

# Minutes of Berwick St James

## Village Meeting.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Online/Dial up

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

Guest Speaker: Cllr Kevin Daley (Wiltshire County Council)

Total in attendance: 17 online devices plus dial-ups - approx. 32 people.

Apologies received from: J. Gairdner, Kate Glyn-Owen, Sally Hiscock, Jane Lock-Smith and Veronica Sumner

### Summary of Issues discussed and decisions made

#### **Welcome and Introduction.**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm welcoming all online and those on telephones and extended a warm welcome to newcomers to the village, Nathan and Vicky Morris and baby Alora. He explained that the meeting was being recorded and gave guidance on the format of the meeting.

#### **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the previous meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – proposed by Bill Hiscocks, seconded by Gill Brasher.

#### **Berwick support plan update**

- **Buddy Groups**

Chris explained that the plan (in 3 stages) was still on phase 2 – formation of Buddy groups to assist each other as required and it was agreed by all that so far it was going well.

- **Social Media**

The village social media Facebook group (organised by Hayley) was also running well and Chris reminded everyone to try to use the village Whatsapp for important or emergency information and the Berwick Facebook page for more light-hearted entries and chitchat. Hayley also said the book club was up and running and those taking part would meet online monthly to review the previous month's chosen books.

- **Pub Quiz**

The pub quiz nights on Friday's were proving successful, 30 people in their various teams took part last week. Chris asked that anyone wishing to take part should inform Hayley of their group name at least 1 hour prior to the start of the quiz at 7pm, each team can consist of members from outside the village as long as at least one person is a village resident.

- **Medication Collection**

It was reported that Sally Hiscock had said the collection of medications as and when required was going well due to pharmacies now being up and running more effectively.

### **Reading Room Update**

Nicky explained that although the Reading Room itself was closed the Committee was still operational but the election/re-election of officers would have to take place when the normal meetings resume i.e. when restrictions have been lifted. Nicky also informed everyone that The RR AGM will be included in the next Village Meeting agenda and promises it will be short.

### **Farm Shop update**

Food orders from the farm shop are going well – orders should be in by Monday 1300 for Tuesday deliveries and Thursday 1300 for Friday deliveries, bread deliveries are now only on Fridays with 5 days notice.

### **The Boot Inn**

There is good news regarding the future of The Boot as new tenants have apparently been found and Cathy & Giles will be handing the keys over to them

on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Chris also informed the meeting that Cathy & Giles had sent a letter of thanks to the village for the leaving cards, to Tricia and Barbara for organising it and to all those who have supported them over the past 12 years. Keith suggested that possibly the village should arrange some sort of send off for them when they leave, in the way of clapping or cheering/waving from the street, Chris said he would gauge support for that suggestion in the village and Keith said he will inform Cathy & Giles of any such plans by Whatsapp, so that they are prepared for it. Chris also suggested that the village should consider buying the gas bar-b-que from the pub as this had been used very successfully for many village events and Keith commented that the asking price of £125 was very reasonable (it also comes with a gas bottle). As for storage of the bar-b-que, Chris explained that it folds up and could easily be stored in the village container (on John Stevenson's land), Carolyn MacDougall suggested that perhaps the gas bottle should be stored separately. The meeting was asked to vote on this and everyone was in general agreement with the proposal.

### **Wiltshire County Council**

Clr Kevin Daley

Kevin informed the meeting that V.E. Day packs were available to download from the council website (WCC had also sent out a general email containing the packs). These contained templates for bunting and streamers to download and display on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May (V.E.Day) when hopefully as many people as possible in the village will join in with the celebrations by organising a bar-b-que or picnic at the front of their houses and Chris will organise music of the era to be played on loud speakers. The WCC website also gave suggestions for recipes and games (of the era) to download as required. Bill suggested that perhaps we should inform Marilyn at the farm shop and ask if she would like to join in, Chris will mention this to Marilyn.

Kevin informed the meeting that there was guidance on the website for parents and carers and anyone who may be suffering from the effects of stress at this time and possible conflicts in the home.

He said there was a desperate need for any good bedding that people may be able to donate due to the amount of hospital discharges to home/care homes and advice on the website of where to send this. Chris explained that there were several people in the village showing interest in sewing scrubs PPE gowns/scrubs/masks at home to supply to the hospitals or front line staff wherever it was needed and asked if there was any knowledge of WCC co-ordinating something like this or any link relating to this on the website, Kevin said he would investigate this and get back to Chris.

Kevin also explained that Council grants were available for any small businesses that may need them and that, to his knowledge, there were at least 2.5 thousand small businesses in this area that had still not applied.

Chris informed Kevin that the bin collections had become unreliable of late and it seemed that the village had been divided into two separate areas for collections on different days, also that any complaints or queries regarding this apparently needed to be lodged by each individual household in the village rather than one or two people being able to inform them on behalf of the village. Kevin reiterated that WCC were suffering severe staff shortages and were having difficulty covering all services but email addresses were available on the website for anyone who needed to contact the various council departments, however he would investigate the need for each individual household to make contact.

Bill asked if there was any further information or developments regarding the progress of the planned works on the A303 and Kevin explained that the decision, which had been due to be announced in early April this year had now been postponed until 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Carolyn MacDougall has since forwarded to the village email list an email she received on behalf of The Community Forum from Chris Jones, which contains a link to the full report from S.O.S Grant Shapps, and also an email from Yogi Von Hippel of Highways England, regarding the A303 works and the delayed date for the decision.

Sarah informed the meeting that the road sweeping in the village last took place 2 weeks ago and Marie asked why the 6 houses at the north end of the village had been missed out as far as the road sweeping was concerned. Sarah will investigate and Marie will check the WCC website for any further information.

### **Legal requirements for physical village meetings**

Chris explained that although we can hold village meetings online we are unable to elect/re-elect officers in this way and therefore the election of officers for the village meetings committee would have to wait until our next physical meeting can be arranged i.e. when restrictions are lifted. Bill asked if it was possible for a quorum to be able to meet in the reading room for this purpose (hopefully before the end of November 2020).

### **Any other business**

As there will be limited opportunity this year for fundraising, Chris suggested that we consider having a lottery similar to that held in Stapleford.

Bill suggested that this fundraising initiative could be organised in the village to raise money for the church and reading room and suggested possibly a lottery with a top prize of (say) £250. Chris will gauge the amount of support for this in the village.

Dominic asked if Charlie could perhaps consider opening the cricket pitch for recreational purposes, as the cows and sheep were now out in the fields which can make taking walks, with small children and dogs, difficult. Chris again said he

would gauge support and asked Dominic to put together a list of those who would be interested in using that space.

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

**Christian Lange**

**Village Chairman.**