

## **BABRAHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2017.**

### **Present-**

Cllr Stuart Laurie PC Chairman, Cllr Charlotte Rogers Vice- Chairman, Cllr Robert Attwood  
Cllr Gareth Walker, Cllr Jane Goody, County Cllr Roger Hickford, County Cllr Kevin Cuffley  
District Cllr Tony Orgee, Anne Angell Outgoing Clerk, Sam Bramley Incoming Clerk.

17 members of the public.

### **Apologies-**

Chris Chapman (BBT).

Peter Bennett (Babraham Farms)

No Police representative

### **Meeting opened at 7:30pm**

The Chairman welcomed villagers and gave his report.

Reports were read from the various groups in the village. These are attached.

2. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council
3. Financial Report
4. Report from Babraham Research Campus
5. Report from Babraham Primary School
6. Report from the Bush and Bennett Charity
7. Report from Babraham Farms
8. Report from the Police (no report/representation).

A report was presented by St Peter's Church instead.

9. Report from County Councillor Peter Topping (no report)

Interval: refreshments and prize draw

10. Report from the Village Hall Committee and AGM
11. Report from District Councillor Tony Orgee
12. Any other business / open forum

**Meeting was closed at 10:13pm.**

## **2. Chairman's AGM Report May 2017.**

National issues: New homes - a mix of affordable and private throughout the country

Local issues:

Granta Park at Abington: continues to grow with the construction of additional science blocks. Babraham Campus will complete 2 additional large buildings this year

Hinxton: A large scale build of both labs and accommodation on land adjacent to the A505 and A1301 the Saffron Walden road. (Still at early stages)

Pampisford/ Sawston: Extension of the business park already situated next to the old tannery with access via the A1301 (Sawston by-pass)

Cambridge City football ground. Currently work is suspended due to a planning dispute.

All the above will place additional pressure on an already struggling infrastructure. More homes in the vicinity will mean more schools, more medical facilities, more entertainment & shopping facilities.

Neighbourhood plan.

This is a fairly recent idea from government whereby local groups can submit plans for the growth of their neighbourhood over a 5 to 20 year period. Once accepted these become a legal tool with which to direct future housing etc. A few weeks back, Sawston PC approached us, along with Pampisford, as 3 closely linked villages, to produce a joint neighbourhood plan. The parish council are in favour of such an idea and we will strive to push this forward in the coming year. The plan will be formulated, not by the Parish Council, but by the residents of the villages. If anyone has a particular interest in such a role please let us know.

Garden area -The garden area opposite the George Inn had become extremely overgrown. We cleared the plot in the winter with the intention of planting in the spring. Scotsdales gave a £200 donation towards the cost of the plants. - Jill Attwood produced drawings of the plot, she selected, planted and tended to the plants. The bench was refurbished by the council to further enhance the appearance of the area.

Village maintenance. The grass-cutting contract, secured last year by Chis Morris, has now expired and will be up for re-tender this coming year. It is hoped to make this a 3 year rolling contract to avoid the necessity to retender each year if the council is happy with the standard of work.

Pocket park: Following inspection by a tree expert, we have sought tenders to carry out tree work to improve safety in and around the pocket park. The park continues to be well used by walkers and locals seeking peace and solace. Many thanks to Gary Alway for cutting the village grass recently and repairing the sign and gate post at the park, damaged by a fallen branch.

The cycle path through the Babraham Campus is proving popular and a much safer option for cyclist and walkers. We have requested additional signs directing to the cycle path as cyclists continue to use the main road, possibly due to ignorance of the existence of the new path.

A1307/ High Street junction: We applied for an LHI (local highways initiative) for financial assistance from the county council for a project close to all our hearts, improved safety at the dual carriageway. We submitted a proposal to County Council which was approved in March this year. Within the proposal were the following ideas: 1. To reduce the 2 lane carriageway on the Cambridge to Haverhill side to a single lane, by strategically white lining, to a point beyond the bus stop, thereafter 2 lanes would continue to the roundabout. We hope that this will make exiting from the high street towards Haverhill easier, and crossing to and from the bus stop across a single lane less hazardous.

2. To improve the bus shelter on the far side by constructing a frontage to protect bus-users from the weather, replacing the existing shelter on the village side with a new shelter. Finally we will install solar stud lighting across the central reservation at the crossing point, remake and stud the path on the village side which joins the high street.

Web site & emails: The web site is regularly updated and covers the majority of matters discussed by the council. If you would like to receive email updates of important events, which can include social and essential info eg local road works.

Parish newsletter: Winter issue. We hope to produce a summer issue in the near future which will be circulated throughout the whole village. We understand several people did not receive their copy.

The City Deal has prioritised the upgrading of the A1307. We were recently informed that a plan to build a Park and Ride at Babraham had been put forward. This idea is still at an early stage but it is of concern that the plan exists at all.

The PC are opposed to idea of placing such a facility close to Oak Lane, our reasons are: 1. Concern that Babraham High Street and Oak lane will become cheap parking options for Park & Ride users

2. lighting level in the village will be increased.

3. Traffic movement at the top of the high street will increase. There is a proposal to direct traffic into high street on to an access road between Oak lane and A1307.

4. A number of children live in Oak Lane and this proposal may increase their risk of injury.

The PC are opposed to this plan and recommend use of the ground near the Abington foot bridge over the A11 or at worst, the land adjacent to the A11 away from Oak Lane, with no access from the High street.

### **3. Financial report as of April 2017.**

Barclays Premium Business account (incl. first half of precept payment £5127.50)		£81,295.25
Current Account		£1,576.93
	TOTAL	£82,872.18

Report was circulated by Anne Angell comparing the expenditure over the last two years.

**Summary of receipts and  
payments for year ended 31st  
March 2017**

Last year	<b>Receipts</b>	This year
10,255	Precept	10,255
37.96	Bank Interest	29.13
0	SCDC S106 payment	0
506.2	VAT	624.17
0	Misc	0
<b>10,799.16</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>10,908.30</b>

**Payments**

**General Admin**

1,681.01	Clerks salary	1,192.30
106.72	HMRC	127.11
205	Audit Fees	230
75	Election Fees	0
760.04	Insurance	792.99
0	professional/Legal fees	120
214.68	Subscriptions	232.83
0	Petty Cash	0
142.5	Hall Hire	156.75
159.5	Training	50
0	Bank Charges	0
85.22	Misc	23.06
<b>3,429.67</b>		<b>2,925.04</b>

**Capital**

0	Equipment replacement	687.5
1260	Grass cutting	1450.21
	petrol/mower	141.32
370.06	Structures	2470.3
	Playground	0
351.23	Street Lighting	359.58
0	S137	0
16.8	Misc	430.57
342.11	VAT	843.96

2340.2		<b>6383.44</b>
<b>5769.87</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>9308.48</b>

#### 4. Babraham Research Campus.

A bit of background

- The Babraham Research Campus is home for sixty (60) commercial life science companies, providing them with lab and office space in eleven R and D buildings. The campus is, of course, the home of the Babraham Institute who are at the heart of the campus and were the founders of the site when it transferred over to the UK Government in 1948. The Institute is a world renowned centre for academic research in the Life Sciences sector.
- Together these organisations provide employment for over 1000 people within the campus.
- The commercial part of the campus is run (operated) by Babraham Bioscience Technologies Ltd., who are a P/L company, whose shareholders are the BBSRC (Government Research Council and owners of the campus freehold) and the Babraham Institute. BBT provides the space and services for the commercial companies, but also run the estate management and security team for the whole campus.
- Since 2011, the commercial part of the campus has more than doubled in size in response to the demand within the Cambridge Cluster for Lab space for emerging and growing Life Science companies.
- We specialise in providing suitable facilities for the smallest emerging companies and then allowing them to grow and scale-up in size.
- We are full!! Hence the continuing need to grow further and the emerging and existing development partnerships with BioMed Realty and Imperial College London respectively.

Development Milestones for 2016/17

- Completion of the Imperial College London Think Space (ICL) Building constructed by ICL to house commercial Life Science companies
- Completion of the Cambridge Building, a new restaurant and conferencing facility for the campus, replacing the archaic 1950's and 1980 structures previously attached to the hall. To note the work included renovation of the West elevation of the hall.
- Completion of the Public Multi User path around the perimeter of the park land
- Completion of a lease to BioMed Realty (owners of Granta Park) to develop two new buildings on the land known as R and D2 (Outline Planning Approval to develop given in December 2014)

- Essential infrastructure currently being constructed in the R and D2 space (road, paths, street lighting, power/water/gas connections)
- Archaeological excavations continuing on the R and D2 site to discharge the Outline Planning Condition

#### Developments for 2017/18

- Subject to Reserve Matters planning approval BioMed to start developing the two buildings to R and D2
- On a more community based note we continue to lobby for improvements to the A1307 for transport and safety and are working with BPC to see how we can help on the immediate improvements to the bus stop and crossing at the High Street Junction.

## 5. Babraham Primary School.



### School Report to the Parish Council May 2017

The school currently has 88 children from Reception to Year 6 and is 4 children over our PAN.

The school has 4 classes- Duckling (YR/Y1), Kingfisher (Y2), Magpie (Y3/4) and Owl (Y5/6) .

There are 5 teachers and the Headteacher (HT) teachers 3 afternoons a week

There are 4 teaching Assistants (TA's)

1 x Business Manager

2 Office Managers

1 Midday supervisor

1 cook

We are currently looking for a midday supervisor from 12.00 – 1.00 each day

The end of Key Stage 2 targets were met in English, Maths & Science SATs in July 2016 :-  
84% at standard in maths and English combined – exceeding national and Local expectations

Babraham is oversubscribed or full in all age phases. By September 2018 we will have 88 children which could rise to 92.

There are 2 families from Babraham and 3 siblings in the new Reception 2017 class.

Children from Babraham Village are given priority for a place at Babraham after Looked after Children , (LAC) and children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). The school does its best to support Babraham families but cannot guarantee places if the classes are heavily oversubscribed and there is not the space in the school.

This year the school has faced financial pressures with the new funding system. This is a growing concern for the future.

The physical capacity of the school prevents Babraham accepting additional children despite having 67 children requesting a place in the Reception 2017 class this year.

The concern for the school in the current educational climate is that, with time we will become vulnerable as a small school and have difficulties to financially survive.

The school needs to increase its number of children to make it sustainable. This needs additional classes to be built.

The school has looked at ways to expand so that it can meet the need of the demand.



The Institute is unable to support the school due to its charitable status.

This puts the school in a difficult situation as we cannot afford to grow despite the large demand for places in all age phases.

Babraham School is in the process of becoming an academy with the Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust (DeMAT).

The school continues to ring fence Y2 class to ensure that we are offering small classes and the best possible learning opportunities for all children.

This is a huge expense to the school but provides outstanding learning opportunities for the children.

We continue to facilitate the Outstanding Teacher Programme, (OTP) ; training good or outstanding teachers from around Cambridge and Suffolk , growing future leaders of education.

We continue to deliver the Power of Coaching

The HT is a National Leader of Education (NLE) and the School is a National Support School (NSS). He provides school to school support to schools that have been given a requires to improve or inadequate rating from Ofsted and the staff provide School Leader of Education (SLE) support to schools

We continue to work with:-

- Homerton College and support 2 x PGCE students in term 3
- SVC and support Y10 students with work placements in June and work collaboratively with their teachers to moderate and provide information to support a smooth transition from Y6 to Y7.
- SCITT students from Essex University in T2 and we continue to support one from Anglia Ruskin .
- A Deputy Head teacher aspiring to be a Head on an NPQH practice
- Babraham nursery and other feeder nursery schools in the area to ensure that we have a clear knowledge and understanding of the children coming in to Babraham School Reception in September. This starts with 5 transition mornings throughout June and July.
- Babraham School continues to work with CASSA teaching alliance alongside SVC and LVC and is designing a coaching course to offer to teachers from Suffolk and Cambridge.

The school continues to work closely with the church and celebrates Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the Leavers assembly in the church as well as Remembrance in the village.

Many thanks go to Reverend Partridge for his support as the Vicar and School Govn and also Mary Hunt and the parishioners who have supported the school with all these events and many smaller church visits linked to day to day learning.



The Institute continues to support the school by providing regular security checks at night and in the holidays. We have been fortunate to work with Mike Hinton and the Institute scientists - most being the parents of our children - on a special Science day in T1. This has complimented our drive to promote the teaching and learning of Science across the school. In T2 the children visited the Institute and spent a day in the life of a Babraham Scientist. This days experience has transferred into the classroom with Owl class using the scientist cell work to produce art for Ely Cathedral that links Science and RE. The work will be exhibited in the Cathedral at the end of this month.

The Institute continues to work closely with the school to help us develop outdoor learning opportunities for all our children. Thanks go to Jonah who has been the lead in all things related to these outdoor links with the Institute. He continues to also help and support us with our Bonfire Night and Summer Fayre.

The school hall continues to be used as much as possible.

The ASC continue to use the school from 3.20 - 6.00pm each day during term time to help our parents with child care after school.

Fun Pack (managed by Babraham Nursery) uses the school hall in the holidays to support parents and members of the community. The parish council, dance club and members of the community also use the hall or classrooms for meetings and activities when it is available. This is a not for profit arrangement.

This term Y5/6 children will enjoy a 3 day residential. All the classes have day visits planned each term.

Babraham Primary School football team continue to do well in local school matches.

We continue to be linked with schools in our cluster

We have developed a closer link with Abington school and regularly moderate work with them across inset days and staff meeting times .

Our children continue to look out to the wider world and we regularly have charitable events for Children in Need and other causes.

This year we have asked the children for tinned food donations which we take to John Huntingdon Trust in Sawston - this has been well received. We have links in Bangkok in Thailand and Years 5 and 6 have been writing letters to Shrewsbury International School and developed pen pal links that has strengthened the bond that we are building between the schools.

The school will place a third bid in for a lottery grant of £10,000 in September 2017 that will be used to provide outdoor play facilities for our children, ASC and Fun pack children.

This year there will be some changes in the staffing at school.



## Changes

### Building :-

- The school is having a secure lobby built next month
- It is having an extension at the back of Duckling class so that there will be 2 toilets and an additional adult toilet
- The roof will be repairs and sky lights replaced

### Staffing

There will be a new Head teacher called David Barrett from September 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr Verde will be moving overseas to work at Bangkok Patana International School in Thailand

Mrs Bett ( Year 2 teacher) has secured a full time position at Histon and Infant School from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 - the school is in the process of recruiting a new full time teacher from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2017

Mrs Payne ( HLTA in Duckling class) is moving out of education and will be working for the Cooperative from June 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

I would like to end by taking the opportunity to thank the parish council for their support you have given me over the past 5 years and the care and consideration that you constantly offer to the children, staff and parents at school .

Mark Verde

Mark Verde  
Headteacher





## **6. The Bush & Bennet Charity**

**May 2017**

### **Annual Report from the Bush & Bennet Charity**

#### **Trustees**

**Sadly the Trustee board has diminished over recent months. Both Reg Cullum (our Trustee with particular expertise in listed buildings) and our Treasurer, Hilary Seaward, have resigned from the Board. Both will hopefully continue to advise us, but it does mean that we are actively searching for new Trustees – so if anybody might be interested, please do contact Sally Punshon directly ([sally@the-punshons.co.uk](mailto:sally@the-punshons.co.uk)).**

**The remainder of Trustee board is unchanged: Sally Punshon (Chair) and Hannah Axon (both from the village); the Reverend Alan Partridge (Vicar of the Parish) and Marian Watson (Secretary).**

**The Trustees continue to be supported by many others, including Ed and Mary Hunt, who help with much of the day-to-day management.**

#### **Residents**

**The four Almshouses and The Old School House continue to be occupied by the same residents. Both Residents and Trustees enjoyed their annual New Year get together in The George in January and we hope to be back there next year!**

#### **The Old School Room**

**The front of the Old School Room continues to be occupied by the same tenant. There has been no change to state of the back office. We are still in the position of needing substantial funds to restore it. Strategies and potential funding possibilities are still under review. We reported last year that we hoped some of the restrictions to work on the properties might be reduced – in particular the downgrading of the Grade 2\* listing. Unfortunately this has been rejected by South Cambs District Council.**

#### **Building Works and Maintenance**

**The 2013 Quinquennial Review was revisited in 2016 and it was agreed that there were no immediate or pressing structural issues.**

**This will be reviewed again this year. Imminent projects include remedial works to the wall facing the Almshouses and a review of the roof. We are also about to undertake a review of the hot water and heating system.**

#### **General Maintenance**

**The exterior doors and windows of the Old School House and Almshouses are currently being redecorated, having missed their repaint last year due to weather conditions holding up the decorators. In addition to general maintenance (plumbing/electrical etc.)**

and improvements such as installation of safer steps and rails to the rear of number 3 and a replacing the patio to the rear of number 4 after an old shed was removed, The Old School House kitchen units have been replaced. The Charity has also contributed to internal improvements in number 1.

#### **School Land**

The Bush & Bennet Charity has recently learnt it has ownership of part of the current school land. We are currently taking legal advice to clarify our responsibilities and ensure a smooth transition of the school to an Academy.

**Sally Punshon**

**On behalf of the Bush & Bennet Trustees**

**May 2017**

## **BABRAHAM FARMS**

### **Report to the Parish Meeting**

Our 2016 harvest was of mixed fortunes. Luckily we had rain in May and June so the wheat and spring barley yielded well, but winter barley was poor due to a cold spell in March. Our first crop of soya beans was not a disappointment, we learnt from it and will be growing a further 20 acres again this year. Potatoes and sugar beet both were successful, but not bonanzas!

This years winter crops, as you can imagine, have grown well, but will need rain to top up the soil deficit which is starting to alarm us, and give grain fill. Spring crops are slow to get away because of the cold. We have Desiree and Red Fantasy (grown for Tesco) and Jelly which you will probably see in Sainsbury's and Tesco later in the winter.

We still enjoy the success of producing a diverse environment farm, with many areas of wild bird mixers, nectar and pollen mixers and corners of fields which are left wild for nesting and wildlife. Our bird count showed a very broad spread of species which must be a result of the way the farm is farmed.

On the development front we now have planning permission for the conversion of three of the redundant cart sheds at Reeded Barn Farm into three domestic units, each of two bedrooms – these will be let.

The Black Barn next to The George Pub is now on the cards for conversion into a single dwelling, which will tidy The George's yard and smarten up the barn.

Rowley Lane will have repairs started to the surface within the next few weeks.

We hope to work again with the village school.

Lets hope that we will get a decent rain soon for everyone in the village who have flowers and vegetables.

## 8. Report of St Peter's Church, Babraham

Presented ad lib by Sara Merritt, Licensed Lay Minister, and Jose John, Licensed Lay Minister and Churchwarden

It was a pleasure to present a report to the village of the church's activities, and we hope to be able to do again next year, perhaps with a little more preparation.

This year has seen the retirement of our wonderful churchwarden Mary Hunt, who has served the church and village for many years and will continue to do so in less formal ways. We are grateful to Jose John and Richard Morgan for stepping into the breach and wish them well in their new roles. Contact details are at the end of this report.

The church continues to serve the community in various ways:

- There are two Sunday services a month led by Rev Alan Partridge and Jose John with a small but enthusiastic congregation.
- Babraham school enjoys regular use of the church for educational and worship purposes.
- The Babraham Institute has also appreciated being able to hold events in the church
- Special celebrations at Christmas, Easter and Harvest are well attended.
- There is a weekly Bible study group.
- The Better Brew community café provides a meeting place over fair trade coffee at Chalk Farm once a month.
- Craft and Coffee at The George is another opportunity for villagers to get together.
- The church has celebrated several special baptisms, weddings and funerals this year
- The Friends of St Peter's hosted concerts and a strawberry tea in the churchyard.

We are always very grateful for help in maintaining the churchyard, and enjoy regular working parties. Email us for an invite to the next one! We are still working on getting permission to build a toilet, which would make the church much more accessible. There seems to be movement in the right direction on this – watch this space!

We are grateful for everyone's support, but also always looking for ways to support you, so do let us know if there is something we can do, or if somebody in the village needs particular help. Everyone is, of course, invited to join us!

Sara Merritt: Chalk Farmhouse. 01223 971236 [saraljpx@gmail.com](mailto:saraljpx@gmail.com)

Jose John: 01223 834065

Richard Morgan:

Rev Alan Partridge: 01223 832248 [a.partridge7@gmail.com](mailto:a.partridge7@gmail.com)

(Please note that Alan's day off is Friday)

#### 10. Report from the Village Hall Committee and AGM

A number of volunteers came forward to join the Madeline Hall Committee. Listed below are those who volunteered:

Sandra Bandy

Damon Stanwell Smith

Alison

Bill Potter

Jeremy Doncaster

Charlotte Rogers

Charlotte Boast

Stuart Laurie

#### 11. Cllr Tony Orgee.

The importance of the local plan was expressed and that it is currently under review and it is hoped it will be passed soon.

It was noted the savings made from SCDC and Cambridge City Council collaborating together with recycling and waste collections are substantial.

#### 12. Any other business / open forum

Concerns were raised about speeding through the village and the public noted a number of possible ideas in order to slow down the traffic: camera, reduce speed to 20 mph, a greeting sign with a reminder of the 30mph speed limit, a safe crossing somewhere, a cycle path which narrows the road. Concerns were also raised about the possibility of a Park and Ride site in Babraham. The opportunity to make a joint neighbourhood plan with Pampisford and Sawston was put to the public. The public felt more information was needed and Cllr Cuffley has agreed he will contact the neighbourhood plan team to deliver a public exhibition.