

Minutes of Berwick St. James

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 8th May, 2014

In attendance: Neil MacDougall (Chairman)

Olivia Marchant (Deputy Chair)

Bill Hiscocks (Treasurer)

Helen Riding (Parish Clerk)

Guests: Cllr Ian West, PC Ivor Noyce and PCSO Will Todd

Total in attendance: 36

Summary of issues discussed and decisions made

1. Introduction and Apologies For Absence – Chairman Action

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ian West, PC Ivor Noyce and PCSO Will Todd.

2. Apologies for absence

Received from Henry Colthurst, Nigel Rodgers, Peter & Gabriel Smith, Veronica Sumner, Ian Gibb, Jane Lock-Smith, Barbara Last, Jean Hibbard, Sally Hiscock and Anika & Chris Lange. PCSO Shona Maycock was also unable to attend.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising

- a. £500 has been spent on tree pruning in the churchyard.
- b. Gail has added a short piece on STAG to the minutes.
- c. The noticeboard is now up in the bus shelter. The pin board still has to be put in.
- d. Sand has been bought. The Flood Officer is James Hardy and he will receive a delivery of 4 flood signs 100 gel packs and a number of yellow jackets from the council.
- e. The minutes were agreed as a correct record of the last meeting.

James Hardy

Proposed: Diana Gifford-Meade. Seconded: Charles Street

4. 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 Richard Brasher. Seconded by Janey Campbell-Johnson.

The Chairman also reminded everyone of his intention to retire as Chairman in May 2015. It is the responsibility of the village, not the Chairman, to find a replacement.

5. Council and A303 Update – Ian West

Ian said Chris Lange had called him to say there is concern over the volume of traffic and associated problems possible this summer. Monitoring devices have been in place for the past week and will be for one more, and are being used to

determine where the rat runs are. A tunnel is being offered as a solution although there are arguments for and against. Ian had gone around the area with John Glenn to show him where the problems are.

Gail Lovett asked whether the meetings Ian attends with the Environment Agencies and other parties are minuted and if so, whether those minutes are available to the public. Ian said he would check this. It was agreed that the road markings at the Longbarrow roundabout are confusing and potentially dangerous. The official name of the road review is The Stonehenge to Berwick Down Scheme.

Gail Lovett offered the website for STAG www.sh2.co.uk. It has easy links to STAG's historical web page, blog, and facebook page, Winterbourne Stoke bypass blog and facebook page, A303 traffic cam, Solstice Park and Amesbury Neighbourhood Police facebook page.

6. Amesbury Neighbourhood Police Team (NPT) Presentation – Ivor Noyce & Will Todd

Most of us are members of the Neighbourhood Watch (NW) scheme. Its aim is to make the neighbourhood safer and reduce crime. It has operated in Wiltshire for many years, which is one of the safest areas in the country. Communication is a key component of NW: it helps the police and they give information back to the community. The police can also conduct customer surveys to gauge public opinion. They can identify local issues and make them a NPT priority. It also boosts public confidence, helps those who live in fear of crime, and encourages neighbourliness. Schemes are run by members and are led by a resident volunteer, sometimes with a committee. NW coordinators liaise with the police, who support these schemes but do not run them.

The NPT communicates with us via weekly emails on Mondays, sent to our 3 NW coordinators. An update is also published in the Parish magazine but as that is a monthly publication, the information can be up to 6 weeks out of date. Police can also watch houses where residents are away, up to 2 or 3 times a week. It is also possible to get a discount from some insurance companies if you are a member of a scheme. Neil is applying for an official membership number for Berwick St James from the police. We can also have 2 signs, 1 for each end of the village, although there would be a cost, possibly £19 each.

Pauline Stephenson asked for the time of any reported incidents to be given as they have CCTV, which could provide possible information on perpetrators. The Days, owners of Uppington Farmhouse, thanked the police for their help during their recent break-in, saying they had wonderful service.

Stephen Bush said a young lad with a backpack of household cleaning items had come to their house to sell them. This had happened before and could be the beginning of a recurrence. Ivor Noyce said they would like to know when it happens and to call 101 to alert them (or 999 should the circumstances warrant it) or send an email to the NW coordinator.

7. Reviews and Updates

a. Speedwatch – Marie Perry

There have been 25 sessions with 1103 vehicles recorded of which 78 were speeders. Letters have been sent to all those driving over 35mph. An article on our speedwatch was included in the CSW quarterly magazine. Marie and Carolyn MacDougall have been chosen to represent South Wiltshire on the CSW Steering Committee.

Last week we were lent a Speed Indicator Device (SIDS). They are a good deterrent to speeders, but very expensive. Marie and Neil will investigate the possibility of sharing one with neighbouring villages. The machine also gives a printout of information recorded, which is a good source for analysing traffic.

Action

b. Accounts – Bill Hiscocks

Berwick St James has 2 funds: the Precept, which comes via our council taxes and has very limited spending, and the Community Fund, over which we have complete discretion. Bill updated us on the state of the Parish Funds.

Mary Gatling suggested that wine available after meetings could be paid for by way of a donations box rather than coming out of the Community Fund. This will be an item on the agenda at next meeting.

Chairman

c. Village Fete – Sarah Humphreys

Sarah said 2 gazebos were bought last year for use at the Fete and were so useful that she would like 2 more this year, at a cost of £69.99 each (same price as last year). Proposed by Olivia Marchant and seconded by Charlie Street.

Sarah
Humphreys

Gill Brasher asked for bric-a-brac which can either be delivered to her or can be brought on the day of the fete.

Veronica Sumner has asked for donations of prizes for the raffle.

d. Flooding Solution – Chairman

The drains have been flushed out and Neil thinks the camera inspection has been completed. They think the problem is because the drain exit is below the level of the river so that the water and silt back up into the drain, causing flooding. The entrance to the drain needs to be kept clear: Michael Wiessmuller has been asked to do this, but Neil asked everyone to help out and clear the drain should we notice any debris when passing by.

e. River survey – Chairman

A group including Laurence Talks, a Strategic River specialist, and Andy Martin of the EA Local Fisheries & Biodiversity Team, had inspected the river. The water quality is good; the problem is that the swans eat the plants and food for the fish, and with insufficient food the fish are small. Suggestions for improving the spawning and feeding environment need to be channelled through the landowners and the Wilton Fly Fishing Club.

f. Village Diary – Nicky Street

Berwick St James fete June 7th

Duck race June 8th

Race for Life June 29th

Film nights will restart in September.

8. First Aid and Defibrillator Proposal – Mary Gatling

Mary and Nicky Street are organising a First Aid course. The date has now been set for June 12th 2-4 pm in the Reading Room. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Mary Gatling.

Mary Gatling

Village defibrillator: South West Ambulances is offering 2 schemes for the use of defibrillators. The first offers a machine and full support, including cabinet and training, which costs £1 600 for four years. The second scheme offers a stand-alone defibrillator on loan and we arrange our own training, which Sally Hiscock is happy to do. The BT phone box is a possible location, but there was considerable discussion over the security arrangements necessary and possible costs. As the loan scheme is on a first come, first served basis, there is some urgency so Olivia suggested that we register our interest in scheme 2 and get all the information, on the understanding that we can return the machine if it becomes clear that for cost or other reasons, it is not suitable for Berwick.

Sally Hiscock

A vote was taken by all present to accept the second scheme – all agreed.

9. Funding requests

Action

a. Litter bins – Chairman

2 litter bins would cost £494. Neil had got matching funds from the council. He proposed that the village pay half. Diana Gifford-Meade opposed the motion, saying we don't need bins. Stephen Bush and Jane Rowe also expressed misgivings. John Stephenson said the yellow grit bin at the bottom of North View is being used for litter, as well as his front garden. It was put to the vote as to whether we need 2, 1 or no litter bins.

0 bins – 4 votes in favour.

1 bin at North View – 14 in favour

2 bins – 2 in favour.

Chairman

It was agreed to have 1 bin at North View. Neil asked for £124 for 1 bin from the Community Fund. Proposed by George Campbell-Johnson; seconded by Nicky Street. All in favour.

b. Mapping – Chairman

Neil has purchased online mapping for the village at a cost of £57.60. It will cost £33.60 to renew annually. It provides mapping facilities for the parish but can only be used by one sole source. Anyone wishing to use it can apply to Neil.

10. Any other business

Pauline Stephenson said people parking on pavements poses a problem for mobility scooters as there is not enough space to pass. Neil will put out a letter asking people not to park on the pavements.

Chairman

The provisional date for the next Village Meeting is 9th October.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

Neil MacDougall

Chairman Berwick Parish Meetings