
Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting. Thursday 9th January 2020

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

Guests: PC Lucy Wileman (Community Police Team, Amesbury)
Graham Wright (Wiltshire County Council, Green Issues)

Total in attendance: 43

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1 Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

The chairman opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed the guests and new arrivals to the village Richard and Gabbi Francis.

Apologies for Absence were received from Veronica Sumner, Nigel Rodgers, Mary McDermot, Julian and Kate Glynn-Owen, Jane Lock-smith and Sophie & Henry Colthurst.

2 Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed unanimously to be a true reflection of the meeting – proposed by Bill Hiscocks; seconded by Pauline Stephenson.

3 PC Lucy Wileman

Lucy introduced herself and the other members of the local team (not present) and gave a general update on any issues concerning Berwick. There was only one main event which was an episode of hare coursing in December 2019, the offenders (4 people) were arrested and charged with various offences linked to hare coursing and they will be appearing in court in February 2020. Regular police patrols are carried out in the village and the next one will be on 21st Jan 2020.

4 Flood Report – James Hardy.

James's report concerned the river Till and the local ground water which had been at a greater than average level this year to date, it had reached levels which would normally be expected by March. The levels are now dropping but more rain is forecast. One main concern regarding the Till Valley is the bore holes, the nearest to Berwick being at Tilshead which recorded a level of 94 meters above sea level in December 2019 (96 meters is considered danger level). James invited everyone to report any concerns regarding water levels and reported that the drains in the village are due to be jetted in the near future, emergency supplies such as sandbags etc are available from the flood store in the village. James finished by reminding everyone of the dangers of driving through flood waters and advised special care should always be taken and he also reminded everyone of the dangers of Bluetooth devices which can alert criminals to the precise position of valuable technical equipment and devices (which he had explained in depth in his email report in December 2019).

5 Village Diary – Nicky Street

Nicky informed the meeting that the Christmas fair held in December 2019 raised a total of £500.

Forthcomings events :- Plough service to be held in the village church on Sunday 19th Jan at 10am.

The Art Appreciation evenings continue - Thursday 16th Jan is Beauty, Love & Desire from the Pre-Raphaelites to Modernity.

13th Feb – The Power of Portrait.

12th March – Jules Bastien LePage and Followers, the story of naturalism.

2nd April – From Cezanne to Picasso, Cubism and Modern Art.

Doors open at 7.15pm and the talks' start at 7.30pm, for further information please contact Brian Armstrong on 01722 790647 or email brianarm100@hotmail.com

6 Photo Competition - James Whatley.

James reminded everyone of the event and encouraged entries, the winter season runs from 1st Dec 2019 – 29th Feb 2020 and includes all 5 parishes in this area. For more information please contact - photo.competition@berwickstjames.org.uk

7 Green Issues - Christian Lange (Chairman) & Graham Wright (Wiltshire County Council)

Chris introduced Graham to the meeting, to give information on the subject of climate change and explained that in February 2019 Wiltshire County Council had acknowledged that there was a climate emergency and that W.C.C had set a target

for Wiltshire to be carbon neutral by 2030. Graham advised the meeting that there were various ways of making properties carbon neutral, such as efficient insulation etc. Chris then showed various slides to explore different methods of reducing carbon levels, such as Heat Source Pumps and Solar panels. One method which he has personally decided to adopt is an Air Source Heat Pump and explained that this removes our reliance on oil or gas and was possibly one of the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions. A government grant is available that can pay up to £1300 PA for 7 years. Local suppliers have indicated that they could offer favourable rates if installing equipment for a number of homes. Chris invited suggestions from the floor and various ideas were put forward, Bill Hiscocks mentioned electric cars and said that some communities were purchasing a 'communal' car so the use of it could be shared by the community. Graham Wright added that W.C.C were prepared to help with the cost of implementing various schemes and it was suggested that a further meeting be arranged to discuss these issues; Chris asked for volunteers to set up a working group specifically to deal with this issue and Neil MacDougall suggested a specific website be developed for this purpose.

Rosie Gairdner showed the meeting an 'Eco Brick' (made by her grandchild) which consisted of a plastic bottle rammed tightly with plastic bags, making it very solid and apparently sturdy and this could apparently present an 'eco friendly' alternative to the standard brick used in construction.

8

Village Accounts - Bill Hiscocks.

Bill informed the meeting that the village Precept was set at £2000 and said the village committee had suggested that this should remain unchanged this year, the village was asked to vote on this and all were in favour – Prop Keith Lovett; seconded Nicky Street.

Bill presented a slide showing the balance of the village accounts which are as follows:-

Precept account	£1,040.27
Community fund	£ 1,418.13
A303 Fund	£ 638.80

Bill also informed the meeting that it had been suggested that a sum £500 each year be donated from the precept towards both the Reading Room and Church Graveyard maintenance, the meeting was asked to vote on this suggestion and all were in favour – Prop Anika Lange; seconded Nicky Street.

9

Village Spring Party - Christian Lange.

Chris addressed the meeting to suggest an idea for a village spring party this year. The idea arose as a large tent and lights will be erected in the village for the wedding reception of David and Ellie (Street) in May 2020. The proposed date for the party is 9th May as this coincides with a bank holiday weekend for the V. E day 75th commemoration and celebrations from 8th May.

Chris advised that a TENs licence would be required for up to 500 but this could be limited to a lesser number of, say between 350 to 400.

A stage would be installed with stage cover and a generator, all at no extra cost to the village and the Street family have kindly agreed for their field to be used for this purpose. The suggested timings and events would be as follows :-

Start at 3.30pm for cream teas and possibly a jazz band (to link in with V.E

celebration).

Volunteer performers until about 6.30pm.

7pm – approx. 8.30pm line or barn dancing.

9pm – 10.30pm Covers type band.

11pm – midnight another band.

Midnight onwards DJ and dancing (for the young at heart!)

The initial spend on this would be approx. £1500 on bands and £500 on toilets (tents, stage, generator lighting etc would normally cost approx. £6000 but there would be no charge to the village for these) although Chris did clarify that he and his business partner would keep about 80 tickets.

In order to book bands and arrange toilets etc a sum of up to £500 from village funds would be required, a vote was taken on this and all agreed, Prop Chris Lange; seconded Keith Lovett. Volunteers were invited to run the various elements of the party and Keith Lovett & Bob Drake volunteered to run the bar; a group of ladies from the village would be asked to help with teas (organised by Janey Campbell Johnson & Gill Brasher) Sally Hiscock agreed to help organise food, Carolyn MacDougall will run the marketing of the event. Volunteers still to be arranged for car parking/ transport etc; clearing up after event (Bob Drake & Neil MacDougall to arrange).

Chris suggested that the initial costs may amount to approx. £2000 and it is hoped to more than cover this with ticket sales (ticket costs to be confirmed).

It was suggested that another meeting to organise the event in greater detail be arranged in the near future.

10

Any Other Business.

Neil MacDougall proposed that Red Oak Taverns should be approached again and invited to attend a village meeting to inform on developments regarding the future of the village pub, Chris agreed to make contact with them regarding this.

Sarah Humphreys said that she had received queries on whether the Asserton road sign was to be replaced in the village and asked for a show of hands from the floor in favour, a majority showed in favour. The cost approximately would be about £200. Graham Wright Wright explained that it would be quicker and easier for the village to fund it than approach Wiltshire Council, who might agree to fund 25%. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next village meeting.

It had been widely noted that our Parish Councillor Darren Henry (now also an M.P) was rarely present at village meetings and it was suggested by the meeting that he should be asked if he intended to continue in his role as County Councillor. A vote was taken and all were in favour.

The next meeting will be in 26th March 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Christian Lange

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings

