

BRIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

2 May 2017

Present: John Hicks (Chairman), P Bassil, C Brims, D Cowdery M Cowdery, R Smallwood
The Clerk B Harding and 14 members of the public

Apologies: District Councillor Dominic Boeck

Minutes of 2016 Meeting: approved and signed

Matters Arising: none

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (2016-17) – Charles Brims

After 10 years of serving as Chairman, Charles Brims decided it was time to resign and is confident that the Parish Council, chaired by John Hicks, will be in good hands.

The last year has seen many planning applications, the majority of which the Parish council has supported. Notable exceptions have been the objection to the change of conditions at the Grundon site to allow infill, which was then refused by WBC and the extension of the time scale at the Wasing Solar Park, which unfortunately was allowed by WBC.

The bus service is a matter of continued discussion with WBC; the Parish Council is determined to maintain the best possible service for the village and will request that WBC send a representative to a Parish Council meeting again to meet with parishioners.

Parliamentary Boundary changes are due to take place in the future and could involve Brimpton being moved from the aegis of Newbury to Wokingham – the Parish Council have lodged an objection.

The severe budget restrictions will have an impact on all parish councils and Brimpton's precept has been increased accordingly.

Charles Brims concluded his report by thanking his fellow councillors and the clerk for their hard work and support through the period of his office.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As Dominic Boeck was unable to attend this meeting John Hicks outlined on his behalf some of the devolution issues which will impact on the finances of the Parish Council. How the Parish Council responds to these matters will be an on-going concern.

BRIMPTON RECREATION GROUND – Charles Brims

Good progress has been made with the reinvigoration project; new fences have been erected and it is now the home ground for three football teams. The pitches are in good condition but the pavilion is not and its improvement is under current review.

BRIMPTON COMMON FUEL ALLOTMENTS – Colin Evans

The Fuel Allotment charity was founded in 1811 to provide fuel for the poor of the parish but is now maintained for the enjoyment of residents. In addition to Colin Evans, the trustees are Joshua Dugdale and Gaila Adair. An annual return is made to the Charity Commission.

BRIMPTON SCHOOL – Carolyn Purchase, Headteacher

The number of pupils currently attending the school is 51 with a further 9 admissions confirmed for September. The results achieved by pupils have been very good and improvements have been made to the structure of the school with a new heating system and roof and the extension of a classroom is planned. Both Greenham Common Trust and the Parish Council have been helpful in providing financial assistance. The Church links with the school are very good and the children enjoy a full range of activities. The parents are very involved and drop-in sessions are held regularly.

ST PETER'S CHURCH – Revd Becky Bevan

This has been a very good year for furthering strong community links, starting with the Plant Swap/Sale and the Open Gardens Scheme. Brenda Scott was appointed as a Church Warden and Revd Janice Macdonald ordained as a priest. The Harvest Festival celebration linked in with the school, the food bank is well supported and the annual coffee morning raised funds. Work continues on the feasibility study on the provision of a toilet and servery facility. The parish magazine continues to be delivered monthly thanks to the volunteers and returns a profit of over £700. The churchyard has been kept in good order and thanks were given to the Parish Council for their continued support. The contribution from the Christmas entertainment held at The Three Horseshoes was both financially rewarding and enjoyable. Becky Bevan thanked everyone for helping to make The Church such a welcoming and well kept space and extending its purpose in the village.

ST PETER'S ALMSHOUSES – Colin Evans

In the absence of the Chairman Dennis West, Colin Evans reported that the Almshouses are now fully occupied with no vacancies. The trustees are Dennis West, Nina West, Colin Evans, Paddy Bowring and Revd Becky Bevan and a part-time clerk has been appointed following Nina West's retirement from this role. Important work has been carried out to comply with fire regulations and other improvements to the fabric of the building carried out. The trustees are committed to ensuring the viability of the almshouses in Brimmpton.

BRIMPTON VILLAGE HALL – Dennis Cowdery

Dennis Cowdery reviewed the last 50 years of the Village Hall's existence and the changes that have occurred. The hall is now in good condition, with a healthy level of bookings ; the plan for this year is to replace the wooden floor. Thanks were given to the hard working committee for their support.

FORTHCOMING VILLAGE EVENTS – John Hicks

John Hicks gave details of the events which will take place during 2017 in the village, these being the Rogation Service on 21 May, the Plant Sale at St Peter's Church on 3 June, the School Fete on 8 July, the Remembrance Service 11 November, the pantomime at The Three Horseshoes 15 & 16 December (this year it will be Aladdin and there is a read-through on 26 May – these productions have raised over £4000 for local charities and the school), the children's Christmas party at the Village Hall on 10 December and the Carol Service on 17 December.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Marilyn Thorne complained about the overhanging vegetation on the properties, Brambles and Pippins at the top of Hyde End Lane, which is restricting the vision of drivers joining the Crookham Common Road. Clerk to contact property owners.

Phil Megarity would like the bus service to be extended to include Saturdays and the Clerk will ask Matthew Metcalfe of WBC to attend a future Parish Council meeting.

In conclusion John Hicks thanked all the speakers for their contributions and in particular thanked Charles Brims for the 10 years he has served as Chairman and for all the help he has given to parishioners.