

# BRIMPSFIELD

DRAFT MINUTES: of the Annual Parish meeting held in Brimpsfield Village Hall on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: Roger Lock, Jane Parsons, Heather Eaton, Archie Larthe and Tom Overbury

IN ATTENDANCE: Kate Sales, Clerk

District Councillor N J W Parsons

2 Parishioners

Chairman: Tom Overbury

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Cllr Harrison and County Cllr Nigel Robbins.

**2. To approve the minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Brimpsfield Village Hall.**

The Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

**3. Report from the Chairman of Brimpsfield Parish Council – Tom Overbury**

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 October meeting we outlined our budget for the financial year 2018-19. 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. Therefore, it was resolved that in order for the Parish Council to fund any significant maintenance and repair work the Parish Council would set a precept of £5460. This was an increase of £350 for the year which worked out at 7% but was published on your council tax bills as 8.1% due to changes in eligible households and payees.

Variations compared to the previous year were an increase in equipment and assets (£250), the Clerk's salary (£300), a saving on maintenance and repairs of £300 with the balance coming from reserves. Otherwise, budgeted costs were very similar to the previous year.

#### Moving on to other matters

We discussed planning applications, as they came forward, with our comments being passed on to Cotswold District Council.

The state of the local roads, and various other traffic issues continue to take up a large proportion of our time. The consultation on the A417 Missing Link meant that we had an extra meeting in December to canvass opinion. As one could have predicted, the major issue was that of rat running traffic.

We now have our own Parish Council website - [www.brimpsfieldpc.org](http://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. Of course one shouldn't forget the Brimpsfield village website, organized by Roger Lock.

I would like to thank Mark Foyn and Parish Councillor Mrs Jane Parsons for their continued support as our Snow Wardens, (who had a busier time this winter) and I would also like to thank our Tree Warden, Emma Ryan.

## **4. Report from County and District Councillors**

### **Cotswold District Council – Cllr N J Parsons**

#### Finance

Despite further reductions in Central Government funding CDC has managed to freeze Council Tax for 2018-19, mainly as a result of continued efficiencies made in the operation of Council Services and the establishment of the not for profit Company, Publica. Publica is owned by Cotswold, West Oxfordshire and Tewkesbury District Councils and Cheltenham Borough Council. The following are also funded:

- Enhancements to Planning Services (£195,000)
- The New Waterloo Car Park (£260,000) – this is the first stage of addressing the shortage of parking in the town.
- Electric Car Charging (£300,000)
- Green Waste charges frozen
- “Free after 3” will be extended again.

Cotswold District Council remains debt free with net assets of over £30 million.

#### Planning

The Draft new Local Plan has been examined in public. CDC have just finished consulting on the changes required by the Inspector. The present intention is to have the plan adopted during the summer. For Brimpsfield the proposed Local Plan includes a policy to enable small scale local 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. Funding from the County Council has been withdrawn, but each District Ward Councillor has an allocation of £1,000 available. Youth 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 has increased the capital allocation available and 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 repair of, village halls and other community facilities.

### First World War

The allocation announced last year remains available to assist communities to commemorate the ending of the 1st World War. Please let me know if you may need support for a project.

### Defibrillators

Funds remain available to support parishes with the installation of Defibrillators. Within Ermin Ward we have already used the initial allocation of £2,000, but I am able to extract funds from other Ward Councillors.

*Questions from the floor were raised regarding Defibrillators and whether response times from the Emergency Services were quicker if a Defibrillator was within 300m of the patient and also whether the funding available for these units was for initial purchase only? This was confirmed as correct. The Parish Council would then have to be responsible for the ongoing annual service costs and maintenance.*

*The nearest Defibrillators were at the telephone boxes in Birdlip and Cowley.*

*Clarification was also sought as to whether the £200k for the Community Project was the total amount for the year. It was confirmed that this was the case.*

### **Gloucestershire County Council – Cllr N Robbins (read by the Clerk)**

- Highways UK are expected to endorse the Route 30 option through Stockwell for the A417 upgrade. Tunnel options were dismissed, largely on cost grounds. We should continue to lobby for extensive noise-mitigation measures, including variable speed limits.
- From 2019 Tarmac will take over from Amey plc as the main county highways contractor. GCC will take back the design capability for

major schemes and attempts will be made to improve local responsiveness. Concerns over repair quality remain.

- The GCC council tax precept has been raised to protect rising adult social care provision, in addition to central grants.
- NHS Hospital Trust performance during the winter has been a success. After last year's black spot performance, a new winter plan has reduced bed-blocking and the number of elective operation cancellations as a result of greatly improved service collaboration.
- Please keep reporting pot holes as they arise via the complaint helpline. This will be the main focus for Amey until May 9th or so. I regret I am not able to be with you this evening.

*Cllr Parsons stressed the importance of reporting potholes. If issues weren't reported then data could not be gathered. This would then give a false impression that there were no issues. The simple report it online tool on the County Council's site allows users to pin point on a map where the problem exactly is, making it much easier for the repair team to get to the correct site.*

#### **5. Open forum with residents, where refreshments will be served.**

A question was raised about the difference between an Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Annual Parish Council meeting in May was the formal meeting the Council held every year to elect a Chairman and to go through and review all its policies and procedures, to sign off the end of year accounts and approve the Annual Return for audit. The meeting held tonight, (the Parish Meeting) was an informal event allowing parishioners the opportunity to get involved and to raise issues and discuss parish affairs.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.55pm. Everyone was invited to stay for refreshments.