

5th December 2012

Minutes

1. Apologies for absence

William Hiscocks, Al Smith. Sophie Colthurst, Barbara Last

2. Neighbourhood Watch Presentation – Amanda Clark

PCSO Wendy Leat was accompanied by Amanda Clark, the Wiltshire Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer, who gave the meeting a most informative talk on Crime Prevention and Neighbourhood Watch. She explained why N.W. is of great benefit to Villages such as BSJ, and encouraged residents to be 'nosy' within the village at unfamiliar cars or people but equally, to make sure that all doors and windows are locked as a burglar deterrent. Prevalent crimes at present are from sheds & outhouses. She also gave advice on lock types that were acceptable by insurance companies. Internet fraud is also rife at the moment, and Mrs Clark gave some examples of Internet crime and how people are being targeted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters Arising.

Minutes of the Last meeting were agreed with some amendments to the accounts section of the record – this was proposed by Diana Gifford-Mead and seconded by Charles Street.

4. Council Update – Cllr Ian West

Cllr West informed the meeting that the Boundaries Commission had revised their original proposal and have proposed that Till & Wylde Valley Division should be restored to the Salisbury Parliamentary Constituency. The plans for the Longbarrow roundabout, due to be completed in March 2013, were shown. During the period leading up to the completion of this roundabout there is likely to be disruption resulting from the temporary closure of the A360 and the permanent closure of the A344.

5. Review and Updates

- Keith Lovett advised the meeting that he will be requiring residents to work with him in the coming year for the BSJ Neighbourhood Watch Campaign. He encouraged the use of the specialised 'fridge packs' which are designed to hold personal medical details in the event of an emergency.
- Carolyn MacDougall spoke about the Speed Watch Group and the results of the 'Metro Count' which was in the village in November for 9 days in order to monitor speed and volume of traffic. The results showed that 85% of traffic travelled at a speed of 37.1mph or below, leaving 15% exceeding that speed. On average, up to 600 cars travel through Berwick on a daily basis which equates to 90 cars excessively speeding. It now entitles the village, should we wish to pursue it, to the Community Speed Watch programme. Community Speed Watch involves active members of the village joining together to monitor speed at selected locations in their village using an approved "speed gun". The relevant Council department will provide training and equipment. Data gathered would be passed to the council/police who in turn contact the offenders. The police will take further action against repeated offenders. The Speeding Group will meet early in the New Year to discuss the findings and in due course advise the village of their recommendations.
- The Chairman updated the meeting on a number of issues. On average, download speeds remain very low in Berwick but improvements have been made to a few houses. If residents continue to have issues with their internet speed, their internet service provider or BT should be contacted to resolve the issue. However a degree of persistence may be necessary.
- There have been incidents recently of dog fouling on the pavement in the village. All villagers are encouraged to clean up after their dogs. Leaflets are available on the subject of 'Dog Fouling and the Law', and it was suggested that anyone who knew of an offender should perhaps put one of the leaflets through their door as a reminder.

Keith Lovett

Carolyn
MacDougall

Chairman

- The Berwick St James' Parish Steward is Dave Holland – he has arranged for the drains and verges to be cleaned and for 'bundling' to be put in place along the verge of the Farm Shop track. Residents are encouraged to keep this gully clear of leaves and grass clippings. Charles Street will maintain the hedge.
- At present, there do not seem to be enough money-saving advantages to 'bulk buying' of fuel for it to be a viable option. There are also coordination issues as not everyone needs their tanks filling at the same time, and tanks are different sizes etc. However, Bill Hiscocks will carry out more research if required.
- The textile and Shoe Recycling Bins are working well already – the village has already received £60, with another £60 expected in April. The company providing the bins, Devizes Textiles, also raise money for the Air Ambulance. Residents are encouraged to keep the area tidy and make sure that only the appropriate materials go into the bins.
- The first Film Night held in the Reading Room was a great success, also Table Tennis, Art, Sculpture are proving popular, and Christmas activities for families is an upcoming event. There is still an interest in Wine Tasting evenings with 2 possibly planned for the forthcoming year.
- The Coffee Mornings in the Farm Shop are proving popular. The next one is planned for 10th February.
- Carol Singing this year will take place on 19th December and once again will raise money for Combat Stress. Organisers have previously purchased wine and mince pies (normally totalling around £25) themselves but this year Nicky Street has asked that the Community Fund could donate the £25 required for the mince pies and wine – this was proposed by Henry Colthurst and seconded by Virginia Weissmuller.

Charles
Street

Bill Hiscocks

Nicky Street

Treasurer

6. Village Diary

Nicky Street has organised a Village Diary. It is placed on the Notice Board and ties up with the Village Magazine. If anyone has an event they would like to add to this they can give Nicky the details; Event, Date, Time and Venue. Please note that she does not check that these are correct and uses the information she is given.

Nicky Street

7. Flood Protection

The wet summer and autumn that we have experienced has caused the water table to rise significantly causing flooding in parts of the village. This generally happens every 5 to 6 years. With regards to Flood Protection – there is no provision for sand bags but a local company MJ Abbott, do supply pumps, should they be required. Charles Street suggested that there was more to come from the inclement weather of 2012 as the water table is still rising.

8. Proposal for Grant of £1,000 to Reading Room from the Community Fund for a Sound and Vision System

Ian Fisher explained to us that a sound and vision system requires a projector, a DVD player, an amplifier, speakers and a screen. The equipment would be an asset to the village, fixed in the Reading Room and therefore would not be available for hiring out separately. The present Reading Room insurance would not cover this equipment and therefore additional cover would be necessary. Ian has made enquiries but at the time of the meeting, he had yet to hear back from any company. Henry Colthurst proposed that rather than a grant, this can be gifted. Henry proposed a gift to the Reading Room from the Community Fund of £1,000 and Charles Street seconded. The vote was carried unanimously.

Ian Fisher

Treasurer

9. Deputy Chairman position.

Sarah Humphries has been the Deputy Chairman for 4 years but now plans to stand down. Anyone who is interested in taking on the position of Deputy Chairman should approach Neil MacDougall in the first instance.

Chairman

10. Village Fete 2013

There was unanimous interest in holding a fete in 2013 and the grounds of Berwick House were kindly offered by the Humphries as the venue. The date of the Fete would be **Saturday June 1st 2013**. As usual this would be combined with the Companion Dog Show. People were encouraged to take part in whatever small way they can - either with the physical setting up and preparation beforehand, clearing away afterwards, to man a stall or to help with the Dog Show. A meeting will be held in the New Year to arrange a committee.

Sarah
Humphries

11. Stonehenge Campsite Proposals

Note: At this point Councillor West disclosed a professional interest in the topic, as he is a member of the Southern Area Planning Committee, and left the meeting. William Grant, the owner of the Stonehenge Campsite,

then gave the village a short presentation regarding 2 proposals he has for two Shower Blocks and additional Lighting at The Stonehenge Campsite. They concerned:

Action

- a. Application No: S/2012/1555/FULL - construction of a concrete base and siting of two portakabin type shower blocks
- b. Application No: S/2012/1603/S73 - development of land without compliance with condition 10 of appeal decision S/2010/0007 (installation of lighting)

Shower Blocks. Mr Grant stated that he would like to improve the shower & toilet facilities to the same grade as his camping facilities, as his present washing facilities were sub-standard. He explained where they would be situated and why they were necessary. Concerns were raised over the size and visibility of such buildings, and the adequacy of the present effluent disposal system. William explained that in the longer term he planned to install a Clargester system that would effectively break down sewage and via a filtration system, convert the remaining liquid to almost clear water, which would then be pumped back into his land. Concerns were also expressed regarding the high volume of waste produced on bank holidays or over the Summer Solstice period compared to the amount produced at other times. Mr Grant advised the meeting that, over Bank Holidays and the Solstice, extra portaloos would be provided. The floor raised the requirement for an emergency electrical backup system for the Clargester.

Site Lighting. Currently 15 lights are already working on the site but there are plans for up to 39. Concern was expressed about the present volume of lighting at the site, as with less than half of the planned lights installed and working they were deemed by some to be too bright and very visible from the road. Mr Grant advised the meeting that he was not likely to install the full 39 lights. It was suggested that PIR Lights could be used that only light up on a sensor system, thus lowering the light pollution and also that all lights on the site be operated in this way.

After all questions were taken and answered, Mr Grant, together with others who were not residents of Berwick St James parish, were asked to leave the meeting to allow the residents to debate the matter. After discussion, the two applications were put to the vote. The result showed clear majorities in favour of both proposals, subject to the following conditions:

Resolved:

1) **Shower Blocks – Conditional Approval** That the application be amended to increase screening to the shower blocks such that they are not visible in either winter or summer from beyond the boundaries of the site. The design should be amended so that these units are appropriate to their location in the countryside as the village considered green prefabricated boxes are a poor design solution. The proposals should be limited to the minimum number of w.c.s, wash hand basins and showers required for accreditation for the normal summer usage (15 + 30?) and the building size adjusted accordingly. Furthermore, that the Council advises Mr. Grant that when he installs his sewage treatment plant, he retains and utilises the existing cesspit as an overflow/emergency use facility, and that he obtains a generator to operate the sewage treatment plant in the event of power failure, to ensure that every possible precaution is taken against potential for pollution of the river Till and the surrounding countryside.

2) **Lighting – Conditional Approval** That the application be amended to reduce the amount of lighting proposed to that required to comply with the English Tourist Board minimum requirement for a campsite of this size, that all proposed up lighters be removed from the proposals, that the use of PIR switching be applied wherever possible and where it complies with the requirements of health and safety and the requirements of the English Tourist Board accreditation. All light fittings located on the boundaries that are approved should be shielded from the open countryside such that the light source cannot be seen beyond the site boundary. This should be in the interests of reducing light pollution and retaining the countryside environment.

Furthermore, it was considered in view of the comments above, that both applications should be debated and dealt with by the Southern Area Planning Committee, and not under Delegated Powers.

12 Any Other Business

John Read expressed an interest in street lighting in Berwick – the remainder of the floor responded with a unanimous no!