

**NOTES FOR BERWICK ST JAMES PARISH MEETING A.G.M. on 23rd APRIL, 2002**

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Andy Keeling, *Tony Gutling*

**2. Minutes of last (13th) meeting, and action arising.**

Jubilee celebrations  
Cricket pitch and children's play area!  
A36 bypass / ACT Parker plan  
Millennium stone and tree

} these are all agenda items, to be discussed  
! }

Other actions arising:

- Parish lengthsmen. They did not straighten bridge, but I tried to get this done. Failed. Any new jobs to be done?
- Excavations in school (Guide Centre) grounds. This turned out to be a small area of additional car park, in front of the building.

**3. Election of officers.**

Nominations? Note that Parish Meeting regulations state that officers should be changed after 3 years.

Vice chairman: Andy Keeling has expressed his willingness to stand again.

**4. Accounts for years 99, 00, 01.**

Tina will present these.

**5. Report on artificial cricket pitch and children's play area.**

The pitch was installed in November. The Play Area (swings, slide and spring mobile) was built in January. Total cost was £15,444, including £2,300 VAT. I tried to reclaim the VAT, but found that only Parish Councils can reclaim VAT, not Parish Meetings. I had a lengthy correspondence with the Customs and Excise, and the SDC about this. All agreed it was unfair, but it is the law of the land. Tough.

Incidentally, the money for the cricket pitch and play area all came from SWAG, Lottery, and R2 funds. You, the parishioners, have not had to pay for a penny for them.

We still have £992 of R2 money left unspent, and this is in our bank account, not the SDC's. This money is for the fence, but is not enough to pay for having one provided and erected. The materials would cost only £400 to £650 (2 quotes). A quote has been given for provision and erection for £1,350. What do we do? Put it up ourselves, or use some of the £500 / year put aside by precept for Reading Room maintenance to have someone supply and erect it for

us? **NOTE: Charles Street undertook at the last meeting to co-ordinate the putting up of the fence. Has he thought more about this?**

The children's play area is not being used by the mothers and toddlers group, as this has moved to Steeple Langford. Are there any plans to have the group move back here this summer?

There is a requirement for publicity about the use of SWAG and Lottery grants.

- SWAG and Lottery plaques, in the cricket club room?
- newspaper item
- photos of both in use. When?

Possibilities of further SWAG. More play equipment? Will it get used? What are your wishes?

#### **6. Millennium stone and tree.**

Read the last minutes. The last meeting voted to move the stone to the triangle of council land opposite the bus stop. No action has been taken pending completion of the Klaentski's drive and removal of the need for the K's car to be parked there. We still await removal of the concrete building notice foundations.. It is time something happened. Volunteers to relocate the stone?

The tree is in the hands of Diana. What progress? Volunteers to plant one?

#### **7. Millennium book**

Nicky, what progress?

#### **8. Winterbourne Stoke by-pass and ACT Parker plan.**

We had Col Parker come and explain his Plan for the A303 and A36 in the Guide Centre on 30th January. This was a memorable occasion, where Col Parker proposed a joint A303 and A36 multi lane highway to pass between Berwick and Winterbourne, to cross the Till SSSI, and to pass through Asserton Woods. The effect of this announcement was like running a lawnmower into a beehive. Most people got up and left, after making their views very clear.

On the Winterbourne Stoke by pass and Stonehenge tunnel, I have received a note from the Highways Agency stating that a Design and Build Contract has now been awarded to Balfour Beatty and Costain. Ian West can tell us about this.

#### **8. Jubilee celebrations.**

There will be a flyer in the next parish magazine. There is to be a pig roast and Fun Day in the grounds of Berwick House on Sunday 2nd June. The Pig Roast will be provided, and other than this people bring their own food and drink. (The pig roast will be paid from money left over from the raffle at the harvest supper, plus the profit from another raffle on the day). Carving starts at 1.00 pm. Children's races, wellie wanging, hat competition.

Church service at 4.00 pm. You will be visited soon about food or raffle prize contributions, and possible attendance.

**9. Flagpole in churchyard.**

Tony Gatling to speak.

**10. A.O.B.**

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