

Minutes of Berwick St. James Village Meeting Thursday, 1st October, 2015.

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Guests: PC Ivor Noyce

Total in attendance: 38

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Introduction – Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There are a number of new residents – Tom Mulvee and Jo Rackham, Stuart and Sarah Larter, and Brigadier (Retd) Greville and Gillian Bibby who should be moving in next week. All were welcomed into the Berwick St James community. A special welcome was extended to PC Ivor Noyce.

2. Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received from Chris Lange, Ian Gibb, James Hardy, Stephen & Ailsa Bush, Veronica Sumner and Gabrielle Smith. Cllr Ian West is at an Amesbury Board meeting and unable to attend our meeting.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- a. Bill Hiscocks and Sarah Humphreys are looking into the possibility of cheaper insurance for the Reading Room. It may be possible that by combining with the village insurance (but paying the difference), the Reading Room will be able to secure significantly better rates than it currently pays. Other options are being investigated as well. Bill Hiscocks
Sarah
Humphreys
- b. The informal session held on the defibrillator was well attended and successful.
- c. The mobile library service has been withdrawn.
- d. Giant Hogweed is a rare plant not found in our area so is not a problem for the village.

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

Proposed: Diana Gifford-Meade. Seconded: Gill Brasher. All in favour.

4. Broadband update - Chairman

Many residents have experienced problems with broadband – extremely slow, no service etc. Neil had a meeting with an Openreach Senior Project Manager to discuss the situation. The issue of who owns the land adjacent to the DSLAM box was solved and permission has been gained from Michael Mertens to install the power source to the box. It is now hoped that the work should be completed this year. Superfast Broadband should be available through the various service providers, not only BT, and

could possibly cost between £10 and £30 per month.

5. Open Gardens 2015 - Chairman

Neil thanked everyone for a really successful weekend. There was a lot of hard work involved, particularly by the committee, and the village did well.

Bill presented the Finance figures:

Ticket sales	£2 730.00
Reading room art exhibition	91.79
Barbeque	317.38
Bar tent	246.98
Bottle stall	206.60
Cake stall	366.15
Tea tent	921.83
Duck race	145.00
Plant stall	765.00
Raffle	400.00
Open Gardens Quiz	181.00
TOTAL	£6 049.19

The distribution of the first £3 000, as agreed in March, was made to the Reading Room (£1 250.00), the Church (£1 250.00) and the Community Fund (£500.00). The Open Gardens committee proposes to donate another £500 to Wiltshire Air Ambulance. No objections, all in favour. The balance of £2,550 will be carried forward to next year.

Bill Hiscocks

Neil then listed the advantages of an Open Gardens event. It made an excellent profit, mostly financed from outside sources. It involved a high percentage of residents, was enjoyed by residents and visitors alike and Berwick looked at its best. Aspects to consider for the future are that it took a lot of time and effort to set up; its success is highly dependent on the weather; it is best run over 2 days rather than 1; the ticket price; whether to include children's activities and finally whether to involve an outside charity from the start.

The question was then asked if those present would want an Open Gardens weekend next year and the answer was NO, but it was agreed that it could be held in the future. 25 of those present agreed that it should be held in 2017 and 1 agreed to 2018. It was also requested that the date should not be on a Solstice weekend.

The theme and nature of any fundraising event for the village in 2016 will need to be decided at the next meeting in January 2016. One idea raised was of a community event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, which would be self-financing and might raise additional useful funds. However this would not primarily be a fundraising event, as the OG weekend had raised sufficient moneys to cover the basic contribution that will be needed next year by the Church and the Reading Room.

Neil also thanked Robin Richards for the use of his field as a car park during the Open Gardens weekend.

6. Village Playground - Chairman

The playground, in its current location, is rarely used. Richard Brasher strims the grass regularly but not many children go there. A suggestion has been made to create a more central playground in the grounds of The Boot Inn, an idea similar to one that Lou Whiting, a resident in the village a few years ago, had investigated without success.. Neil proposed that he would work with Giles and Cathy Dickinson, the present tenants of the Boot Inn, and Wadworth Brewery to have part of the waste ground attached to the pub converted into a playground that would be available for use by both children of clients using the pub and those living in the village. Discussions were still very much at a preliminary stage, and costs of conversion of the

land, provision and installation of equipment and insurance aspects had yet to be covered. Ian Fisher explained that the present playground was originally made for children to have a place to play while parents played cricket. It also had a grant from the Council so might not be good to move the equipment, which could be left in situ. Neil will continue to investigate all aspects of the idea.

Chairman

7. Village Diary – Nicky Street

Friday 16th Oct	Harvest Supper - replies to Jane Rowe.
Thurs 22nd Oct	Film Night: Kingsmen- the Secret Service (Reading Room)
Friday 30th Oct	Wine and Sausage night at the Boot Inn
Thurs 19th Nov	Film Night: Gigi (Reading Room)
Sat 5th Dec	Christmas Coffee morning (Reading Room)

8. Local Highways – Chairman

The contract between the Council and Balfour Beatty to maintain Wiltshire roads has been cancelled. It is now down to the Council to maintain them, but we have to phone and ask for anything we want done. We all need to be observant and inform Neil if we see anything that needs to be done. This includes the drains. If residents see straw and leaves blocking the drains and are able to clear the grates easily themselves, that would help.

All
Residents

The Duck Street sign has been stolen. It is on a list with the Council to be replaced. Neil has spoken to the organiser of the Audi event held in Winterbourne Stoke as there were a lot of speeders through the village that day, many going in excess of 50mph.

9. Speedwatch – Carolyn MacDougall

45 sessions have been held to date in 2015. 2421 cars have been through the village during these sessions, of which 197 vehicles were travelling at 36mph or more. There is 1 new volunteer to the program, Ian Gibb, and any other volunteers would be most welcome. Carolyn thanked PC Ivor Noyce for his support and attendance at some of the speedwatch sessions.

10. Neighbourhood Watch – Chairman

There was a theft of oil from the Guides Centre recently. Mike Doggrell had noticed 2 men acting suspiciously near the centre during the day and the feed pipe from the oil tank was cut that night. John Stephenson had also noticed a similar car coming up his drive on the same day and occupants behaving strangely. The police were notified and the car's registration number obtained from John's security camera footage. The driver has been traced. The moral is that we need to be aware at all times – if we see something that isn't right, call Neil or 101, or 999 if you believe a crime is being committed, but don't just leave it.

All
Residents

11. Any Other Business

PC Noyce will get the date of the next Audi event to be held in Winterbourne Stoke and come to Berwick with his speedgun.

The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed but provisionally will be on 14th January 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Neil MacDougall
Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings

