

**Brimpton Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Place:** Brimpton Village Hall

**Present:** Mr John Hicks (Chairman), Mrs Christine McGarvie (Clerk) and 36 residents

**1. Parish Council – John Hicks**

Mr. Hicks thanked all the speakers for attending and also the representatives from Gigaclear and Network Rail who were available to answer any questions from residents.

The past year saw a number of changes, including a new Chairman in May 2017 and new Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer in January 2018.

**Headline Issues in the Past Year**

The Parish Council responded to West Berkshire Council's (WBC) consultations on budget savings and ward boundaries.

WBC Minerals and Waste Plan – The Parish Council responded to this consultation and opposed the proposals to extract gravel at Manor Farm and Boot Farm.

B3051 – Brimpton crossroads. The Parish Council persuaded WBC to reduce the speed limit on the B3051 to 30mph. However, the road crosses the county boundary and Hampshire County Council refused to change the limit on their side.

Bus Shelter – The bus shelter was finally replaced in December last year. Mr. Hicks thanked Mr. Bob Hope for installing the shelter free of charge.

Reduction in Bus Service - There was a further reduction in the bus service in March. Unfortunately, the Parish Council is unable to subsidise but transport issues will be looked at as part of the Parish Plan.

WBC Devolution Agenda - To maintain previous standards parish councils can undertake devolved services themselves. These include cleaning road signs, grass cutting, street cleaning, litter picking, drain clearance and maintenance of rights of way. However, no funds have been devolved to pay for this work.

Mr. Hicks thanked everyone who helped with litter picking in April and collected over 30 bags of rubbish.

**Internally**

A number of new policies have been adopted this year and some policies revised due to new regulations. New General Data Protection Regulations come into force on 25th May and the Clerk has been drafting new privacy policies for this.

Parish Council finances are healthy and the Council were able to maintain their share of the Council Tax charge at the same level as the previous year.

Communications have been improved during the course of the year. There is now a parish mailing list which is used to send out updates from the Chairman to residents every 2 weeks.

**The Parish Plan**

The Parish Council has decided to renew the Parish Plan, which was published in 2003. A number of volunteers have come forward to join the Steering Group. The Plan will be based on local priorities so a key

task for the group will be compiling a questionnaire to send to residents. The target will be to have a draft Parish Plan available at the next Annual Parish Meeting in May next year.

## **2. Brimpton School – Carolyn Purchase and Heidi Davies**

Heidi Davies will be starting as the new head teacher in September. She has been deputy head at St. Nicholas junior school for the last 4 years and this will be her first headship. Mr. Hicks thanked Carolyn Purchase for her years of service at the school. See Appendix A below for the full report.

## **3. St. Peter's Church – Janice Macdonald**

Revd. Jane Manley has been appointed as the new Rector and will be installed on 5<sup>th</sup> September. Work to install a servery and a toilet is expected to start in late Summer. It is hoped that these enhanced facilities would allow more groups to use the building and build links with the community. Revd Macdonald thanked residents and the Parish Council for their support in maintaining Brimpton Church.

## **4. Village Hall – Dennis Cowdery**

The hall is managed by a registered charity with 8 trustees. The floor and storage heaters were replaced this year. This involved help from volunteers and Mr. Cowdery thanked them for their work. In the past the village hall has relied on support from the parish council but is now self-sufficient.

## **5. Brimpton Recreation Ground – Charles Brims**

Mr. Hicks read the report from Charles Brims, Chairman of the Brimpton Recreation Ground trustees. See Appendix B for the full report.

## **6. Women's Institute – Doris Butler**

Brimpton WI holds 11 meetings a year including an AGM and a meeting to discuss WI resolutions. The group arranges a Christmas party, theatre outings, fundraising events and guest speakers. A display showing the changes in the organisation over the years was available for residents to look at during the refreshments at the end of the meeting.

## **7. RAGE Brimpton – Catherine Hartz**

Following last year's public consultation, WBC has uploaded 417 comments on its website. Of these 125 were individual letters from Brimpton residents. Most respondents felt that the plan was not sound and only one company, Grundons, supported it. The Environment Agency, Wildlife Trust, Historic England and WBC's Highways Department raised concerns. A Freedom of Information request has revealed that nearly £600,000 has been spent on this project already and the budget for the group working on this is £250,000 a year. The publication of the final draft of the Minerals & Waste Plan is due in May 2019.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Mr. Cowdery raised a question about the current status of Brimpton Common Fuel Allotment which is well used by residents and run by a trust. This will be referred to the Parish Council for discussion.

The meeting concluded at ???

## **Brimpton C of E Primary School – Carolyn Purchase – Head Teacher report**

Good evening Mr Chairman and everyone - thank you for inviting me to speak again at the AGM for Brimpton Parish Council.

As some of you are aware this will be my last term at Brimpton Primary school as I will be retiring at the end of this academic year after 8 years as Head. I would like to give you a brief synopsis of the past eight years if I may.

The past eight years have seen Brimpton Primary flourish with our numbers now in the fifties (currently on roll there are 56 children) which is great news. During that time we have had three Ofsted inspections and two SIAMS inspections. It has been gratifying to see the school improve from Satisfactory to solidly Good at our recent inspection in March. Comments from the inspection report include:

‘ The school has continued to improve under my leadership’

‘The parents expressed very positive views about all aspects of the school’

‘The classroom visits showed Brimpton to be a happy place’.

‘Older pupils worked hard and attitudes are positive’

‘The pupils particularly enjoy learning in the outside environment – cooking outdoors as part of a canoe/camping trip’ singing in a theatre as part of the Anvil performances.

‘The curriculum is a strength of the school’.

Academically children do well from their starting points.

Yes of course there are areas for development – Ofsted would not be doing their job if they didn’t find anything – more children to achieve ‘greater depth’ – this is known to us -I’ll send them this year’s results when I get them as I believe they will show that children will have achieved this.

Our latest SIAMS inspection saw the school achieving Outstanding which is fantastic. Again comments were equally complimentary.

During the years we have seen many improvements to the school building – a new roof, new heating, new kitchen, a new adventure playground, a new slide and just recently refreshed playground markings. A recent building inspection of all schools seems to suggest that Brimpton is in a very good state structurally – which is good. Yes it is in need of painting internally and refreshing the décor, but we have had to prioritise our capital and revenue budgets – I’m sure that Mrs Davies is handy with the paintbrush!!

Sporting fixtures over the years have seen us winning Tri Golf competitions 3 years in a row and Bronze medal this year. This has also meant that we represented West Berkshire at the county finals. We have had other successes in Bowling and just recently a Gold medal in Archery. Two children have just completed their NICAS climbing award at Reading Climbing centre. Children have had wide opportunities to experience the great outdoors with residential to Rhos Y Gwaliau with Aldermaston school; trips to the Brecon Beacons to climb Pen Y Fan; a canoe camping trip down the river Thames last year to Henley; a forthcoming trip to Snowdonia to climb Snowdon and experience a wild camp for Year 6’s. Our younger children

1 and 2 are currently out and about undertaking Forest Schools every Tuesday and even our Reception children are experiencing campfire cooking in the school grounds. Year 3 and 4 children have undertaken a Junior Skilforce Programme sponsored by The Duke of Cambridge – which is a mini version of the D of E award. They undertook a community project to varnish the benches in the churchyard last year.

The children have raised money for various charities over the years and with the help of the Kennet School raised enough money for a defibrillator to be installed at the school. I would like to assure the PC that access is always available to the school, through the pedestrian gate (to the right of the main driveway gate) to get the defib. Failing that you can jump over the wall!! We will be getting signs to go on the gate as to which gate to use for the defib – as we are aware in times of stress our brains don't work very well! I would also like to remind the PC that in an emergency the ambulance service should always be called first. It is also pleasing to hear that there may soon be two in the village at both ends.

The budget is always an issue – as it is in all our schools – I have an excellent team around me – including Governors who are adept at managing the budget to the nearest pence. We have managed to avoid deficit, which is fantastic news – but I can't say what is around the corner with ever more funding cuts in public services.

I would like to thank the PC for its support over the past 8 years- your donations have helped to improve the school and the community field for the benefit of the children and the local community. There is one formal request that the school would like to make and that is for an outdoor classroom – which would also have benefits for the community to use. I will make a formal application with quotes to the PC.

It is now time for Brimpton School to enter the next phase of its long life. Change is good and we all need to move on. I know that over the next few weeks my emotions will run high and it will be a difficult transition for myself to go from being 'flat out' to thinking 'what shall I do today?!' I will look back at my time at Brimpton with affection and I would like to thank the PC for their support over the years.

I am delighted to be able to introduce my successor to you this evening– Mrs Heidi Davies. At present Mrs Davies is Deputy Head at St Nicholas' school in Newbury and will take up the reins in September. I will leave it to her to introduce herself and tell you a little bit more.

Thank you.

Carolyn Purchase

## **Appendix B**

### **Brimpton Recreation Ground report**

For those of you who don't know it, Brimpton Recreation Ground is a five acre field, situated just off Crookham Common Road near the Travellers Friend pub. Currently it consists of two full size football pitches and a pavilion.

The football pitches are well used by several local teams and is the home ground of Brimpton AFC. So the charity that runs the Recreation Ground meets its objectives of providing recreational facilities for local people. But it would be even better if it provided recreational activities beyond football. At the last two Annual Parish Meetings (and, indeed, several times in the parish magazine), I have invited parishioners to let us know of any other activities they would like. So far, there has been a resounding silence. But the updating of the Parish Plan means that the question can be asked again in a more formal way.

The 2003 Parish Plan was based on a questionnaire that included a section on "Sport, Social & Entertainment". It would be helpful if, in the updated questionnaire, that section could include a question along the lines of:

"Do you wish to see any additional recreational activities at Brimpton Recreation Ground; and, if so, would you be prepared to organise them ?".

It must be emphasised that we can provide space for activities but we do not employ any staff. So any activity, as is the case with the football, would have to be run by the participants themselves.

I look forward to hearing the answer to the question so that we can plan accordingly.

Charles Brims  
Chairman