

Brinkworth Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting Report for 2018-2019

The Parish of Brinkworth held its Annual Meeting in the Village Hall on Monday 8th April 2019. Community Groups were invited to attend and deliver short reports to parishioners regarding their activities over the past year.

Brinkworth Parish Council - Chairman's Report and Introduction

The Chairman introduced the annual report, as well as introducing the new parish council clerk; Dawn Hazell.

Village Hall Committee

Representatives from the village hall committee were invited, but were not able to attend, and no report was submitted.

Parish Clerks Financial Report

The Parish Council's cash book balance as at 31st March this year (which still includes the reserve for the Car Park, estimated at £40,000) was £65,905.

Income for the year from 1st April include receipts for the cemetery, precept, memorials, grant payment, CIL and Vat repayment all of which total £32, 424.45

NB – The CIL 3rd tranche payment will be included in the 2019/2020 figures

Bills paid have included village grounds and cemetery grass cutting and maintenance, internal and external audits, the Clerk's salary, rent of the recreation field, maintenance for the cemetery, bus shelter cleaning, playground inspection and maintenance, water and electricity bills for the cemetery and recreation field, insurance, donations, subscriptions, and the website annual cost.

Due to increasing costs, it was decided to raise the precept for the 2019/2020 year resulting in an annual rise of 3%, or £1.18 for a band 'D' property.

Wiltshire Police

Representatives from Wiltshire Police were invited, but did not attend. Wiltshire Police were not able to provide a report but directed those interested to review information available on Wiltshire Police's website which is located at <http://www.wiltshire.police.uk/article/832/Your-Area>.

Report by Brinkworth Sports & Heritage Society Chairman (for year ending 31st Dec 18)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (For the year ending 31st December 2018)

During 2018 we celebrated 20 years of the Brinkworth Sports and Heritage Society by inviting representatives from those companies and organisations which have made donations to or helped the society meet its aims in the village and local surroundings. This was held in the village hall where pictures of the various events and projects undertaken by the society were displayed. Light refreshments were served and during the society's 20 years a total of £130,000 has been raised and used to support events, local organisations and projects to improve village life.

Several bars were provided for village events during the year including those for Rural Arts, Quizzes and Private Parties in the village hall. Members also helped with setting up and clearing away after the Church Fete and Brinkworth Show and ran the bars for both these events.

The society's own events started with the Brinkworth 10k Bash on 30th September and included a 2k run for children. Both races recorded an increased number of entries in both and this is now an established event, well supported by local running clubs. The annual Bonfire and Fireworks produced a record number people attending and again there were favourable comments from many attending. In November we were asked to provide some refreshments for celebrations to commemorate the end of WWII, which including lighting a beacon on the Glebe Field, beside the village hall. The society's Carols around the Christmas Tree held in December filled Brinkworth St Michael and All Angels church. It was helped by children from Brinkworth Earl Danby School entertaining the audience with a few carols singing on their own and likewise The Crown Singers also contributed to the evening with a different selection of carols.

The society helped to improve the bridleway from York Lane to Longmans Street where it had become impassable through the Withy Beds during wet weather in the winter. Teams of volunteers assisted by tractors, courtesy of two local farmers, enabled scalping's, to be laid through the Withy Beds and on a muddy stretch between York Lane and Stoppers Hill enabling both walkers and horse riders to use the whole of Slough Lane from York Lane to Longman Street all year round. This was funded jointly by the Society and Brinkworth Parish Council.

Some new play equipment is being sought for the Recreation Field to replace some of the old equipment and to provide new equipment for older children such as a Zip Wire and Climbing Frame. Funding has been promised from the Parish and Wiltshire Councils and an application to Asda has been submitted. If granted and with £5,000 from our own funds it is hoped to start and finish this project during the summer of 2019.

Financially the Society continues to make small profits from fund raising events and has finished the year with approximately £16,000. Donations for the year were £250 for the Dautsey Vale Link Scheme, £150 for Brinkworth Church Charities, £50 to Brinkworth Earl Danby School and £50 to the Crown Singers.

The society has continued to maintain the recreation field facilities and flower tubs outside the Village Hall and at the front of the cemetery. The Book exchanges, at Callow Hill and between the Village Hall and Three Crowns public house are open 24/7 and continue to provide a regular source of reading material for everyone with books being changed regularly, and the boxes kept tidy by our volunteer members.

I would like to thank the Parish Council, BEDSA, members of the Society and all those volunteers who helped to make the events organised by the Brinkworth Sports & Heritage Society a success. I would also like to thank all those who undertook various additional tasks around the village to enhance our environment. In particular I would like to thank David Craddock for planting out Tubs and maintaining them well into November, Howard Thomas for organising and running 10k Bash, Roger Smith and Tom Russell for providing tractor power to move scalping's in repairing the bridleways and Frank Walden for organising Carols around the Christmas tree. A special thank you to all the ladies in our society who prepare, cook, and serve food and refreshments at many of the events, often providing the ingredients free of charge. I hope everyone will continue to support our activities in the future and I personally wish the society well for the future since this is my last annual report as Chairman.

Brinkworth Parish Council would like to formally record a sincere thanks to Graham N Greener for all of the work undertaken to support Brinkworth Sports and Heritage Center during their time as Chairman.

Report by Health & Wellbeing Champion – Ellen Blacker

Transport

Huge thanks to all of the Link Schemes. They are a lifeline for many in the rural areas providing transport and companionship on journeys to medical appointments etc. The volunteer work carried out by the drivers and organisers is simply amazing and valued by all.

Finance.

As ever, this is an important part of life and money can be a particular worry for those who are older or vulnerable. Scams continue and we shall never stop them but keeping alert and aware of the latest ones is essential. Saving the pennies where possible, I am pleased to report that Wiltshire Council still offers help to switch fuel supplier. The Warm and Safe team can be contacted on 0300 003 4575. If you are in receipt of Pension Credit, it's worth checking with Wessex Water as you may well be entitled to 20% reduction on your water bills. For some, the phone is something rarely used but essential to ensure contact can be made in emergencies. I recently discovered that BT offer a very reasonable tariff and have had several clients switching to this service, one saved a massive £28 per month on her phone bill.

This year the Surviving Winter grant scheme was open again and I successfully supported 28 grant applications (at £300 per award) across the area.

Dementia.

Our Community Area is committed to being Dementia Friendly and with this in mind there is a whole day event planned in Malmesbury Abbey on Friday 17th May. There will be talks and demonstrations of Music for the Mind and Movement for the Mind as well as a whole raft of other activities and experts on hand to answer questions and concerns about forgetfulness. As an added bonus, Pets As Therapy dogs will be with us all day!

Loneliness

This continues to be a problem for many people who are living alone but I am pleased to say that our area has many options for those who would like to/are able to get out and join activities. Sadly, the Age UK befriending service is no longer available. Over the next few months I plan to give publicity to "Know your Neighbour" scheme to encourage neighbours to look out for each other.

NEW WEBSITE???

Many of you know how I fight hard against websites being the only method of giving out information so may be surprised that I am planning to set one up! I have a huge amount of information about clubs and activities going on and most of it has been gleaned from parish magazines and local knowledge. Magazines are fantastic for giving out information like this but it may be that a meeting in a neighbouring village is just the thing you may be looking for, but you don't know it happens as you don't get that magazine. The website will be there to be accessed across the invisible parish borders. As well as this, we plan to have a printed timetable of regular clubs and activities which will be shared with parishes, probably through the Parish Councils, so that those who aren't on the internet can see what's available. This will also be available in other locations such as the surgeries, libraries, etc. It is work in progress but your thoughts on the project would be much appreciated.

As ever, my contact details are: phone: 07557 922020, email: ellen.blacker@wiltshire.gov.uk

Report by Parochial Charities

24 Christmas boxes were distributed by Owen Gibbs this year at a cost of £156.72. The charities produced income of £26.23 over the year.

The Brinkworth Sports and Heritage Society has kindly agreed to donate £150 to cover the costs of the boxes. Total value was £2500.94 as at the 31st December 2018.

Report by Wiltshire Councillor Toby Sturgis

Planning Policy

With the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published last year and the subsequent revised Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) published in February this year there are major changes to the way housing need is assessed in the development of planning policies. As a result of these changes, Cabinet agreed a revised Local Development Scheme on 26th March, which includes the timetable for the Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocation Plan and the Review of the Core Strategy now called the Local Plan, in accordance with the government's guidance. The examination of the Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocation is currently underway with sittings until 17th April. The review of the Local Plan (2016 – 2036) for which consultation started in 2017 was put on hold to consider the government's new standard method of assessing housing need set out in the new National Planning Policy Framework and subsequent revision of the Planning Policy Guidance, alongside the consultations already carried out. Cabinet will be considering the effect these changes have on 30th April. These changes require the Local Planning Authority to treat the standard method of assessing housing need as a minimum. The standard method output and methodology will provide new figures before the plan is submitted for examination, (base line data will be regularly updated by the government) therefore it is necessary to have a range of figures to accommodate likely changes. On the most recent evidence a local housing need assessment of 45,500 would require sites for 18,000 more dwellings over the period 2016 – 2036. (There are already allocated sites and permissions for 27,500 dwellings for delivery in this period) Following the Cabinet meeting on the 30th April the Sustainability Appraisal will be completed for emerging strategies and then informal consultation, discussions with service and infrastructure providers along with strategic transport assessment to test inter urban relationships. The changes also require the Local Planning Authority to allocate housing numbers to Neighbourhood Plans and now to assess viability of allocated sites before submission to examination. At present, there is little, if any, guidance how these changes should be carried out. Considering the continued updating of national policies Wiltshire Council is one of the leading authorities for made Neighbourhood Plans and has a large number with areas designated to deliver plans in the future. The Local Development Scheme sets out a list of made plans and designated areas.

Development Management

Wiltshire Council, the third largest Local Planning Authority, deals with over 12,000 applications and 1200 enforcement complaints. Last year's Scrutiny Report found Wiltshire Council consistently performed better than the national average in the service performance indicators. As the Cabinet Member responsible for considering their recommendations, I am working with other Cabinet Members to review parts of the constitution, procurement of new IT system, use of Artificial Intelligence to improve the administrative procedures, and with Scrutiny on improvements to all consultations. It has been a very testing few years since the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework with its Planning Policy Guidance and all the subsequent changes, legal challenges and decisions from the Planning Inspectorate. This not only means regular changes to policy but also interpretation of policies following appeal decisions, often happening during the decision-making process.

Property

Wiltshire Council continues to rationalise the Property portfolio with sales of surplus properties providing funding for improvements to meet our future needs. Transfers of service led assets to Town and Parish Councils allows local services to be provided locally to match local demand. The Council continues to seek better returns from our retained properties whilst ensuring they are fit for purpose to meet our future needs.

Brinkworth Earl Danby's School

Representatives from Brink worth Earl Danby's School were invited, but were not able to attend due to prior commitments, and no report was submitted.