

**BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**Held at the Gallery on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr J Allinson (in the chair), Cllr R Wilkins, Cllr D Turner, Cllr G Pursey, Cllr P Smith  
Cllr J Downing, Cllr M Dowding, D Cllr M Booty, D Cllr M Barrett

Apologies: Mrs S Radband and C Cllr D Seale.

Public: Mrs S Phillips, Mr Graham Haslam, Mrs Joan Haslam, Mr David Hawkins, Mr David Pullman,  
Mr Mike Jones, Mrs Christine Jones, Ms Lynn Pointer, Mr & Mrs Dennis & Zara Lawlor, Mr Paul Ramsay,  
Head teacher?, Mr & Mrs? Anthony Hall, Mr Ben Slater, somebody by Susan?- I think this was Christine, ? & ?

**Flood Working Group**

It is now 6 yrs after the worst floods to hit Bampton, the many improvements to flood defences proved their worth during the very high rainfall during Autumn 2012 and the start to 2013. The holding area in Weald just up the road from Rouse's farm , was full on a number of occasions and slowed the surface flood water reaching the many dwellings in Weald. The emergency culvert built in 2008 to link Weald to the Shillbrook was particularly effective on 5 occasions and prevented the back up of flood water along the footpaths and houses nearby. The swale across Mill Green was in action for the first time and helped to prevent flooding of the various cottages around the Green. Improvements along New Rd and in Buckland Rd also proved successful.

Main concerns at the moment are:-

House flood insurance- The insurance industry has an arrangement with the Government to provide flood insurance only until the end of June 13 and after that, only if it feels that enough money has been spent on flood defences. At the moment no firm decision has been made but there is hope that a levy of about £10 per household will be introduced across the UK to produce sufficient funds for flood claims.

New Housing above Brize Norton village - WODC have still to decide whether to build some 800 houses to the West or East of Carterton in the near future. We have serious concerns about the inability to construct suitable attenuation areas to the north of Brize village and the increased flooding risk this could cause to both Brize and Bampton.

Environment Agency's Maintenance Schedule - We are concerned that the EA will be forced to reduce their annual maintenance of our streams and rivers because of reduced funding. Already, only the minimum desilting is achieved by the EA.

Minutes of the Flood Prevention WG meetings are on display on the Bampton Parish Council notice board under the Heading "FLOOD VICTIMS "

David Hawkins 24th April 2013

**Thames Valley Police report** – there was no representative or report from the Police.

**Chairperson's report**

XXXXXXXX – from Mrs A

Discussions were held about alternative funding for the library e.g. via the Parish Council rate; the annual fair which caused access and egress issues for residents of Lavender Square, car parking issues at the Remembrance Day service at the war memorial and the financial state of the Council.

**County Councillor's report** – see appendix 1

A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Seale for all his work in Bampton.

**District councillors' reports**

*D Cllr Martin Barrett - The LOCAL PLAN* (previously called the Local Development Framework). This plan covers all the strategic centres in West Oxfordshire and its most significant impact upon this ward is flooding. You will all be aware of the objections and campaigns which led to the 2011 plan being sunk under the weight of objections to development to the west of Carterton. The revised plan was in its turn wrecked by the Inspectorate rejecting the Cogges Link Road plan and the MOD changing the number of houses they need. A second consultation period has taken place and officers will have their revision ready to go before cabinet in June. The plan will then go before full council in July. At that point we have to make a decision. Obviously my hope is that we can have confidence that all flood alleviation measures are feasible, robust and realistic and similarly the supporting infrastructure.

Since we don't yet know what the officers will be proposing we can't go into debate but what I do know is that if we reject the plan then developers are likely to submit plans to the Inspectorate arguing that we have not got our act together and have failed to produce a plan. If so we will have completely lost control so we have to avoid that situation: In short we must accept the officer's recommendation or hand control over to the Inspectors. As we have to find some 5000 houses in the period covered by the plan to 2028-9, we can only hope the next plan is sensible, for that is the plan we have to accept.

**Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** - You will probably be aware that the NHS is undergoing its most complex reorganisation in the last 60 years. As a scrutiny function this Committee looks at:

- Any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area of its local authorities to ensure health services are effective, reflect the aspirations of local communities and provide equal access to services and have equal opportunity for the best possible outcomes. and that any underperforming service may be held to account
- We look at all health issues, systems or economics, not just clinical issues.

South Central Ambulance Service - we looked at their figures over the last quarter of 2012 for their response times for life threatening incidents which require an 8 minute drive time response. The target is that they should be in attendance within 8 minutes on at least 75% of occasions. We were dismayed at the numbers which came out. For example:

OXFORD CITY	90%
WODC	54% (Overall WO band is <42%, 70%>)
VALE	67%
SOUTH	59%
CHERWELL	82%

These figures are clearly NOT acceptable! Whilst Oxford City is a much smaller area with high numbers of call-outs and shorter mileages travelled, it is interesting to consider what would happen if some ambulances were relocated. To this end we have raised questions about the Service regarding what they consider would be the net effect of relocating a number of ambulances from Oxford to optimised rural stand-by points. I look forward to their response and a better service for West Oxfordshire.

*D Cllr M Booty* reported that the WODC portion of Council Tax had been frozen remaining the second lowest in the Country. However, free parking and grant support levels had been maintained and importantly the budget has been balanced meaning no reserves will be used.

He went on to say that the new Policing structure is now embedded with the Police Commissioner in place and West Oxfordshire and Cherwell Police authorities having merged under the old west Oxfordshire area

commander, Colin Payne. Cllr Booty sits on the Police Commissioner's panel so if members of the public have any questions for the Commissioner (not the Police Constable) they can be forwarded through him.

A discussion was held on the projected road improvements including the Station Lane and Downs Road improvements scheduled for 2014, the Shaws Green development of 2017 and the A40 improvements that will be needed when the Oxford Northern ring road is upgraded.

#### **Bampton Library**

A local verbal survey was undertaken during the Jubilee celebrations to find out what people wanted from their library. Some of this has already been implemented through activities and talks for children and adults. Further activities are planned. Also an outreach book service has been set up but the message from the library and BLEST is still 'Use it or Lose it' as funding for the professional librarians from Oxfordshire County Council is dependent on turnover.

**Bampton Exhibition Foundation** – see Appendix 2

**Bampton Welfare Trust** – see Appendix 3

#### **Bampton Primary School**

The summer term 2012 was a period of transition when the school prepared for a new substantive headteacher to come into post. As that new headteacher I liaised with Martin Lester, acting headteacher at the time, the governors and staff in order to make this time of transition as smooth and productive as possible.

It was with great excitement that I arrived ready to take up my post officially in September. I was very warmly received by the school community and immediately set about getting to know our children and their families. The autumn terms were spent busily reviewing our practice, updating policies and procedures and setting ourselves new targets through our School Improvement Plan. An analysis of the end of year data for 2011-12 highlighted some successes, since both our Foundation Stage outcomes and the results of our Year One phonic screening tests were well above the national average, but also the need for some improvements to be made and these became priorities for the leadership and management of the school. The strength of teamwork became evident early on and both staff and governors are keen to work on making changes and improvements.

During the spring term we received a short notice Ofsted inspection. Some of the strengths of the school, including the good start children receive in the reception class and how quickly children learn to read across the school were acknowledged. The report states that there is good provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. The children's safety and behaviour was judged to be good and we are grateful to the large amount of work that the previous acting headteachers put in to improving security on site. The overall judgement was that the school requires improvement; however the report states that, *"Leaders have a clear understanding about what needs to be done to make the school good in the future."* I believe the report was fair. There are still some changes to make and we need time to see and measure the impact of changes already made but we are headed in the right direction with many positive things on which to build.

The governors are very supportive of us developing further the links with the church community. As a Church of England School we are delighted to receive support from Rev. David Lloyd who visits the school fortnightly to lead collective worship and liaises with school to arrange other special services at church throughout the year. I believe it is important that our Christian ethos is tangible and that as a church school we demonstrate Christian distinctiveness. We have a subcommittee, made up of Foundation Governors, Rev. Lloyd and myself, who meet regularly to evaluate and improve this dimension of our school. This group are currently looking at the new Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) framework and

the whole process of self-evaluation and improvement in the areas covered by this process. Collective Worship and the teaching of RE are priority areas for further development.

The school is an important part of the community and we are pleased to be able to take part in community events such as the service of Remembrance and other services held at the churches. Several groups of children have also made visits to Rosebank care home to lead special services for the residents. The school has received much support, both financial and practical, from the community in Bampton for which we are very grateful.

The school council have an active role to play in school life since they are the voice of the pupils. The school council were proud to work to secure the play pod, a large container for storage of play equipment, and so far this academic year have organised two successful charity fundraising days for Children in Need and Comic Relief. They are currently gathering pupils' views on choices of markings for the new playground and designs for chalkboards that Mr Pearce, our caretaker, is going to make for us. They are also gathering views on homework and will be helping us to ensure homework is rewarding and effective in supporting children's learning.

This year has seen two key developments which involve both the school and those in the local community. The first is the school's application to take over management of the pre-school. This has now finished a six week consultation and will go before the cabinet member on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 for a final decision. After a seven day call-in period we will know whether we can proceed with this merger with a view to changes being in place for opening in September 2013. Secondly is the plan to build a new classroom in order to ensure all year groups can be taught separately across the school. Our numbers are growing and we have a larger than normal intake for the reception class in September 2013. If we wish to maintain single year group classes in Key Stage One then we will need another classroom to prevent our Key Stage Two classes becoming too large. However because we are not full to capacity we will need to fund this classroom ourselves. The school has saved £50,000 from their capital funding but a new fundraising group, ABC (Appeal for a New Bampton Classroom) has been set up to work alongside FOBS (Friends of Bampton School) to raise the remaining £50,000. We have already sent out letters giving people the option to "Buy-a -Brick" and will be officially launching our fundraising work on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April with an event after school from 3.15pm when the Falcon Parachute Team will be, literally, dropping in to offer their support! We are really grateful for the support and contributions we have already received from various members of the community for this appeal.

Carol Phillips  
Headteacher of Bampton CE Primary School

### **Bampton Community Shop**

I am delighted to report the further progress of the Bampton community shop to the year ended 31.3.13. Sales t/o increased from £ 25,074 to £ 27,850 , an increase of 11% , which is a great achievement bearing in mind the difficult financial position and the dreadful weather during last summer, autumn & winter. As a consequence, the profit also increased to £15,500 – up from £12,000. This means the BCS has given grants of £ 89,000 over the past 8 years to the various causes in Bampton.

It is also pleasing to note that more ladies are volunteering - 4 more recently, which all augurs well. In addition, we intend to make the shop more welcoming with improvements to the decoration, internal lighting and we will look at a modest extension of the opening hours.

So for the forthcoming year, we will set a sales turnover target of £29,000 - £29,500. Running costs will be reduced in the coming year by over £1,000, which should enable profits to increase to £ 17,000.

We received a great plug at the beginning of the year, when Radio Oxford featured us in the “ Phil Gayle & friends breakfast show on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Jo Thoenes, their roving reporter presented four interviews at half hourly intervals and the story of the shop – its formation and operation, the distribution of funds and four interviews with organisations, that have benefitted were made. Jo concluded the piece by commenting on what a lovely story this was and how it embodied the feeling of the residents of Bampton coming together for the greater benefit of the community, especially, the young and senior citizens.

In conclusion, I would like to pay tribute to the Bampton parish council for their continued support, Patrick Constable the shop manager, Annie Grinsell treasurer, and our band of 24 unpaid volunteers for enabling the shop to generate an increased sum of money for distribution to this year.

**Bampton Recreation Ground Trust**

Mrs Allinson to enter her text here

Awaiting input from Graham Haslam here

A discussion was held about the issues associated with dog faeces on the playing areas and how this could be eliminated.