

BRIMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in Brimpton Village Hall on
Tuesday 5 December 2017 at 7.30 pm

Present: John Hicks (Chairman), Phil Bassil (Vice Chairman), Charles Brims, Dennis Cowdery, Mary Cowdery, Rod Smallwood and Brenda Harding (Clerk), and fifteen members of the public.

1. Apologies: Dominic Boeck, District Councillor.

2. Declarations of interest:

Mr Brims declared an interest in planning application no 17/03072, being his application.

Mr Hicks declared an interest in the budget discussions relating to Brimpton Primary School, as he is a governor.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising:

4.1. Bus shelter: Mrs Cowdery reported that she had met with Bob Hope of Hope and Clay Construction, to survey and inspect the site of the proposed bus shelter. Littlethorpe of Leicester, the supplier of the new bus shelter, has asked for a site assessment, to ascertain any likely hazards during installation. The only perceived hazard was the overhanging trees from Elmet House. A letter has been sent to the owners of Elmet House asking them to cut back their trees. The new shelter is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday 13 December.

4.2. Gigaclear: Mr Smallwood reported that he was still chasing Gigaclear to move their box from its current site by the War Memorial.

4.3. B3051: Mrs Cowdery reported that she had had a response from the Hampshire Police informing her that changing speed limits is a matter for the County Council. Hampshire County Council has no plans to survey any areas unless the statistics indicate a reason for change. In view of these responses Mrs Cowdery considered the Parish Council had done all it could at the present time.

5. Appointment of new Clerk to the Council

Interviews had been carried out for the position of Clerk to the Council on 30 November. As a result of the interviews, Mr Hicks proposed, seconded by Mr Bassil, that Mrs Christine McGarvie be appointed as Clerk to Brimpton Parish Council, starting on 1 January 2018. This was agreed unanimously.

6. Contribution to the Upkeep of Brimpton Churchyard

The Parish Council discussed a paper by Mr Brims prepared as a result of his discussions with the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council. The demographics of the parochial boundaries, as opposed to the civil boundaries, of Brimpton Parish were discussed. Mr Brims proposed, seconded by Mr Hicks that funds should be set aside in the budget towards the upkeep of the churchyard. This was agreed unanimously.

7. Brimpton Parish Plan

The current Parish Plan was drawn up in 2003, and the Parish Council considered its update. Mrs Cowdery suggested that the Parish Council should postpone any work on a new Parish Plan until the Spring of 2018. Mr Brims, seconded by Mr Hicks, proposed that money be put aside in the budget to cover the costs of updating the Parish Plan, This was agreed unanimously.

8. Budget for 2018/19

The figures for the coming year were discussed, to be finalised in January. Mr Brims, proposed, seconded by Mr Hicks that the sum of £2000 be put aside towards the upkeep of the churchyard. This was agreed by a majority vote. Other headings in the proposed budget were agreed unanimously.

9. District Councillor’s Report

There was no report from Mr Boeck.

10. West Berkshire Council Budget Consultation

Mr Hicks reported on West Berkshire Council’s proposals for savings in their budget for 2018/9. These included further cuts to the Citizen’s Advice Bureau; not informing all near by properties of proposed planning applications; and charging residents £50 per annum to empty the green waste bins. Mr Cowdery proposed, seconded by Mrs Cowdery, the Chairman should write to West Berkshire Council outlining the views of the Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously.

11. Clerk’s Report:

11.1. Finance: The Clerk reported that the money held by the Parish Council comprises:

Current account: £22,250.07
Deposit account: £11,763.99

Of these monies: £2,602 is held for BPRA
£6,800 is held for the bus shelter from the insurance company
£2,806 Cil payment

Payments waiting: £450 Clerk’s final salary
£16.90 BALC - replacement of an unrepresented cheque

These payments were approved for payment.

11.2. Correspondence: There was no correspondence to consider.

11.3 Planning Applications: 17/03072 Brimpton Lodge replacement conservatory – the plans had been circulated to councillors for their consideration and no objections were raised. Mr Brims took no part in the discussion.

12. Village Hall Committee:

Mr Cowdery reported that six new storage heaters have been fitted in the hall. The children’s Christmas party will go ahead on 10 December, despite a lack of interest this year. Pilates classes will be begin on 8 January. Mr Cowdery finished by asking for new members to join the Village Hall Committee.

13. Other Information Items:

Mr Bassil reported that following complaints regarding the inaccessibility of one of the Hyde End footpaths, West Berkshire Council have installed new gates. A member of the public questioned the moving of the Gigaclear box. Mr Smallwood was asked to explain the background to the situation.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11 January 2018,

Signed..... Date.....