

Minutes of Berwick St. James

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 19th May, 2016.

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Total in attendance: 38

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Welcome & Introduction – Chairman

Action

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00pm, welcoming Cllr Ian West and PC Ivor Noyce to the meeting. He also extended a welcome to new residents Tom Walton as the new Druids Estate underkeeper and his partner Cheryl. Stuart Langdon will be replacing Godfrey Pitman as the new gamekeeper when Godfrey retires in August.

2.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Nigel Rodgers, Marie Perry, Jane Lock-Smith, Henry Colthurst, Peter Smith, Greville & Gillie Bibby, Richard Brasher and Mary MacDermot.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

The new marquee has been purchased and is available to rent by Berwick residents. Neil suggested that the cost of hiring the new marquee should be £70 and that the cost of hiring the old marquee should be reduced from £50 to £35.

Proposed by Mary Gatling. Seconded by Ian Gibb. All in favour.

Neil enquired whether any residents had upgraded their internet to the new Superfast Broadband. Of those in attendance, about half had upgraded. The internet speed with the superfast broadband is up significantly, although today it has been unusually slow.

The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the last meeting.

Proposed by Mary Gatling. Seconded by Bill Hiscocks. All in favour.

4. Council & A303 matters – Cllr Ian West

Cllr West has submitted a proposal for a new road layout around Stonehenge on the A303. It would be constructed in a cutting near Stonehenge with a bypass from the Longbarrow Roundabout going behind Winterbourne Stoke and rejoining the A303 beyond the B3083. Two other proposals have been submitted, one for a tunnel under Stonehenge and the other for a Salisbury bypass to the south.

5. Election/Re-election of Officers

With no other nominations, it was proposed that the 4 elected officers Neil MacDougall (Chairman), Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chairman), Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer) and Helen Riding (Secretary) be re-elected.

Proposed by Pauline Stephenson. Seconded by Lyanne Street. All in favour.

6. Planning requests - Chairman

Mr. Grant is appealing his rejected Planning Application from 2015. The original application, made in April 2013, was for 2 wardens, 1 full time and the other part time. This was rejected. In November 2013, this was appealed and dismissed. In 2015, the application was resubmitted and again rejected. The application now is for a part time warden and no additional accommodation would be required as an existing pitch would be used. The concern is that the type of caravan to be used for the warden was not specified, nor how many wardens there would be. Anyone wishing to write to the Council to support or object to the application can get the address from Neil. Many were of the opinion that it is more of a Council problem than one for Berwick St James.

7. Queen's 90th Birthday Party – Carolyn MacDougall

Carolyn gave a brief summary of the events for the day, which include the Duck Race, a Tombola, the Auction of Promises and crafts/activities for the under 10s, to mention a few. The marquee for dinner will be in the grounds of Tim and Olivia Marchant's home. There will be several different kinds of music during the event: a professional jazz band, a disco, and informal music down by the river in the evening. There will be 135 for the afternoon events and 162 people for the evening.

8. Accounts & Funding Requests – Bill Hiscocks

A new form, the Annual Governance Statement, has to be completed each year. To this end, Bill gave details of the requirements he must meet. These are that he prepares the annual accounts and submits them to the external auditors; that there are good internal controls in place; that all matters comply with the law; that risk assessments are carried out; that there is effective internal audit and that the accounts are accessible to all Berwick residents. Al Smith has conducted the internal audit. Bill therefore suggests that "we acknowledge and confirm our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements and that we confirm the accounting statements for the year ended 31st March 2016."

Proposed by Lyanne Street. Seconded by Mary Gatling. All in favour.

The balances on the accounts at 31st March 2016 are: Precept £809.90 and Community Fund £4378.47

The accounts were presented to the meeting for approval by Bill.

Proposed by Jackie Webb and seconded by Carolyn MacDougall. All in favour.

Reading Room & Church:

Money will be given to both, with the minimum amount being £1000 each but the final amount will be determined at the next meeting once the figures for the QBP have been finalised.

Storage bag and boxes for new marquee:

It was suggested that we use Community Funds to buy good storage boxes and a bag for the new marquee, the cost of which would be £126.

Proposed by Jackie Webb. Seconded by Charlie Street. All in favour.

Charlie also suggested that we buy storage boxes for the old marquee as it is currently stored in cardboard boxes. Neil will look into this.

9. Reviews and Updates

Action

a. Speedwatch – Gail Lovett

Berwick has a good band of volunteers, unlike some of the other villages in our area. Amesbury has given up for lack of volunteers.

We've had 24 sessions this year. 776 vehicles have been recorded, with 55 speeders which is 7% of the total. There is a community speed watch vehicle to which we have had access and Gail thinks it has had a positive impact.

The "30 speed limit" stickers for putting on wheelie bins are available from Neil if anyone wants some.

b. Neighbourhood Watch/Flood Prevention – James Hardy

There have been reports of 2 well-dressed men knocking on doors offering to do repairs and odd jobs. Please be mindful if strangers should knock on your door!

Please also take care of garden and DIY equipment and make sure it is locked away securely. This is the time of year when lots of thefts take place.

Please report anything we notice that is out of the ordinary, either to James or Neil or the police.

All Residents

The new drain that was installed under the road near the Farm Shop was checked after installation and was working well. With the heavy rains in the last few days, there has been lots of debris and leaves blocking the grip. The road from the High Street back up past the Shop was under water, as was the pavement on the other side of the same junction. We all need to keep the drains near our homes clear at all times, as this will prevent rain water backing up and possible flooding.

All Residents

c. Road Sweeping and Grass Cutting - Neil

The grass area next to Nigel Rodgers house leading to the Farm Shop is overgrown and could be cut by the Parish Steward. After much discussion, it was decided to leave the area as it is.

d. Defibrillator – Mary Gatling

The defibrillator is housed on the outside north wall of the Farm Shop. It is on loan from the South West Ambulance Trust. While the defibrillator remains the property of the Trust, Berwick is responsible for maintenance. It will need new pads in August. These will cost £28 for a pack of 2 pads.

e. Village Diary – Nicky Street

Reading Room – The AGM was last Monday; a good year was reported.

Film Nights - Ideas requested for film nights for next year, these to be given to Olivia.

Queen's 90th Quiz – Still available, please return to Nicky or the Farm Shop by 10th June.

Zumba - This event has been so successful that it has moved to the Guides centre. It is held from 6:00 – 6:45pm every Thursday and is suitable for all ages. Details on noticeboards or from Linda Doggrell or Alice Ridley.

Race for Life - Marilyn, Claire and Nicky will be running the 5km event of 5th June. Anyone wishing to sponsor can do so either at the Farm Shop or via justgiving.com/clairewhatley. Thanks were extended to all those who have already sponsored.

10. Any Other Business

Henry Colthurst has suggested that the village oak tree be reshaped. Neil will speak to either Stuart or Dominic.

Meeting days may be changed to Tuesdays due to the conflict with Zumba. The next meeting will be in early October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Chairman

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings