

Beverston Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in the Village Hall, Beverston, on 14th May 2019

Present: *Councillors* Caroline Lowsley-Williams (Chairman), David Morris (Vice-Chairman), Dermot McMeekin, Oliver Preston, Jorn Rixen-Osterbro and the Clerk Fiona Gunn

District Councillor Richard Morgan, PC Sue Fellows, PC Neil Lightfoot

John Baldwin, Caroline Beardwell, Pamela & Brian Blackah, Wally Bleaken, Anthony Blezard, Norma & John Crownshaw, Gill Fry, Joanna & James Gouriet, Zara Kirk, Pauline Lee, David & Rona Lowsley-Williams, George Lowsley-Williams, Pam McMeekin, Sue & Peter Mould, Lee Pegler, Vivien Preston, Sarah Spain, Sue Stevens, Sue Taylor, Levent Tounjer, Richard Waldram, Roy Walton, Mark Wood

Apologies: Sally Armstrong, Simon Carbery, James & Kelly Eason, David Hurdle, Anna & Stephen Montague-Jones, Sue Morris, Darren Pegler, Nigel Sibley, David & Suzanne Walsh

1 Welcome by the Chairman: Caroline Lowsley-Williams thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for the work that they have done during the past year. She welcomed Jorn Rixen-Osterbro (who lives at Babdown) as a new Parish Councillor and thanked John Crownshaw, who had stood down at the recent elections and presented him with a small thank you present. John, she noted, had done a lot of work on many issues but in particular he had been a leading force over the years on issues raised by the road, including the speed limit.

During her welcome speech, Caroline reminded the meeting that the Parish Council is here to represent the parishioners who live and work in the Parish in matters of local government. The Parish Council keeps in touch with the District and County Councils through the elected representatives – Stephen Hirst at County Council and Richard Morgan at Cotswold District Council.

She said that the Parish is “thrilled” with the work done by the PCC with the advancement of upgrades on St Mary’s Church. She reminded the meeting that the Parish Council has a website: www.beverstonparishcouncil.org.uk and that, for hard winters, there are stock piles of salt at Park Farm, Nesley and Chavenage for Parish use. She said that on planning the Parish Council had objected to a planning application from St Anthony’s Cottage and also Valley Trading’s expansion application. The Parish Council voted 3/2 to increase the parish precept from £5,000 to £5,500. She reminded the meeting that Chavenage had retained the Beverston Quiz trophy after a very close contest and finally, she was excited to report that Chavenage has made it as an answer in the Saturday Telegraph Quiz Crossword!!

2. Minutes of the previous Parish meeting held on 14th May 2018. The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: There were no matters arising.

4. Police Report: PC Neil Lightfoot and PCSO Sue Fellows attended the meeting and presented the Police Report covering the period 1st May 2018 to 14th May 2019. During this period there was one crime compared with seven during the same period last year. This was a significant reduction.

5. **Report from County Councillor Stephen Hirst.** Stephen Hirst was unable to attend the meeting and did not submit a written report.

6. **Report from District Councillor Richard Morgan.** Richard was pleased to have been voted in as our District Councillor although the Conservative Party lost control of Cotswold District Council. He very much hopes that that his party will regain control of the council in four years because they had left the Council in a very good position with big reserves, low council taxes and housing targets being met.

7. **The work of the Parish Council.**

The proposed expansion of Valley Trading is occupying Parish Councillors' time at the moment. Councillor Preston explained what the Parish Council has been doing and thanked Councillor David Morris for all the work he has done on the matter.

Road through the village. It was noted that historically there has been a roads committee with an aim to get the speed limit reduced from 40mph to 30mph. The meeting discussed whether the Committee should be reformed but given that there has been a lot of fairly recent activity to try and get the speed limit reduced there was not much enthusiasm at this time to start another campaign. However, it was agreed that this is an issue that needs to be kept under review and maybe a new committee should be formed, which would report to the Parish Council, with new people with new ideas.

8. **Future of the Village Hall.** Councillor McMeekin informed the meeting that the Village Hall had been left by Mrs Rook to the husband of her niece with a wish that it remains a Village Hall for use by Beverston Parish. Councillor McMeekin said that if the Parish took on the Village Hall it would be long term and the Parish would be responsible for all repairs and upkeep. The question was posed whether it is valued enough by the Parish to take it on. The meeting indicated that it would be a good idea, if possible, to keep the Village Hall for the Parish.

9. **Financial Report:** The unaudited accounts for the year to 31st March were circulated to the meeting. Income of £5,000 was received from the precept and the outgoings were £721. The Parish Council has been building up a reserve in the bank.

10. **Report from the Church.** Church Warden Richard Waldram presented the report from the Church. He said that improvements have been done to the church and there was an ongoing programme of keeping the churchyard managed. There are regular 10am services on Sunday and special services during the year including the very well attended Carol service, the animal service and music and lessons for Easter. The church is very dependent on volunteers to keep it going and he thanked Norma Crownshaw, the Verger, Gill Fry the PCC Secretary, Mark Philpott the PCC Treasurer, the rest of the PCC Committee and the choir and organists for all their efforts.

11. **Report from the Village Hall.** All events organised by the Village Hall Committee had been well attended – coffee mornings, the quiz, the Bar-B-Q. Thanks were given to the lawnmowing teams. Current income is about the same as outgoings. It was agreed that it would be a good idea if someone from Babdown is invited to join the Committee.

12. **Any other business.**

The following issues were raised from the floor under AOB – the number of business that there are at Babdown and speed checks in the village.