

VILLAGE MEETING MINUTES

Date: Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7pm at The Reading Room

In Attendance: Julian Glyn-Owen - Chair
Bill Hiscocks - Treasurer
Carolyn MacDougall - Secretary/Clerk

Guests: Peter Smith, Parish Councillor Winterbourne Stoke
Rev'd Jonathan Plows

Apologies: Olivia Marchant, Stephen and Ailsa Bush, Ian Gibb, Haley Burrey, Greville and Gilly Bibby, Gill Brasher and Cllr Kevin Daley

No. Attending: 18

| <u>AGENDA ITEMS</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| <p>Welcome Julian Glyn-Owen welcomed all attendees. A special welcome to Peter Smith, Parish Councillor Winterbourne Stoke.</p> | |
| <p>Minutes of the last Meeting and Matters arising Minutes of the previous Village Meeting were agreed to be a true reflection of the meeting: proposed by Mary Cochrane and seconded by Martin Gairdner. Items carried forward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundraising to let out rooms for special occasions is still an idea. 2. Assets of Community Value for The Boot to be completed and discussed with Ross Anderson. 3. The report on voltage problems appears to have been cleared. | BH |
| <p>Village Finances Bill Hiscocks presented the current balance of accounts: [Refer to slide]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bob Drake Fund £310 – some might be used for more daffodils in the future. 2. A303 Fund still holds £614, which will remain for the time being. 3. Community Fund at £1,342. 4. Precept currently at £4,000 but approx. £500 still to be paid out. Balance can be used for very specific investment ideas but not such items as social events. | |
| <p>Fundraising Julian Glyn-Owen reported on a new idea received for village fundraising: <i>“A family and friends sporting fun day”</i> at the Cricket Club venue to include for instance team races/events, BBQ and auction of promises, etc.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Idea well received and volunteers to help were asked to put their names forward. 2. The Cricket Club venue could be too exposed to the elements. Other sites to be considered. 3. An idea was to invite other villages (Winterbourne Stoke?) to enter teams. 4. Either bring own drink or ask The Boot to run, subject to how it would be financially run. | CM |
| <p>Local MP Danny Kruger visit Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jonathan Plows invited Danny Kruger to visit the church. The MP appeared unfamiliar about old buildings and the impact of the possible end of VAT relief (March 2025) on such items as Church building repairs. 2. On Saturday the MP knocked on doors and also met residents in the Reading Room, which was a useful introduction. 3. On the Friday Danny Kruger met with Julian Glyn-Owen and Carolyn MacDougall to discuss: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A303 and the possible meeting of all local councillors, National Highways Project Director and Wiltshire Council to create a united solution to congestion and rat-running. b) He was asked to follow-up with Wessex Water on the sewage system in the village, which needs updating. | JGO/CM to follow-up |

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| <p>Wessex Internet (WI) Village presentation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WI is making good progress and has already laid the duct in Berwick. 2. Presentation set for Thursday 10th October in the Reading Room at 7pm for householders who are interested in connecting to ultrafast fibre broadband. 3. It would be good to have Reading Room and Church connected and maybe The Boot. | <p>CM to liaise</p> |
| <p>A303 Winterbourne Stoke (WS)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Peter Smith re-iterated the lament of the Government's cancellation of the Stonehenge A303 road scheme on the basis that it was not offering value for money despite UNESCO approving the project just days before. 2. Winterbourne Stoke and Shrewton both held large public meetings to debate the issue. All agreed that doing nothing was not an option. 3. The stretch of the A303 going through WS, designated as a 'trunk road', is not fit for purpose with a bridge not designed for heavy HGVs; the pedestrian crossing is unsafe with HGVs not able to break in time: speed cameras switched off years ago. 4. WS pressing for a change to 30mph as Chilmark and a better 7.5T Weight Limit sign positioned well before entering the B3083. 5. WS has contacted the Police Commissioner Philip Wilkinson as well as the Amesbury Highways person to review and implement better solutions. | |
| <p>General Village update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Langford Way: The parish steward and Julian Glyn-Owen have been clearing the ditch but the build-up of silt needs removing. Julian Glyn-Owen to meet Wiltshire Council. 2. Flooding: A non-return valve now in place at the Guide Centre and the large soak-away is currently working. Continue to monitor any further reported issues. 3. Duck Street: The ownership of the stretch of road (never registered) from the bridge to Asserton House is still in the process of being addressed. Thanks to Sally Barnard the potholes have been fixed - albeit temporarily. 4. Bus Stop: Thanks to Ed Faulkner, Hugh McMutrie and Olivia Marchant for clearing and painting the bus shelter. 5. Notice Board: Now repaired thanks to Wayne Thompson. 6. Public Phone Box: Although a listed building, it is still owned by BT and they are responsible for its upkeep. BT will be asked to re-paint. 7. New Admin WhatsApp: New system appears to be working well but still 20 residents not signed-up. Presently only 'Administrators' can add messages. It was agreed that it should remain so. It was also put forward that on the social WhatsApp residents should refrain from posting messages late at night unless in an emergency. 8. The White House planning: Wiltshire Council has given planning consent with very minimum alterations despite Village objections. Julian Glyn-Owen thanked those that took time to attend the planning meeting and put forward objections. 9. Cricket fun day: Organised by Frank Whiting. A fun and well-organised afternoon. | <p>JGO</p> <p>JGO</p> |
| <p>B3083/BJA6 Diversion of Footpath</p> <p>Julian Glyn-Owen highlighted that the main reason for the re-positioning of the footpath from Winterbourne Stoke to Berwick was for safety reasons. Negotiations with Druids are still on-going. In summary here are Druids terms of agreement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Berwick would be responsible for providing and installing fencing, gates and stiles. Estimated costs would be £10,000. 2. Berwick would be responsible for the maintenance of the above. 3. Wiltshire Council would be responsible for the vegetation growing on the surface. 4. Druids would be responsible for anything encroaching onto the path. 5. To be used for the sole purpose as a footpath and not for equestrian use. 6. The owners of Little Valley should be approached as they might object. <p>[Refer to attached slides]</p> <p>Funds needed for fencing, gates, stiles and installation could be sought in part or whole from various sources within Wiltshire Council, such as Stonehenge Area Board, Local Highways and Footpaths.</p> | |

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| <p>B3083/BJA6 Diversion of Footpath/cont. With the above criteria in mind Julian Glyn-Owen asked attendees whether this plan should proceed further. Many voiced concerns over the open-ended financial commitment of maintenance for our parish and questioned the need for fencing seeing that there is none at the moment. Dom Ridley stated that there would not be much upkeep on fencing for a long time. It was felt that a more mutual agreement ought to be obtained.</p> <p>A vote was taken and 9 were in favour of proceeding to the next phase of negotiations. Julian Glyn-Owen stated that he could not deal with this complex issue alone and asked for some help.</p> <p>B3083 Signage: A request for a new road assessment (metro-count) to be done in order to potentially lower the speed limit from A303 into Berwick – currently 50mph. New pedestrian signage is going ahead and Rose Grant will organise additional yellow horse signs to be added to existing signs where applicable. [Refer to attached slides]</p> | <p>JGO</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JGO/RG</p> |
| <p>Reading Room Nicky Street stated that the interior of the Reading Room had been repainted, a new fire door installed and the roof by the entrance replaced. The outside wall needs doing but it will be very costly. Upcoming Events: Tea and Chat 15th October, 5th and 19th November. Art Appreciation 17 October (Rembrandt) and 21 November. This year there will be an early Christmas and Coffee Morning on Saturday 16 November.</p> | |
| <p>Mailing List Currently being updated and for Admin use only. Village asked to forward any new relevant data such as new email address, etc.</p> | <p>CM</p> |
| <p>Online Safety Awareness and Fraud talk It was proposed that we invite Simon Goodwin (Cyber Crime Prevent & Protect Officer) and Rachel Davies (Fraud/Scam Officer) - both from Devizes Police - to come to Berwick some time in November (evening or Saturday morning) to present the latest advice on these subjects. Their presentation would last approx. 1hour. Most attendees thought it was a good idea.</p> | <p>JGO</p> |
| <p>Invasive Russian Vine/Mile a Minute plant in Berwick Christine McConnell brought to the Village's attention that there is an invasive plant (Fallopia Baldschuanica) that has taken root from Silverdale by North View towards the south of the village. This will have appeared in the gardens of many residences on the west side of the village. It ought to be tackled before it gets worse. It was suggested a working party get together to try and eradicate but it would be complicated, as it would entail entering a number of private properties. Charlie Street stressed that it would only be destroyed if the roots were killed off.</p> | <p>JGO/C McC</p> |
| <p>Any Other Business Nicky Street asked if the Village would consider the purchase of a SumUp card (cashless payments). Both useful for the Reading Room and the Church.</p> | |

The Village Meeting closed at 8 pm