

Minutes of Berwick St. James

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 14th May, 2015.

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Total in attendance: 33

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Introduction and Apologies For Absence – Chairman Action

The Chairman received apologies from Cllr Ian West and PC Ivor Noyce who could no longer attend the meeting. Cllr West is away and PC Noyce is on compassionate leave.

Apologies were also received from Bill Hiscocks, Charles and David Street, James Hardy, John Coleman, Gill Brasher, Jane Campbell-Johnson, Ian and Jackie Fisher and Robert Drake.

Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

2.
 - a. The bus shelter is now repaired, with the only charge being £203 for materials. Chris Brain, who did the work with the help of his 10 yr old son, did not charge for his labour. The chairman expressed thanks to Chris Brain (and his son) on behalf of the village.
 - b. Broadband: the problem with super fast broadband is not the cable or the box, both of which have been installed, but the power source for the box. The permission of the surrounding landowner is needed. Neil had phoned and the BT Openreach truck was at the site on 14 May.
 - c. Website: we still need someone to take over the maintenance and updating of the website from Christian Lange. He is happy to show anyone what needs to be done.

The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the last meeting.

Proposed: Veronica Sumner. Seconded: Diana Gifford-Meade. All in favour.

3. Election/Re-election of Officers

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

Proposed by Diana Gifford-Meade. Seconded by Richard Brasher. All in favour.

4. Amesbury Rural Policing Team presentation – Christian Lange

Action

Crime: crime is generally down by about 10% on last year and this is going by both recorded crime and a national survey. Dwelling crime is very unusual now, with outbuilding crime about 10 times higher. Fraud and internet crime are on the increase though and Chris warned us to be aware of false emails from banks etc. There were a number of leaflets to provide more information, eg Keeping your house safe while away, Looking after neighbours etc.

Open Gardens weekend: such an event brings in all kinds of people including the occasional criminal. We were warned to keep our property locked if it was not one of the gardens on display, make the house look occupied by leaving a car in the driveway or leaving a radio on inside with the volume up high. Those opening their gardens should keep the house and outbuildings locked, label property items clearly, put up "no entry" signs, close curtains, use tape (which Chris has) to designate "no go" lines and not leave valuables on display. With port-a-loos being available for the weekend, visitors to the village should not be allowed inside to use the loo.

5. Accounts – Chairman

The balances on the accounts at 31st March 2015 are: Precept £864.94 and Community Fund £1418.03

There are restrictions on the use of the Precept and the village use this fund to support the Reading Room, and for graveyard maintenance, village insurance and membership of the Local Councils association.

Neil and Bill with Reading Room representation will look into including the Reading Room insurance in the Village insurance policy as it could possibly be cheaper. The Reading Room would still pay its own insurance premium but it is hoped to be less than the current amount paid.

Chairman

Treasurer

The accounts for 2014/15 were presented by Neil in Bill's absence, and were approved by the meeting.

6. Reviews and Updates

a. Speedwatch – Marie Perry

We're in the second year of Speedwatch and have had 24 sessions so far this year. There have been approximately 1500 cars through the village with 113 speeders and 5 excessive speeders (over 45mph). Of these, only 2 were "in county" and were visited by the police. Both admitted they were speeding and apologised.

Berwick St James took part in Operation Harness in January which was a nationwide operation to combat speeding.

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue are arranging 7 Senior Wellbeing events in September which will provide information on safety. There will be one in Salisbury Guildhall on Tuesday 29th September and we are encouraged to attend.

b. Local highways and Streetscene update - Neil

The government has reduced its contribution to the council by £15m and the council must save a further £15m so there will be cuts. Grass cutting and gully cleaning will now be done on a scheduled basis but less often. Verges will only be cut once each year. Road repairs will be carried out in order of status (A B or C roads). Neil has reported the pothole on the road between Berwick and Stapleford so it should be repaired. Litter collection will be limited. Litter bins on private ground will not be emptied (which doesn't affect Berwick St James as both public litter bins are situated on council land). Residents leaving litter beside (instead of in) the bins could be fined if identified. Signage/street plates

can take up to 12 months to be replaced or repaired. Participants of Community Clean-up Days will no longer be insured by the council. **Action**

c. Open Gardens - Neil

Plastic tables and chairs are needed for the Tea Tent and Neil asked if anyone having suitable tables could lend them for the weekend. Sun (or rain) shades are also needed at the entrances of each garden being opened. If anyone has any of these things to offer, please contact Ian Gibb and let him know as soon as possible.

All Residents

Posters have been done and will be going out next week. Again there was an appeal for help in putting them up in other villages/locations. Ian also asked for gazebos for the weekend. A request was made for help in setting up on Friday 19th June and cleaning up on Sunday after the event and on Monday 22nd. There will be a meeting of the Open Gardens Committee on 28 May when any remaining issues will be dealt with.

All Residents

d. Defibrillator – Mary Gatling

The defibrillator is housed on the outside north wall of the Farm Shop. It is attached to an electrical connection to prevent it getting too cold. Mary has signed a contract with the South East Ambulance Service, which is renewable in 2016. Mary performs regular checks on the defibrillator to ensure it is in working order and notifies the SE Ambulance Service of this. Sally Hiscock is giving an informational session on the defibrillator in the Reading Room on 23rd June and we are encouraged to attend. Mary would like the village to pay Marilyn an annual payment of £25 to cover electricity for the defibrillator. Proposed by Olivia Marchant; seconded by Keith Lovett. All in favour.

Sally Hiscock

e. Village Diary – Nicky Street

Sun 31st May Coffee morning at the Farm Shop

W/e 20-21 June Open Gardens weekend with
Art and literature exhibition in the Reading Room

21st June Duck race starts at 11am

23rd June Demonstration of defibrillator in Reading Room at 2.30

5th Sept Market stall, Salisbury, in aid of Reading Room funds

Film nights will restart in September. If anyone has suggestions for films, please email Olivia Marchant. There will be a voting poll later in the summer.

Olivia
Marchant

7. Any Other Business

The council has proposed to withdraw Berwick St James from the Mobile Library Service, as the uptake is too low. Neil has to confirm whether or not this is justified. No objections were raised.

Chairman

Lyanne Street asked if anyone with river frontage had experienced problems with hogweed, which seems to be proliferating at a worrying rate. Barbara Last said it was unlikely to be Giant Hogweed, which can be about 8 foot tall. It was agreed some research was needed to find out if the river authorities advised getting rid of it.

Chairman

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed, but will be in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings

