

## **BERWICK ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Draft Minutes for a Meeting of Berwick St John Parish Council held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllrs, Bridges (Chairman), Follett, Hiscock, Meade, Mortenson, Sparkes.

**In attendance:** Mr Weiner, Cllr Nabil Najjar

Cllr. Bridges opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

**1440. Apologies for absence and to consider whether to approve the reasons given.**

Cllr Follett was absent due to work commitments

**1441. Interests.**

Cllrs. were reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure their register of interests on the WC website is kept up to date.

**1442. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023.**

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Cllr Sparkes, seconded by Cllr Mortenson and unanimously approved by the meeting.

*Local Government Act 1972 sch 12 para 41(1)*

**1443. To exclude members of the Public and Press if required, for matters that need to be discussed in confidence.**

*Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 and Local Government Act 1972 ss100.*

The following members of the public were present for the entire meeting:

Alison Ritchie, John DelNero.

**1444. An Update of actions from the minutes dated 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was provided.**

**1. (1174) WiFi extension to telephone kiosk**

Clerk advised that he had made one last attempt to contact Wessex Internet, without success. It was agreed that Cllr Sparkes will organise a working party from the village to get the cable dug in.

**Update from Cllr Nabil Najjar**

Cllr Najjar provided an update for the meeting including:

Wiltshire Council have approved an annual budget of £190m, which is fully funded without the need to touch reserves.

Cllr Najjar has had a proposal approved that will support the use of local farms for food supplies to Wiltshire Council

Grants are available from the South West Area Board for improvements etc to the Village Hall. Up to £5,000 per project can be match-funded by Wiltshire Council if approved.

**1445. Play Area.**

- i. No issues were reported other than the ongoing presence of molehills, which should be addressed when the grass cutting commences
- ii. The annual inspection fee of £132.00 + VAT was unanimously approved by the meeting. Clerk to now organise an unaccompanied inspection by Wickstead.

## **1446. Highways**

- i. Cllr Mortenson provided the meeting with an update on the various issues previously reported to Highways: Manor Farm drain has been cleared, however the gully under the road at the junction of Blind Lane and Water St was found to be flowing freely at the time of inspection. This issue will now be added to the list of items to be addressed at part of the Gully Work scheduled with the Parish Steward to be completed on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Cllr Najjar suggested that a copy of the video which clearly shows the extent of the flooding problem be sent to Highways.  
Action: Clerk to send a copy of the video to the contact at Highways.
- ii. The ongoing problem relating to potholes being temporarily fixed, before then quickly degrading again, was discussed. Cllr Najjar suggested that where the issue related to the degradation of road surface, this should be addressed by Major Works, rather than being reported as potholes. Cllr Nabil will provide the necessary email addresses at Wiltshire Council Highways.  
It was agreed by the meeting the following sections of road would be reported: Top Road, by New Barn, entrance to the village by the SID, the junction of Blind Lane and Water St up to Easton Hollow.
- iii. Items discussed in **1146 i** and **ii** above
- iv. Concerns were raised with regard to the amount of detritus which has accumulated in the middle of the road leaving the village towards Alvediston.  
Action: Clerk to bring the matter to the attention of Charles Hall or Richard Hall.

## **1447. Rights of Way.**

No issues or concerns were raised

**1448.** The 'No Objection' response to PL/2024/01173 Works to trees in a conservation area was noted by the meeting

**1449.** No planning applications were received after the publication of the agenda.

**1450.** There were no breaches of deemed planning consent requiring discussion.

## **Finance**

### **1451. Year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

- i. The balance of the accounts was noted
- ii. Opening balance      £ 12,556.02
- iii. Total receipts        £ 9,154.93
- iv. Total payments        £ 6,266.83
- v. Closing balance        £ 15,444.12  
(This includes ring-fenced sums totalling £460.61)
- vi. The updated budget / spend report was noted
- vii. There was no requirement to vire funds from reserves to budget.
- viii. The payments made since the last meeting were noted
  - a. Hillcrest Landscapes                      £1,176.00
  - b. Vision ICT                                      £ 161.26
  - c. Pocock Storage                                £ 97.50
- ix. The following payments were authorised
  - a. Clifford Fry                                    £ 252.00

Local Government Act 1972 s150(5)

**1452. Clerk's Report inc correspondence**

- i. The Clerk presented a chart detailing the speeding cases by number and speed range. The 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed for the 2 month period was 30.1 mph

**1453.** The Clerk recommended the establishment of a sub-group develop the 1<sup>st</sup> Aid plan. This would include; an appropriate training course to meet the village requirements, a group of individuals who once trained would be able to support as First responders when required.

Action: Councillors to email the Clerk to confirm their willingness to join the sub-group. Clerk to then coordinate the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting timing.

**1454. Potential Village Hall located container cost**

Cllr Meade provided some estimated costs for the purchase of a 20ft container to replace the one currently hired for storage purposes. It was agreed that given the payback period was less than 4 years, it would make sense to pursue this matter.

It was determined that the location of the container would be critical, with no erosion of parking spaces behind the Village Hall. Cllr Meade was asked to investigate if the shed that currently sits in the Village Hall car park could be removed to make space for the container.

Action: Cllr Mead to report back at the next meeting

**1455. No items were suggested for inclusion in the next Berwick Bulletin**

**1456. Items for the agenda at the next meeting**

The D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event  
Village tent rental policy  
1<sup>st</sup> Aid plan

**1457. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as May 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, after the Annual Parish Meeting which would commence at 19.00**

**There being no further business, Cllr Bridges closed the meeting at 20.42**