

NEWSLINK

Brympton Parish Council Chairman's Notes

The BPC February meeting was held at Abbey Community Hall on Wednesday 22nd, and covered a wide range of issues.

We co-opted and welcomed Mrs Sandra Brookes as a new Parish Councillor. Sandra is experienced in supporting Community work, and has some background experience in financial administration, skill sets we hope will make BPC a more effective Parish Council.

The Parish has donated a new Defibrillator to the chairman of Abbey Community Association to be installed in the hall. St John's has kindly offered training in the safe operation of this equipment.

After wide ranging discussions, our NEWSLINK dilemma failed to find a resolution, apart from agreement not to go back to print! Communications working party will go back to work, to try and seek a way forward!
In the meantime, I thank the Vice Chair Cllr Bob Brookes for his commitment to "carry on regardless" and produce the next NEWSLINK.

District councillors assured BPC, the application for houses to be built on the land around YTFC, is a case of developers trying to short circuit the planning process! It is an item BPC will keep abreast of!

A grant was made to St John's ambulance to support the purchase of new equipment!

We held over discussions of how we see the Parish council's future development under the incoming Unitary Council arrangements. We will also seek more information on how proposed Local Community Networks will operate!
Parishioners' ideas of the services that BPC could or should deliver are welcomed, please forward your suggestions to the clerk!

Grit bins and waste bins were also discussed.

Cllr Roger Simonite is BPC lead Councillor for waste/dog bins, and he has produced an article in this edition of NEWSLINK.

Brympton Parish Council as of March 2023

**Chair : Graham
Pritchard**

**Vice Chair : Bob
Brookes**

Stephen Attrill

Sandra Brookes

Daniel Crooke

John Hanson

Paul Herbert

Tony Power

Peter Seib

Lynda Simonite

Roger Simonite

Jeny Snell

**The Clerk to the
Council: Marie Attrill**

Lufton Community Hall



A (Good) News Update

Our Booking Secretary Sarah King has dealt with a number of firm enquiries, leading to the first hire of the facility, a long time coming!

A follow on from that hire is, we now have a regular booking for 4 hours on a Sunday morning, and more bookings coming in! There are a number of small jobs to be completed, as well as regular maintenance, so to that end we have contracted a local business to complete regular cleaning of the hall.

We still need residents of Alvington, Augusta Park, Houndstone or Lufton to take up the vacant committee jobs, of Treasurer, Secretary, and Facility Manager. If you are interested in helping with this important local project, then please call or email the Clerk on 07563 819163



Brympton Parish Council

Sub-Committees & Working Groups

In order to expedite its work and reduce the need for detailed discussion at its main monthly meetings, the BPC has appointed several sub-committees and working groups to do the “leg work”. Some of these sub-committee and working group meetings are open to the public, details can be found on the BPC notice boards and in the website. These sub-committees & working groups currently comprise:

Staffing Committee

Budget Working Party

Communications Working Party

Environment Working Party

Open Spaces & Play Areas Working Party

Litter Picking Working Party

Lufton Community Hall sub-committee

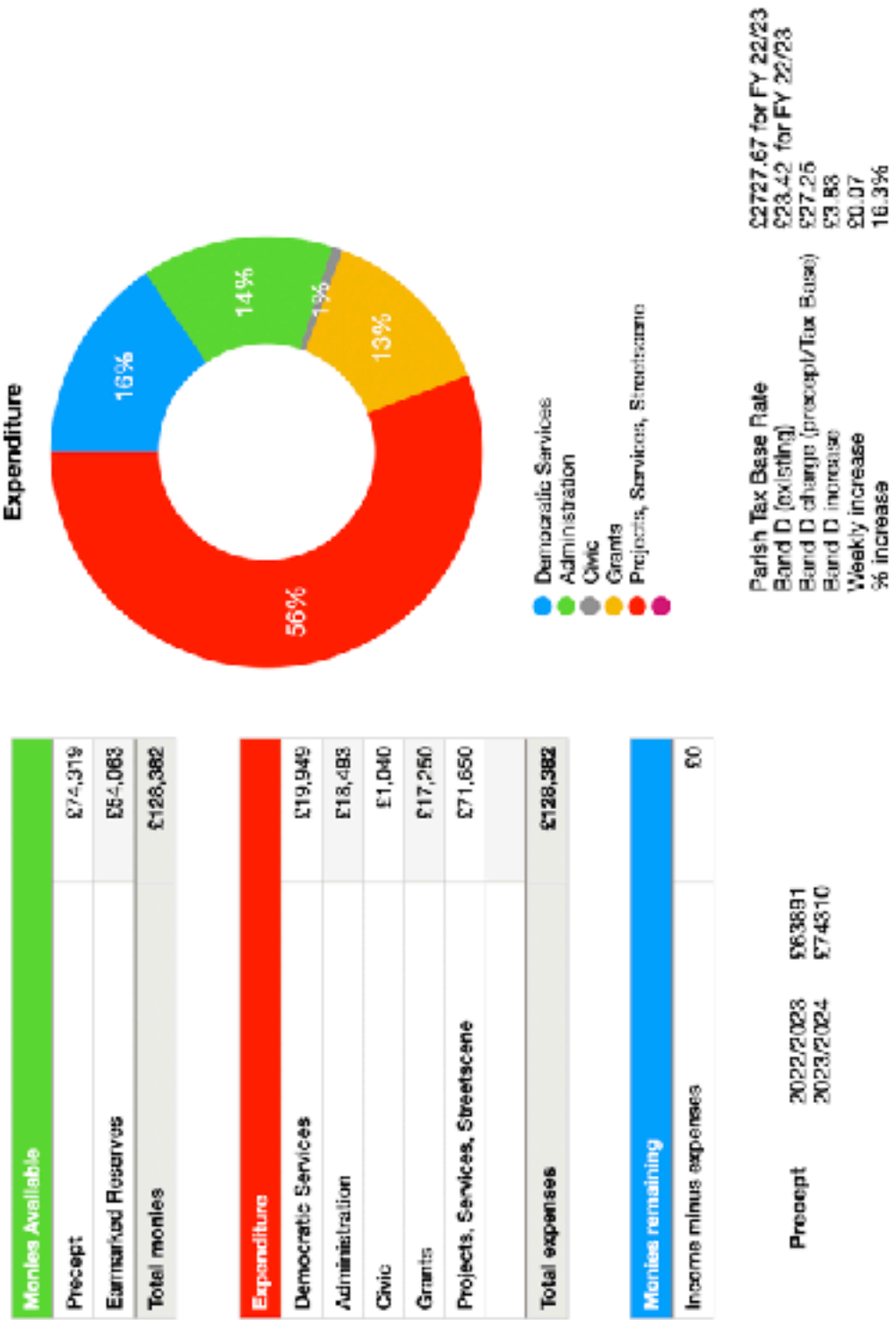
Governance, Policies & Procedures Working Party

Planning Applications Review Working Party

Allotments Working Party

Breakdown of BPC Budget 2023-2024

Breakdown of BPC Budget 2023-2024



Breakdown of BPC Budget 2023-2024

continued

A deeper understanding of the expenditure by the Brympton Parish Council can be found on the main council website, however, the following summary provides a simple synopsis of the budget shown graphically on the previous page.

Democratic Services (Blue segment in the diagram).

This comprises some 16% of the council expenditure and covers the associated cost of direct staff employment.

Administration Costs (Green segment in the diagram).

Comprises 14% of the council expenditure. This covers the costs of the council's "tools of the trade" which is essentially office support, insurance, audit and training fees, meeting room/hall hire, website etc. It should be noted that a significant saving has been made on office costs this year as the clerk is now working from her home based office.

Civic Costs (Dark blue segment in the diagram).

1% of expenditure is allocated for councillors allowances, expenses and Chairman's fund. Full details are provided in the budget statement which can be found on the council website. Allocations made to various Brympton activities from the Chairman's fund, details of which can be found in the minutes of the council meetings also published on the website.

Grants (Yellow segment in the diagram).

Currently 13% is set aside to fund "known/established" projects such as the new Lufton Community Hall and support of the Thorne Jubilee Hall plus "unknown" applications for funding from other organisations which are received during the year. Applications are reviewed and granted as agreed by the council at its meetings, again full details of each application and award, where given, are detailed in the council minutes on the website.

Project Services (Red segment in the diagram).

Totalling some £72,000 or 56% of the Brympton Parish Council expenditure, the major cost drivers in this section are, the Parish Ranger, public safety and highways improvements, maintenance and safety of play areas and improvements to open spaces. The approved budget statement, on the Brympton Parish website, provides more detail.

To provide some more context to this,

- The South Somerset District Council now the Somerset County, own and maintain/fund the vast majority of the "public assets" within the parish. However, the Brympton Parish Council supports this activity where it considers this to be necessary or beneficial to the safety and wellbeing of its parishioners. (footbridge/footpath repairs being an example). This support is also mindful that the local taxpayers should not be funding the work twice through the local taxation procedures)
- The Parish Ranger is an employee of the SSDC/SC and the BPC pay for his services when working specifically on activities requested/directed by the BPC.
- Study of the minutes of the BPC meetings (available on the website) show the wide ranging activities covered in this section from waste bin provision, organised litter picking up to the management of the play area in Higher Ream (the only play area in the parish for which the BPC has management responsibility).

BPC News Snips

The Parish Council Welcomes a new Member

An ongoing casual vacancy has now been filled.

Two applicants applied, and at its meeting on the 22nd February the Council elected Mrs Sandra Brookes to fill the vacancy.



Sandra brings to the Council skills she acquired during a varied career in the Civil Service, Industry and for several years as an infants teacher. Since moving to Brympton 17 years ago Sandra has supported the local community by serving as a trustee and treasurer of the Abbey Community Association for several years and is currently treasurer and an organising committee member of the Brympton Golden Oldies.

The BPC welcomes Sandra aboard.

Skate Park Opens

Visitors to Oak Tree Park will not fail to notice the the new skate park which was constructed in January and February and opened in February ahead of schedule.

The new facility is constructed in spray concrete and will provides features to satisfy a wide range of riders of all ages and abilities.

The previous facility required extensive care and maintenance to satisfy the required safety standards, mainly as a result of the deteriorating metal structure.

This update was commissioned and funded by the SSDC with a contribution from the BPC. The design and construction was undertaken by established skate park designers Maverick Skate Parks.



The photographs were taken on a cold miserable day shortly after the construction team cleared the site. It is with hopeful expectation that we can revisit the site in the warmer sunnier days of summer when the park is full of happy skaters and the surrounding vegetation and grass is re established.

Many thanks to Maverick Skate Parks for a job well done.

Brympton Golden Oldies

Following the excitement of the Christmas party and the festive season, the Monday coffee mornings have returned to “normal”. Despite the inclement weather and occasional intervention of COVID cases, the attendance during January and February remained fairly consistent at around 60 people. The now established regular timetable of meeting on alternate Mondays is appreciated by the attendees.

Brympton Parish Council Grants

At its meeting on the 22nd February, the BPC adopted a new grant awarding policy which, apart from updating its layout/numbering system, make the significant change to review grant applications every four months starting in April. This change was made in order that the available grant funding was not all swallowed up on a first come, first served basis, as well as allowing the applicants more time to prepare their case. Additionally, this change brings Brympton into line with the practice in other local councils.

This revision can be seen on the website under the GRANTS heading.

Local Community Networks

On 1 April 2023 a new unitary Somerset Council replaced the Somerset County Council and its four district councils.

Because the new Somerset Council covers a large geographical area, its leaders were mindful that an arena for communities where local voices are heard was needed i.e, a place where partners are brought together, and decisions are taken with the full benefit of local knowledge and experience. This will be achieved through the creation, development and support of Local Community Networks (LCNs).

LCNs will be established in every part of Somerset. They will be Committees of the unitary Council, supported by dedicated officers and managers, with formal decision-making powers and influence. They will enable the Council, partners and communities to work together to address local issues and priorities, support health and wellbeing activities, and improve outcomes for residents. LCNs must be affordable and have the potential to develop their role alongside the new Somerset Council now and in the future.

As a consequence of the above policy, the BPC will be exploring and developing ways to play an active role in LCN's which are set up to benefit the lives and wellbeing of its residents.

Where Have All Our Bins Gone - a contribution by Cllr Roger Simonite.

Throughout the urban areas of Brympton there has been a good spread of Refuse & Dog Waste Bins but over the past two years there has been a progressive reduction in the number of bins. Currently 8 Refuse and 3 Dog Waste Bins have “been removed.”

The reason for the disappearance of these (previously SSDC) assets is unclear, informal discussions with the then SSDC representatives have been inconclusive as to whether they were deliberately removed. The BPC is endeavouring to get a commitment from the new unitary council regarding the reinstatement of these bins.

Apart from reinstating the missing bins, requests have been made to optimise their locations to improve coverage.

It is apparent that areas where fewer bins are present, litter is more prevalent. The only current action being taken to reduce the level of litter in these areas is the monthly organised litter pick.

An example of the increased levels of litter can be seen below. During the Litter Pick on Sunday 19th February, I walked a route from Sutton Grange down the Spinal Path to Asda, Preston Road, Western Avenue, Stourton Way along to Cornick Motors and then back to Sutton Grange. In the past I would have walked past 3 Refuse Bins, all of which have been removed. The litter collected was bulky to say the least.



A proposal has been made to BPC to trial an alternative style of Refuse Bin which will be dual use (Litter & Dog Waste). This will be a larger bin to increase the periodicity for emptying. The timescale to implement this proposal has yet to be confirmed.

Any comments you have would be welcome especially in regard of whether there is support for the proposed action to reinstate the missing bins or if there any other suggestions to deal with the litter across the Parish.

News from St. James' Church

Rev. David Keen

Bellringing at St James - Recruits Urgently required

Members of the St James community will be aware that there is a ring of 6 Bells in the Church Tower that are rang for Sunday Services, Special church events such as weddings and secular events which effect the community such as the Queens Platinum Jubilee last year, and, sadly her Death and hopefully for the Coronation of our new King Charles III.

Bell Ringing is a group activity much as a local orchestra or football team and needs a group of committed people to be performed. It is a skill that takes some weeks or even months to learn to control the bell rope and keep the spacing of the bells even and accurate before going on to learn our ringing "methods" (the equivalent of tunes).



We are in need of new people to join us to help in the performance of our ancient (it has been performed for over 400 years in our current "English" style) craft. Recruits will benefit from one to one teaching, Joining a small but active community of friendly Christian people, it is an active but not strenuous pastime (If you can climb the stairs and are aged between 10 and 70 there is a place for you) As you progress the ability to join in with other active Bell Ringers in the area and ring ever more challenging "Methods" will test your mental as well as physical skills.

Continued

News from St. James' Church continued

We also hold social events such as our Annual Skittles competition between all the local towers, Outings to visit other areas and ring at new towers which usually end in an evening meal at a Pub on the way home.

If you are interested in joining us please come along to our Tower Open Day and have a go! We will also be demonstrating our art with 6 experienced ringers giving demonstrations of some of our more complex methods so you can experience at first hand some of our challenges.

Our Tower open day will be on 29th April from 10-00 am until 1-00 pm with the bells silenced for you to have a go and open for us to demonstrate our skills!



Please let us know if you would like to join in with us

Lawrence Bignell – Tower Captain 07860 830761 or lawrence@lbts.co.uk
Dave Hammonds Branch Education Officer 07967 424715 or

More News & Events at St. James' Church

Easter, and hopefully warmer weather, is just around the corner. Here's what's happening at St James' Preston Rd., in the next few weeks:

Easter Services



Palm Sunday, 2nd April

10.30am service with children's groups

Good Friday 7th April

10.00-12.00 Good Friday Family Fun, a morning of Easter themed activities for children and families, with refreshments, games, crafts, egg decorating, Easter egg hunt, and lots to do!

2-3pm An Hour at the Cross, Easter Meditation.



Saturday 8th April

8pm Service of Light

Easter Sunday 9th April

10.30am Easter Celebration with communion.

Spring Events

Spring Fair Saturday 22nd April 10am -12 noon, with lots of stalls, prize draws, & refreshments.

St James Bellingers Open Morning Saturday 29th April 10am – 12 noon. A chance to look round St James bell tower, and have a go at bellringing yourself.

Coronation Celebration Sunday 6th May 10.30am. Part of the weekend of celebrations for the coronation of HM King Charles III

Knitted Bible Stories Exhibition

Friday 26th & Saturday 27th May 10am-4pm. Lots of famous stories from the Bible retold with wool! Free admission (donations welcome!!) Refreshments throughout the day. Local schools will be enjoying the exhibition on Thurs 25th.



New Service: St. James @4

We're starting a new weekly service on Sundays at 4pm, starting on May 7th. Services will be 30-40m long, with familiar prayers and hymns, a brief 'thought for the day', and tea/coffee/cake/chat afterwards.

Our regular Sunday worship continues at 10.30am every week, with a creche area in the church and children's groups in the church room. There is also a short midweek communion service at 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Weds of every month.

For details of regular groups for children and families, and midweek social groups, please see our website <http://www.stjamesyeovil.org.uk/>, or please contact us on 414097 office@stjamesandstpeters.org.uk.

With prayers for a joyful Easter from all at St James.
Rev David Keen, Vicar. revdmkeen@btinternet.com



Spring is Coming

"I wandered lonely as a cloud"

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils,
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretch'd in never ending line
Along the margins of the bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.



The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay
In such a jocund company!
I gazed-and gazed- but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought;

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills
And dances with the daffodils.

Words by William Wordsworth

Finally, an Acknowledgement to Technology which makes this Publication possible

An Ode to the Word Processor

Eye have a spelling chequer,
It came with my pea sea.
It plainly marques four my revue,
Miss steaks eye can knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word,
And weight for it two say,
Weather eye am wrong or rite,
It shows me strait a weigh.
As soon as a mist ache is maid,
It nose bee four two long,
And eye can put the error rite,
It's rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it,
I'm shore you're pleased to no,
It's letter perfect awl the weigh,
My chequer toiled me sew.

The above ditty is one of many interpretations of what is usually called the "Spell Checker Poem" although it is known also as "Owed to a Spelling Checker," among other titles and is often attributed to "Sauce unknown."

Originally composed in 1991, its first official appearance was in *The Journal of Irreproducible Results* in 1994. Since then, it has made its way around the Internet under various titles.

Interestingly, when checking this poem with a modern spell checker, it threw up no spelling mistakes, just 4 grammatical errors.