## BERWICK ST JAMES

## **VILLAGE MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Julian Glyn-Owen – Chair

Bill Hiscocks – Treasurer

Carolyn MacDougall - Secretary/Clerk

**APOLOGIES:** Nigel Rodgers, Gillie Bibby, Janey Campbell-Johnston, Ian Gibb, Gill Brasher,

Alice and Ed Faulkner, Christian Lange, Hayley Burrey.

GUEST: Ross Anderson, The Boot Inn

No. ATTENDING: 27

<u>ITEM</u>	ACTION
WELCOME	
Julian Glyn-Owen welcomed all attendees. A warm welcome to Berwick to Ignas Laurinavicius; as	
well as to baby Angus O'Neill-Street.	
MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING – Julian Glyn-Owen	
Minutes of the previous Village Meeting were agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting: proposed	
by Charlie Street and seconded by Nicky Street.  Action Items that had been carried forward:	
1. Assets of Community Value for The Boot Inn - Done	
2. A303 Fund of £614 – to be discussed	
3. BT public phone booth to be repainted – on-going	
4. SumUp cards – on-going	
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PRECEPT AND ACCOUNTS – Bill Hiscocks	
Bill Hiscocks presented the Berwick accounts for 2024 [refer to slides].	
Balance as at 27 January 2025:	
<u>Precept</u> : £3,602	
Comments: Salvation Army bin not paying out as much but still useful. With thanks to the Farm	
Shop for accommodating.	
Church graveyard/garden somewhat more expensive due to prolonged mowing season. Website	
yearly charges up from £128 to £144. We need the website and it is very useful. Community Fund: £1,342	
A303 Fund: £614	
We raised £25k for our campaign against a possible southern bypass. £3K of the remaining balance	
has already been paid out evenly to residents. We should now move the balance of £614 to the	
Community Fund, as the small amount would be time consuming to share out.	ВН
Bob Drake Fund: £311	
Comments: Most of the daffodils planted from the Bob Drake Fund have not appeared and	вн
replacements will be needed.	DII
Bank Charges: Lloyds Bank will now be charging £4.25 per account per month. The idea is to	вн
amalgamate the Precept and Community Fund into one account. Bill Hiscocks will take advice from	DII
our local council to determine the feasibility. Neil MacDougall was of the opinion this might not be	
possible.	
2025 Precept: It was proposed that we keep the Precept as per last year at £2K. All attendees voted in favour of the proposel	
in favour of the proposal.  Proposal to bring forward the payments to Church Graveyard £750 and Reading Room £500 instead	
of waiting until the AGM. All attendees voted in favour of the proposal.	
or watering until the morning. The attendees voice in favour of the proposar.	

ITEM	ACTION
The Boot Inn – Ross Anderson	
The village was thanked for their support and custom especially in the light of other neighbouring	
pubs closing. Ross Anderson is working closely with Red Oak Taverns to continue to make	
improvements. These are some:	
Extending the tent out back for grills and cookery classes	
2. Adding vegetable beds (with fencing) - encouraging children to get involved	
3. A separate area for polo ponies	
4. Richard (the chef) is now living at the pub	
5. Looking for a permanent manager	
6. Looking to open another pub with reassurance that this would not impact The Boot	
7. Laying new parking area	
8. Supper Club to continue throughout the year	
<ul><li>9. Another tasting evening for Spring menu</li><li>10. Every Friday is grill night</li></ul>	
11. All events to be advertised a month in advance. There will be a 'Halloween scare' night.	
The pub welcomes Berwick residents' ideas.	
Neil MacDougall thanked Ross for the super Supper Club.	
Nen MacDougan manked Ross for the super Supper Club.	
Footpath – Julian Glyn-Owen	
Julian Glyn-Owen updated the village on the Footpath [refer to slide] – as outlined in the Minutes of	
the Village Meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> October last year. There has been no progress and the terms of	
engagement as outlined by Druids/Guinness Estate Manager, John Elliot, in 2024 remain unchanged	
and are therefore unacceptable to Berwick as the financial commitment would be a burden on our	100
small village. As a follow-up, an email will be sent to John Elliot to confirm our position. The	JGO
question was asked as to whether raising this with Erskine Guinness would help. The conclusion was	
that it would not.	
Road Safety B3083 – Carolyn MacDougall	
A traffic management proposal will be put forward to Wiltshire Council to try and safeguard	CM
pedestrians and horse riders along the B3083 (from A303 junction)	
1. Reduce the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph	
2. Move the <i>Welcome to Berwick/30mph</i> sign further northwards	
3. Install a new Speed Indicator Device (SID) before the bend if speed limit reduced to 40mph	
Alice Ridley asked if the hedge, which obscures drivers' sight of horse riders could be removed.	
Druids will be approached.	JGO
Bridge Repair/Full B3083 Road Closure at the point of Berwick bridge – Julian Glyn-Owen	
Julian Glyn-Owen was in receipt of an email, dated 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2024, from Wiltshire Council's	
Highways Technician outlining the following:	
Wiltshire Council is planning to carry out works on Berwick 2 <sup>nd</sup> bridge. The bridge's condition has	
deteriorated and is in poor condition and is now a priority to get work done. The work would involve	
taking down the existing bridge railings, removing the surfacing and taking down the concrete deck.	
There will be a number of large construction machinery on site. On completion the bridge will look	
similar but the deck would be upgraded to modern standards. This work has to happen and we cannot	
stop it. [Refer to slides]	
Currently the work is scheduled to start on or around 12 May 2025 and it will entail a full road	
closure at the point of the bridge for 8 weeks. There will be a pedestrian walkway.	
It was highlighted that there would be quite a number of factors that will impact the village and asked	
residents to voice their concerns, some of which were raised at the meeting, such as:  1. How will the Red No. 2 bus operate	
2. What about Post Office and other deliveries	
3. Ensure that the 7.5T weight limited remains	
4. Could the Girl Guide centre be used for parking	
5. Ensure correct road signage at A303 entry point	
6. Any other road works that might impact the closure	
7. Loss of business for The Boot and the Farm Shop	
8. The sooner the work starts the better	
We will be looking to have a meeting with the Technician Officer to highlight all the possible issues.	JGO
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ITEM	ACTION
Fundraising – Carolyn MacDougall A Fete-cum-Fun Day was put forward. It has been pencilled in for either Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> or Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June. The venue, with many thanks to Olivia Marchant, will be in the garden at The Clock House. A small team initially will get together to put forward ideas. More helpers will be needed in due course and on the day. The village will be updated soon.	СМ
Community Speed Watch – Neil MacDougall  The Community Speed Watch team stopped running sessions in October last year due to the low number of traffic using our road and weather conditions. At the time it was decided that data from SID would indicate whether the group would need to restart again when the weather improves. Downloaded data indicated that there has been no or little change since 2024. Roughly 8,500 cars a month enter the village and 7,000 leave. This discrepancy is interesting! [Refer to slides]. On average the most traffic, at busy periods, is no more than 60 vehicles per hour. There are still significant speeders, mostly entering the village (40-50mph) and outgoing (30-40mph). The presence of our teams definitely does make a difference to the speed of incoming traffic. Nonetheless a decision as to whether to re-start the sessions or not, will be left for after the bridge road closure finishes in mid-July. Julian Glyn-Owen thanked Neil for his work.	NM
Wessex Internet – Julian Glyn-Owen No update following recent email. It appears that the costs have increased [refer to slide] and does not include landline rentals. The Reading Room has submitted reasons why they need to be connected. It would appear that Wessex Internet believe that they have made good all areas where work has been carried out. Tim Upward highlighted concerns about verges needing attention and will make contact with Wessex Internet.	TU
AOB - All  1. Cancer Research  Christine McConnell informed the Meeting that a total of £1,1700 was raised to support CRUK in 2024. Special thanks to Berwick Farm Shop and Café. A full breakdown of the income is listed in the <i>Community Matters</i> magazine. Since starting the plant table, an amazing £6,708 has been raised. Christine received a well deserved round of applause for her dedicated hard work.	
2. Large Marquee Neil MacDougall inquired as to what was happening with the damage done last summer to the large marquee while out on hire. Any funds required for replacement parts would need to be agreed at this meeting. The damaged parts would cost £278 to replace; half of which will be borne by the hirer and the transport of the spares by a third party. The village would be left with a bill of £102.  Bill Hiscocks proposed for agreement to the figure of £102 and seconded by Nicky Street. 14 votes to accept and 6 against. Bill Hiscocks to order replacement spare parts.  Carolyn MacDougall enquired whether we know for sure if there were any other faults prior to the marquee being used. Derek Kelly stated that this could only be ascertained once the marquee was erected. A new set of Conditions of Hire (copy on the Village website) will be in place to ensure that we do not have problems in the future.	ВН

The Village Meeting closed at 20.10 and residents invited to stay for wine and chat.