

MILSTON & BRIGMERSTON SOCIAL MEETING

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 18th April 2023

Apologies: Katarinie Gallagher, Jancis Henman, Robert Henman, Sam Smith, Andrew Smith, Sarah Steggel, Lizzy Prior-Palmer, George Prior-Palmer, Robert Atchison, Christina Connolly, Julie Western, Julie Haines.

Attendees: Susanne Kennedy, Patrick Kennedy, Maureen Sturgess, Zoe Lloyd-Price, Mark Lloyd-Price, Henry Rawlins, Alison Rawlins, Andy Mitchenall, Michaela Hope, Fiona Peters, Sally Pearson and Tracey Glibbery.

The previous meeting notes of 6th April 2022 were approved.

Election of Officers:

- Tracey Glibbery was re-elected as Chair.
- Katarinie Gallagher was re-elected as Clerk/Secretary.
- Sally Pearson was re-elected as Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report for the village Social Fund: These were shared and approved at the meeting. Sally gave a review of how the accounts are now managed online with Santander.

Sally has investigated moving to a water meter for the hall and outlined the likely cost benefits. It was agreed by the meeting that we should move to a meter. The hall insurance is nearing renewal and a valuation of the hall is probably required. We are unsure when this was last done. Sally to discuss with insurers. Reviewing the fire extinguishers is also needed. We have received a credit of £150 from the electricity company, which will help over several months of future costs.

The income and outgoings of the social fund were outlined. Sally emphasised that we probably need the equivalent of 6 coffee mornings and 2 jumble sales a year to maintain a good income. It is vital that we keep fundraising as the upkeep of the Hall is likely to need more investment in the future.

Financial procedures: Sally stated that she will be producing the protocols required for managing our accounts. This is to be transparent to the villagers and helps protect the committee members should the bank mis-manage the funds. We have always had good protocols in place but we want to ensure that the villagers know how we operate. The protocols will be available to anyone who asks. For example, it will show the procedure for signing off a cheque or agreeing an online transaction.

Village hall repairs and upkeep: Tracey outlined the need to invest in the hall in the fairly near future. It's been pointed out that the hall needs work on the soffit boards and some of the timber work below the roof (not improved/replaced since the hall's construction in the 1960s). The brickwork (particularly at the left gable end) needs repointing and some of the roof tiles will need attention. The meeting discussed the fact that there is asbestos in the roof so needs careful attention. It is debatable whether the guttering needs replacement very soon – hence the need for another company to review the job and quote.

Two quotes for some/all of the work (excluding asbestos/roof tile work) have been obtained by Kat, with more to come. Then we can prioritise the work needed and assess the likely costs.

A new door will be needed for the shed building, at the back of the hall. The wood is rotting. Kat is liaising with a contact who may be able to source a free door.

It was agreed at the meeting that at least three quotes will always be secured for any major expenditure on the hall/village environment.

For all the work outlined above, we plan to submit a grant/funding application to Wiltshire Council. At the time of the meeting, Tracey was awaiting a reply from Graeme Morrison (Strategic Engagement and Partnership Management, Wiltshire Council) to provide the directory of all funds/grants available for us to apply to.

Update since the meeting: Mr Morrison called the next day with a list of funds and to discuss next steps. He stated that if the hall is operated as a charity (which it is) we should be able to apply for an Area Board Grant. The next Board sits on 8th June, so we need to submit our application by 11th May latest. Kat, Sally and Tracey can now apply for the appropriate grants – for the hall work and the defibrillator.

It was noted that the new fire door in the hall (discussed at the last meeting) has been installed.

The cutting of the grass out the front and back of the hall was discussed. Andy Mitchenall had recently mown the lawns and was happy to do more cutting in the summer but we agreed that we should try and get a rota of volunteers in place (like the church flower rota). Fuel costs and rota to be discussed further. Sally to contact Andy.

Fundraising activities: The coffee mornings have been a good success – from a fund raising and community angle. The next is Friday 21st April. More volunteers are needed to run these. We recognise that not everyone can make a daytime event. Sam Smith has suggested holding an evening event in the hall. This was discussed briefly and we agreed that we should try an evening event, to test the format and support. Tracey stated that a JustGiving page will be set up for the hall – so we can advertise to those who cannot attend events/no cash/beyond our community.

Tracey suggested in the interests of time at the meeting, that we set up an informal ‘fund raising’ discussion where we can properly focus on ideas/best way of raising funds.

Coronation Celebrations: The online survey issued in March showed support for a village event, and the preferred time was Sunday 7th May in the afternoon. Communications have already been issued. The social fund will supply some fruit scones, cream, jam, coffee, etc. Villagers to bring own alcohol, picnics, etc.

Tracey to establish if local churches are taking part in the bell ringing on the actual Coronation Day. In the past, young children have rung St Mary’s bell at other notable events e.g. the Olympics.

Neighbourhood Watch: A reminder that Kat Gallagher is the village representative.

Village website: A reminder that we have a village website, which Tracey will update. Villagers can advertise events/local business info. <https://www.milstonandbrigmerston.co.uk/> It’s likely that parish council notices and meeting notes will be published on the site.

Matters arising

Defibrillator: It was unanimously agreed at the last meeting that we should invest in a defibrillator, to be located at the hall. Tracey Glibbery apologised for not moving this forward. Kat and now Tracey have conducted some pricing research. The likely cost is £1300-1500 – depending on the model chosen. Three quotes have been obtained. Two are from charities that donate an amount (£300-£400) towards the machine. Tracey tried to get a healthy donation from the British Heart Foundation but all grants are allocated.

A little bit more research is required into models/costs/ongoing upkeep costs. Although most models appear to be the same in function/use – Tracey has asked Fiona Peters (as a former GP) to be involved in the final selection. We will require a cover to protect it at the hall and it requires electrical installation. Annual electricity cost is the equivalent of a normal lightbulb. It will require heating (automatic once temperature falls below 4 degrees) as it will be on an external wall. Ongoing costs are approx:

- £235 every 5 years for new battery
- £47 every 3 years for new pads/or may be replaced free if machine is used.

Andy Mitchenall may help us view the installation requirements in relation to the hall and current fuse box/electricity points. Installation is apparently easy, but we need to discuss cost/certification etc. Tracey to liaise with Andy.

Use of the machine is very simple and training is provided by most suppliers via online videos. Fiona Peters has agreed to help with some informal training at the hall, once we have the machine – to give confidence in its use as much as anything. Something the charities agreed with.

Once installed, we need a weekly check of the machine (check green light flashing) – something for someone to manage.

Dog waste/bins: Dog fouling along the path up on the plain (up from Brigmerston) has increased significantly. At the last meeting it was agreed that we'd look into the purchase/emptying of dog waste bins. No action taken, needs to be considered again. Online such bins cost £132-500!

Road speeds/signs: Everyone agreed (as per last year) that the speed on the Back Lane (the C32) across the top of each end of Church Road is very dangerous, and still on the increase. The Back Lane speed is 60mph which is totally inappropriate for the width and nature of the lane. *Since the meeting an Army vehicle and a civilian vehicle had a collision at the C Crossing point on the lane, causing it to be shut for quite a while. Tracey to contact the Army to see if they can help us lobby for some 'slow down tanks crossing' signs – as there are near Netheravon.*

The Rawlins' new home at 13 Brigmerston will have a new drive with direct access on to the Back Lane, nearer to the Brigmerston turning. Tracey had asked Cllr Ian Blair-Pillings' opinion on whether the new driveway could be a good reason to get the Council to implement a new speed limit. He said unlikely and stated this would have been raised by the Highways team when the planning was reviewed.

We feel a bit helpless in terms of getting Council support. The Council did not respond to three contacts made by Tracey last year. Tracey will now contact other parish councils along the lane to see if a joint effort could be more powerful. It's known that Netheravon and Figcheldean also have concerns.

Allegedly, the Council implied to another village council that there needs to be a fatality before a speed restriction is considered.

Pot Holes: We all agreed the state of the roads has declined drastically and some pot holes are very dangerous. Tracey pointed out that you can report pot holes via the My Wilts app. She has reported four recently – will publish on Facebook which ones these are. Helen Morris in Brigmerston has also rung the Council about this – notably the long pot holes on the bottom of Church Lane near the Brigmerston Farmhouse entrance. The Council stated that they're dealing with a huge list of requests and suggested repeated reporting (telephone/online) will prioritise it. *To consider – should we buy some bitumen and get a working party to fill the most dangerous ourselves.*

Trees and our environment: This item was requested for the agenda. A large native acer tree to the right of the village hall was cut down in the past year. Unfortunately, it was assumed to be an overgrowing sycamore. It was agreed at the meeting that, in future, any notable trees on village land should be a topic of village discussion before any similar action is taken. This equally applies to other aspects of our natural environment that should be discussed on a wider basis.

An item was meant to be on the agenda and can be included at the next (or ad hoc meetings): the planting of a tree in memory of HM The Queen and/or the Coronation could be a nice gesture when funds allow. Bulford Rec has one for the Queen's Jubilee planted by the parish council. Perhaps something attractive near or at the entrance to the hall. This is open to discussion by anyone who has a view. Naturally, not to be planted to interfere with the green nor nearby homes.

Any other business:

A village 'tidy up' has been suggested a few times. Activities would include litter picking and tidying up the hedge area between the lane and the Croft green (currently has old orange plastic and other items entangled). To be suggested over the summer – perhaps for a weekend morning, with cake/bacon butties as a reward (as Enford does).

Mark Lloyd-Price, on behalf of St Mary's Milston PCC, wanted it noted that the church is very grateful for the receipt of the Precept each year; for the beautiful flowers provided by the villagers on the flower rota; and to the farming families who manage the hedge cutting at the church and surroundings.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

**** ENDS ****

I hereby certify these notes are a true and accurate record of the AGM of Milston Parish Social Meeting held on 18th April 2023.

Chair:

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Clerk/Secretary

Name:

Signature:

Date: