linda Doggrell, Rachel Chandler and Andrew Botha, and Robert Parslow and Thea Plant. Mike Doggrell has taken over the role of Estate Manager on the Druids Lodge. The Chairman welcomed two babies to the village; Julian and Kate Glyn-Owen had a baby boy Henry and more recently Cathy and Giles Dickinson have also had a baby boy, Jake.

Notes of last meeting and Matters arising

Nicky Street wished to state that the Jubilee Event held in June was a huge success. We did receive the grant from the council for this event. A profit of £1700 was made and a great day was had by all, Nicky wished to express thanks to all who helped with the preparation of the event and to Tim & Olivia Marchant who kindly offered their garden for this event.

Stephen Bush informed us that the Kissing Gate situated between Berwick St James and Winterbourne Stoke on the B3083 which had previously been in a dilapidated state has now been repaired. Funding for the repairs was provided by Wiltshire Council (50%) and Druids Lodge Estate (50%).

The Gates leading in to the Cricket Club have been replaced. The funding for the repairs and replacements came from The Community Fund, The Cricket Club and from Charlie Street, as the landowner. The Chairman thanked all those who had helped to decorate the pavilion inside and out.

The Fishing Trip was a success at the second attempt and was blessed with good weather. Plenty of fish were caught and therefore there was no need to visit a fishmonger on the return journey!

Presentation on Recycling and Household Waste – Vicky Harris

A very interesting and informative presentation on recycling and household waste was given by Vicki Harris, the Senior Waste Project Officer for Wiltshire Council. Towards the end of her presentation, she said that the Wiltshire Council have decided to remove the Mini Recycling Centre at the Berwick Farm shop on 1 October 2012 in order to reduce costs. Over the past year the council have carried out a survey over the whole county of each of these small recycling centres and have determined that a small number of them are uneconomic. Unfortunately Berwick's is on the list.

There were several requests by the residents of Berwick to retain this facility. However, because the council have provided each household with appropriate recycling bins, there was insufficient evidence that these larger bins were also

required. As these mini recycling centres are not for commercial use, the requirements of the Farm Shop could not be taken into account. Furthermore, the Council are adopting further cost cutting measures by closing the Wiltshire Household Recycling Centres at 5pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 1 April to 31 October.

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There is a strong probability that when these bins are removed, we will arrange to have two commercially operated containers positioned in their place. Devizes Textiles, a textile and shoe recycling company will provide the bins, and donate £120 (for two bins) to the village per year. These bins will be only for old shoes and textiles, not for any other materials, and will be emptied every two weeks (more often if needed). In addition, for every ton of materials collected, they give £167 to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance, and last year they gave a total of some £23,000 to this charity. However, the Chairman is awaiting permission from the Druids Estate Manager before we go ahead, as the land belongs to the estate. The floor was asked if there were any objections, and there were none.

Chairman

Some villagers expressed their concern regarding lifting of a full black paper box out to their driveways for collection. Vicky Harris informed us of the 'Assisted Collection' service that the Council runs which collects and returns the bins from a point closer to the house. She also said that people can request baskets which are easier to position by the roadside. Vicki Harris said that she would prepare a detailed list of waste which is acceptable for recycling, as there was still some confusion.

Wiltshire Council Update

Councillor Ian West reiterated that the Wiltshire Household Recycling Centres will be closing at 5pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (previously the hours of opening were longer) from 1 April to 31 October.

Work is due to commence on the Longbarrow roundabout site as of 20th September at a cost of £3million. No land has been purchased and the work will commence on the existing site. Once this work has been completed, the A344 will then be closed permanently. This is the fork road from the A303 to the current Stonehenge Car Park. The A344 will be closed in April 2013, prior to the opening of the Visitor Centre in October 2013.

The Localism Act may well prove to be very labour intensive, with long procedures and high costs. More information can be found on the Wiltshire Council Website.

Crime Update

PCSO Wendy Leat spoke about local crime - Berwick has fared well in the local area with no crime since the last meeting, but she also noted that an increase in security is required and that we need to remain diligent with regards to locking up property and vehicles. Winterbourne Stoke has had two burglaries and in Stapleford, a car was stolen. Wendy Leat discussed the possibility of visiting Berwick at a set time for consultations and Q&A Slots with the locals.

Keith Lovett

Accounts

Henry Colthurst informed us that the Community Fund and Parish Fund Accounts had been merged in to one single account that contains a total of £4,238. This is a

combination of £1,262 from the Parish Fund, and £2,976 from the Community Fund. The £1200 discussed in the last meeting had been paid by the PCC to the Church to cover the shortfall in income due to not holding a fete.

Action

Village Maintenance and Upkeep

The road sweeper visited the village along with a team of additional street cleaners on 7th September. Most vehicles were moved from the High Street which enabled them to do a more thorough job. They should visit the village four times a year but it was discussed that the timing should maybe be more appropriate with regards to Harvest and the straw being strewn throughout the village. The Chairman asked that Charlie Street provide a 'Farming Calendar' in order to choose the best times of year. The team should have been removing debris from the gutters which they did to a certain extent, but they did not appear to be in attendance for as long as was stated before the operation. The Chairman will liaise with the Parish Stewards concerning cutting the grass areas for which the Council are responsible.

Charlie Street

Chairman

There was some discussion regarding weeds in the pavements and guttering on The High Street as well as a bigger problem of a large proportion of Pavement being obstructed by weeds at the Uppington Lane part of the Village on the way to the Guide Hut. The Chairman has spoken to Diana Gifford-Mead and to Druids lodge who each have a 50% ownership of the hedge on this stretch of pavement and hopes that this is cut back within the foreseeable future.

Diana Gifford Mead

Mike Doggrell

Charlie Street discussed the maintenance of the ditch which he dug out, running alongside the Farm Shop to prevent flooding caused by water running off the hills to the Farm Shop Track - he had asked the Council if they will assist in keeping it clear, to which their response was that they would.

Chairman

Village Survey

A village Survey Meeting was held on the 3rd September to discuss the Survey Results. Attendees were then split in to three groups to spend some time discussing various items. Another meeting will be required in order to get some of the ideas put in to reality – there seem to be a lack of volunteers to carry forward some of the ideas. However, Keith Lovett has offered to head up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the Village, Bill Hiscocks is to investigate the advantages of introducing a bulk buying Heating Oil Scheme, Christian Lange is going to write up a list of 'Favoured Tradesmen' from the local area, Gail Lovett is going to look into co-ordination of transport arrangements to local gym, and to investigate the setting up of Senior fitness classes. Sally Hiscock is going to look into ideas of potential fitness classes being held in the Reading Room – such as Zumba. Carolyn MacDougall has offered to spend time looking at how the Farm Shop may wish to carry different and additional stock tailored more towards Villagers requirements. Broadband Speed is an on-going issue in the Village – Clive Perry, together with the Chairman will be working with BT on how we can increase our broadband speed for the whole village. There was discussion of an Events Committee to head up events taking place within the Village, such as the annual fete – this will discussed further at the next meeting.

Keith Lovett

Bill Hiscocks

Christian Lange

Gail Lovett

Sally Hiscock

Carolyn MacDougall

Clive Perry

Chairman

Many people are keen to be proactive about speeding within the village, but as yet no one has put their name forward as wanting to lead a Village Speeding Group.

Reading Room

Action

Nicky Street reported on the Reading Room and upcoming activities; The first Film Night is to take place, the first Film being shown is 'The Artist' on the Wednesday 26th September.

Barbara Last will give us a Local Flora and Fauna lecture in November. An Art Group is being set up from 16th October, with an introduction on 25th September – Ann Crabtree (a professional arts teacher) will be running these classes. Sculpture classes have also been taking place with great success. As discussed previously – people showed great interest in Tutored Wine Tasting, however, someone was still required to organise these events.

Barbara Last

Ann Crabtree

Interest has been expressed in purchasing a Table Tennis Table for use in the Reading Room – this must be of a fold-away type of table for ease of storage. Ian Fisher kindly put together some costs from a number of local and internet shops. Another suggestion was to purchase one from eBay. Maurice Lange has volunteered to look into the feasibility of the idea.

Maurice Lange

A Projector and screen would also be very useful, which would be used for regular Film Nights but also be useful for meetings and presentations. A projector would sit atop one of the beams and a screen would come down from the roof area. Christian Lange has offered to look in to costs for this.

Christian Lange

Any Other Business

Diana Gifford-Mead brought up the subject of speeding between Berwick and Stapleford and would like to push for the speed limit to be brought down from 50 to 40mph. The Chairman informed her that the proposed Speeding Discussion Group would, if generally required, action this

Charlie Street informed us that at this time of year we should keep an eye out for Hare Coursers – if anyone should see them; call the police immediately and under no circumstance should any coursers be approached.

Charlie Street also asked that only the people who are in the 'running group' are allowed access on to their Farm, and usually with Nicky. No one else is permitted to run on areas of the farm and are urged to stick to the local byways and footpaths.

The addition of a short presentation on a subject of local interest to the agenda was well received, and anybody wishing to offer items or ideas for future meetings should contact the Chairman.

The chairman informed the meeting that he proposed to hold 4 Village Meetings a year, with the next one earmarked for early December. Any Planning meetings or meetings requested by a member of the parish will be additional to this number.