

Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting

Wednesday 19th May 2020 at 19:00hrs

(Hybrid Online)

In attendance: Christian Lange – Chairman
 Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair
 Bill Hiscocks – Treasurer
 Hayley Burrey - Secretary

Total attendees: 26 online (approx 40 people) + 6 in person + 1 phone in.

Apologies received and read out: Julian Glyn-Owen and Janey Campbell-Johnston.

Summary of agenda discussions, actions and decisions agreed:

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chairman (Chris) opened the meeting at 19:00hrs, welcomed everybody who was joining online and explained that the meeting was being recorded and would be available for all to see remotely. Apologies were acknowledged from Julian GO and Janey CJ.

2. Hybrid online meetings - guidance & recording

Chairman (Chris) displayed the meeting agenda and explained the Zoom protocols and how the Hybrid meeting works. Chris also covered how the voting feature would work, as this meeting is an AGM.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Chairman (Chris) raised the minutes of the last meeting and asked for a polling motion to check that all agreed that the minutes were true and accurate. Sarah proposed the motion, a vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

4. Approval of Accounts - Bill

Treasurer (Bill) began the presentation of the accounts. The first slide was Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 20/21 and Bill asked that all take 2 mins to read it.

Bill then firstly thanked Martin Gairdner as always, for his generous time and expertise *in acting as internal auditor* – explaining that a tight control is maintained of the village finances.

Resolution 4 (1) Bill then asked for a proposer and a seconder to *approve* the *Annual Governance Statement* and if anyone had any questions.

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

The second slide was of the Berwick St James Parish Meeting Accounts 2020/21.

The Precept began this financial year at £999.06 and after all debits and credits were accounted for, the current balance stands at £1655.99.

The Community Fund began this financial year at £2052.39 and after all debits and credits were accounted for, the current balance stands at £1544.07.

The A303 fund began this financial year at £638.80 and after all debits and credits were accounted for, the current balance stands at £614.80.

Resolution 4 (ii) Bill then asked for a proposer and a seconder to *approve* the Accounts.

Keith Lovett proposed and Lyanne Street seconded to approve the 2020/21 Accounts. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Resolution 4 (iii) Finally for the Certificate of *Exemption*, Sarah Humphreys proposed and Hayley Burrey seconded to approve. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Chris then extended his gratitude to both Bill *Hiscocks* and Martin Gairdner for their efforts.

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

Sarah Humphreys – Deputy Chair

Bill Hiscocks proposed and Kate Glyn-Owen seconded to accept. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Bill Hiscocks – Treasurer

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

Hayley Burrey – Secretary

Christian Lange proposed and Kate Glyn-Owen 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.

6. Approve £500 grant to Reading Room and Graveyard

Chairman (Chris) then showed a slide for the approval of a £500 grant to the Reading Room.

A vote was taken for the grant to the Reading Room and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

Chairman (Chris) then showed a slide for the approval of a £500 grant to the Graveyard.

Neil MacDougall raised a question at this point. He asked why we had only spent £450 on the Graveyard in the last financial year? Stephen Bush stated that the grass had been cut, but we don't seem to have had all the invoices.

Bill then explained that Mr Moss has passed the business onto his daughter to manage and may reflect the missing invoices. Bill also stated that due to Covid 19, lockdowns and the reduction in weddings, the grounds had not required as much maintenance.

A vote was taken for the grant to the Graveyard and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

7. BSJ Covid-19 Support Plan

Chairman (Chris) commented that it was time to bring the plan to a close, that as a village we had pulled together amazingly well and that we should all be incredibly proud of ourselves. Chris extended his personal thanks to all and requested that we all remain careful moving forward. Chris said that it was time for a party, which we would address later in the meeting.

8. Climate Change Update from Wiltshire Council – Christian

Chairman (Chris) mentioned that he had attended a meeting with Wiltshire Council on Climate Change and expressed that this is a subject close to his heart. Chris explained that he was going to share 10mins of the presentation with the meeting and then ask some questions at the end, regarding what we should do about it as a village.

To make it fun, Chris began with a quiz regarding CO2 emission per person over a year.

The presentation followed and consisted of slides on;

- National and Global Climate Commitments
- Climate Impacts and adapting to Climate Change
- The National Direction of Travel
- What is our Climate Agenda for Wiltshire?
- Our approach: key principles
- Carbon Emissions in Wiltshire by source
- How carbon emissions have changed so far
- Carbon reduction pathways for Wiltshire
- Transport – Proposed Approach
- Homes, Workplaces and Public Buildings
- Built environment – where do we need to get to

- Energy generation, storage and distribution
- Community Energy
- Natural Environment, Land Use and Farming – The Challenge
- Green and Circular Economy
- So What Can Berwick Do About It

Chris then posed the questions of whether we should set up a separate village meeting to explore the options? Should we try and involve neighbouring villages? Does anybody wish to take the lead on this subject and any ideas in general?

Ian Gibb said that he agrees with the presentation and that he feels the real issue is insulation needed to reduce consumption. Ian believes that what is required is to move all transport to electric vehicles. Ian stated that as a community, we could apply for funding for better insulation and whilst he applauds parallel schemes it is consumption that we need to reduce.

Chris suggested a separate meeting to discuss. Ian suggested that it would be really powerful to have a 10min update in the main meetings.

Kate Glyn-Owen said that she wished to thank Chris for raising this issue. Kate feels it is extremely important and that there is a huge amount to discuss. Kate feels that a separate meeting to discuss these issues and the options that we have would be really helpful. Kate agrees with Ian that it does need to come back to this group – but is too big a topic for the village meeting. Kate would like to be involved.

Chris suggested putting up a poll to see how many people feel a dedicated village meeting.

James Whatley said that both he and Clare feel it is incredibly important and he agrees with Kate that we should have a separate meeting if there is enough support from the village community.

Clare Whatley said that if it is only a few, then we could have a small working group. Kate, Clare and James would be interested in how we tap into other villages and what they are doing.

Hayley Burrey mentioned that there are several parishes that are working on producing Wildflower Verges, which could be a way of joining other villages. James and Clare said they would be interested in this.

Chris then put this out for a quick vote from all at the meeting. The poll results showed that 19 people had said yes and 4 people had said no.

Therefore, it is established that we will be setting up a separate meeting and maybe some workshops, over the next 3/4 weeks. (This will now take place on 16th June 2021)

9. Village Vegetable Growing Competition – Toby

Deputy Chair (Sarah) then relayed a message from Toby regarding the vegetable growing competition. Toby is going to email all 50 of the entrants and provide the dates for each event. Toby hopes that we are

all earthing our potatoes and onions. Sarah mentioned that if anybody would like any more onions that she and Toby have some, so please contact Toby.

All the competitions will be held at the Boot, there is a Runner Bean league for longest bean, 3 x heaviest tomatoes, potato sack, heaviest onion and the widest sunflower.

Chris commented that it was great that 50 people are involved and extended thanks to Toby Humphries for organising this.

10. Roles and responsibilities in the village

Chairman (Chris) explained that this was a quick update to remind everybody who is responsible for what etc, especially as Chris is going to be really busy over the next few months. The following roles are allocated:

- Church Wardens – Stephen Bush and Bill Hiscocks
- Reading Room – Nicky Street and Committee
- Village Marquees and Bookings – Julian Glyn-Owen assisted by Neil MacDougall
- Flood Warden – James Hardy assisted by James Whatley
- Neighbourhood Watch – James Hardy and Neil MacDougall
- Community Speed Watch – Marie Perry and Team
- Welcoming New Residents – Co – Chairs
- Welcome Booklet – Hayley Burrey
- Website – Neil MacDougall (handing over to Hayley Burrey), Christian Lange and James Hardy
- A303 Issues- Julian Glyn-Owen, Greville Bibby, Anika Lange, James Hardy and Carolyn MacDougall
- Storage Container – Keith Lovett assisted by Neil MacDougall
- Village Notice Boards – Hayley Burrey
- Village Defibrillator – Carolyn Devitt
- Parish Mag – Nicky Street
- Clothes Bin – Bill Hiscocks

Neil MacDougall raised our village speed sign, which has proven to be a most worthwhile asset and part of the community value. Neil explained that he downloads the information once a month and that Clive Perry is happy to take it on – the information is then given to Marie Perry for her records and presentations.

Neil also raised the subject of the Village Community Assets. The Boot has been approved by the council already however, we are yet to register the Village Farm Shop as a community Asset. Chris thanked Neil for updating the Chair on this.

Bill Hiscocks then mentioned that Carolyn Devitt looks after the Defibrillator and that Nicky Street looks after the Parish Magazine.

Chris thanked Bill for the reminder and mentioned that Hayley is taking notes and as she is taking on the Village Web Site, the updated list of roles and responsibilities will be put on there.

Ian Gibb then asked was now a good time to discuss the Village Farm Shop. Chris stated that his personal view was that the time had come to register it as a Community Asset.

A discussion about the future of the farm shop followed and then Chris then proposed that we put it up for a vote to all at the meeting.

The poll results showed that 100% agreed with applying to register it.

11. Reading Room update

Nicky Street said that the AGM for the Reading Room had been set for Monday 14th June. As that falls still within Covid Regulations, Mike has agreed that it can take place in the Pub (Boot) Garden.

With regards to reopening, Nicky stated that we hope to re-open on the 21st June, however we need to be cautious and only deliver low risk events to begin with. Such as children's parties, small meetings, exercise class with social distancing.

Ian Gibb raised a question to Nicky. Ian said that every meeting discussions were raised for repairs to the reading room, i.e. the roof. Ian asked what the plan is to resource the money for the roof or how we are going about replacing it.

Nicky said that this was going to be discussed at the Reading Room ATM. So far we have had 3 quotes to replace the thatch roof. Nicky stated that we do have some reserved savings and that the next step is to look at the area board grants. If approved, we can afford one of the quotes which is approx. £19,000. This needs to be done ASAP and we hope it can begin March next year.

Neil MacDougall asked if the Village would be consulted prior to this happening and given the option of the thatch roof or the cheaper and more effective option of a normal roof? Nicky replied that we are looking into whether we would be allowed to do that, as we are in a conservation area.

Neil then stated that it would be (1) much cheaper to install a normal roof and (2) that the building insurance would also be less expensive.

Nicky replied that there are also arguments for keeping it as a thatch. The decision will be made once we have a response from the planning dept.

Bill Hiscocks then said, that as a point of governance, the Reading Room is a separate charity and that it is for the Reading Room Committee and Trustees to make that decision and not the village.

Chris said that we are so intertwined that he is sure all views would be taken into consideration and that it was not perhaps necessary to discuss it now, He asked that Nicky update us at the next village meeting in September.

12. Cricket Team update

Berwick St James Cricket Club Fixture Dates 2021

Co-Chair (Sarah) read out a statement from the Cricket Club. The Club are happy to be back and would like to thank all who donated and took part in the charity match last year to raise funds for the new mower.

Thanks also to Mike from the Boot for the beer after the game, thanks to Fraser for organising the shirts, finally thanks to Chris Brain and Fozzy for getting the ground back together.

The next Charity Cricket Match is on the 26th June and is the Boot Inn vs Berwick at 2pm. The plan is to raise money to install a new surface wicket over the next 2 years. With sponsorship and fund raising they are hoping to raise £2000.00. This in turn will hopefully attract new players and supporters to the club. They would love to see the whole village attending on the 26th June and getting involved. The fixture will be placed on the village web site.

Chris mentioned that the children's playground which had been on the cricket pitch, was now for sale on e-bay – starting at £0.99 and would be good to see what it goes for.

Kate Glyn-Owen had a question. Firstly she thanked for the update, then requested that there be more information on the cricket and if the village could be more inclusive as to who is involved and how we get involved.

Sarah mentioned that all will go on the village web site and Chris agreed and suggested it also be posted in the Notice Boards.

Ian Gibb said he agreed with Kate and thought publication on the web site would be helpful to get the village involved.

It was agreed in the meeting that moving forward all areas of village communication would be covered, including posters, WhatsApp, Facebook, Website and Parish Mag.

13. Speed Watch Update - Marie

Marie began by outlining the background of the Village Speed Watch for the benefit of our new residents and appreciating that we haven't had our usual updates, due to Covid and lockdowns.

We have 2 methods of controlling speed in the village:

- Speed Indicator Devise (SID)
- Community Speedwatch

The CSW team is key in identifying and recording speeding vehicles and their registrations and advising the police who follow up with letters and visits if required.

There are currently 12 volunteers, covering 2 roles and they have sessions every 2 weeks. If anybody is interesting in volunteering or more details, please contact Marie on mcperry266@gmail.com.

Two roles – Speed Device Operator (recording vehicle speeds) and Data Logger (recording vehicle registration number, vehicle colour and type and time)

Marie then showed a slide of the CSW Lockdown Stats Mar 20 – Apr 21.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) at the northern end of the village continues to help bring the speed down for traffic entering the village – 86% of vehicles are doing less than 36mph.

However:

- Total incoming vehicles 91,258 of which 12,840 (c.14%) speeding
- Total outgoing vehicles 74,779 of which 15,910 (c.21%) speeding
- Highest recorded speed 79mph leaving the village
- Highest recorded speed 73mph coming into the village

Christian thanked Marie and said that the work she is doing is excellent, makes a difference and really well done!

Marie then went on to inform us about the Wiltshire -Wide Dog Watch Scheme. Over the past few months there has been a rising perception and concern that attempted dog thefts are taking place across the country. Therefore, a new Dog Watch Scheme has been set up by Wiltshire Police to help reassure owners for the safety of their pets.

To sign up to Dog Watch go to www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk, and then select Dog Watch.

14. Village Party – Christian Possible dates 31st July or 28/29th Aug

There have been suggestions that we have a post lock down Village Party, which we all deserve. Chris suggested that we keep this a relaxed affair with as little work as possible.

Anne Emmerson has very kindly offered the village the use of her field. It was generally discussed and agreed that we could have a BBQ, bring our own picnics, bring our own drinks etc. Chris suggested that maybe we put up a tent or two and keep it informal.

The date proposed for the party is Saturday 31st July 2021.

15. Plans for Platinum Jubilee – 2-5th June

Bill has proposed that as it is the Platinum Jubilee next year with a 4 day weekend, that we commemorate it. He has asked if the village would like to celebrate the jubilee and what we might do.

Christian acknowledged that it was a great idea and that the village like having parties and we are good at it. A general thumbs up was given at the meeting.

Chris then explained that this would involve some organisation and we would need to form a committee to arrange it. We will address this more formally in the September meeting.

16. Any other business

Sarah raised the point that it is a general request, that if anybody is going to have fireworks in the village, could they please communicate this in advance. This will enable villagers to prepare, safeguard their pets etc.

Ian Gibb commented that this was a really sensible idea and as there was no representation from The Boot on the meeting, could we please ensure that all stakeholders received that message.

Kate Glyn-Owen added that following a conversation with Mike from The Boot, he had said that the last fireworks were a 'one off' and should there be any more in the future, he will notify the village in advance.

Marie Perry then raised a question from some of our elderly residents who were unable to travel to the dump/recycling centre. Would the village consider having a skip? It was generally discussed amongst the meeting and agreed that this was not a favourable idea. However, many people have volunteered to take any refuse etc to the recycling centre on their behalf. This will be coordinated to ensure that everybody is covered. Marie is going to relay the message back to the villagers concerned.

Chris then concluded by thanking all for their patience as this meeting had ran over, although covered a lot of ground. The next meeting will be in September 2021 with the date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20:46 hrs.