Notes of the Berwick St James Parish Meeting 2 August 2010 No. 32

19 present plus Chairman Richard Brasher, Secretary and Treasurer. Eight apologies for absence.

1 Minutes of Last Meeting

Omitted from previous Notes – Nicky Street's suggestion that markings be painted on the B3083 just north of Berwick to alert drivers to risk of swerving off road. Chairman to contact Highways Department.

2 Matters Arising

Chairman reported that Wiltshire Air Ambulance Appeal may no longer wish to install a clothing bank in Berwick – residents can use the one in Elm Grove, South Newton. The Post Office have informed the Chairman that there is insufficient demand to provide a mobile Post Office for Berwick and surrounding villages. The Chairman is having ongoing discussions with Wiltshire Council requesting work on the potholes and bridge in Duck Lane and the green triangle.

3 Accounts

£500 (£250 more than previous years) to be allotted to the Reading Room to cover the extra maintenance costs listed by Ian Fisher. The Parish is responsible for the upkeep of the War Memorial in the church and money will be made available when the cost of restoring it has been established by Stephen Bush.

4 Planning Applications

Martin Gairdner outlined the history and gave details of current planning applications for the Stonehenge Campsite. The present situation is that the site has been certified by the Caravan Club for five caravan pitches at the bottom of the field furthest away from the B3083 and for 'other purposes' (eg erection of tents) for 28 days a year. Go to www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planningsearch.htm to S/2010/797/ADV & S/2010/1058/FULL to see the two latest planning applications. A minority (4 voters) felt that the recent applications were acceptable and the current level of development was acceptable. However, the majority of residents were against both new applications. The feeling of the meeting was that any, even minor, planning requests might lead to a larger, more intrusive scheme. The general conclusion was that the considerable works which have already been completed at the site, the infrastructure already in place and the tone of the camp website seem to indicate the intent to expand the site further. Any expansion is totally unacceptable to most of those present at the meeting, so the vast majority voted against both planning applications.

5 Village Fete Report

The Chairman thanked Sarah Humphreys and Will Simpson Gee for organising the fete and duck race. Everyone agreed that both events were resounding successes. Sarah reported that together the events made a profit of £2,345.55. The profit has been divided between the Village Fund which received £500 and the Church and Reading Room receiving £922.78 each.

6 Any Other Business

- Details of the Community Plan to be put on the middle notice board. Give any responses in writing to the Chairman for him to consider including in the Plan, before sending it to Wiltshire Council.
- Chris Lange to investigate the practicalities/costs of keeping a defibrillator in the Reading Room and training some villagers to use it. Ian Fisher suggested that training be provided by the St John's Ambulance for a charitable donation.
- Chris Lange will also look into the possibility of having a list of village residents' email addresses so that village information may be distributed more quickly/easily. The Chairman encouraged everyone to read the village notice boards.
- Nicky Street requested that residents with river frontages do not throw nettles/grass cuttings in the river as they damage the ecology of the waterway and block up the mill wheel.
- The Chairman will contact British Telecom, which is still responsible for the maintenance of the telephone kiosk, to request that they replace some broken panes of glass.
- The Chairman acknowledged receipt of a 45 page Wiltshire Local Transport Plan Parking Strategy and a consultant's Review of the Plan (180 pages). Anyone interested should contact the Chairman.