

Brimpton Parish Council

At our December meeting we discussed our priorities for highways improvements. Phil Bassil led a discussion of the locations in the parish where improvement is required in the interests of road safety. We have decided to offer WBC financial assistance to carry out long term improvements to drainage on the approaches to Able Bridge.

We considered the Government's consultation paper on strengthening police powers to deal with unauthorised encampments. We supported four key points: all cases of unauthorised encampments should be criminalised on account of trespassing; the police should have powers to order trespassers to leave land as soon as it is determined they are there illegally; the police should be able to take action regardless if the number of vehicles (currently there have to be at least 10 before the police can take action); and local authorities should be able to demand police attendance as soon as an encampment appears.

We agreed a budget for 2020/21 of £12,820, which includes £3,500 to add to our highways reserve fund. By setting the precept at £12,000 (and finding £820 from our general reserve fund) we have reduced our share of your Council Tax by £9 per household.

In his role as the Council's Internal Checker, we received Peter Main's report on our financial procedures. I am pleased to report all is well. In addition to the auditor's annual report, this is to assure residents we are operating in accordance with legislation and financial regulations. A copy of the report is available on our website.

All grit bins in the parish have been checked and we will be ordering top-ups where necessary. If during the winter you spot that a grit bin needs further supplies, please let us know.

In January the WBC Minerals & Waste Local Plan was on our agenda. We learned on the day of the meeting the Wasing Estate had withdrawn Manor Farm and Boot Farm from the list of preferred sites. Manor Farm had already been dropped by WBC from the final list of sites but we had expected to relaunch the campaign to defend Boot Farm. After reviewing the proposal Andrew Perkins, the CEO, decided it was not the right one for them or for the community. The Parish Council has thanked Andrew for a decision we know cannot have been an easy one but which has been extensively welcomed within the parish.

We offered no objections to three planning applications at The Old Post Office, Wasing Cottage and Elmet Cottage.

The Agenda and the Minutes of our meetings can be found on our website. Over 160 residents receive my usually fortnightly Parish Update via email. It provides details not only of Parish Council activity, but of local events and other issues of which we think you should be aware. If you wish to join the list, please contact me as shown below. The Parish Council meets again on Tuesday 4 February, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

John Hicks
Chairman, Brimpton Parish Council

john.russet@sky.com
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