

Beverston Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2023
held in the Village Hall, Beverston

Present: *Councillors* Oliver Preston (Chairman), David Morris (Vice-Chairman), Caroline Lowsley-Williams, Dermot McMeekin, Oliver Preston, Jorn Rixen-Osterbro and the Clerk Fiona Gunn

District Councillor Tony Slater, Vanessa Argles, John Baldwin, Pam & Brian Blackah, Simon Carbery, Norma & John Crownshaw, Gill Fry, Joanna Gouriet, Philip & Diana Hamilton, Peter Jordon, Rona Lowsley-Williams, Pam McMeekin, Sue Morris, Lee & Darren Pegler, Mark Philpott, Vivien Preston, Nigel Sibley, Sarah Spain, Sue Stevens, Levent Tounjer, Richard Waldram.

Apologies: Anna & Stephen Montague-Jones, Caroline Beardwell, James Gouriet

Welcome by the Chairman, Councillor Oliver Preston: In his opening remarks the Chairman raised the following issues: he remembered those from the Parish who had died in the past year – David Lowsley-Williams and Paddy & Val Jackson. He reminded the meeting that David Lowsley-Williams was a previous Chairman of the Parish Council. He welcomed our new District Councillor Tony Slater and said that the five Parish Councillors were elected unopposed at the recent elections. At the first meeting after the election Oliver was elected Chairman of the Parish Council and David Morris was elected Vice-Chairman.

He said that the Village Hall Charitable Trust is now a registered charity and the Parish Council, as the sole trustee of this Trust will work alongside the Village Hall Committee to draw up plans to improve the Hall. He thanked Dermot McMeekin for all the work he has done to get the Village Hall registered as a charity. He also thanked Lee Pegler, Gill Fry, Sarah Spain and Fiona Gunn who run the Village Hall Operations Committee and Fiona Gunn for her work as clerk of the Parish Council.

There had been a few issues concerning Babdown during the past year mainly to do with out of hour lights and signage at the entrance.

Minutes of the previous Parish meeting held on 17 May 2022. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising from the minutes: Signage at Babdown was raised and Councillor Morris said he had been in contact with business owners and discussed the possibility of a single sign listing all the businesses. This is an ongoing issue.

Report from County Councillor Stephen Hirst. County Councillor Stephen Hirst was not in attendance and did not provide a report.

Report from District Councillor Tony Slater. Tony Slater informed the meeting that prior to him being elected a District Councillor he served on Avening Parish Council for 18 years and was Chairman for 6 years. At the recent District Council election his party, the Conservatives, did not get a majority so he will be limited on how much he can do, however, he encouraged people to contact him if any issues arise. He has been to see the site of the Castle Farm barn application.

Crime and Police Report: The work of the Parish Council in the past year: The Police sent a written report but did not attend in person. During the year to 1st April 2023 there were 7 crimes in the Parish of Beverston – 2 criminal damage, 1 assault, 2 public fear, alarm or distress, 1 burglary and 1 theft. As well as normal patrol activities they have been doing reassurance visits and extra patrols.

The work of the Parish Council in the past year: The issues raised at this meeting included: **Repairs to the VAS signs.** Richard Gray from the County Council has said he will repair the two signs (which will cost £9,000). The Parish Council was keen to get the signs moved to either end of the Village but this was not on the table so it was decided to go ahead with the repair. **Potholes and roads:** Potholes have been an issue in Beverston and along the Chavenage lane. Oliver Preston helped Peter and Vanessa from No 30 Beverston with their enquiry about the ownership of the road leading to their house. It was concluded that this is an unadopted road. **Planning applications:** There weren't many applications in the past year but the application for the barn at Beverston Farm is ongoing. The Parish Council was also involved with planning issues at Beverston Castle.

Financial Report: The Annual Statement of Accounts was circulated by the Clerk.

Report from the Church: Richard Waldram, one of the two Church Wardens for St Mary's, said that there are four local churches within Reverend Poppy Hughes' control. Beverston holds a service every Sunday at 10am and is very ably supported by the choir led by Juliet Browne. New members of the choir are being actively sought. The Church now has its own website and the church is connected to the internet through Gigaclear and there is a payment machine in the church for donations. The PCC want to install solar panels on the flat part of the tower roof – costs are being investigated. He said that there would be an animal service in July and he thanked the members of the PCC and everyone else who contributed by doing flowers and cleaning. The Parish Giving Scheme has been "invaluable". A special thank you was extended to Gill Fry the PCC Secretary and Verger.

Report from the Village Hall Trust: The Village Hall is now in the ownership of the Parish and was registered with Charity Commission on 12th April 2023. A generous donation has been received from the McCorquodale Charitable Trust (a very big thank you) and we are led to believe that we may get a donation from the Rook estate. The Beverston Village Hall Trust is run by the Parish Council as the sole trustee and the day-to-day operation and running of the Village Hall is under the Village Hall Committee. It now needs to be decided what improvements and works need to be done to the Village Hall.

Report from the Village Hall Committee: The Village Hall finances were struggling at the start of last year but a very big thank you to all those people who have set up a small monthly Standing Order to help us because that has kept us afloat and able to pay the bills.

Activities at the Village Hall have been fairly quiet in the past year whilst waiting for Charitable status however we have held some of our own events - the BBQ, a couple of coffee mornings, the quiz night and the hall has had a few private bookings including being used as the Polling Station. A donation was also received from Elizabeth Paull and the Parish Council, which was most welcome. A very big thank you also to the volunteers who look after and mow the Village Hall garden. Exciting times ahead for the Village Hall.

Any other business: None