

## **Brimpton Parish Council**

It was a freezing cold evening when the Parish Council held its February meeting. Our business included a series of reviews and updates of policies and procedures that fascinate some of us but leave others shaking their heads. Amongst these were amendments to Standing Orders, new Financial regulations, the Risk Management Scheme and an updated Asset Register. We also agreed a Grants Policy which will guide our response to applications for financial support from local organisations. All of these, together with other policies that we reviewed in January, can be viewed on the Parish Council's website.

We welcomed District Councillor Dominic Boeck to the meeting and discussed with him WBC's proposed budget savings. The three areas that were subject to earlier consultation were a charge of £50 per year for the collection of green waste, a major reduction in the grant for the Citizens' Advice Bureau in Newbury, and a reduction in the number of people informed by post of nearby planning applications. If WBC introduces a charge for the collection of green bins, we have stressed the need for containers for waste food for use by those who opt out.

We also welcomed Tim Malpas from the Wasing Estate to discuss the boundary between the estate and Parish Council land, administered on our behalf by the Fuel Allotment trust. We agreed the boundary line requires clarification and we will work with the Wasing Estate to resolve the matter.

We discussed the changes to the local bus service that will come into effect in mid February. There are alterations to the times of some buses, but the controversial change is the removal of the 3pm service from Thatcham. The key factor is always the number of paying passengers who use the buses and this is insufficient to maintain the current service. We concluded there was nothing we could do to prevent the reduction which means bus users will have to wait until 4.30pm before they can return to Brimpton.

There is no news regarding the replacement of the post box at Brimpton Common, a saga which regrettably is beginning to rival the time it took to replace the bus shelter in the village. We will continue to press the Royal Mail for action.

As most residents will be aware, Gigaclear have been laying high speed broadband cables through the parish for some weeks. Their work should be completed by mid February, and will be followed by more road works by Thames Water to install plastic water pipes. This work is due to commence on 26 February and last until 19 March. Residents will receive advance notification of interruptions to their water supply.

We have decided to deposit our Minute Books in the Berkshire Record Office to ensure they are available for public consultation and kept in the correct conditions. In doing so we have discovered that the volume covering the period 1941 to 1975 is missing and from the memory of former clerks, appears to have been so for over 20 years. If anyone has the volume under their bed, could you please return it to me. No questions will be asked.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6 March, starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

John Hicks

[john.russet@sky.com](mailto:john.russet@sky.com)

[www.brimptonparish.org.uk](http://www.brimptonparish.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/brimpton-parish-council](https://www.facebook.com/brimpton-parish-council)