

**BEVERSTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held via Zoom on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Present:** Miss C Lowsley-Williams (Chairman), Mr D Morris, Mr D McMeekin, Mr O Preston, Mr J Rixen-Osterbro, Miss F Gunn (Clerk).

Sarah Spain joined the meeting for item 11 on the Village Hall.

**1 Apologies:** None

**2 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 were approved and the Clerk will visit the Chairman to get them signed.

**3 Matters arising not on the agenda: Chavenage Lane:** Caroline Lowsley-Williams said a 20mph from Tetbury to Chavenage was still being pursued. **Walking on farm tracks round Beverston.** Dermot said that he had still not had a response from Phil Kinch to his letter.

**4. The role of the Chairman.** Caroline Lowsley-Williams informed the meeting that after ten years she has decided to stand down as Chairman. Deputy Chairman, David Morris, said he greatly regretted Caroline's decision but said she had done remarkably well during her tenure and had managed the Council very well. David said that he foresees a difficult future for the village. Dermot and Jorn also paid tribute to Caroline's time in office. After a brief discussion David put forward Oliver Preston as Chairman and this proposal was unanimously supported by the remaining Councillors.

Councillor Preston took the Chair and said that Caroline standing down had been discussed last year. He wanted to remind the meeting that Caroline had taken over from his father and it was a huge honour to be taking over from Caroline. Oliver said he cannot thank Caroline enough for "steering the ship". He also agreed that there are probably difficult times ahead for the parish. He said that the Council was a balanced group of individuals with expertise in many areas. He did not want being a Parish Councillor to be an onerous task.

**5. The role of Vice Chairman.** David Morris said he was happy to continue in this role.

**6. Financial.** The Clerk informed the meeting that there is currently £22,181 in the bank account.

**7. Babdown – hare coursing banks.** Councillor Rixen-Osterbro raised the issue of the new earth banks that had been constructed around the airfield to deter hare coursers. He said that there was support for these banks at Babdown but there was concern about the soil that had been used to construct it. He said that when it was first put in there was a horrid smell and there was a lot of metal, plastic and rubbish in the banks, so there was concern the worst kind of soil had been used. It was agreed that the Parish Council has a right to question what sort of waste had been used and the Clerk was asked to contact the Environment Agency and Oliver Preston said he would liaise with the Bowdown Farms.

**8. Roads and Traffic.** Caroline Lowsley Williams said that she was keeping a watch on a proposal from the Mayor of Tatbury to stop vehicles using the Chavenage Lane from Tetbury to Chavenage.

**9. Rights of Way.** It was agreed that the Chairman should write to Phil Kinch about a pile of stone that is blocking the Macmillan Way on the north side of the A4135 and also a large broken branch which is hanging over the Macmillan Way from an oak tree.

The meeting discussed permissive paths and in particular the track that links the footpath that runs up beside the church and the Macmillan Way. Mrs Rook had always allowed villagers to walk along the track and after she died her agent, Arthur Witchell, had set up a Permissive Path along that route but when the farm went on the market the Permissive Path was withdrawn. There were differing views within the Council about whether or not this should be a Parish Council matter or a private matter between villagers and the new landowner. However, all councillors agreed that this track is an important link and hoped that the new landowner, Phil Kinch, could be persuaded to allow villagers to use it. It was noted that no one had properly met Phil Kinch and rectifying this would probably be a good idea.

**10. Planning and planning issues.** The AGFO planning application from Beverston Farm and the Parish Council's role was discussed. It was pointed out that the procedure for an AFGO is not always a Parish Council matter. However, in this instance the Parish Council were invited to comment on the application and the Chairman Caroline Lowsley Williams collectively submitted the views of the Parish Council and the parishioners who had submitted their comments to her to CDC Planning Department. Oliver Preston said that it is very important that in future the Parish Council works as one to work out what it is and isn't allowed to do with regards to planning applications.

Jorn Osterbro commented on Valley Trading vehicle movements outside permitted hours. David Morris suggested a monthly record was made of any VT breaches, observing that any complaints should be registered on an ongoing basis and not just when a planning application was under consideration. Oliver will contact Richard Ball at Calcot and ask them to keep a record as well.

**11. Beverston Village Hall.** Sarah Spain, a member of the Village Hall Committee, joined the meeting to speak on behalf of this Committee. Dermot McMeekin said that he and Sarah had had a good conversation about Toby Falconer's plans for the Village Hall. Sarah said that this is a good opportunity to improve the Village Hall, the garden area and the link to the garden. Other issues that need consideration are fundraising, Wifi, a sound system, parking and opening up the ceiling in the Hall. She said she wanted to communicate the good news about the Village Hall to the Parish and was proposing to circulate a Bugle to update everyone on what is being considered. She believes inclusivity and engaging the local community is very important. Regarding funding for the village Hall David Morris said that he had a commitment from someone for £5,000. Dermot was thanked for organising the removal of the tree from in front of the village hall.

**12. Any other business:**

**Light Pollution from Babdown.** This is an issue that Jorn has been discussing with David Morris. David had been in contact with Woodlodge. The Chairman enquired whether this was an issue that needed to be taken further.

Next meeting April 13 at 6.30pm