

Notes of the Meeting of Berryfield & Semington Road Action Group held on Thursday 6th November, 2014 at 7.30pm in Berryfield Village Hall

1. Present:- Richard Wood (Chair), Steve Petty (Treasurer), Gill Arbery (Secretary), Jim Whyborn, Sue Whyborn , Cynthia Legge, Sue Stoker, Janet Gould
Apologies: Jayne Hurd, Liz Callaway,
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2014 were read and signed by Richard.
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes -.

- i) Neighbourhood Watch- . Sue Stoker reported on the national 'Safe Place' scheme, a partnership between local businesses, services, local government & voluntary groups and the police community support team to provide assistance to anyone in difficulty or distress when out and about. Each 'Safe Place' will display a sticker so the public know that they can go there for support.

Sue also reported that she had acquired funding from Melksham Link for two Neighbourhood Watch signs to be erected in Berryfield, we just need to agree on where they should go. Gill will complete the application form and send it to the NW Association when Sue sends the cheque from Melksham link

- ii) Residential Development in Semington Road . Although planning permission has not yet been granted for the development there has been activity on the site. Trial archaeological trenches have been dug and survey work undertaken. Steve and Richard both seemed to think that there could be few obstacles to the development and it is likely to go ahead.
- iii) Residential Development in Berryfield Park and Holbrook Vale. It was noted that builder's fencing had been erected in Holbrook at the garage site and that the development of the site was imminent.

Surveyors had been active at the site at Berryfield Park and Selwood Housing are presenting an exhibition on the proposed development in the village hall on Weds 19th November, 2014 between 4pm - 6.30pm.

4. Report on Events –
No events to report

5. Housekeeping Issues

Following the external painting of the hall and in recognition of the help provided by Terry the MW Parish Council caretaker, it was agreed that he should be given a bottle of spirits in appreciation of his help.

Steve has put tape around the door to help stop water getting in but the threshold and weatherboard still need repairing. Steve agreed to purchase some white paint for the ceiling. Richard, Gill and Cynthia agreed to start painting the hall on Thursday 20th November at 9.30am

6. Hall Users

Art Group continues weekly
Berryfield Crafters meet twice monthly.

7.Financial Statement.
Village Hall A/C £2913
BASRAG £4566

8.New Hall Working Group.

Progress of Wilts & Berks Canal project. – Following an encouraging economic assessment on the benefits of the proposed canal a Land Management Company, engaged by the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, has suggested several ambitious canal side developments, including a camp site, significant residential development and a wetland reserve. The proposals can be viewed on the Canal Trust website.

9.Retention of Portacabin- Formal planning permission has now been granted and we have until 29th September, 2019 to replace the hall.

10.Future Community Events

The craft group and art group will stage a sale & exhibition at 1.30 to 3.30pm on Saturday 29th November in the hall. There will also be a nearly new sale.

Cynthia will organise a Christmas Social in the hall from 10.30am to 12.30pm on Friday 12th December which will be open to everyone. This could lead to a more regular social meeting if it is well supported.

Gill has spoken to Marion Plumbly about a craft day for children before Christmas. She and Cynthia will ask other members of the craft group if they would help set this up. Richard, Sue and Jim are both CRB checked which should cover us for this one off event. If this becomes a more regular fixture we will investigate others involved being checked.

Jim and Steve will find out when we might be able to borrow the Lion's Sleigh for a "Santa Run" in Berryfield just before Christmas on the 22nd or 23rd December

10 Correspondence-

Gill circulates Community First and VHA correspondence electronically.

Steve has been sent an invitation to the Land Trust Seminar on 19th November-no one wished to attend.

11Any Other Business

Newsletter – Cynthia will compose and assemble the articles for a newsletter advertising future events. Steve will edit it and hopes to have it ready for distribution by 22nd November

Janet Gould explained a new Community Messaging initiative which will be another way of receiving information from Neighbourhood Watch and the community police officers.

Richard reported that the Speed Watch initiative was very successful with an active group of volunteers and a good response from road users.

Date and time of next meeting- Thurs 29th January at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.54pm