

KINGSTON BAGPUIZE WITH SOUTHMOOR
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
THE VILLAGE HALL (SWALLOW ROOM), MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 7.00PM
MINUTES - DRAFT

Present: Cllr Bello, Cllr Charlton, Cllr Forster, Cllr Grant, Cllr Pearce, Cllr Smith, Cllr Swale, Cllr Warr, Cllr Weeks

District Cllr Batts

7 members of the public

1. Apologies – County Cllr Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
2. Minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2018: these were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting.
3. Speakers:
 - a) KBS PC: the Chairman, Mrs Virginia Grant, introduced herself as newly in the role and thanked Brian Forster for his time as Chairman. The Chairman introduced the other councillors and extended thanks to David Hancox and Josie Allsworth who stepped down as councillors, for their significant contributions to the community. The Chairman also introduced the Clerk, Mrs Sarah Bates, giving an outline of her role and encouraged residents to visit the Parish Council website (www.kingstonbagppuizesouthmoorpc.org) which contains all the details of the workings of the Parish Council.
 - b) VoWH: District Cllr Eric Batts: the new councillors have taken up their roles in the administration. Growth deal, conclusion for Local Plan part 2. The Vale of White Horse has highest recycling rate in the county. Land supply – speculative developments shouldn't happen. Refurbishment of council offices at Crowmarsh continues with plans to move over in 2020. Small increase of 5% on a band D property on Council Tax. Community grants available to apply for.
 - c) OCC – no report received
 - d) Southmoor Pre-School: Sarah Thompson, Headteacher: report Appendix 1.
 - e) John Blandy Primary School: Sarah Thompson, Headteacher: report Appendix 2
Cllr Warr asked about the numbers into Reception. Two-form entry in the same space in reception. Building work has been delayed due to planning laws that require referral to the Secretary of State. Cllr Forster asked about Longworth School – generally population dip, so numbers are not so high.
 - f) Village Hall Committee: Eric Batts: The Village Hall has had a very successful year with a lot of room bookings. The main hall is now in use nearly every day. The main hall floor has been stripped and re-sealed. Problems with ingress of water dealt with. Lease with tennis club and parish council for land for new tennis club getting near to completion then work can start on new tennis courts. Asked residents to book hall well in advance for weekends.

4. Written reports received from organisations:
 - a) KBS Brownies: Appendix 3
 - b) John Blandy Education Foundation: Appendix 4
 - c) Badminton Club: Appendix 5

5. Public participation: Cllr Warr has made enquiries about the new co-op. Lengthy negotiation regarding discharge of conditions regarding lay-by. Services into the building have been stalled until this is resolved. Once this is resolved the Co-op should be completed.

Appendix 1

Southmoor Pre-School - Annual Parish Meeting – 20th May 2019

Since reporting to you at last year's annual parish meeting, Pre-School has been extremely busy and lots of changes have taken place.

At the start of the academic year in September, in the space that was previously occupied by the Children's Centre, we opened our new Robins room. This has allowed us to take on a further 12 children per session and 20 children on roll. It also means that we have been able to split the children up into academic years and we can do more age-appropriate activities with them.

We currently have 51 children on roll and we are already oversubscribed for Sept 2019.

There have also been big changes in staff this year and most of the practitioners have been with us for less than a year, but they are fantastic and a strong team and the children are very happy and settled and are thriving in their environments.

Also, our manager for the last 6 and a half years, Jackie Taylor, left us at the beginning of May for pastures new. Our new manager is due to start with us after half term and we are looking forward to welcoming her into our Pre-School family.

Our big project this year is to re-design and improve our garden. As you can imagine, after so many years of use by the children, it is in great need of refurbishment. Due to the sheer cost of this, we have broken the project down into three phases.

- Phase 1 – Was first of all, to put new drainage in as the patio flooded every time it rained hard. Then the ground was levelled; a diseased tree and rotten decking were removed; the decking area was replaced with rubber matting; the existing picket fence was moved and the edges between the paving and artificial grass was made safe. We have now done this and have paid for it via our own resources and a donation from Bloor Homes.
- Phase 2 – Is to install a wet pour safety surface which is to be printed with a road, trike parking bays, an alphabet caterpillar, hopscotch and a target for developing hand-eye coordination.
- Phase 3 will be to install a sand shed for which we have just secured a grant from Carriers for Causes at One-Stop, and we are hoping to raise further funds for new equipment.

We have been fundraising extremely hard to raise money for the garden refurbishments. As well as doing all of our usual activities such as cake sales, Easter games and raffles, we have been busy applying to various companies and the council for funding.

Our next big fundraising event is the Summer Raffle which is going to be drawn on 18th July 2019. We have been asking local businesses for raffle prize donations and we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of those who have supported us.

As ever, we are keen to build on our relationships with other community groups and will always welcome visitors to Pre-School. We'd also love to have regular volunteers who can share their skills with the children.

Natalie Thomason, Chair of Southmoor Pre-School

Appendix 2

John Blandy Primary School

Report to Annual Parish Meeting

Since last year's report, our school has grown! In year, we have welcomed sixteen new families, which is the most in-year admissions we have ever experienced. Our total number of children on roll currently stands at 204, with potentially additional children due to start after the half term break. Due to the demands for places, we increased our class size in Key Stage Two to 32 children in September. This has proved valuable, as two classes are now at full capacity, and we have managed to accommodate siblings of the same family, when we otherwise would have struggled.

In line with this, we also received an incredible 41 first choice applications for Reception Class for September 2019. However, although this is wonderful for the growth of our school, our ability to grow is currently limited due to the delay in our expansion project. The school has been imminently awaiting news on our proposed building work for a number of years, and this time last year we felt assured that 2019 would be the year it would happen! However, the use of sports and recreational space for the proposed new two-storey building has seemingly caused a huge delay in permissions for the project to be granted by the Secretary of State's Office. As it stands, OCC inform us that they are 'ready to go' on the building work, with builders and finance in place. Yet, for the past six months, the DfE have refused to grant permission.

Therefore, with demands for spaces from families in the village, I worked with the Chair of Governors, Lucie Belcher, the Central Team for our Trust, the Faringdon Academy of Schools, and with OCC to consider options to ensure that families living in our community can be served by John Blandy School. We are fortunate that our current Reception Classroom has the physical capacity to provide for 40 children, and OCC have agreed funding to enable the employment of an additional full time teacher. We have therefore turned the potential challenge into an exciting opportunity as we look to welcome up to forty children in Reception this year. These children will share one large learning space, but will benefit from splitting into two small classes of twenty children, with a teacher each.

However, there are still concerns regarding the longevity of our provision for this number of children year on year. No other classroom has capacity to house forty children, and therefore we would be reliant on temporary classrooms to support our growth if the building project is not approved and started in the coming months. Although OCC have agreed to fund this if necessary, the challenges of a temporary classroom remain a concern. We therefore continue to liaise with OCC frequently in the hope that issues can be resolved.

Along with additional children, we have also benefitted from additional enrichment activities throughout the year. Activities include a STEM week, in which we invited local scientists and parents with science and technology expertise, to run activities and workshops with the children. We have developed links through the local church with a school in Malawi. Our children have been involved in a variety of sporting activities and events through the Faringdon Academy of Schools, including the Vale Swimming Finals, which was a challenging competition and a real achievement for our children

With the educational funding issues, that are frequently covered topic in the media, we have been extremely grateful to our PTA, the Friends of John Blandy School. They have run a plethora of successful events ranging from our community Fireworks Night on the Millennium Green, Blandy Boffins, numerous film nights and discos for our children and our Lottery. The

money that has been raised has been put towards learning resources, ICT, play equipment and subsidising the costs of educational visits and visitors. A huge thanks to our wonderful Friends for their continued efforts, time and support.

Last summer, we have benefited from outstanding KS2 SATs scores. Following SATs week, only last week, with our current Year Six children, we feel very proud and confident that they all performed to the best of their ability. A huge thanks must be mentioned for our fantastic team of teachers who work tirelessly to ensure that every child at John Blandy is enabled the opportunity to achieve without limits and strive to be the best that they can be.

Looking forward into the latter part of our summer term, we are excited about our Country Dancing event this coming Friday, in which every class in the school will perform a dance. We have an exciting sports week planned, for which we have booked in a range of sporting activities and opportunities for our children, as well as some interesting and esteemed visitors. We hope that our parents will join us for our Open House afternoon to celebrate the children's work in an informal setting in June. To finish the year, Key Stage Two will be performing the Lion King!

Sadly, my previous Co-Headteacher, Clare Silvester, has made the decision to resign from her post. Mrs Silvester has been on maternity leave since September 2018, following the arrival of her second child, and therefore has made the decision to step away from the huge role of Headteacher to enjoy time with her wonderful family. Fortunately, while I have worked full time this academic year, in Mrs Silvester's absence, I have benefitted from the support and expertise of Mrs Suzanne Elliott, the current Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Elliott will be 'stepping up' to join me in a job share of the Headship of John Blandy School, enabling me to return to the part time post to support my own young family. Therefore, I will work as Co-Head 2.5 days per week, and Mrs Elliott will work as Co-Head on the other 2.5 days. For the other 2.5 days of Mrs Elliott's week, she will continue to work as Deputy Head. This is an exciting development of the Co-Head model that we are incredibly excited about, and look forward to another wonderful year at John Blandy.

Sarah Thompson
Headteacher

Appendix 3

Kingston Bagpuize and Southmoor Brownies

Report for Parish Council – May 2019

We have had another busy year in Brownies...

We now have 25 Brownies as well as 3 ex-Brownies who are part Brownie / part helper. It certainly feels very busy at the Scout Hut. The waiting list is currently running at about 10 and comprises almost entirely of girls who are already old enough to join so there is a certain amount of frustration on the part of parents whose girls are desperate to join. We really don't feel we can take any more girls as we don't have enough helpers each week to safely support the girls and the group is already a little too big to manage within the venue. Some of our older Brownies are summer birthdays and although we have tried to encourage some of them to move up to Guides early, several of them are not really ready to move on just yet and we certainly don't want to kick them out.

We lost one leader just after Christmas - Emma Street – who moved out of the area. However we have been very fortunate to have gained a new helper, Louise, who has been a godsend and helped us keep going. We now only have one fully qualified leader which is Brown Owl. We have been very grateful to some of the parents who have stepped in to help with some specific activities or to act as an extra pair of hands although strangely, no one wanted to help on slime-making night! Two parents have also kindly registered as occasional helpers for overnight stays which means we can continue to plan trips away which is all part of the fun. This requires additional references, DBS checks and safeguarding training.

We have had a few successful trips over the last year. Slightly outside this year's report was the sleepover at the Birmingham Sealife Centre in March 2018 which was with Marcham Guides, Southmoor Guides and Appleton Brownies as we needed more than 50 to make the trip viable. That was certainly a lot of work to organise. We then held a very successful weekend at PGL Liddington in September 2018 with 17 Brownies. We adjusted the visit to one overnight stay only with activities all day Saturday and half of Sunday. This worked much better than our previous trip which started on Friday night. One night away from Mum and Dad is just about manageable for some of the younger ones. We are lucky to have the venue so close by and we were particularly lucky to have some lovely Autumn sunshine for the girls who all particularly enjoyed getting wet during raft-building. We have a further PGL trip planned for June 2019 and this time have 22 Brownies attending. We will also be attending a day trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park who have arranged a special uniform weekend for groups such as Brownies or Cubs and Scouts for a special trip round the park. We will have 22 attending this trip later in July.

In 2018, Girlguiding launched a brand new programme of badges. We have a year to move over to the new programme which is mandatory from September 2019. In all honestly, the new programme is not being met very favourably with many local leaders that I have spoken to. It relies on children doing a lot more independent work at home on some quite challenging special interest badges and it is quite prescriptive about the activities required as well as stipulating a certain number of hours for each child. Many leaders feel that they have lost the flexibility that existed with the previous programme and it also potentially excludes the traditional opportunities open to us for activities based around the seasonal calendar dates. The badges are based around themes and these are not necessarily easily understood by the Brownies. However, we are giving it our best shot in the summer of 2019 with an attempt to secure a baking badge and an innovation skills builder badge which

should also support the girls getting a theme badge which this term will be Express Myself". I personally feel that expecting the Brownies to achieve badges independently at home is not uniformly possible and therefore we run the risk that some Brownies will be excluded if they can't do certain activities at home so we will continue to support badges being a unit-based activity which is where we have had a lot of positive feedback from parents in the past.

Overall, the unit is thriving and with a consistently high turnout each week, we must be doing something right. The introduction of squash and biscuits and as many other opportunities for food as possible may have something to do with attendance rates, but we work hard to offer a varied programme and the girls certainly seem to enjoy themselves.

Kathryn Hall
Brown Owl
May 2019

Appendix 4

John Blandy Educational Foundation (JBEF)

Report to Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May 2019

During the past 12 months, the JBEF has provided financial support to the proposed Park Run on the Millennium Green and the Committee of the Scouts to enable a planning application to be progressed for the new Community Hall project.

A recent approach for funds has been received for the Longworth Pre-School and it is understood that the Southmoor Baby & Toddlers Group are also looking for donations. The Trustees hope to be able to provide financial support to these and other groups in the year ahead.

David Weeks has recently been nominated as the Parish Council representative on the JBEF and the other Trustees look forward to welcoming David. Lara Froud stepped down during the year and the Trustees would like to extend their thanks for her service over several years.

The Foundation currently has two vacancies for trustees and the Chair would welcome nominations from members of the village.

It is also planned to advertise these vacancies in the KBS News and to promote the Foundation in some more detail to ensure the local groups are encouraged to make requests for donations which are in line with the Foundation's objectives of providing support to the educational, social and physical development of young persons under 25 years of age.

David Hancox – Chair of Trustees & Treasurer

14.05.19

Appendix 5

Badminton Club Report for the Annual Village Meeting May 2019

The badminton club has had another good year. Numbers dwindled briefly during the year as our teenage members dropped out due to exam pressures and other interests. However, the recent Village Showcase event proved very successful for us in attracting new members and we have more than filled the gap with some very energetic and enthusiastic players.

We still meet twice a week. The Monday evening session is proving very popular with a good turnout of players on a regular basis. There's only one court and we don't think it's fair for people to sit out for too long so we recently took the decision to declare Mondays 'full' for the time being. The Saturday morning slot is also still popular with regular players.

We've recently run a couple of 'Back to Badminton' sessions after our main Saturday sessions. These have been designed to give people who are out of practice the opportunity to refresh on the rules and enjoy some slightly gentler games thereby (hopefully) avoiding any injuries. These have led to some new 'Improver' sessions which are now running on after the main sessions on a trial basis. There is some overlap with the main players and our aim is to help the 'Returners' and the 'Improvers' get some good practice with players of the same level so they can gradually integrate into the main club. If these sessions prove popular we'll consider running them on a permanent basis.

The general level of the club is fairly high and most players are quite competitive, but the sessions are informal and our main aim is to have fun while we play. The good level of interest means that our membership costs remain very reasonable and we are currently making excellent use of the facilities provided by the Village Hall.

Sharon Cooper