

Babraham Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting: Minutes

Held on Thursday 9 May, 2019 at 19.30, in Babraham Church of England School Hall

Present **Chair: Stuart Laurie. Councillors: Robert Attwood, Jane Goody, Charlotte Rogers, Gareth Walker, Cllr McDonald.**
Representatives from Babraham Primary School, the Village Hall Committee, St Peter's Church, Bush and Bennett Charity. 14 members of the public.

19APM/01 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from the Clerk, Cllr Cuffley and Mr Chapman.

19APM/02 **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

Cllr Laurie's report is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#) for the APM, May 2019

Cllr Laurie, in the Chair, welcomed those present.

Traffic and Transport

Cllr Laurie outlined the projected severe impacts of extensive local developments and reported the Council's work with Cambridgeshire County Council Highways and Greater Cambridge Partnership to upgrade the junction of Babraham High Street and A1307. A member of the public pointed out suggestions to extend any existing 30 mph speed limit towards the Barns on Sawston Road and to impose a limit of 40 mph along the length of Sawston Road to the 30 mph limit at the west end of the Parish.

Cllr Laurie also reported discussions on a Privately Funded Highways Initiative (PFHI), which would use Parish funds, to reduce traffic speed on Babraham High Street. The Council is collecting traffic information from the speed sign which will prove invaluable in future discussions of traffic use of the High Street.

Village Issues

Cllr Laurie outlined Council work to better manage dog waste, caused by an apparent increase in dog walking on village routes. The Council had also installed a new bin for the bus shelter.

Council had agreed purchase of a defibrillator and, subject to legal agreement, Greene King have indicated approval of siting at the side of The George Inn.

The Pocket Park is in good condition thanks to clearing by volunteers and work by Babraham Research Campus to pollard the poplars. The Council is seeking renewal of leases for the Pocket Park and for the sports field and pavilion.

Volunteers had cleared the Village garden area (opposite The George Inn) and the Council cleared ivy and cut back the tree by the Jonas Webb statue.

The Council has discussed provision of allotments with Cheveley Park Farms: Parishioners should contact the Clerk if they are interested.

Village breakfast and walk

Cllr Laurie reported that about 50 residents attended the event, intended to support village community and interaction, funded by the Council. Feedback was very positive and Cllr Laurie suggested it should be repeated in future.

Cllr Laurie was grateful for the work of the Council, Babraham residents and thanked, individually, residents who had maintained the garden, provided a location for the Village Breakfast, installed the bins to improve village appearance and those who cleared pocket park.

- 19APM/03 Financial Report**
In the absence of the Clerk, Cllr Laurie explained the financial position of the Council, reviewing expenditure in 2018-19. The report is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#) for the APM, May 2019.
A question was asked about the areas included in mowing: Cllr Laurie confirmed the grass between Oak Lane and the A1307 was not the responsibility of the Parish Council.
A question was asked about the money set aside for playground costs: Cllr Laurie said he would contact the farm to see if land might be made available.
- 19APM/08 Report from Babraham Primary School**
Mr Barrett provided a copy of his report, which is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#) for the APM, May 2019.
Mr Barrett outlined the pressure on admission of siblings, which will have consequences for space in September 2020. He explained the support of the PTA (Friends of Babraham School: FoBS) and the Governors and activities with St Peter's through the support of Revd Alan Partridge and the school's work with others in Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust (DEMAT) and the local cluster.
Mr Barrett announced that he had informed parents and others that he will leave to take up new roles in DEMAT at the end of the summer term.
In response to a question, Mr Barrett also discussed possible temporary space: it is important to control overall continuing costs. Revd Partridge asked about additional funding and suggested that a coherent approach from the Governors, Church and village might facilitate seeking funding for improvement and growth.
- 19APM/04 Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Kevin Cuffley**
Cllr Cuffley apologised for his absence and provided a copy of the County Council report, available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#) for the APM, May 2019.
- 19APM/05 Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor Peter McDonald**
Cllr McDonald provided a copy of his report, which, with his presentation, is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#) for the APM, May 2019. Cllr McDonald answered questions on empty housing and homelessness.
- 19APM/06 Update on the Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr Attwood's outlined the breadth of the neighbourhood Plan and the work to development social and community interaction. He explained the structure of the project and explained that the project team is meeting to collect information on their vision for the future, working closely with Cheveley Park Farms, Babraham Research Campus and Copley Hill Park.
Cllr Attwood reminded the meeting that the Neighbourhood Plan is not a Parish Council activity and anyone from the Parish can contribute. The members of the Steering Committee are all working people who are under time pressure and would welcome additional support. The team hope to submit the plan at the end of the year.
Cllr Attwood also spoke about proposed Park & Ride sites in the Parish and a dedicated metrobus roadway which will pass between the village and the Wych Road. He also outlined discussions with Greater Cambridge Partnership and Parish proposals to improve the junction from the High Street and the A1307, and indicated that the project is likely to go ahead in the current year.

Cllr Laurie asked what would happen after completion: Cllr Attwood said the Plan would be presented to the village and is not Council driven, but village driven.

A member of the public expressed thanks to Cllr Attwood for his work.

19APM/07

Report from the Village Hall Committee

Ms Sandra Bandy (Chair) explained that the Committee has held substantial funds (£230,000 today's value) for about 25 years: the lack of a suitable site and flood plains near the ideal location have delayed their recent work. The proposed site is within the school boundary to the east of the playground and will be shared between the school and village. The proposal is to convert the existing school hall to classrooms and link to the new Hall by a corridor. The community would have use outside the school day: benefitting the village community. Ms Bandy thanked the Parish Council for their work to secure S.106 funds.

Babraham CofE School, while keen, is concerned by funding the whole cost of around £600,000. Additionally, the School's site is leased from the Bush and Bennett Charity, and cannot sub-lease the proposed site: the Committee is exploring a licence to provide access and Bush and Bennett will seek legal advice.

Current proposal is for a multiuse Hall for sports and arts (with a stage), storerooms, meeting room and toilets: this formed the basis for architect plans. However, the Committee might look at modular build, which would be less expensive. Providing roof height and width for badminton is a major cost factor. School Governors are reasonably concerned with student vulnerability and safety: this will be addressed. Cllr Laurie explained that the new Hall, as part of a Village Hub, would integrate existing and foster new village interest groups towards a common good.

Ms Bandy was asked if the project could proceed without the School: this remains to be determined. A member of the public expressed frustration that the project cannot be made to happen after two years of invigorated effort.

Break

19APM/09

Report from St Peter's Church

Revd Alan Partridge provided a copy of his report after the meeting, which is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#) for the APM, May 2019.

St Peter's primary purpose is to worship God and to witness to His love, to further that work, the church community is seeking to develop the church for the wider village community. The Church, a Grade 1 listed building, visited by people from all over the world, is a vehicle for this work, but upkeep is difficult. Revd Partridge thanked the Parish Council for upkeep of the Church Yard and hoped parishioners understood the need to keep the church in good order. Revd Partridge thanked Babraham Research Campus for rebuilding the bridge, and other works; The church has plans which would enhance St Peter's ability to offer services and school use. The North Porch which is deteriorating will become a toilet and a kitchenette will be put in the North Aisle of the main building. Works are out for tender. The Church has raised £34,000 but £30,000 more is needed; he would be very grateful if the Council and community can be supportive and help with fundraising or grant applications to hit their target.

Revd Partridge reminded the meeting of the 'Better Brew', a FairTrade coffee and cake event on the third Saturday of each month at Chalk Farm and the annual quiz hosted at The George. The Church offers Christmas events, including carol singing, and a well-received Harvest Festival. Revd Partridge highlighted the unique remembrance event to mark the centenary of the World War I (1918—2018).

Revd Partridge explained that the Church can be used for a wide range of music, with a beautiful organ and a modern keyboard: he is also open to suggestions for possible use of the north aisle, which offers a large open space in the Church. In response to a question, Revd Partridge said the building works would be quickly carried out once funding is provided.

19APM/10 Report from the Bush and Bennett Charity

Ms Sally Punshon provided a copy of her report, which is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#).

The Trustee Board of six, including a solicitor advocate who joined last summer. The Alms Houses residents remain unchanged and the front of the Old School is occupied by the same business, whose lease expires in December. The Trustees considered hosting the new Village Hall but this wasn't viable; however, the Charity must do something with whole building before it deteriorates. The Trustees have discussed with architects how to renovate and offer office space, with plans expected soon and a decision perhaps by autumn. General work and maintenance continue and Trustees are scheduling and costing works to establish a project plan.

Babraham CofE School land is under covenant to the school; the Trustees support a new Village Hall to provide a community social and sports space.

19APM/11 Report from Babraham Research Campus

Mr Chapman had sent his apologies and provided a written report in advance, which is available online at the Parish Council's [Agendas and Minutes page](#).

19APM/12 Any Other Business / Open Forum

Cllr Laurie explained that the Parish Council is keen to play a part in supporting other groups; there are opportunities with village neighbours Cheveley Park Farms and Babraham Research Campus. He asked if the Church could use a crowd-funding approach to support its works.

Revd Partridge replied that one company had made a donation; he felt that the Council could help by helping the Church to contact the knowledgeable Parishioners who might help. Ms Bandy noted with thanks that Cheveley Park Farms had provided support to the Village Colour Run, in aid of FoBS.

In response to a question, Cllr Laurie explained that his understanding is that Cheveley Park Farms will not change the farming policy or mix.

The Meeting closed at 21:50

Signature: *Don Powell*, 5 June, 2019

Don Powell, 68 Woodland Road, Sawston, CB22 3DU