

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Parish Council Present

Shaun Orpen	Chairman
Mike Cooper	Councillor
Tim Wyatt	Councillor
Polly Swann	Councillor
Sarah Youldon	Clerk

The following organisations were represented:

ASPIRE Project Committee
 Brightwalton Primary School
 Brightwalton Parochial Church Council
 Friends of Brightwalton School
 Village Hall Committee
 Total Attendees: 14

Apologies

Jackie Boxall	Councillor
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Welcome	Action
<p>S Orpen welcomed all to the parish meeting and explained the objective of the Parish Meeting this year is to discuss ideas on how we can build a wider community spirit in Brightwalton, for the mutual benefit of everyone in the village.</p> <p>He stated that as a Parish Council, we are very conscious of the importance of finding ways to build greater levels of engagement and interaction from as many people as possible in the village - all of which was supported in the recent Parish Plan survey. The ASPIRE project is the single biggest village project at the moment and if executed well, has the potential to positively impact a very large number of people from around the village and through the school to an even larger group of people.</p>	
Matters Arising	
<p>Brightwalton Fete:</p> <p>Emma Aird reported that although fete numbers were thought to be down, the profit of £2,879.58 was in line with the previous year. This is a crucial income for the Village Hall and the committee wished to thank all those that had helped with the success of the Fete. It was noted that the unique miniature railway had been lost, amongst other regular attractions and there were less football teams this year. It was suggested that changing the date of the Fete so it was not in the middle of the bank holiday weekend could be beneficial. Good sales at the bar and ice cream van helped to boost the profits. It was agreed by all that the fete needed some revitalisation and new ideas, with someone to take on managing it. For many years it has been the same core team and in many ways the fete just happens with no overall management, it was agreed that they would like to change this as it would bring new ideas and format to the table. A 2019 fete planning meeting will be arranged by the VHC to take place within the next month.</p> <p>The ASPIRE Project:</p> <p>John Draper updated all on the progress of the ASPIRE Project and also the overview of what the Church would like to achieve. The plans are still in the approval stage, support had been received from Historic England, comments from the Victorian Society were expected over the next couple of months. Planned changes include: installing a serving area, toilets and making the seating more flexible to suit a wider range of events and regular use by the school. Currently the Church is only used for 72 hours per year and the key point of the project is to get the Church used daily and in many different forms. The expected cost for the work is forecasted at c. £400,000, but by doing this for the benefit of the community - much of the funds raised can be obtained by grants. It is expected that the ASPIRE team will need to raise £30,000 to £40,000 through fundraising events. Several fundraising events are already in place including the Safari Supper in June, Bluffers Wine evening in November, Village Walk with the School around September and potentially a Summer Ball for 2019.</p>	

A positive discussion then took place on the subject of engaging the village, in summary the following were considered to be the key takeaway points from the discussion:

- It needs to be remembered that people will engage with events, not buildings. It was agreed that it is about putting on the right events for good attendance, whether these be in the Village Hall, Church or the Pop Up Drinks in private houses etc.
- There is an opportunity for both the Village Hall and Church to run a wider range and volume of events, but it is recognised that we need volunteers to make this happen. Concerns were raised that if there are the same number of events and these were spread between the Church and Village Hall facility, both would suffer.
- Engaging people within the village is about creating different activities and events, not one type of event will appeal to all. It was also recognised that children represent a big opportunity, as parents follow the child's interest. An example was made of how well supported the West Ilsley Cricket Club is and how much the weekly meetings become a social event for not only those in the village but also those in the surrounding villages, which was agreed as crucial.
- This led on to how we as a village need to cast the net wider than just Brightwalton to make the events viable. Sport was seen as a good opportunity and several suggestions included park runs, cycling etc.
- Suggestion for future events and activities included concerts and also coffee served in the Church after school. Parents and guardians are often chatting at the school gates, and providing them somewhere to meet up would be a good opportunity. It was agreed that this may be especially useful for those picking up two children at different times. Details on how this could be run would need to be worked out once the work on the Church was complete. Suggestion about a 'Rural Business Hub' providing those working from home a place for both formal and informal meetings. It was also noted that the nearest Cub / Scout group would be Hungerford, perhaps there was an opportunity there.
- As discussed previously there is an opportunity for the hall and Church to put together a wedding package which would provide a financial benefit to both. Details on how this could work would need to be discussed further.
- The group recognised that there may be a case for paying someone to organise weddings or events, or indeed run the coffee in the Church, rather than only relying on volunteers. Again it was agreed this would need to be discussed further down the line.

S Orpen thanked all parties for attending for their ideas and support and asked if they could help push this forward within their own organisation the Parish Council would be grateful.

The Parish Council would welcome any offers of help or additional ideas.

The Meeting Closed at 8.35pm and was followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting

The remaining Parish Council General Meetings for 2018 will be held:

9th July, 10th September and the 12th November.