

Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting. Thursday 26th March 2020 (video conference)

In attendance: Christian Lange (Chairman)
Sarah Humphreys (Deputy Chairman)
Bill Hiscock (Treasurer)
Kate Wood (Village Secretary)

Guest speakers: Cllr Kevin Daley (Wiltshire County Council)
Dr Kate Glyn-Owen (Covid -19 update & information)

Total in attendance: 35 online devices or telephones – about 45 people present

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed everyone to our first online meeting made necessary due to the Covid -19 (coronavirus) pandemic. We are using a system called Webex. Christian also informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded and the recording would be made available to all by email and also on the village closed Facebook page entitled 'Carry on Berwick' created by Hayley Burrey.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting on 9th January 2020 – proposed Bill Hiscocks, seconded Julian Glyn - Owen.

4 Berwick Support plan

Christian explained the support plan which had been developed by a small group in the village and consisted of 3 phases:

Phase 1 – Recruitment of volunteers and coordinators – 35 volunteers came forward and we have a group of 6 people who are coordinating the plan.

Phase 2 – Formation of Buddy groups to assist each other as required.

Phase 3 – More coordinated approach should buddy groups become unable to provide

support to each other.

We are presently at Phase 2 where the Buddy groups have been established are seem to be working well to ensure that the more vulnerable in the community are receiving the support that they need.

Sally Hiscock had created and circulated a list of the Buddy groups the village who incorporate volunteers in the village are prepared to help other villagers with tasks such arranging shopping deliveries, medication collection and being a phone contact for assistance (other than personal or one to one care) as necessary.

Sally spoke for a few minutes to outline how the buddy groups would function and also to ask anyone who did need medication collected to please make sure their prescription request had been submitted at least a week in advance or to call Sally if they needed help with this.

Christian explained that a specific email had also been created for collection of medication.

Medicationc19@berwickstjames.org.uk

As well as the village Facebook page a village Whatsapp group has also been set up, Chris requested that we keep the use of the Whatsapp group for essential information only and use the facebook page for more light-hearted and entertaining chit chat or posts.

Hayley did assure the meeting that all security measures had been observed regarding the Facebook page and it was a closed page that no one from outside could access.

Bill Hiscocks informed the meeting that the post office in Amesbury was now only opening on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am-1pm for anyone who may collect their pensions in person or wish to use other post office services, if anyone needed help with collection of pensions etc please contact their 'buddy group'; also Lloyd bank in Amesbury was closed.

5. Covid-19

Kate Glyn-Owen

Kate introduced herself and explained that she was a public health doctor presently seconded to Public Health England (PHE) to work on Covid-19. She explained that part of their work so far had been contact tracing, which involved tracing all those who had contracted coronavirus or were displaying signs and symptoms and adding them to an epidemiology database and also to trace the contacts of those affected who would then be interviewed to collate all the required information. She explained that community testing for the virus was presently not being undertaken but testing would be carried out on anyone admitted to hospital. She suggested adhering to the advice on regular handwashing and observance of 'catch it, bin it, kill it' i.e. as this virus is spread by droplet transmission, the use of tissues for sneezing or coughing (or sneezing/coughing into your sleeve at the crook of the elbow). Kate also reinforced the advice from PHE that anyone displaying symptoms of a cough and high temperature should self-isolate at home for 7 days; should anyone else in the same household subsequently presented with symptoms then the whole family should isolate for 14 days, she showed a diagram to help clarify this. In the case of dealing with washing of sheets etc of anyone with the virus (or signs/symptoms), affected laundry should be carefully folded and bagged and then remain bagged for 72 hrs after which it should be safe to put in the washing machine (minus bag!).

Christian invited any questions from the meeting but none were forthcoming, however Kate invited anyone in the village to contact her directly if they required advice or further information.

6. Wiltshire County Council (WCC) – actions & response to Covid-19

ClIr Kevin Daley

Christian welcomed Kevin as our new county councillor and Kevin said he was delighted to have been elected to represent Berwick and other parishes.

Kevin then explained that WCC was concentrating its efforts on maintaining the provision of services as far as possible but with limited resources due to coronavirus services were under pressure and general ongoing repairs etc would now, in some cases, be limited to emergencies only. Support in local communities was a priority and for the continued support of the vulnerable in the community the council was endeavouring to access personal protective equipment (PPE) for carers to enable community visits to continue. Support groups had been created in the various areas which included webchat groups and so far, throughout the country, there are 600 groups similar to ours and a directory had been created to which Kevin strongly suggested Berwick should be added.

Kevin advised that all rubbish recycling centres were now closed and rubbish collection may well be affected or late due to a 30% reduction in staff and explained that the councils present priorities were the provision of services as much as possible to maintain public health and the support of the most vulnerable in communities.

7. Farm Shop Food Supplies.

Christian explained that the farm shop would now be taking food orders and a list of available food, including bread orders from Reeves bakers, had been circulated throughout the village. Information on how and when to submit orders is available on the form. Anyone who needs help with orders can phone Carolyn MacDougall (number on form) who will submit their order for them. A specific email address has been created and can be used for all communication and food orders. The email address for farm shop orders is:- farmshopc19@berwickstjames.org.uk

Marilyn will now be closing the farm shop on Sundays and Mondays.

8. Update on The Boot Inn.

Charlie Street

Charlie explained that The Boot was presently closed (as are all other pubs, cafes, restaurants in the country) due to the safety measures imposed regarding coronavirus and would remain so until all restrictions had been lifted. Cathy & Giles had, however, agreed to supply hot lunches for those who wished to order from a menu available by contacting The Boot, although food supplies were now greatly reduced and availability may be limited. General food supplies and some drinks were also available, all orders should be placed in advance by phoning The Boot and drinks should be collected between 6pm & 8pm only.

Chris also advised the meeting that he had been informed from Red Oak Taverns that they were now in discussions regarding the new tenancy of The Boot with an interested party.

9. Security Update.

James Hardy

James warned of the danger of callers who may portray themselves as NHS volunteers offering help and support in the village. On no account should anyone be allowed into the house and the 2 metre 'social distancing' rule should be observed. If in any doubt a photo of the person should be taken, if they are bona fide they shouldn't object to this at all. If anyone does suspect a caller of being 'bogus' their named 'buddy group' contact should be informed and a description of the person given. James also reinforced the advice to wash hands immediately after receiving any parcels or mail.

12. Green Issues

Gabbi Gvo/ Ian Gibb

Gabbi informed the meeting that she had investigated various ideas for carbon reduction which were easy to implement and she had created a flyer containing all the information which would be circulated in the village. Any requests from people living in the village who might like help with reducing Co2 emissions in their homes could also be submitted to chair@berwickstjames.org.uk who will ask Gabi to help.

Ian had investigated ideas for power generation and larger initiatives for the village using alternatives to fossil fuels. He said it was still a 'work in progress' and would update us further at future meetings.

11. Any Other Business

Christian asked all present if they had any other issues or questions and none had any issues to raise but all expressed their thanks to Chris for arranging the meeting in this way which had been met with general approval. Chris asked if everyone would like the meetings to continue quarterly or to increase to monthly until further notice; all that responded were in favour of monthly.

Chris then said as there was no other business and it was nearly 8pm we should close the meeting in order to stand outside our houses and 'clap for the NHS'.

The meeting closed at 8pm, date of next meeting TBC.

Christian Lange

Berwick Parish Meetings.