

## Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 19:00hrs

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In attendance: Christian Lange – Chairman

Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair

Bill Hiscocks - Treasurer

Hayley Burrey - Secretary

Total attendees: 30 people

Apologies received and read out: Stephen Bush, Ailsa Bush, Rosie Gairdner, Martin Gairdner, John Stephenson, Henry Colthurst, Jane Rowe, Gail Lovett and Brian Armstrong.

### **Summary of agenda discussions, actions and decisions agreed:**

#### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chairman (Christian Lange) opened the meeting at 19:00hrs and welcomed everybody in attendance to the AGM. Christian made a special mention of the two birthdays we had in the village that day – wishing Ann Hughes and Bob Drake a Happy Birthday. Apologies were received from Stephen Bush, Ailsa Bush, Rosie Gairdner, Martin Gairdner, John Stephenson, Henry Colthurst, Jane Rowe, Gail Lovett and Brian Armstrong.

#### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Chairman (Christian Lange) said that they have been on the website for a few weeks and asked if all were agreed that they were an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Keith Lovett and Seconded by Nicky Street. All in favour and no objections.

#### **3. Jubilee Party**

Chairman (Christian Lange) provided a summary of the Berwick St James Jubilee Party, taking place on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2022.

- A sit-down luncheon will be served in the main marquee (10m x 15m) at 12:30pm
- Toast to the Queen at 2pm to be given by Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks)
- Afternoon of entertainment, including Duck Race (tbc), Adults Lucky Dip, Children's Tombola, Children's Races, Crazy Golf, Croquet, Giant Jenga and Dog Show.
- Afternoon Tea and cake at 4pm

- 80 people confirmed so far, with the figure expected to increase.
- Next planning meeting to be on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Hughes added that as the recipe for the Platinum Pudding will not be available until the 12<sup>th</sup> May, would people still like to have this competition or decorated cupcakes. Christian suggested we defer this until the next planning meeting for the Jubilee. Janey Campbell Johnstone added that it would be simpler to agree strawberries, merengues and cream. Agreed to leave to the committee to arrange.

Christian then raised the costing involved to gauge if everybody was happy with the spend for the marquee, television screen, tablecloths etc...

Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks) then gave details of the BSJ Jubilee mugs he has organised and ordered 180. The proposal is that all children in the village receive a complimentary mug and all adults purchase each mug for £7.50, which could raise over £100. Other methods of bringing money in will be the Lucky Dip, Dog Show, Time Capsule and Duck Race.

Christian explained that there would be a series of votes later in the meeting, including whether the community fund will underwrite the cost of the village spend for the Jubilee Party, along with the dispersal of any profit made.

Neil MacDougall confirmed that he would be erecting the village marquee and that Christian will be erecting the hired marquee. Christian gave thanks to Neil for looking after the village marquees.

Co-Chair (Sarah Humphreys) stated that she had approached Councillor Graham Wright for a potential grant of £250 - £300 for the event, which we are still waiting on the decision, as he has passed it on to another person – so unlikely.

#### **4. Jubilee Memorial Garden**

Chairman (Christian Lange) spoke of our intention of marking the Platinum Jubilee and that one of the ideas is for a Jubilee Garden. Christian then presented a series of slides for the proposal of the Jubilee Garden, to be located in the grounds of the Church. He has explored this with Sarah Grinstead who worked for Natural England and is an expert on the river and wildlife etc and taken advice. This will not happen this year, as we cannot disturb the wildlife, it will need to begin at the end of the year.

The slides (put together by Anika Lange) consisted of aerial pictures of the Church grounds, highlighting potential pathways, an archway, sitting areas, grassy areas for picnics and plots for trees, enabling all villagers to also enjoy the river. Christian explained that we would not discuss this in detail now, as Rev Johnathan Plough is very keen on this proposal and will be chairing a meeting in the church to agree all and push the green church.

Neil MacDougall asked if the additional funding to maintain the graveyard would be needed for this which Christian confirmed – this was going to be looked at and voted on later in the meeting. Anika

Lange then talked through the rest of the slides, including the potential choice of trees – all to be thrashed out at the special meeting in the church.

## **5. Approval of Accounts**

Chairman (Christian Lange) then handed over to Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks), who then showed a slide with the accounts. (Please see website for slides and figures) Bill thanked Martin Gairdner for his work auditing the accounts. Bill then explained that we needed to approve the Annual Governance Statement to agree that we have a robust financial arrangement in place, he asked that we all read the accounts and if we are happy to vote for the motion.

Christian then asked for a proposer and a seconder to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

Bill Hiscocks proposed and Nicky Street seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

## **6. Approval of Precept**

Treasurer (Bill Hiscocks) showed another slide of the accounts (Please see website for slides and figures) explaining that the village fund began the year with £1656.00 and received £2000 from the precept. Bill stated that Christian had sold the village playground equipment on eBay for £227.00, which was miraculous, considering the condition it was in. Bill stated that we also had to pay for the insurance, plus the graveyard maintenance we spent £450. The village gave £500 to the Reading Room and received £60 in from the Salvation Army, plus receipts from marquee hire etc. The closing balance was £2,676.00.

The community fund started with £1,544 and following the stunning village party which raised £6421, we gave £2000 to the Reading Room, £2000 to the Church, replaced the marquee Canopy and we ended up with £3,548 of which £1,620 is pledged to the Cricket Club (still unpaid). Bill concluded that we are in a remarkably healthy position.

Ian Gibb queried the forecast going forward for the Church. Bill explained that we have just had the inspection and there is work to be done, which we will do some of each year. So far, we have covered some of the electrics and the big expenditure will be the ladder up to the tower.

Christian then asked for a proposer and a seconder to approve the Precept.

Bill Hiscocks proposed and Ian Gibb seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

## **7. Election of officers**

It was then time for the Election of the Village Committee, whereby all villagers were asked to vote. The following polling motions took place with all present voting.

### **Christian Lange – Chairman**

Bill Hiscocks proposed and Nicky Street seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

### **Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair**

Bill Hiscocks proposed and Neil MacDougall seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

### **Bill Hiscocks – Treasurer**

Neil MacDougall raised a question, asking that as Bill was taking over from Stephen as senior Church Warden – was it a conflict of interest for him to be also the Treasurer. Bill said if there is – he would declare it in the meeting. Christian agreed and explained that it was not unusual for people to have several posts and that he is happy with that.

Ian Gibb proposed and Charlie Street seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

### **Hayley Burrey – Secretary**

Christian Lange proposed and Bill Hiscocks seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

All voting concluded and therefore The Village Committee was elected for the next annual term.

At this point, Christian mentioned he wished to say a few words and explained that both he and Sarah are planning to step down as Chair in 12 months' time. If anybody is interested in becoming Chair or Co Chair etc –to please let Sarah or Christian know.

Ian Gibb asked to have it on the record at this AGM that he would like to thank Christian & Sarah for all that they did for the village during Covid. Christian thanked him and stated that it was very much a team effort.

Christian then moved on to the voting for the agreements of grants.

First Vote: Agree £500 for the graveyard maintenance. Neil MacDougall proposed and Janey Campbell-Johnston seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Second Vote: Agree £500 for the Reading Room. Bill Hiscocks proposed and Charlie Street seconded to accept A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Third Vote: Agreement '*in principle*' for additional long-term care for the Church Memorial Garden maintenance of £250. Charlie Street proposed and Ian Gibb seconded to accept A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Fourth Vote: A vote regarding the spend to create the jubilee garden. It is anticipated that it will cost approximately £1000 for the space to be cleared and then trees to put in etc. Its possible that we may get a grant for it. Christian asked if we all agreed that any profit from the Jubilee party, would go firstly to the Memorial Garden and then the Church and Reading Room with the remainder in the community fund.

Neil MacDougall asked what was the cost for the tickets for the Jubilee Party? Sarah Humphreys explained that we had previously covered this and we would be raising funds from the Lucky Dip, Capsule, Duck Race etc. Christian further commented that the Jubilee Party main focus was not a money raising event and it would be good if we break even.

Christian Lange proposed and Keith Lovett seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Fifth Vote: This was to agree that the Community Fund would underwrite any spend for the Jubilee Party.

Neil MacDougall proposed and Nicky Street seconded to accept A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

## **8. Reading Room update**

Nicky Street stated that the main update was that the Reading Room AGM, was scheduled for the next day on 5th May at 6:30pm and that Barbara Last was giving a talk on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7:00pm.

Neil MacDougall raised the question of "how far we are with the thatch for the Reading Room, how many quotes have we had and will the village be expected to pay?" Sarah Humphreys, Nicky Street and Anika Lange all stated that the entire thatch is being covered

by grants as previously mentioned. Christian then commented on how much the Reading Room has improved within the last 10 years with repairs etc.

#### **9. Village Broadband/fibre**

Pauline Stephenson presented her findings on the recent 12 properties within the village that were being affected by the issues with BT Broadband. Following a visit from 3 engineers, they have explained it could be faulty equipment within households. A discussion then took place of all the various issues. Julian Glyn- Owen commented that he had been dealing directly with Outreach and had further insight into the issues, due to his own issues with it. Julian stated that he was happy to lead on this and keep everybody updated on possible grant-based fibre suppliers. Bill Hiscocks also suggested that we lobby this matter with our MP John Glenn.

Sarah Humphreys suggested that a separate WhatsApp group be formed to avoid the village WhatsApp being congested with messages and funnel the traffic. Christian then commented that for those people that were frustrated/ fed up with too many messages on the village WhatsApp group– to please not leave the group – just mute the conversation.

#### **10. Speed Watch update**

Marie Perry was not present to provide the latest update. However, Christian and Sarah extended a big 'Thank you' to all those involved with coordinating our village speed watch.

#### **11. Roles and responsibilities in the village**

Christian Lange then quickly ran through the various roles and responsibilities in the village and confirmed the following.

**Church Warden** – Bill Hiscocks and James Pause

*At this point Christian raised the point that Stephen Bush had stepped down. Bill Hiscocks commented that Stephen has given hundreds of hours over the last 18 years and thanks was given to Stephen for his hard work and commitment over that time.*

**Reading Room** – Nicky Street and committee

**Reading Room Bookings** – Nigel Rodgers

**Village Marquee** – Neil MacDougall and Keith Lovett

**Flood Warden** – James Hardy

**Neighbourhood Watch** – James Hardy and Neil MacDougall

**Community Speedwatch** – Marie Perry and Carolyn MacDougall

**Welcome Booklet** - Neil MacDougall and Janey Campbell-Johnstone

**Web Site** - Neil MacDougall, Christian Lange and Hayley Burrey.

**Storage** - Neil MacDougall and Keith Lovett

**Clothes Bins** - Neil MacDougall

**12. Ukraine Crisis**

Christian Lange then showed an interesting slide with the statistics for the number of people in Wiltshire applying to host Ukrainian families. Christian explained that we receive weekly updates on this and currently there are 3 households within the village who are interested and 1 has registered/ applied.

Bill Hiscocks mentioned that some churches in Salisbury are organising collections.

Neil MacDougall commented that the Guides Centre have offered to be a Day Centre for Ukrainians based in the valley.

**13. Climate Change update**

Christian Lange mentioned that Wiltshire Council have now published their strategy – which is a good one. It was explained that we had shown the film ‘2040’ which was attended by about 30 people from the village and surrounding area. Wiltshire Council is about to launch a ‘solo together’ scheme, which is open to individuals, communities, and small / medium businesses. There are various steps from registration, auction to installers, recommendations provided and then implemented. (Please see website for full details). Julian Glyn-Owen asked was it worth us registering as a community, to which Christian agreed. Julian is happy to lead on this and all agreed to explore the scheme.

**14. Any other business**

Sarah Humphreys mentioned the road closure on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May for tree work – just for the day.

Sarah Humphreys mentioned that the Parish Steward (Simon Simms) loves coming to the village and asked that people go through her if there is anything you would like him to do or if they have any special requests.

Ian Gibb commented that the iron kissing gate at the top of the road was a little bent and could we have it repaired. Christian suggested that we speak to Mike Doggrell and then to the Area Board.

Keith Lovett asked if we could be informed in advance of when the road sweepers were coming to the village. Sarah explained that they have stopped informing us.

**15. Date of next meeting**

Christian then concluded by stating the next meeting will be in September 2022 with the date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20:25 hrs.