

**Brimpton Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Assembly**

**Date:** Tuesday 28th May 2019

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Place:** Brimpton Village Hall

**Present:** Mr John Hicks (Chairman), Mrs Christine McGarvie (Clerk) and 30 residents

**1. Parish Council – John Hicks**

Mr. Hicks welcomed all to the meeting.

Mr Hicks presented the Parish Council's key activities over the past year as follows :-

**1. The Parish Plan**

A steering group was set up to carry out the update of the parish plan.

Mr Hicks thanked all the steering group members :- Liz Masters (Chair) , John Dolphin (V-C), Catherine Bamforth , Paddy Bowring, James Cohen, Mandy Collings, Catherine Hartz, Sarah Hunt and Bill Scott.

A household survey was carried out and 63% of households responded. Two public meetings have been held and a draft report has now been written. The draft report will be discussed by the Parish Council at the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Once the report has been finalised a copy will be delivered to every household.

**2. Road safety – speeding traffic.**

The Parish Council have discussed road safety with West Berkshire Council on several occasions over the course of the year. A request was made for a mirror at the end of Enborne way but this was disallowed because of safety concerns. The Speed Indicator Device (SID) was borrowed for a week but unfortunately some of the data collected was lost. More volunteers are needed before the SID can be used again. It is vital that evidence is collected to prove that there is a problem with speeding in the village and in Brimpton Common.

**3. WBC Minerals and waste plan**

The draft plan was published in 2017 and this included the proposal to extract gravel from Manor and Boot Farm. The responses from this consultation were published last September. The final proposals will go to district councillors in September 2019 and a 6-week consultation period will follow this. The final report will be sent to the secretary of state and if there are objections at this stage they will appoint a planning inspector sometime in 2020.

**4. Budget 2019-20**

The Parish Council's budget for 2019-20 was set in January and it was decided to lower the precept.

**5. High speed broadband.**

The Parish Council have been monitoring the progress of the project to deliver high speed broadband in the village over the year and the project is now in its final stages.

**6. Defibrillator**

A second defibrillator was purchased by the Parish Council and installed at the Village Hall.

**7. Planning**

The Parish Council have dealt with a number of planning objections over the year including Shalford Farm, Hillcourt Lodge , and Blacknest Farm approval for 3 work units which is on agenda of the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> June. 11 individual applications have been considered over the course of the year.

**8. Grants**

The Parish Council have given grants to the PCC (Parochial Church Council) for grass cutting and towards work on a Yew Tree. A grant for £2000 was given to the school for refurbishment of the school hall so that it can be used by the wider community.

The election took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May and 6 councillors were elected uncontested. Mr. Hicks introduced the two new councillors John Dolphin and Peter Main.

In the next year, there will be more activity related to the Parish Plan , WBC minerals and waste plan, road safety and planning applications.

Mr. Hicks thanked the parish councillors, representatives on external bodies , the clerk, volunteers who organise community events and to those who took part in the litter pick.

District Cllr Dominic Boeck gave his apologies. He was re-elected as councillor for the Aldermaston Ward and has been appointed leader for children and young people at West Berkshire Council.

## **2. Community Policing – Sgt Matt. Tulett, Thames Valley Police**

Sgt Matt Tulett introduced himself. He is currently based in Newbury and has a team of 10 people. His team cover a large area of West Berkshire including 32 parishes.

A question was asked about road safety in the village and Sgt Tulett stated that they are there to provide support if there are issues with speeding in the area.

A question was asked about the poor response from the 101 service. Sgt Tulett agreed that the service is not always good but that emergency issues should always be reported via 999. He also recommended the use of the web reporting form for queries.

## **3. Brimpton School – Heidi Davies, Head Teacher**

Heidi Davies joined the school as head teacher in the last year, having previously been deputy head at St. Nicholas' junior school in Newbury.

The school currently has 55 children across four classes. The staff provide a rich and balance curriculum. The governing body were thanked for providing guidance and support. Mr. Hicks is standing down from the governing body and therefore there will be a vacancy for a governor.

During the Autumn term the children contributed to a sensory garden, attended the harvest festival at St. Peters church and contributed to a food bank collection. Two Olympic athletes visited the school, there was an author visit and a Christmas fair. The school has a very successful choir with members across all age groups in the school. The school took part in the shoe box appeal at Christmas.

A key assembly has been introduced which celebrates unlocking a child's potential.

During the Spring term a new school uniform was proposed and consulted on. This new uniform will be purple with an optional school tie and will be in place from September.

The school choir have performed at the Anvil in Basingstoke and Royal Albert Hall with 2000 other children. The choir have been chosen to attend an event at Wellington College in June.

The children compete in lots of local sport events which helps to promote the Brimpton community as well as the school.

There was an Arts Week in February. A local artist worked with the school to create a stained glass for the school hall. There will be a celebration event with a blessing from Revd Jane Manley to celebrate the refurbished new hall.

The school continue to strengthen their links with St. Peters Church and Mrs Davies thanked Brenda Scott for her welcome and help. There is now a noticeboard in St. Peters church where the children's work is displayed.

## **4. St. Peter's Church – Brenda Scott, Churchwarden**

**Please see Appendix A for the PCC report.**

## **5. Village Hall – John Dolphin, Chairman**

Appendix B

## **6. Brimpton Recreation Ground – Charles Brims, Chairman**

## Appendix C

### **7. Brimpton Fete – Peter Main, Treasurer**

Work started on planning the Brimpton Fete 52 weeks ago. Mr. Main thanked the trustees of the recreation ground for allowing the fete to be held on the recreation ground.

The activities were split into several key areas :- Logistics and infrastructure, publicity, volunteers, vehicle parking, first aid, admin functions. Two qualified first aid people are going to be on site all day, free of charge.

Mr. Main thanked the Parish Council for £2000 given to finance the fete. Donations and sponsorships have also been received from many organisations, which total in excess of £1400.

There will be many performances during the day including the school choir and children from the school will be helping to run the games. The WI will be providing refreshments. The Travellers Friend will be providing a beer tent and food.

The church will be opening the fete and the village hall will be providing all the tables and chairs. It is hoped that the event will raise funds which will be split between the school, the church and the recreation ground

### **8. Women's institute – Shelley Bassil, President**

The group have 25 members at the moment. The year started with one new member joining the committee after 2 long term members stepped down following many years of hard work and dedication. Mrs Bassil thanked the fantastic committee.

There have been many speakers over the year showing the hidden talents in the village including talks by Graham Hawker on butterflies, John Hicks on Hostas, John Dolphin on 'the joys of scuba diving'. Spencer Wilton the Olympic dressage champion also gave a talk. Jean Bowden presented an evening on precious stones. In addition to speakers other events included a Beetle drive, BBQ, a quiz night and a party with 18 ukulele players. The biggest evening so far this year has been the Berkshire Quiz where the team won.

The coming year has much to offer with trips to Little Park flowers, afternoon tea at Risely tea rooms and talks on how to make a salt dough wreath, wildlife in West Berkshire and how to play a ukulele.

The next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> June will be an open meeting with everyone welcome to attend. The group will be providing tea and cake at the Brimpton Fete.

The group meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

### **9. Brimpton Common Fuel Allotment Trust - Colin Evans, Chairman**

Mr. Evans explained that the trust manages two pieces of land in Brimpton Common. There are 3 trustees, Colin Evans, Gaila Aidar and Josh Dugdale. The land has several footpaths through it and a variety of wildlife.

### **10. St Peter's Almshouses**

**Paddy Bowring, Trustee**

## Appendix D

### **11. Wasing Park**

**Andrew Perkins, CEO**

Andrew Perkins started as the Chief Exec in January. Tim Malpas has left the organisation and there are two new land agents Alex and Ben Dukes.

There are 2 new members of the farm team and a new farm manager who will be leading the conversion from conventional to organic farming over the next few years.

Jill Watson is Wasing's resident yoga and well-being person. 14 yoga classes are held a week.

Wasing's charity work has included a carol service which raised £1380 for the Mount Charity. A donation of £500 was made to St. Peter's church and a prize was donated for the fete raffle.

A litter pick was carried out in March, which 32 staff and residents volunteered for and collected a whole skip of rubbish.

47 special breed sussex cattle have been purchased as part of the conversion to organic farming. There are subsidies available to help with the infrastructure costs associated with the conversion.

Wasing have taken over the lease at Frouds bridge marina and this is going well. An open day will be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

A peaking power plant is planned for the Solar Farm site. This allows energy to be stored to cover times of peak consumption.

The Shalford Farm planning application is being looked at again after its rejection by the planning department. Wasing are still passionate about improving the site but recognise the need to find the right scheme for the site which works for the local community.

A community meeting was held with the police to discuss the increase in crime on the estate. Any incidents need to be reported so that the police have evidence on which to act.

The Aldermaston Cricket club lease land from Wasing and have plans to update the pavilion. Wasing have donated funds which will be matched by the Greenham Trust.

Wasing have been consulted on the Parish Plan and are keen to work with the parish to see what part they can play in the plan.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> June there will be an open day in the walled garden from 2 until 5pm in aid of West Berkshire MENCAP.

## **12. High Speed Broadband - Stephen Harris. Gigaclear Community Engagement Manager**

Mr Harris explained that the Community Engagement team were set up at the start of the year as they recognized that links with communities had not been good during service rollout.

An overview of the organisation was given and it was explained that Gigaclear won the contract to provide superfast broadband throughout West Berkshire. The new network will provide fibre to the property up to 1000mbps and will enable network to be future proof. They are an open access provider so consumers are able to sign up to the service via other providers as well as Gigaclear.

A map of the new network in Brimpton was shown. There is an online postcode checker where residents can check if their address is included in the programme. The link is [gigaclear.net/postcode-checker](http://gigaclear.net/postcode-checker)

There is now a dedicated network build team in place and the main trunking routes have been installed. However, there are still issues with wayleaves which prevents some connections being made.

Gigaclear legally have to reinstate verges within 6 months of carrying out work. If there are any issues these can be reported to the network build team email [networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com](mailto:networkbuildcare@gigaclear.com)

A member of the sales team introduced herself and said that house visits could be made to explain the services on offer if requested.

**Mr Hicks thanked all the speakers and the meeting closed at 9.17pm**

It has been an exciting year and I am delighted to report that we now have a toilet and servery. Both make life so much easier when the church is in use for whatever purpose. No more carrying dirty crockery home to wash!!

A coffee morning was held in January to brainstorm ideas for using the church now that we have these facilities. Monthly coffee mornings and singing for fun sessions have been started. Another suggestion was a 'cinema' which we are still looking into but not sure how it will work. In the summer it will be too light to see the screen and, in the winter, too cold to sit and enjoy a film – but we will do our best.

We celebrate the churches 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year (I can't believe we are the same age as Sainsburys). There will be a celebratory service on 17 November which will be led by the Bishop of Oxford. Everyone is warmly invited. To mark this monumental birthday we have made a new altar cloth.

We continue to have strong links with the school. Revd Jane is a governor and leads occasional assemblies. We are delighted for the school to use the church for their special services. It is a joy to see the church full of families and to see the children so involved in the services. A special noticeboard has been erected in the back of the church where the children's schoolwork is on display. I encourage you to pop in and have a look.

We have held various fundraising events over the past year, including quiz night, bring and buy coffee morning at the Brims' house, and the annual plant sale which raised £1,000. The 100 Club is also a good fundraiser for the church so if you have not got a number (why not and see me afterwards. It is only £12 per year and there is a chance of winning £30.00.

In 2018 the church raised money for the following Charities:

- Royal British Legion – Remembrance Day;
- Adonai UK (Uganda) –St Peter's Day;
- Toilet Twinning – funds raised at the autumn coffee morning;
- West Berkshire Homeless – Carol Service.

Deborah Fry continues to liaise with West Berkshire Food Bank to have a collection point in the church. Gifts of food and other necessities donated throughout the year. This included items from the church and school Harvest Festival services resulting in substantial donations.

The church is open between 10:00-16:00 each day. It is a community building so please feel free to visit and look around. It never ceases to surprise me that after all these years of worshipping there I still see new things. Just for information - there is a prayer request book at the back of the church. This is there for anyone to write a prayer request. The book is brought to the altar during Sunday worship as prayers are offered. Our Ministry Team also use these books to inform their personal prayers. Please contact Revd Jane if you would like your name or the name of a loved one added to our prayer request list.

For the future new service schedules are being discussed, the maintenance on the church continues – it feels a bit like painting the Severn Bridge – it never ends, we are trying to assist where we can with Brimpton Fete which is followed the day after by our patronal service and rumour has it there will be another quiz in September (date to be confirmed).

Finally, It is not easy to find a way to thank all the people who support the church by helping with fund raising, locking/unlocking, winding the clock, working on the bee and butterfly garden, maintenance and odd jobs, flowers arrangers, the list goes on... A while back the powers that be in the Deanery Synod, this is a group of churches in the local area, asked for information of numbers of people who help and support the church in this way. You may be interested to know that the list has over 60 names on it. This is a staggering amount of people to keep the church up and running. To me this shows that the church is well thought of by parishioners and I will continue to strive to do my part to ensure the church stays open and welcoming. In the meantime, I say thank you to each and every one of you. And thank you again.

## Brimpton Village Hall Annual Report 16/5/2019

Brimpton Village Hall is a registered charity number 237692 . It has a minimum of 6 trustees who have the responsibility for maintaining the fabric of the building and ensuring its good use for the benefit of the local community.

The make up of the trustees has changed over the last year with very sad passing of Dennis Cowdery after many years service.

Shelley Bassil  
Mary Cowdery  
John Dolphin  
Carol Phipps  
Alex Reynolds  
Rosmarie Thomas  
Rachel Richardson

This is felt to be an appropriate number of people with a good balance of skills.

Our financial position is both good and stable. Our income for 2018/2019 averaged £1180 per month. The only major work/expense last year was the new fence around patio and reducing hedge height.

Our closing figures show income of £14,162 an expenditure of £10,707, with reserves at the close of £25,175.

Many day to day tasks have been undertaken by the committee.

They include fixing water leaks/taps and loo valves, sorting out roof repairs, patio cleaning, safety checks, PAT testing, fire extinguisher testing/renewal, emergency light testing, and the ever present need to manage the bookings and accounts. On the latter item Carol and Mary deserve particular praise.

Other things that have been installed at VH over the last 12 months are a Defibrillator, Overhead projector, Motorised screen, New cooker and a beautiful memorial bench to remind us all of Dennis

The hall user profile remains much the same as previous years with casual users contributing very little to our income. The majority comes from organised groups providing community services.

There is always a maintenance job list to be resolved and my thanks go to our trustees who unfailingly attend to this and keep our hall in great condition.

I wish to publicly thank the trustees for their hard work during the last year and look forward to another good year.

Now the sad part as Rosmarie and Mary are standing down this year.

Special thanks must be given to Mary and hope that you will not disappear as we will need to ask your advice on many of the jobs you have covered over the past years.

John Dolphin  
Acting Chairman

## Appendix C - **BRIMPTON RECREATION GROUND**

- How many have visited? Fete will give you an opportunity.
- Given to the parish in 1965 by the Sieff family for recreational purposes.
- Originally, cricket pitch in summer as well as well as two football pitches in winter.
- Local cricket team folded many years ago; and the local football team has now folded as well and there is little likelihood of it being revived.
- So now it is a 5 acre field which is available for parishioners for walking, etc.
- But its location is not ideal; very few parishioners can walk to it. So little used now that football has ended. Parish Appraisal shows 40% think a Recreation Ground is important but only 4% use it regularly. Why? Because its location is inconvenient (outside the parish and not accessible by foot).
- Two options:
  1. Leave it as it is, i.e. an open space used by a few parishioners living nearby;
  2. Sell it and buy another bit of land which is more central and accessible for parishioners. Obviously, this only works if we can sell it for enough money to buy something else suitable. The trustees will explore this option on your behalf.
- No decision needed yet but, in due course when we know what might be possible, we will consult parishioners on what you would like us to do.
- Any comments at this stage?

Charles Brims

28<sup>th</sup> May 2019



## **Report to Brimpton Parish Meeting Tues 28th May 2019**

St. Peter's Almshouse Charities has four one bedroom units in Hatch Lane and provides economic accommodation for local people. It is a great asset to our small community, as endorsed by the Parish Plan questionnaire response, where 82% of respondents thought the almshouses to be important or very important to parish life.

The Trustees are all volunteers and comprise of Colin Evans, acting Chairman, Jonathan Shorten, Rev. Jane Manley and Patrick Bowring.

Sadly we lost one of our residents a short while ago. Paul Seddon, who may have been known to some of you, had a major heart attack at home at the age of 74 years. He is survived by his daughter Dawn. Paul came to the Almshouses 7 years ago, having been living in a caravan on Paices Hill and according to Dawn, he said moving to the Almshouse was one of the best things to happen to him. He was a quiet reserved individual with a dry sense of humour, who had a passion for fishing and in consequence his car was to be regularly seen outside the Almshouses laden to the roof with rods, nets and tackle, not forgetting a corner for the bed for his beloved dog and constant companion Chubbs. Paul had a small boat on the River Thames to which he and Chubbs escaped at every opportunity.

The Almshouse building in Hatch Lane is like some of us more elderly, needing regular check-ups. The building itself dates from around 1860 with its Victorian architecture conforming to that of the school and forms an important part of the character of Brimpton. Inevitably, there is always something that requires attention, whether it is a blocked drain, a faulty light, loose roof tiles, leaking pipes, blocked gutters or just general wear and tear on the building.

Significant expenditure over the past year was primarily for the replacement of a flat roof, plumbing, replacement of white goods in the kitchens, some redecoration and treatment of woodworm.

Consequently, the Trustees, are kept busy, but nothing can happen without the help of the Charity's clerk Helen Timperley, who has been with us now for the past two years. Helen is the key to all that happens and we are immensely grateful to her for her commitment to the charity and her special care for the almshouse residents.

The trustees readily acknowledge our appreciation also to our predecessors such as Dennis West, Peter Main and Doris Butler, who have contributed so much to the past running of the charity. Their contribution has not gone unrecognised as it is thanks to them that the charity continues and can continue to serve the residents and the community.

Looking forward, we had a Quinquennial inspection in 2016, which raised a number of issues that had to be addressed. Having accomplished these, we now feel that the almshouse is in as good an order as we would hope it to be. As trustees, we also feel the charity is more secure financially looking to the future and believe that we are now in a stronger position to maintain the fabric of the building and serve the needs of the residents and the Brimpton community for many years to come.

We try to keep up to date and are regularly seeking the advice of the Almshouse Association. Whilst we are small in comparison to other almshouses, some with over fifty units, they offer helpful advice, particularly those of Health and Safety and maintenance concerns.

The location of the Almshouse is not ideal for everyone, being on an unmaintained road with few amenities or local shops within close reach, but it does offer something, perhaps more special, such as access to open countryside, footpaths and a friendly community, not readily available in an urban environment.

On a final note, the trustees received an enquiry prior to Paul's death as to whether there might be a vacancy at the Almshouse. This is something the Trustees are currently following up.

The Trustees