

Brinkworth Parish Council

Annual Meeting

16th May 2023

Brinkworth Parish Council held it's 2023 Annual Meeting on 16th June 2023.

Two members of the public attended and two speakers attended.

Other reports from local organisations were delivered by the councillors.

Chairman Cllr Clothier opened the meeting.

After the last two, very strange years, it has been a relief to return to something closer to what we used to think of as normal.

Your council have continued to organise all our usual tasks, such as maintaining our green spaces, grave yard and cemetery, rotating and monitoring the Speed Indicator Devices, advising the WCC about the suitability of planning application and holding our monthly meeting.

Last year I spoke about the applications for three travellers' sites in Grittenham, Unfortunately, the two sites which were not granted permission have lodged appeals against the refusals and also submitted new applications. Therefore, we have again had to appoint professional agents to fight them. The local residents have funded 75% of the cost and we, as their local representatives have paid the remaining 25% of the fees. The first appeal has been heard but judgement has yet to be given. We are supporting the Grittenham residents in this exceptional case because the establishment of three sites in close proximity would have a major detrimental effect on the whole area.

In this year we have finally had the next stage of the pavement completed at a total cost of app£106,0000 of which we have to pay£ 20,000. We are now in the process of applying for the next stage. Owing to the massive increase in costs what should have been the final stage will now have to be split in two.

In the course of the year the Diocese have finally agreed to renting us the land for the new car park. As a village we are going to need to raise about £100k for this. We have set up a joint sub-committee with the Sports and Heritage Society and the Village Hall committee to organise the fund raising and to write to all the bodies which offer grants. We have already spent£3,405 for architects fees to design the car park. The village hall lease expires this year and we are negotiating with the Diocese for a new, combined 25yr lease at a peppercorn rent.

In celebration of our new king's coronation, we bought souvenir mugs for the children of our parish.

I would like to thanks all your councillors for giving their time and energy, so selflessly, in supporting your council.

PCSO

Juliet Evans was unable to attend the meeting but sent the figures out prior to the meeting. The Clerk will send Juliet's report to anyone who would like to request it.

BSHS Review for 2022 delivered by John Mowett

2022 saw the UK coming out of the throws of the COVID pandemic and while it still remains with us, the majority of the events staged by the society returned to a familiar format. With a dropping of social distancing leading to good meeting attendance throughout the year.

Queens Jubilee brazier

Our first key event was the lighting of a brazier for the Queens jubilee on Glebe field. The society was in attendance and provided Prosecco and soft drinks under two gazebos.

Queens Jubilee

This was followed by a marquee on the recreation field for Queens Jubilee, this event was well received by the village and well attended. This included a children's show, bouncy castle, prize draw, crown competition, mugs for the local children and a bar. I completed a write up for the Outlook.

Bonfire Night

The bonfire night celebrations saw a return to the recreation ground and although the night was a damp affair it was well attended. The fireworks and food had both gone up in terms of costs and we made a loss at this event (See annual costings spreadsheet). All involved worked hard to make it a success and it was well received by the village. There were a number of recommendations that need to be implemented at the next event as there was a minor risk of an incident with a Mercedes being in close proximity to the fire. We have some new fire marshals for igniting the fireworks, these should be nurtured to ensure we have enough for next year.

10 K Brinkworth Bash

We also supported the BEDSA 10k which was well attended and acted as time keepers and marshals. There one or two issues with our timings but on the whole a successful event. We also provided food which again was well received. They have asked for us to attend again next year. It was agreed to split all costs 50/50 (Dave C to ensure). Although there was a marshalling error identified it is unlikely to happen again. This event is in doubt for 2023 due to some support being withdraw due to personal issues.

Bar activities

We provided a number of bars through the year including the ones below. These all made profits although care needs to be taken in future pricing strategies. As we are aware all costs have gone up. Dave Cutlers opinion should be sort for all pricing, including food. An electronic card reader was trialled at the Brinkworth Show and this will be a future requirement as people move towards a cashless society. It was requested at all of the events below.

- Queens Jubilee
- Church fete
- Brinkworth Show
- Village play (Sherlock Holmes)

Carols around the tree

Carols around the tree, not as many attended as before but it was enjoyed by all who did. The food and drink were well received. £100 was donated and split equally between the Crown Singers and BEDSA.

Christmas event

We supported a children's Christmas event in the village hall and this was deemed very successful, promotion took place via social media sites including village, Beavers and Cubs, BED School, BEDSA, The Church and Little Foxes Parents registered their children in advance via email – 50 children registered. 49 attended the party; one child did not attend due to illness (their present was hand delivered!) A voluntary £2 cash per child was asked for. £60 was raised which was spent on paper cups, plates, food, drink and prizes.

Kings Coronation

The King's coronation was well received by the village and well attended. This included a children's show, bouncy castle, prize draw, crown competition, mugs for the local children and a bar.

The Footpaths Group

We are supporting "The footpaths group with space in our containers and a small grant.

Recreation Playground activities

We are upgrading the swings on the Rec, removing a smaller single and upgrading to two larger swings. *John Mowett was made aware of the annual ROSPA inspection which is organised by the BPC; this will include the new swings when they are installed.*

General

- A new Cleaner has been appointed and is completing all the work to a good standard when requested.
- We also had a number of minor fixes to complete over the year
- We seemed to inherit a number of gazebos this year, care should be taken to ensure the necessary parts are clearly marked and stored appropriately.
- We will be installing extra shelving to keep up with the extra kit we have!
- *Concern was voiced regarding the concrete blocks which the goal posts on the rec rest on.*

Policies

In order to secure a Coronation grant we had to update some of our policies, this included a "safe guarding young people policy" and a group "equal opportunities policy", this therefore meant we needed a "grievance policy", but these are all good governance, so now we have them and everyone is aware of them, less likely to have these issues in the future.

There were two key recommendations:

- Perceptions as to the culture and friendliness of the society need to change
- All costings need to be scrutinised (hopefully by Dave) and agreed before being used.

Future strategies

Become more environmentally friendly (Eco waste, ect !)

Become more inclusive (Attract more people of diverse ages)

Secure method of "Cashless payment"

Brinkworth Earl Danby School presented by Chair of Governors Jo Maitland

BRINKWORTH PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE MAY 2023

Thank you for inviting the school to provide the Parish Council with an update on the past year's activities. It is a pleasure to attend and represent the school in person.

I am pleased to offer the following update for Brinkworth Parish Council

Basic information:

- 155 on roll
- Operating 6 classes, single age groups at lower school (reception, 1 & 2) and mixed age classes at upper school of yrs. 3/4, 4/5 and 5/6
- Mrs. Alana Walch is our Headteacher, having joined on the retirement of Mrs. Laura Hilliard in September 2022.
- Since September 2022 we have welcomed one new teacher, three new teaching assistants and a new School Business Manager. We have also welcomed 4 new Governors to our board, with a new Chair and Vice Chair.
- Maintain an excellent standard of school lunches, cooked on site by our team.
- We comprise of a main board of governors referred to as FGB. This is steered by a strategic body comprising of Chair of Governors, Vice Chair and Headteacher. The FGB works, in alternate meetings, on two thematic areas that cover Governance responsibilities: Education Development & Safeguarding (curriculum content, pupil progress, safeguarding) and Finance, Premises and People (budget, people and health & safety)

It has been wonderful to experience a school year free from covid-driven restrictions. For the last 14 months children have been able to mix freely in the playground, teachers have no longer been restricted to working only with colleagues in their 'bubbles', and most exciting of all is that we have been able to begin whole-school days once again, when both sites meet and work together. In late spring 2022, we enjoyed a wonderful Jubilee picnic with our parents and carers, followed by the first Sports Day and school BBQ since 2019. Whole-school days began from September 2022, with church services and whole-school activities for Harvest, Christmas and Easter. Children and staff alike have loved these days.

The whole school team continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience in another demanding year so far. We are very grateful for their flexibility, commitment and personal sacrifice in order to keep provision for our children consistent.

We began the school year with substantial leadership change, with Mrs. Alana Walch arriving as our new Headteacher, and the Chair of Governors and Vice Chair of Governors also new in post. Our school continues to benefit enormously from the experience that Mrs Walch brings, and the fresh perspectives that come with leadership change, while maintaining and enhancing our existing school ethos and vision.

The challenge of supporting children to address gaps in their learning from covid continues, and we are using the small amounts of additional monies given by the government to work with small groups of pupils. As the Chair stated last year, whilst the impact of covid will remain for many school years we have been pleased at the rate children have bounced back and we are thankful for the tailored support given by the teachers and teaching assistants to the children.

Our Strategic Priorities for 2022/23 are **Providing outstanding provision for the CHILDREN** underpinned by an excellent school development plan, **Support to and development of the TEAM** during this change of leadership of both Headteacher and Chair of Governors, and **Strengthening COMMUNICATION**, with internal and external stakeholders and audiences. It has been useful working with Mr. Moreton from the Parish Council as School Liaison, and we want to thank you for enabling the link between Parish Council and school with the role. Our School Development Plan this year focusses on delivering excellence in safeguarding, curriculum, quality teaching and EYFS provision.

Our governor development plan supports the provision to the children through our link governor work, incorporates a strand on increasing our board insights and efficiency through restructuring, and deepening our systems on the management of risk.

We still have two co-opted governor spaces on our board. If any member of Parish Council knows of someone who may be interested, we would be very pleased to talk to them. Co-opted governors are critical to managing the balance of parent governors within our board. It's an exciting time for our school and we would welcome some new people and skills to assist us on the journey.

The Council may recall the publication of the latest education White Paper. While the deliberate delivery of the White Paper is now not being pursued, it remains the government's intention that schools (including primaries) will move towards becoming part of a Multi Academy Trust by 2030. It is the governing board's role to research and consider over the next few years what the options are for our school. We are in the scoping stages of this work, and are benefitting from sharing ideas and investigation resources with our partner schools in the local Hobbes Alliance cluster. The strategic guiding principle will continue to be delivering the best provision for our children. Up until now, it has been maintaining our relative independence and autonomy with support from the Local Authority.

Another aspect of the White Paper is the Government intention that all primary school pupils are in school for 6.5 hours per day. While we meet this requirement at Upper Site, the Lower Site pupils currently attend for 6 hours per day. The school will be adjusting this from September 2023, when all school pupils will receive 6.5 hours of daily school activity. This requires an adjustment to timings on both sites, to enable our staggered start and finish times. Parents, carers and other stakeholders have been informed, and the details are on our school website.

We continue to focus on road speed and road safety around the school, with our H&S Governor leading. The travel survey has been completed and the next steps are to work in tandem with Mr Moreton to progress this using the combined information and networks from school and Parish Council. We believe we are all in agreement that a school-times 20mph limit, and potentially a pedestrian crossing, will benefit the school and village communities alike. This remains a somewhat arduous process and we will keep Mr Moreton informed as the project unfolds.

BEDSA continues its excellent work raising money to support the school. Emily Smith, formerly a Brinkworth Earl Danby's governor, is now the Chair taking the organisation forward. We are extremely grateful for all they do.

We are very much enjoying the post-pandemic freedoms to participate in community events where possible, and the school and BEDSA have contributed to church and Heritage society-led events in the last year, and continue to do so.

Parochial Charities Presented by Wilts Cllr E Threlfall

Brinkworth Parish Charities: 2023 report for 2022

During the year we sadly lost one of our loyal Trustees, Jim Humm. I have stepped in as a Trustee as well as Treasurer.

My thanks to Owen who compiled the list of 24 recipients in the parish. He delivered 24 boxes which were augmented this year by a bottle of apple juice given by another trustee, Stephen Tuck. The cost of the boxes was £167.52

There were two donations: £100 from Coral Barton and £150 from BSHS

The total value of the funds is £5842.62 as at 31st December 2022 and the income was much improved last year to £49.38 (£10.04) – one of the upsides of higher interest rates.

If anyone would like to take on the administration of the funds, I am happy to hand over as I have to admit that I struggle to keep up with the form filling demanded.

Brinkworth Village Hall Report by Yvonne Chamberlain read by Cllr Evans

All the kitchen and reading room windows and exterior doors were replaced funded by a grant from Westmill Solar. The hall boiler broke down irretrievably. It was replaced with a Combi boiler in January 2023 funded by Awards for All. The chair storage area had become damp due to the lack of heating in that room and a radiator was installed at the same time as part of the works. The AWA grant will also pay for new blinds and curtains in the kitchen and reading room. RWE have donated £750 towards renewing the loft insulation. The lavatories have had a cosmetic upgrade. BVH organised 2 of it's own quiz nights. Now that the 3 Crowns has closed again, BVH are working with George Russell to relocate his successful pub quiz events to the village hall. Gigaclear continued to provide free high-speed Wi-Fi at the hall and have just agreed to extend this arrangement for a third year. The post office continues on a Tuesday and is proving a popular and useful facility for local residents and businesses. BVH organised a number of pop-up cafes in the afternoon which grew steadily in popularity and a comedy theatre show which drew a big audience. The cracks in the back wall of the main hall and the old playschool storage room have worsened considerably. A structural survey was commissioned which recommended that further tests be carried out to determine the cause so that remedial works can be instigated. If the cause is subsidence then the cost of the building works and survey will be paid in full by the insurer. If the tests show that the building structure/design is failing then the insurance will not cover the costs of the works or the survey. Additional land at the rear of the hall is required to facilitate the investigations and remedial works. Hall Bookings 2022-23 has seen a period of getting back to normal after COVID but unfortunately, we've lost some of our regulars which are unlikely to return and Malmesbury Dance are likely to relocate back to Malmesbury in the Summer. After a flurry of children's party bookings, things are gaining a stability but general bookings have not returned to pre-COVID levels. The majority of our bookings are now fitness, dance and yoga. The new integrated audio-visual system adds a very professional dimension to entertainment events such as the recent Race Night. It is hoped that companies may take

advantage of this feature and use the hall for training days as a new revenue stream.

Unexpected Repair Cost We have been disappointed by acts of seeming vandalism which saw 5 of the 8 thermostats being broken off the radiators in the main hall and the light by the front door being smashed.

Cllr Clothier thanked Jo Maitland and John Mowett for their very informative reports. The Annual meeting closed at 20:45

