

Brinkworth Parish Council

Annual Meeting

10th June 2022

Brinkworth Parish Council held it's 2022 Annual Meeting on 10th June 2022.

One member of the public attended and one speaker attended.

Other reports from local organisations were delivered by the councillors.

Chairman Cllr Clothier opened the meeting.

'This has been a strange year, specially the first part – in and out of lock-downs! Again, I would like to thank all those who continued to help those who needed help.

Your council have continued to organise all our normal tasks, including maintaining green spaces, the grave yard and cemetery, organising the movement of the Speed Indicator Devises and recording their results, advising WCC about the suitability of planning applications and holding our monthly meetings.

We did have a problem with planning applications for 3 Travellers Sites in close together in Grittenham. One site was quietly given permission in December 2020, but it was felt a more robust response was needed to try to stop permission being given to the other 2. We held an EGM to vote on appointing a specialist agent to oppose the applications, which was agreed. Local householders generously offered to underwrite the cost. I am pleased to say that permission has been refused on 1 but no decision has been made on the other!

Our big item in this year should have been the installation of the next phase of the village pavement which, as you probably remember started in September only to fall foul of insufficiently buied fibre optic cables. However, the cables have been re-buried and the pavement building is now in progress!

We have also supplied the additional footpath gates for which we obtained funding the previous year.

We had a tree survey carried out in the cemetery, grave yard and along the street.

In anticipation of Her Majesty's Jubilee, we have plated a native oak tree and bought Jubilee mugs for the children in our parish.

Your council is still mainly composed of the older generation and we would welcome some younger blood. Being a councillor is not really onerous but there are times when it does involve more than attending monthly meetings. It is a worthwhile job and help to look after the future of our village.

Finally, I would like to thank our councillors for all the time and effort that they have given in the past year'.

PCSO

Juliet Evans attended the meeting to meet the councillors and explain her role. Juliet is the Police Support Officer whose job it is to ensure an extra police presence throughout the whole of the North Wilts patch. The role of a police community support officer (PCSO) is

to **reduce crime, fear and antisocial behaviour in the community**. PCSO's aim to provide a visible and reassuring presence in the neighbourhood but with such a huge area that can be a very difficult task.

BSHS Review for 2021 Read out by Jan Greener

2021 was a bit kinder to the Heritage Society than 2020. We did manage to have some face-to-face meetings, suitably distanced of course, and a couple of functions. The first of these was the bonfire albeit without fireworks this year and on the Glebe Field rather than the Rec. The second event was the Carols-Round-the-Tree. That also was a bit different, unfortunately the school had to withdraw and due to the numbers attending it was held outside - in fact, round the big tree in front of the church porch. The Crown Singers were able to attend and, as they say, a good time was had by all.

The Heritage usually provides summer flowers by the Hall, bus stop and cemetery but this year we provided winter plants as well (ably planted by the gardening Club). Although our income was negligible (EIO from the sale of the last of Jan Greener's books on the village) we were still able to make donations totalling E721 to several village clubs and societies (including BEDSA, BrinkFest, the Scouts and the Lunch Club). We also funded the startup of the Footpath Group which is now independent and soon to have their own web site. Amongst other things, they are clearing footpaths and upgrading the stiles.

Last year we purchased a small container to replace the old horse box used to store the Horse Show equipment and put it on the Rec. at the end of the row of containers we bought previously. However, it turned out to be too close to the hedge and the other containers when we tried to paint it this summer and it had to be moved. What is the phrase about 'forward planning' and 'good management'?

We have started planning a day of celebration on the Rec. for the Queen's Jubilee. Richard Crapper has kindly contributed a marquee and the organising team have met and come up with lots of exciting ideas. It should be a memorable day. Hopefully the Brinkworth Bash will be back this year although under new management as BEDSA have taken on the task of organising it. The other major event will be the return on the firework display - after two years of gloom I expect to see all of you there enjoying yourselves and replenishing our coffers.

David Cutler

Brinkworth Earl Danby School Ella Morgan Read by Clerk

Please accept my apologies for not being able to attend in person. Our vice-chair of governors is also unavailable and is out of the country.

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

Basic information:

- 158 on role

- 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. Hilliard retiring Aug 2022. Mrs. Alana Walch is joining as our new Headteacher from September 2022.
- 3 new teachers, two have already joined and a third joining in September 2022
- Maintain an excellent standard of school lunches, cooked on site by our team
- New School Business Manager successfully implementing new processes and efficiencies
- 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, via a scheme of delegation, delegates to Education Development & Safeguarding Committee (curriculum content, pupil progress, safeguarding) and Finance, Premises and People Committee (budget, people and health & safety)

Introduction

It has been a blessing to have the children fully in school since September 2021. Up until early 2022 we were still significantly restricted in what we could do but at least the children were learning in school. We were operating in class bubbles until the start of spring. This proved worthwhile, as our school team have been significantly impacted by illness due to covid. We have been able to avoid 'closing classes' despite the sometimes extreme lack of staff. On top of the personal challenges for those who caught covid, is the ongoing challenge of finding supply teachers who are thin on the ground.

The whole school team have demonstrated 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 the challenge of identifying gaps in children's learning and utilising the small amounts of additional monies given by the government to work with small groups of pupils. Whilst the impact of covid will remain for many school years we have been pleased at the rate children have bounced back.

Mrs Hilliard gave us notice of her early retirement with the commitment to remain in post until August 2022. Her generosity of giving us many months more than her usual notice period gave us the opportunity to advertise her position and even re-advertise should we not find a suitable candidate in the first round.

We are very sad to be losing Mrs Hilliard after 9 years of leading the school however we are pleased she will be spending more time with her family and embarking on new adventures. She will leave a significant legacy.

Our Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of EDS spent an intensive 2 months preparing for advertising and subsequent selection of a new headteacher. It is possibly the most important decision a governing body can make for a school. We received a huge amount of support from other members of the governing body, the school team, the local authority, the diocese and our local clergy. After an intensive selection process, we were delighted that Mrs Alana Walch accepted our offer. Alana comes from St. Francis Primary School in Taw Hill, Swindon. She has over 20 years experience in Primary education, is a committed Christian and demonstrated how her skills and personality aligned very well to the demanding 'person specification' associated with our Headteacher role. She is looking forward to leading our school and being part of our community.

We are now in a period of creating handover opportunities and working on short- and medium-term planning for our school with the senior leadership team. This will create a clear framework ready for Alana to join, the school team to work within and governors to appropriately monitor and give support.

Our School Improvement Plan continues to support covid recovery, curriculum excellence, quality teaching, EYFS focus and leadership and management. The latter particularly important given the forthcoming change of headship.

Our governor improvement plan supports the curriculum excellence through our link governor work, increasing the understanding of school finances for those not part of the finance-based committee and the utilisation of data to drive improvement.

As ever our finances have been managed in a very detailed way. We are on a secure financial footing following the end of the financial year and are busy putting together our next 3-year budget. Who know what changes to centralised funding the next few years will bring. All we can do is keep maintaining or growing our pupil numbers and being careful with the money we are allocated.

Following the publication of the latest education White Paper, it is the government's intention that all schools (including primaries) will become 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. Suffice to say, the overwhelming question will continue to be; what will enable the best provision for our children. Up until now, it has been maintaining our relative independence and autonomy with support from the Local Authority.

We have been unsuccessful in finding co-opted governors to join 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.

You will be pleased to hear we are progressing with a school travel plan which will help enable to review of road speed and road safety around the school. This is a somewhat arduous process and we will keep you informed as the project unfolds.

BEDSA continues its excellent work raising money to support the school. Mark Boscott and Emily Smith are now co-chairs taking the organisation forward. We are grateful for all they do.

Whilst covid has not disappeared, the increased mobility we are permitted makes our participation in community events possible and we look forward to being a more visible part of the community going forward.

Please do collect any questions and send on email and I will be happy to answer them.

Ella Morgan

Parochial Charities

CHARITY 2021	VALUE AS AT 31.12.21	INCOME
Weekes	£2116.36	£1.10
Parochial School	£1044.23	£0.54
Matthews	£1530.72	£0.00
Brinkworth Parish Charities	£407.13	£8.40
Lloyds	£655.95*	
Total:	£5754.39	£10.04

- In 2021 donations of £100 (Outlook), £150 (BSHS) and £100 (C Barton) were received
- £132.60 was spent on Christmas boxes for members of the parish

Brinkworth Village Hall representatives were unable to attend

Health and Wellbeing Champion was unable to attend.

