

# Minutes of Berwick St James Village Meeting

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 19:00hrs

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In attendance: Christian Lange – Chairman

Sarah Humphreys – Co-Chair

Hayley Burrey - Secretary

Total attendees: 34 people – 27 in person and 7 attended on Zoom

Apologies received and read out: Ian Gibb, Olivia Marchant, Tim Marchant, Ann Hughes, Gillian Bibby and Greville Bibby.

## **Summary of agenda discussions, actions and decisions agreed:**

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chairman (Christian Lange) opened the meeting at 19:00hrs, welcomed everybody who were attending in person and those joining the meeting via Zoom. Christian Lange then proceeded to record the meeting to enable all to see it remotely afterwards. Apologies were received from Ian Gibb, Ann Hughes, Gillian Bibby and Greville Bibby.

### **2. Minutes of the last meeting**

Chairman (Christian Lange) said that hopefully all had a chance to read them on the website. Christian then thanked Hayley Burrey for doing them. Christian then asked if anybody would like to propose that they were a true and accurate record.

Proposed by Keith Lovett and Seconded by Neil MacDougall.

### **3. Village Party update**

Chairman (Christian Lange) summarised the success of the Village Party and noted that it raised a lot of money, thanking all for their contributions, the Glyn- Owens for use of the field, those who donated the auction lots and those who bid. All was much appreciated and raised a total of £6,376.27, which means the village accounts are looking very healthy.

#### **4. Berwick Farm Shop - Asset of the Community application.**

Chairman (Christian Lange) mentioned that at our last meeting, a suggestion had been made that the Farm Shop become an asset of community value – which received a unanimous vote. The paperwork was then submitted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June. A response was received on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June with queries that were settled. Then on 7<sup>th</sup> September Wiltshire Council informed us that Parish Meetings cannot apply – it must be a Parish Council or 21 people. A discussion was then had, and all agreed that we would re submit the nomination with 21 names. Chairman (Christian Lange) then proposed that we re submit. A vote was then taken and the poll result was 32 people in agreement and 2 choosing to abstain. ACTION for Chairman (Christian Lange) to resubmit.

#### **5. Revised Signage Application – Boot Inn**

Chairman (Christian Lange) stated that The Boot In had applied for planning permission for revised signage and lighting. Mike Doldon (Landlord of Boot) joined the meeting to clarify the details of the planning application.

It was stated that there will be new fittings for lights, but the lighting will be the same. Therefore, it will be like for like. Co-Chair (Sarah Humphries) expressed that some were concerned about the brightness of the lights. A discussion took place and Mike confirmed that once the pub was closed – all the lights (apart from the toilet) will be switched off plus they must conform to new standards. All lights will be LED. Chairman (Christian Lange) stated that we can write in to comment and request that the lights are warm and of a brightness no greater than the existing. This was then

Proposed by Christian Lange and Seconded by Henry Colthurst. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

#### **6. Rolls & Responsibilities in the village**

Chairman (Christian Lange) revised and read out the roles and responsibilities as a quick reminder. The updated list will be circulated, and Secretary (Hayley Burrey) will create a poster to place in the notice boards.

#### **7. Funding request for marquee maintenance**

Neil MacDougall presented a summary of the status of the village marquees and their usage this year. Neil MacDougall gave thanks to all people who have assisted in the build-up/ break down of the marquees each time and gave special thanks to Mike Doggrell for the welding he has done. We need 7 new bags which will cost approx. £100 and we need to replace the roof on the smaller marquee. A discussion was then had as to whether we buy a new marquee or pay for repairs. It was

then agreed that we would investigate both options. Chairman (Christian Lange) then proposed that the village authorise approval for a spend of £500.

Proposed by Charles Street and Seconded by Henry Colthurst. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

A further discussion was then had regarding the charges for the rental of marquees, gazebos and BBQ. Chairman (Christian Lange) also thanked Neil MacDougall for all his work on it.

Proposed by Lyanne Street and Seconded by Nicky Street. A vote was taken and the poll result was 100% in agreement.

#### **8. Village Funds**

Chairman (Christian Lange) presented the slides of the village funds. Precept: £2,866.08, Community Fund : £8,010.34 and A303 £614.80. Stephen Bush asked if the funds raised from the village party would be divided up between the Reading Room, Community Fund and the Church. A discussion then took place and it was agreed that, as this had not been on this meeting's agenda another village meeting should take place in November to agree the division of the takings. This would enable people not present, such as the cricket club members, to request funds. It was also discussed that anybody requesting village funds must come to the village meetings.

#### **9. Update on Village Climate Change initiatives**

Chairman (Christian Lange) explained that Wiltshire Council is in the process of consulting the community on their draft Climate change strategy. The closing date for responses to the consultation is 17<sup>th</sup> October and Christian encouraged people to do this.

Christian also provided an update on the village climate change meeting held in June which was attended by 17 people. Due to the lower turn-out than normal, it was not clear from the meeting if there was enough enthusiasm to look at initiatives as a village. Therefore, a survey has been suggested to establish whether we partake as a community or as individuals.

#### **10. Reading Room update**

Nicky Street presented an update on the Reading Room. For all bookings, please email [readingroom@berwickstjames.org.uk](mailto:readingroom@berwickstjames.org.uk) or telephone Nigel Rodgers on 01722 790622. The Reading Room committee has concluded the best action is to replace the thatch this time. Ian Shelley is booked to begin works in the New Year. A match funding grant has been obtained from the area board – a thank you was given to Sarah Humphries who secured £4,250 towards it. Therefore, there is enough funds within the reading room to pay for the roof. Nicky Street gave a summary of the upcoming talks and mentioned the Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Chairman (Christian Lange) congratulated Sarah Humphreys for getting the grant and a round of applause was given.

### **11. Diamond Jubilee Plans**

Chairman (Christian Lange) raised the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee – just to put it on our radar. A slide was shown covering the various planned celebrations for the UK. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June when street parties are to be held was pointed out, planting a seed for thought. A show of hands was given in favour of us participating. Chairman (Christian Lange) asked for volunteers to form a working group to organise this, which we will form at the November meeting. Co-Chair (Sarah Humphries) suggested that we commemorate the Jubilee with maybe a bench at the back of the church. It was pointed out that we may also receive funding from the government.

### **12. Village Email and WhatsApp**

Co-Chair (Sarah Humphries) mentioned that we will be updating the email system over the coming months. Sarah Humphries requested that people only use the Village WhatsApp group for village issues and announcements and asked people to avoid having conversations where everybody is copied in. People were encouraged to reply to posts to individuals rather than the whole group unless appropriate to do so. Facebook is the more appropriate forum for general chat / humorous posts etc.

### **13. Update on A303**

Carolyn MacDougall gave a presentation with slides, providing an update and the current status on the A303 and summarised that any change to the scheme, will now have to go back to the drawing board. More information and updates about the A303 can be found on the village website on this [link](#)

### **14. Christmas events 2021**

A Christmas Carol Service will take place in the church on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. There will be a Christmas Day Family Service. Stephen Bush then further commented that there will be the Harvest Festival on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>. Remembrance Sunday on November 14<sup>th</sup> will be held in Winterbourne Stoke. Stephen Bush also reported that lead is being stolen and please can we all keep a vigil eye on activity of strangers around the church.

### **15. Update on Speed Watch**

Marie Perry gave a presentation with slides, providing the latest statistics on the village Speed Watch and Lorry Watch. Chairman (Christian Lange) commented that it really does make a difference and extended a thank you to Marie Perry and the Speedwatch team for all their efforts.

#### **16. Any other business**

Neil MacDougall advised the village that we do have gel sacks, sandbags and flood warning signs in the container, should they be needed. There are 5 people with keys and all can be contacted for access. A list of all those with keys will be printed and placed in the Notice Boards, Secretary (Hayley Burrey) said she would action this. Neil MacDougall also mentioned that the planning tab on the website is no longer operational within our package. It can be found on the Salisbury Council Website on this [LINK](#)

#### **17. Date of next meeting**

Christian then concluded by stating the next meeting will be in November 2021 with the date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20:17hrs.