

BRIMPSFIELD

DRAFT MINUTES: of the Annual Parish meeting held in Brimpsfield Village Hall on Tuesday 25th April 2017 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Roger Lock, Jane Parsons, Emma Ryan,
Heather Eaton, and Tom Overbury

IN ATTENDANCE: Kate Sales, Clerk

District Councillor N J W Parsons

12 Parishioner

Chairman: Tom Overbury

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence.** No apologies received.

Report from the Chairman of Brimpsfield Parish Council – Tom Overbury

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 19th April 2016 were duly signed as an accurate record. Tom Overbury then presented the following report.

I would like welcome all here tonight.

My thanks first of all to the other councillors. My particular thanks to Kate Sales, our Clerk, for her experience, efficiency and knowledge of procedures and regulation. Katie's experience in these matters continues to be invaluable.

Our precept. At our January meeting we outlined our budget for the financial year 2017-18. We were mindful of the maintenance of assets and other project work that we needed to carry out over the forthcoming year, and to ensure an adequate reserve was in place for unforeseen emergencies. It was also noted that the Parish Council would no longer be receiving the Council Tax Grant from Cotswold District Council. Therefore, it was resolved that in order for the Parish Council to fund any significant maintenance and repair work (i.e. noticeboards or possibly the cross on the war memorial if deemed unsafe etc), the Parish Council would set a precept of £5110. This was an increase of £685 for the year which worked out at 3.2% on a Council Tax Band D property.

Major variations compared to the previous year were an increase in the grass cutting budget (£200), the Clerk's salary (£250) and the website (£100). Other budget costs were very similar to the previous year.

Moving on to other matters.

We discussed planning applications, as they came forward. I still feel that any comments that we make carry very little weight, which is an opinion held by other council members and other parish councils. If we each commented as individuals, we would carry more weight.

The state of the local roads, and various other traffic issues continue to take up a large proportion of our time. The roll out of Gigaclear left our verges in a poor state, and these have been re-instated to a certain degree. We are also anxious to move forward on the issue of rat-run traffic, but it appears a one way system is probably not going to be a viable proposition.

We now have our own Parish Council website - www.brimpsfieldpc.org, with full details of meetings, minutes, etc and all the publishable data that we, as a Parish Council, need to publish. My thanks go to Kate for organizing and managing that. There is also a Brimpsfield village website, organized by Roger Lock, which is a great asset, and has become a focal point for the Village and its visitors.

I would like to thank Mark Foyn and Parish Councillor Mrs Jane Parsons for their continued support as our Snow Wardens, and I would also like to thank our Tree Warden, Emma Ryan.

Report from District Councillor- Cllr N Parsons

Finance

Despite further reductions in Central Government funding CDC has managed to freeze Council Tax for 2017-18, mainly as a result of continued efficiencies made in the operation of Council Services and the Council's 2020 Vision Programme/ The following are also funded:

- £100,000 towards flood defence
- £500,000 for rural broadband
- Car park and Green Waste charges frozen
- "Free after 3" extended to parking in Cirencester and other Market Towns.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £34.8 million.

Planning

The preparation of the new Local plan has advanced to the stage where the final public consultation has now been completed. The Council will shortly send the proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate. A Public Examination will then follow and, when approved by the Inspectorate, the new Local plan should be adopted, hopefully before the end of the year. For Brimpsfield the current version of

the new Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale development outside the main towns, provided that it can be accommodated without harm to the countryside and can be shown to be in the best interests of the particular settlement or village.

Youth Projects

The Council is still able to support youth projects for those aged between 11-17. Such projects tend to be run during the school holidays, but any project will be considered. In the past, in Ermin Ward, the Council has managed to support diverse projects such as cricket coaching, theatre production and the provision of play equipment. Again, the Council will support most projects which are endorsed by the Ward Councillor.

Community Projects

The Council will continue to support local/community projects with the provision of fund matching with other organisations, such as the Heritage Lottery Fund. Within the Cotswolds, this scheme has been particularly useful in the provision of, or maintenance of, village halls and other community facilities.

1st World War

The Council has allocated a new fund to assist communities to commemorate the ending of the 1st World War. Please let me know if you many need support for a project.

Defibrillators

The Council has allocated a new fund to assist Parishes which wish to install Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward there will be £500 available covering the procurement of 4 units. Please let me know if you plan to take this up.

Questions from the floor regarding the limit on Community Project funding. District Cllr Parsons informed the meeting that grant limits were around £20k-£30k depending on the type of project.

District Cllr Parsons also took this opportunity to inform the meeting that the demise of the Council Tax Grant was the result of Central Government cuts not District Council cuts. He also re-assured the meeting that Parish Council planning comments were an important part of the planning process and were read out at meeting. He urged the Parish Council to continue to submit comments.

3. Open forum with residents

The following items were raised in the open forum:

- *A request for the Parish Council to provide a grant again towards the upkeep of the churchyard. Presently upkeep work was undertaken by volunteers but as the Churchyard was for the benefit of the whole parish a number of parishioners felt that a contribution from the Parish Council would be appropriate. The Chair noted the strength of feeling in the room regarding this issue and said that precept had already been set this year. However, the*

issue would come back to the Parish Council later in the year when setting the precept for 2018/19.

- *Concern was raised over a recent planning application. Residents were concerned that the Parish Council had not submitted any comments. The Chair informed the meeting that this application had arisen between council meetings and the Parish Council would call an extra ordinary parish council meeting shortly to discuss the application.*
- *Highway issues were raised, especially the rat-run from the A417, and the careless and speeding vehicles from it. The Chair informed the meeting that discussions had taken place with Highways and the one-way system was not viable. However, the Parish Council had received the Road Safety toolkit and was looking to see what viable ideas/solutions it contained.*
- *Pedestrian safety through the village was also raised and the suggestion of a pavement through the village from the War Memorial up to the Village Hall.*

The Chair reminded everyone to use the Comment Box provided tonight, and urged everyone to write their comments and suggestions down, not only on Highways issues but of other areas they felt the Parish Council could help with. This would then enable the Parish Council understand what needs in the village should be addressed and how best they could help.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.30pm. Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments.