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| ***Brimpsfield Parish Council***  ***Annual Parish Assembly***  ***To be held at 8.30pm at the Village Hall***  ***On Tuesday 21st March 2023*** |
| 1. Welcome from Chair of meeting |
| 1. Apologies and attendance to be recorded |
| 1. Minutes from Parish Assembly held in May 2022 to be approved 2. County Councillor’s Report 3. District Councillors Annual Report 4. Village Hall Management Committee Verbal Report- 5. Chair of Council Report 6. Other Village Organisations present to be invited to present a report 7. Open Forum: Questions and Comments from members of the public-none |
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| Close of meeting |

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| ***Brimpsfield Parish Council***  ***Annual Parish Assembly***  ***held at 8pm at the Village Hall***  ***On Tuesday 17th May 2022*** |
| 1. Welcome from Chair of meeting |
| 1. Apologies and attendance recorded   Attendance recorded as Parish Councillors Tom Overbury, Roger Lock, Michael McWilliam, Jane Parsons, Heather Eaton, Claire Jardine, District Councillor Judd & Mikhail Mandrigin (Village Hall Management Committee) and 2 members of the public  Apologies recorded Parish Councillor Archie Larthe  County Councillor Joe Harris did not attend |
| 1. Minutes from Parish Assembly held in May 2021 approved and signed 2. County Councillor’s Report not received 3. District Councillors Annual Report as attached-   Highlighted points  Increase in Council tax up to the legal limit – other changes made included  Parish Council contested elections will be charged by the District Council going forward  Green bin licence income aim was to be cost neutral for providing the service but to achieve this, collections have been halved and there has been an increase in fly-tipping  Car Parking scheme “Free after 3” in Cirencester has now ceased  Cirencester are looking at charging for street parking in centre  Application for borrowing from Public Works Loan Board in the region of £75million for capital projects eg for social housing plus green energy investments (solar farms)  £900k spent on various consultation processes plus £620k for next financial year  Government Levelling Up Fund was not accessed by the District Council  Missing Link A417 contractor has been appointed  Monthly report as distributed - highlighted points:   1. Village Hall Management Committee Verbal Report-   Hall has seen increased use over the last year  Increase in private hirings  Covid/lockdowns have affected financial income from 2020/21  Building fund £31k (Current Account figure was also given)  Plans for the refurbishment and extending of the hall have been slowly moving forward, but there have been delays with identified contractor (for H & S purposes) and the volunteer basis of the project have been reviewed and some parts of the works will now be done by an outside contractor (labour basis) for outside shell and internal works will be able to be done by volunteers. Committee will provide materials  It is hoped that the outside contractor will start after the foundation trench will be finished - approx 25th July and within 6 weeks the shell of the front entrance/bar area should be completed.  The hall will be operational throughout   1. Chair of Council Report as attached was read- key points included   Thanks were expressed to Councillors, Clerk and District Councillor  Precept agreed to £6640 against a projected spend of £77611, with the deficit of £940 coming out of our own reserves  Council calculated this to be a 5% increase but District Council calculated it to be an increase of 6%- this could be due to number of eligible households  Council worked hard to keep the precept lower the previous year  Boundary changes – the Parish Council was engaged in the process and are aware that a greater level of consultation needs to be made by our council when discussing issues for our peripheral inhabitants  A417 missing link scheme progress update  Designated fund available for affected residents- It was reported that the village hall committee have bid for £90k  Construction management have been requested by the Chair of the Parish Council  Main contractor has been agreed  Village and Council website appreciation given  Thanks were given to Tree /Snow Wardens  Next year Parish Council elections will take place   1. Other Village Organisations present were invited to present a report - none 2. Open Forum: Questions and Comments from members of the public-none |
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| Close of meeting at 20.38 |

RMIN WARD - CLLR JULIA JUDD

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2022

The work carried out by Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks, is underestimated, but you are champions of the best interests of your villages and residents. Top down governance could never replace local representation. We are motivated by the same principles, ‘it’s our turn’ and we have a duty to serve the places we love and live, just as others have done for us and before us. Thank you for everything you do.

It's been a very busy year. I have 62 Ermin Ward Parish Meetings scheduled over the year. Contentious planning applications keep me busy, in particular the application to create a 75-vehicle truck stop in the AONB near Daglingworth. Over 500 people signed a petition and I held an outdoor meeting to explain the process and the issues which formed the Case Officer’s opinion and sent regular updates to keep everyone informed throughout the long application process. The application came before last month’s Planning Committee, with the officer's recommendation to refuse owing to the site being within the Cotswold AONB. The Planning Committee refused it unanimously. It is possible that the applicant will appeal.

Many of you feel that your voices as Parish Councils aren’t heard loud enough, however there are times when, between us, we can make a difference. Sometimes I can influence the weight given to policy owing to helpful background information provided by you, and sometimes conditions can be applied.

Debate and concern over the Planning Committee Protocol and Scheme of Delegation introduced in November 2020 continues. Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown recently met with the CDC CEO, Rob Weaver, planning officers, the CDC legal advisor and representative Parish Council members. It is hoped this will lead to the introduction of improved democratic processes. Some proposals will be put forward to make the process clearer and more inclusive for the Parish Councils.

Fly tipping is an issue I am particularly concerned with. It costs Council Tax payers a fortune to clear up and I was disappointed when earlier this year my motion to purchase mobile, motion activated cctv cameras was thrown out. Green fly-tipping has increased at least 25% since the green bin licence has increased in price and become fortnightly. I am a great supporter of Kev Lea, the Council’s Environment Officer. He does a fantastic job, largely because he has formed good working relationships with people who can make his job effective, including Ubico, the Police, other Environment Officers in neighbouring Councils and of course District Councillors.

There is a sweet spot between charging people to pay for waste disposal through their Council Tax and offering alternative methods of disposal such as Recycling Centres. Subsidised waste collection could prove to be cost effective if fly-tipping rates fall.

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BUDGET

*I was not able to support this budget, mostly owing to lack of detail on the proposed borrowing. I also have concerns as other Councils around the country have been seriously financially damaged by the strategy of borrowing to invest.*

CDC has a 2022/2023 net budget requirement of £12,595,218

*INCREASED COSTS TO RESIDENTS*

● The maximum Council Tax increase (2% or £5 - whichever is the higher) a Council Tax increase of £5 for a Band D property.

● Green Bin licences increased to £47 each. An additional income of £264,000 will be generated from charges on a full cost recovery basis.

● On top of last year’s 30% increase, a further 5% increase in car park fees and charges, including scrapping Free after 3. It is estimated income will increase by £300,000, although there is no meaningful data to validate this, as obviously no tickets were bought.

PLANNED SPENDING

● Borrowing £75 million of capital investment to invest, as approved in September 2020. Investment is profiled as £35 million in 2022/23, £20 million in 2023/24 and £20 million in 2024/25.

● £350,000 to fund the Investment Strategy to include:

1. specialist skills and expert advice on how to invest;

2. training to build skills and knowledge fit for the new working environment created by Covid-19;

3. enabling the production of new truly green energy supplies in the district; 4. deliver additional social housing.

● £400,000 for investment in feasibility studies and other work to support the provision of social housing built to carbon zero.

● Over £900,000 has been spent on consultations so far, another £629,000 planned.

Contrary to regular announcements suggesting otherwise, the forecast of Government funding has improved by £913,000.

**On 4 April 2022 the CDC Cabinet voted to adopt the REFRESH OF RECOVERY INVESTMENT STRATEGY**

The total of £76,500,000 was allocated:

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£1.8m on housing

£49.7m on Green Energy Investments

£25m on Economic Development and Asset Utilisation

https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s4996/Cotswold%20draft%202022%20inv estment%20strategy%20cover%20report.pdf

Stark warnings are littered throughout the Item papers:

‘The financial targets need to be taken as a guide rather than an absolute position. This relates not only to the funding gap the Council faces, but also debt financing costs, return yields, and therefore the level of capital investment necessary to deliver the revenue returns.’

5.1 ‘The key risk with regard to adopting this Strategy is around deliverability. It is a bold Strategy which delivers against Council Priorities but has significant borrowing and investment targets to meet. The availability of opportunities within the District to meet these targets will be challenging and should not be underestimated.’

‘The Strategy makes a number of assumptions around borrowing rates, rates of return on investment categories and requirements for ‘Minimum Revenue Provision’. All of these may change and alter the balance of funding required to deliver the revenue returns.’

The claim that the Council is facing a £9 million funding gap is spurious to persuade people that the Council’s decision to embark on this risky ‘borrow to invest’ strategy is unavoidable. Government is currently updating local authority funding assessments and their strategy has not been finalised. This situation is being used to indicate that Government funding cannot be relied upon for future support, despite reassurances from Government that they do not intend to cut support.

“Government is committed to ensuring that funding allocations for councils are based on an up-to-date assessment of their needs and resources.

As part of this we will look at options to support local authorities through transitional protection.”

CLIMATE CHANGE

I voted for the climate emergency and I voted to support the very expensive Climate Change report which was commissioned last year, which gave an overall, national overview rather than specific Cotswold policies. A more “bottom up” approach, encouraging and supporting individuals and communities to take a large number of

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small actions would, in my view, be achievable, affordable and practical, rather than competing with the Government and GCC on their “top down” approach.

The Green Alliance and the Climate Change Committee (CCC) recommend a central framework to enable councils to achieve their carbon goals. This has been developed by local and national leaders and sets out what local government needs to do. It also supports them in their ability to deliver action.

Cotswold District Council is a small local authority and does not have the resources and powers alone to drive a comprehensive strategic effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local authorities don’t have a statutory duty to reduce emissions in line with the Climate Change Act, however CDC can make a difference and look for opportunities to do more, using the powers we do have, i.e. through communications with residents, the Local Plan, housing policy and waste disposal policy and transport, which is the largest source of emissions in the Cotswolds.

Local authorities can also bid for a plethora of funds for project funding such as the Government’s £4.8 billion Levelling up Fund. At Parish level I have suggested, where appropriate, using your CIL payments to contribute towards installing EVCPs in village hall car parks, encouraging home composting or even community composting.

OTHER MATTERS

Staff turnover at the Council has continued apace. In all, 63 people have resigned. The democratic services team left in the same month which has caused problems with Council meetings and communications.

CDC Leisure Centre is closed for refurbishment. The Leisure Centre was also closed for much of last year’s lockdown.

The Planning Department continues to suffer from a lack of staffing and heavy workloads. A recruitment drive is being implemented, however service remains slow.

There have been several public consultations including Parking, the Council’s Budget and the most recent one about the update of the Local Plan. Consultations generally have a low response rate. This doesn’t surprise me, they generally seem to be biassed, manipulative and obscure, and responses can be inaccurate.

QUESTIONS & MOTIONS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Below are questions and motions I submitted at Council over the past year. Members of the public are also encouraged to ask questions at Council meetings.

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1. Mobile motion activated cameras to catch fly tipping - refused 2. Dog waste bin supply/collection improvement - refused

3. Support funding for villages to hold a Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations - refused

4. CDC climate change awards for the young, individuals and business - supported by Cabinet but not taken forward.

5. e-Petition facility on the front of Council Webpage - supported unanimously (this could be a great step forward in helping people have a ‘visible’ voice). Not yet implemented.

6. Armed Forces Covenant Re-Endorsement - supported unanimously. 7. I asked the Leader if CDC submitted a bid for the first issue of the Government’s £4.8 billion Levelling up Fund. The response was that they did not as the Council did not have any suitable schemes. This is disappointing as three other Gloucestershire Councils were all successful bringing £52.8 million into the County.

A417 MISSING LINK

Currently the The Planning Inspectorate is in the **Examination** phase, halfway through DCO process: *Pre-application - Acceptance - Pre-examination - Examination - Recommendation - Decision - Post Decision*

Deadline for the close of the Examination is 16 May 2022. The next stage is the **Recommendation** (by 16 August) and next the **Decision** (by 16 November).

The Planning Inspectorate must prepare a report on the application to the Secretary of State, including a recommendation, within three months of the close of the six month Examination stage. The Secretary of State then has a further three months to make the decision on whether to grant or refuse development consent. Once a decision has been issued by the relevant Secretary of State, there is a six week period in which the decision may be challenged in the High Court. This process of legal challenge is known as Judicial Review.

**Post decision -** Confirmed Decision on the Missing Link - End December 2022 (providing there is no challenge)

Recently I have been visiting properties and residents in Ermin Ward, talking to residents so that I can get a clear picture of the issues which affect them. This has been a really helpful exercise and has unveiled some issues I wasn’t aware of. It takes time to knock on everyone’s door in Ermin Ward. I have only covered about a third so far, I will get to your area soon! *Cllr Julia Judd*

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**Report from the Chairman Brimpsfield Parish Council Chairman**

I would like welcome all here tonight. Introductions as necessary.

My thanks first of all to the other councilors, without whom we would really struggle. Sometimes, it can be a bit of a thankless task, turning out to meetings throughout the year, but they all contribute in their different ways and bring experience and enthusiasm to the council. My particular thanks also to Belinda Holder, our Clerk, who has a wealth of experience, and also the ability to manage us and in particular, me.

Our precept. At our October meeting we outlined our budget for the financial year 2022

-23.

We were mindful of the maintenance of assets and other project work that we needed to carry out over the forthcoming year but also very aware of the inflationary issues, obviously unaware at that stage of quite how large these would be, as it is turning out. It was resolved that the Council would set a precept of £6640 against a projected spend of £77611, with the deficit of £940 coming out of our own reserves. This was an increase in the precept of 5% or £316 for the year. Now, at this stage, I don’t want to get picky, and I am not that great at maths, but we increased the precept by 5% but it appeared as a 6% increase in your council tax bill for Brimpsfield. I assume the difference is to do with eligible households and payees. Also, I would like to remind you that last year, the Parish portion of your Council tax published on your council tax bills rose by 0.4% so we really are trying. I am aware that 6% is a large increase, but do remember that that works out to be an increase of £1.75 for a band B property and £3.55 for a band G property.

Budgeted costs for the council were very similar to the previous year. I think that it is appropriate at this stage to point out that with regards to a contribution to the PCC for churchyard maintenance, it is not permitted for us to make donations to religious groups.

Moving on to other matters.

Probably one of the greatest matters of concern that we addressed recently were the Parish boundary changes. As you may be aware, these were instigated by issues arising in Cowley and Birdlip, but we were caught up in the subsequent detail. I hope a successful resolution has been arrived at, but I am very aware that some individuals did not get want they wanted. Additionally, I am aware that a greater level of consultation needs to be made by our council when discussing issues for our peripheral inhabitants.

Over the past year, we have discussed planning applications, as they have come forward, with our comments being passed on to Cotswold District Council.

The state of the local roads, and various other traffic and public access issues continued to take up a large proportion of our attention. It looks like the A417 Missing Link consultation is going forward and contractors have been appointed, but there is still quite a bit of detail being scrutinized at the moment and we would still like to reduce the rat running traffic if we could, especially during the completion of the project. Rat running certainly seems to be back to pre Covid levels.

As you know, we have our own Parish Council website, with full details of meetings, minutes, etc and all the publishable data that we, as a Parish Council, need to publish and my thanks go to Belinda for organizing and managing that.

However, news and other information is also available on the Brimpsfield Village web site, a mine of information, news, interesting guides and items and thanks go to Roger Lock for keeping that current and up to date.

Obviously there is the forthcoming Jubilee celebrations to get involved with, and my thanks to Roger and others on that team for pushing things along.

I would like to thank Mark Foyn for his work as our Snow Warden, and I would also like to thank our Tree Warden, Michael McWilliam.

Finally, don’t forget that next April 2023 we have the Parish Council elections, so do put yourself forward if you are interested in becoming a Parish Council member and representing your community.

Tom Overbury May 2022

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|  | ***Brimpsfield Parish Council***  ***Annual Parish Assembly approved minutes***  ***Which took place at 8.20pm at the Village Hall***  ***On Tuesday 18th May 2021*** |
|  | 1. Welcome from Chair of meeting |
|  | 1. Apologies and attendance to be recorded as Parish Councillors Tom Overbury, Claire Jardine, Jane Parsons, Roger Lock, Archie Larthe, Michael McWilliam, Heather Eaton, District and County Councillors, Village Hall Chairman, and 1 member of the public |
|  | 1. Minutes from Parish Assembly held in April 2019 approved 2. County Councillors Report- Councillor Joe Harris –   Introduction of newly elected County Councillor   1. District Councillors Report- Councillor Julia Judd   Reports as distributed  Neighbourhood development plan for neighbouring parishes noted  Car parking in Cirencester changes from cash to card/app  Outdoor events change to planning permission requirements due to Covid   1. Village Hall Management Committee Report   Report as distributed  Some community use is now being allowed under Covid restrictions lifting  Bookings are being taken going forward  Bar nights are now going to happen inside subject to staffing rota   1. Chair of Council Verbal Report (to be attached) 2. Open Forum: Questions and Comments from members of the public   No matters were raised |
|  | Close of meeting 20.55pm |