

**WINTERBORNE KINGSTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING  
TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2018 AT 6.30PM  
WINTERBORNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs R Allcock, R Jessopp, L Luxford, R Brock, H Andrews. 4 members of the public, County Cllr Hilary Cox, and District Cllr J Somper

**Chair:** Cllr M Leaper

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**1. Attendance and apologies**

Apologies have been received from Cllr Keith Langdown and Rita Burden.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the 2017 meeting had been issued to all members present and Cllr Andrews proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Allcock and agreed unanimously. A full copy of the minutes is available on the web site.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Parish Council Chairman's Report**

Cllr Leaper read his report. A full copy is available on the web site or from the Clerk, on request.

**5. County Councillor's Report**

New ward boundaries – Councillors had received the first site of the consultation this week. The first iteration puts the Lower Winterbornes with Winterborne Whitchurch, Milborne St Andrews and areas towards Puddletown. The report will be put before the Boundary Commission in May and the division meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> June will go through the amendments. The public consultation will then be opened. A full copy of the County Councillor's report is available on the web site or from the Clerk, on request.

**6. District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Somper informed the meeting that, from May 2019, neither she nor Cllr Parker will be representing the parish as the District and County Councils will be dissolved and the new Unitary Council will take their place.

A full copy of the report is available on the web site or from the Clerk, on request.

**7. Village Updates**

Floodwatch – Graham Hyde reported that the year had started very dry but, very recently, the river has started to run very high and very fast but there has not been any flooding. This is down to the riparian

owners keeping their sections of the river clear. Following the floods in 2016, 5 residents had pumps installed under the Central Government grant. Only one of the pumps has been going over the recent period.

It was noted that it is now the responsibility of the local wardens to keep the tops of the drains clear of mud.

Homewatch – Graham Hyde reported that there have been very few burglaries over the last year. The majority of crimes have centred around cyber crimes and scams. Residents are reminded to be alert at all times and never give bank details and passcodes over the telephone.

Public Footpaths - No report was available.

Bridleways – No report was available.

Trees – Ross Jessopp informed the meeting that there was nothing to report.

Village Hall - The Hall continues to be let on a regular basis with hiring charges covering most of the day to day expenses, although an increase in rental is in the pipeline. Last year a Health and Safety Audit indicated that the threshold of the emergency exit would need to be lowered to allow the exit of wheelchairs. This was expected to prove costly. However, thanks to our treasurer, Wyatt Homes were approached regarding the possibility of providing a community grant. Whilst they were unable to provide funding, they offered to do the work at no cost to the Village Hall Committee while working in the village. For this we are very grateful and have now been able to have the Hall redecorated internally. New heaters are being considered that would, hopefully, be effective in heating the Hall when the one above the door has to be turned off due to the noise level.

Francis Shaxson will relinquish the post of Booking Secretary at the AGM. He has been doing this diligently for many years and will be missed. Sadly, we lost a long serving member, Noreen Doe, she was very involved when the Hall was built and has been a loyal member ever since. The Outreach Post Office from Bere Regis continues to use the hall at least once a week. The Village Show operates under the umbrella of the Hall Management Committee. This has been held since 1976 and has been very successful. However, the number of people entering is going down slightly, so please, have a look at the schedules when they come out in May and, perhaps, have a go!

The Hall AGM will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. We do need new members but would be pleased for you to come along and just see what happens.

W.I. – The membership stands at 24 with an average attendance at monthly meetings of 16. As part of the Woodbury Hill Group, we join with other WIs for some events. The Group Walk was held in our village last year in June, going to Elderton Clump, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. Members attended the Group Centenary Picnic to celebrate 100 years since the formation of the Dorset Federation and also the Group Harvest Supper at Sturminster Marshall in October. 6 members were able to attend the Council meeting in October at the Poole Lighthouse where our banner was carried in the procession of WI banners. 2 members also entered various classes in the WI section of Dorset Arts and Crafts group, achieving a first place in one class.

In July some members joined a coach trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard organised by the Dorset Federation, and also one in September for a horse-drawn canal trip. 12 members visited Hardy's Cottage and Max Gate. The year ended with a Christmas meal at the Holme Nurseries.

There were a variety of speakers during the year, one in particular being an excellent Open Meeting, with John England enlightening us about the building and use of the R.N. Cordite factory at Holton Heath. The Show took place, as usual, in July, with a good number of entries. A Halloween Fun and Activity morning was once again enjoyed by children and parents, and in February the popular Pancake Morning took place.

The WI purchased, and a member laid a wreath, on our behalf at the War memorial on Remembrance Sunday. NFWI rules have been relaxed to allow this.

The Litter Picks in the village and nearby verges and lay-bys have continued, being done most months and in September, our president attended the prize giving for the Village of the Year Awards, and we were thrilled to receive the North Dorset special prize certificate for Winterborne Kingston.

Youth Club - Lynn Luxford explained that the youth club is not getting very far, despite an open evening and a Halloween party. Application forms were given out but only 8 have been returned. She has been liaising with the Dorset Youth Association who say you need more than 10 children to make a youth club viable. With this in mind, the team have agreed to bide their time. It does not mean it will never be run but, at the moment, there are no regular helpers. Lyn will advertise from time to time to see if numbers are likely to increase.

Speedwatch – Helen Andrews reported that Speed Watch in the village has been going for 3 years come the end of April and, since its inception, they have recorded over 66,000 vehicles passing by with over 1,400 speeding, i.e. 36mph or over. The highest speed recorded to date was 58mph. The team have been out 222 times, 99% of which Helen has been in attendance. Helen has kept records of the sessions and an analysis of them shows there were less reported vehicles speeding last year than the previous year, so it does look as if they are making a difference. Of course, they cannot be out all the time!

We are now linked with the Dorset Safety Team who occasionally come out with us, which gives us added support and there are over 70 teams in Dorset alone, with more being added each month. Helen's report following each session now goes to a database which was set up by Devon & Cornwall Police.

Last year, there was a joint Devon & Cornwall and Dorset Police operation in north and west Dorset when we were asked to have a Speed Watch team available. There was a Road Safety unit and the main Speedwatch Operations Manager with us and we were filmed for a promotional video. Since then, Helen has attended a meeting at Blandford Police Station with other coordinators and was made proud by her team when she found that the other teams there had less volunteers and went out less frequently. The team aims to do 2 sessions a week – weather permitting – unfortunately, it has not been kind so far in 2018 meaning several sessions have been cancelled.

Without the volunteers this initiative would be unable to continue and, to date, there have been 14 but, of course, more are needed. If anyone is interested or knows of anyone who might be able to help, please contact Helen Andrews.

Best Kept Village – Winterborne Kingston has, once again, been entered in the competition. The public areas where we will be judged include the churchyard, cemetery, play park, plus the village hall area, including the War memorial and bus shelter. Some areas are better kept than others, but as the organiser, Rita Burden, said at last year's award evening, the main aim of this competition is to encourage villages to share with others their community spirit and receive awards for their sterling

efforts. We want villagers to demonstrate that they work together, taking a pride in their local surroundings and amenities while promoting great community spirit. In 2017, we were presented with the North Dorset District Council Special Award. Let us hope that in 2018 our villagers will show pride in their community, especially keeping the village tidy and litter free, and we may be lucky enough to gain an award again this year.

## **8. Village Appointments**

Flood Watch – Graham Hyde

Homewatch – Graham Hyde

Public Footpaths and Bridleways – Ross Jessopp

Trees – Ross Jessopp

Village Hall – Mark Leaper

The Hub – Lynn Luxford

Speedwatch – Helen Andrews

Best Kept Village – Joan Nash

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan**

Ross Jessopp reported that he had met with Cllr Walsh last year. Given the upheaval in the district council and the new unitary arrangements, it was decided that we would not be pursuing a plan until after the local government situation has settled down.

## **10. Community Transport**

The Bere Regis NeighbourCar scheme continues to serve Winterborne Kingston but the number of clients continues to increase. More volunteer drivers are desperately needed to keep this vital resource going.

## **11. Open Forum**

The residents of Eastlea reported that they had considerable problems with standing water along the main road outside their property and around the village hall. At one point they were not able to leave the house without wellie boots. The road between his house and the village hall is a public maintainable road and DCC do have a responsibility to maintain the road. Hilary Cox will take this on.

Teddy Rocks at Charlborough Farm in two weeks time. Richard Tory reported that the event is now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year and was, last year moved to Charlborough Farm. They raised £76,000 for children in the Dorset area. This year's event will be on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>. The music will go on until 11pm and the sound is monitored around the villages.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7:18pm