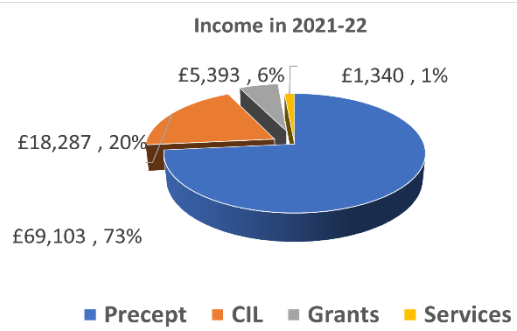


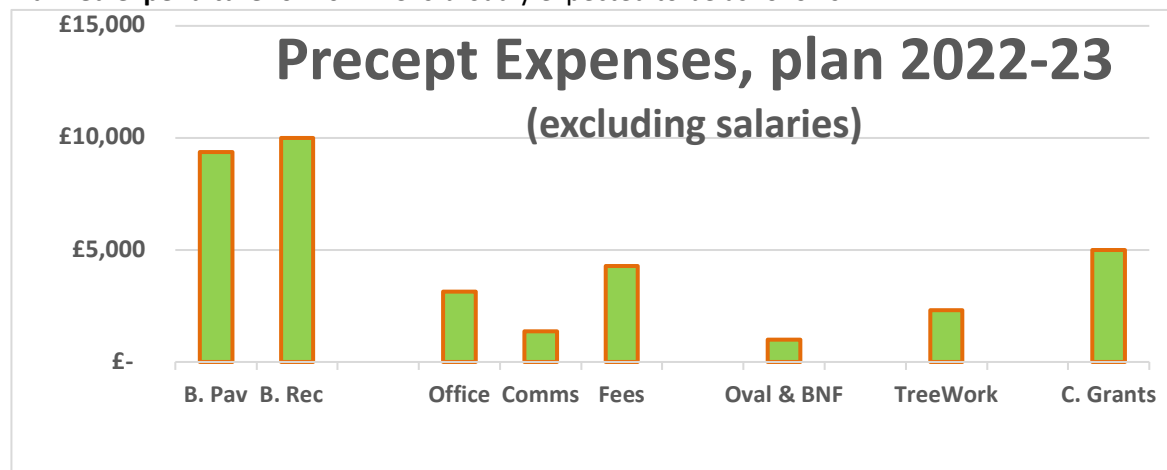


Unconfirmed Minutes from Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 6th April 2022

	<p>This meeting was held in person at The Wickham Institute</p>
<p>22/133</p>	<p>Present: Cllr Alison Melvin (Chair), Cllr Chris Meade, Clerk Lisa Spindler and Deputy Clerk Lisa Tilston. District Cllr Ken Carter. Apologies: District Cllr Ashcroft, Cllr France-Moore, Cllr Hall and Cllr Walley. Approximately 50 Parishioners were in attendance</p>
<p>22/134</p>	<p>Chair’s Annual Report: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the many community volunteer groups represented at the meeting for attending, and for their round-the-year endeavours, which help to make the parish such a dynamic and enjoyable place to live.</p> <p>Changes to the Council team – there has been significant change in the council team in the past year. After the retirement of Sue Hodder and Karen Ray, we were delighted to appoint Lisa Spindler as our new Clerk and, last month, to welcome Lisa Tilston as our new Financial Officer and Deputy Clerk. We have also welcomed several new councillors. We are pleased that our councillors’ team very much reflects the composition of the parish, both in its mix of ages, and also in having councillors from across the parish – Cllr Clair Walley is from Binsted village, Cllr Chris Meade is from Rowledge, Cllr Nicola Hall is from Holt Pound, Cllr Ryan France-Moore from Isington, and I live in Frith End.</p> <p>Empty Chairs – BPC currently only has five councillors; we should have nine. We are struggling to be quorate at many of our meetings. We want to do as much as possible to help the community, but we need more help to be able to do so. If parishioners cannot commit to becoming councillors, it would be an enormous help to have whatever assistance people are able to offer (for example in a liaison role or Working Group member). In particular, the council needs extra help with the following activities:</p> <p>Transport: roads (speed, condition), RoW, cyclists’ safety, rail bridge, aircraft noise.</p> <p>Planning: ‘routine’ applications, changes (new AONBs, Local Plan)</p> <p>Facilities: we feel there is an urgent need to improve the range of activities and support available to young people across Binsted parish; we also want to support the various community sports clubs; and to develop the “community cupboard” and other projects.</p> <p>Blacknest Fields: as we’ve moved ahead to develop this large site for local greenspace & nature recovery, it’s been great to have community involvement in the Working Group, and with the hedge planting. Looking ahead, we’re excited to have been shortlisted for two further South Downs National Park funding competitions. We will be looking to develop further community involvement, as we get new activities underway, such as nature activities and summer picnic.</p> <p>Holt Pound Oval: we intend to get this long-planned Working Group underway in the next couple of months, so we can start to examine new ideas for using this historic space.</p> <p>Anyone who might be interested in becoming a Councillor, or who can offer assistance as a volunteer, should speak to the Clerks or the Councillors.</p> <p>Partnerships: achieving progress with our projects, and routine maintenance, often involves acting in partnership with other public sector organisations – such as Hampshire Highways, Hants Countryside Team, EHDC, and SDNPA. Many of these bodies are under considerable stress - their team members now cover much larger geographic areas than previously. We thank our Clerks for their patience and persistence, which helps ensure that Binsted parish gets its full share of attention and investments.</p> <p>Finances: BPC had an income in 2021-22 of approximately £94K, £69K which was generated from ‘Precept’; £18K from Community Infrastructure Levy, £6K from grants (e.g. Tree Council), and £1K from services (e.g. Pavilion hire and grazing.)</p> <p>‘Precept’ is charged to electors as part of Council Tax bills. For 2022-23, the Precept has increased by 2.9%, which means that the annual cost for a Band D property is now £72.80, an increase of £2.07 from 2021-22.</p> <p>Parish Councils get no central government funding.</p>



Planned expenditure for 2022-23 is broadly expected to be as follows:



Community Grants

The Parish Council sets aside £5,000 annually. for community grants.

Each June, these grants are awarded to local organisations judged to contribute to the whole community: e.g. Community Associations, cultural, educational, sporting, leisure or local branches of charities. The deadline for applications is 1 May 2022, and application forms are available from our website.

Charitable Trust

Holt Pound Oval land has long been recognised as a charitable trust - Annual returns are submitted to Charity Commission

Blacknest Fields should have been documented as part of same charitable trust. We have now corrected this omission.

To improve governance, we are going to follow Charity Commission governance rules from 1 May 2022 (i.e. Separation of Charitable Trust activity from Parish Council activities.)

Planning

During 2021, the council reviewed 55 planning applications. Some of these were minor household alterations; some were more major, such as the Veolia application for an incinerator near A31.

The council very much appreciates the research and technical scrutiny given by the 'No Wey Incinerator' campaign group, without which it would have been hard to understand this complicated application.

The council also makes efforts to stay up-dated with wider changes, both to the Local Plan, and to the wider, national planning system, such as the Glover Report, which may lead to greater powers being given to AONBs, and which led the group STANHD to propose a new AONB for North Hampshire Downs.

Completed and Future Projects – Photos of various completed projects were shown, including: work to improve the Binsted allotments (new water supply, compost bins and shed), and creation of a flower bank at Binsted Recreation Ground entrance. A bus lay-by was provided for Binsted school, and contribution made to its new Wellbeing Room. Some safety improvements were achieved at the A325 Shipwrights Way crossing in Bucks Horn Oak (further work is needed). The parish council also contributed to the project to resurface Bridleway 504.

Future Projects include erection of the new map board and dog poo bins, and a new village sign and planters for Binsted; and there are several new projects planned, including the refurbishment of Rowledge War Memorial.

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Votes of thanks were extended to the following:

Ian Fleming, Rights of Way Officer, for his exceptional work in establishing and developing Binsted's Rights of Way team during the past eight years.

Sharron Morton, Head of Binsted School, for her inspiring leadership over the challenges of pandemic.

Mark Weldon and Sue Stephenson, No Wey Incinerator group, for their work in opposing the Veolia application, and for keeping Binsted Parish Council and parishioners so well informed throughout.

Tonight's "young ambassadors:"- Lowenna Yates; Lizzie Arrowsmith; and Tullia and Keela Forrester, for so generously giving up their evening to help us organise tonight's meeting.

Lisa Spindler, our Parish Clerk, for her exceptional dedication during what has been a challenging year.

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County Councillor's Annual Report: Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee

HCC's finances: Council taxes charged by HCC and EHDC will rise by 2% this year, plus a further 1% for the social care portion. Adult and children's social care provision now takes over 70% of total council tax; the police have also gained considerable monies and now account for over 12% of total council tax. NHI

	<p>increases: after 2 years of supporting a ‘back to normal’ programme for the NHS, are supposed to flow to pay towards adult social care for county councils - but many do not expect this to happen. The ‘levelling up’ agenda is fraught with complexities for Hampshire and will be a long drawn out affair.</p> <p>Roads: A recent survey suggests that Hampshire’s 5500 miles of roads need £380 million spending on them to bring them into a half-decent position. HCC plans to spend £80 million on them this year which, at best, is patching a leaky bucket.</p> <p>Indeed, all HCC and district spending has to be squeezed; because of social care spending increases, and because central government has now continued 14 years of constant rate support grant reductions, so much so that rate support has now virtually ceased to exist and the system is now made up largely of ad hoc one-off grants, which is chaotic. Because of all this, another £70 million from non-social care expenditure at County level has to be cut over the next two years, so there will be more cuts in services.</p> <p>Binsted matters: I am honoured to have been associated with many fine and strong people, many of whom are here tonight, in helping to oppose the application for Alton Incinerator, which would have had such a devastating effect on Binsted’s landscape. We are not out of the woods yet, as Veolia may appeal. I have supported the Bridleway 62 improvements and now hope that further work will be done to complete improvements down to the Straits Inclosure on Frith End Road.</p> <p>I will continue with our joint efforts to get Binsted’s fair share of Highways expenditure this coming year. As I speak, surface improvements are being made in the Binsted/Blacknest Road areas. I am in the process of drawing up a list of priorities with the Parish Council – this will hopefully include Blacknest, the Rowledge War Memorial, Boundary Road and Gravel Hill Road. We also intend to have a further look at the Shipwrights Way crossing over the A325 at BHO.</p> <p>Last but not least, I was very pleased to continue to support all those involved with our excellent Binsted CoE Primary School and this past year I was pleased to support the creation of their tranquility space. Lastly, can I thank your Parish Councillors and Clerks for all the work they do so selflessly throughout the year and also join the many well deserved tributes already paid to Sue Hodder, who we obviously will very much keep in touch with.</p>
22/137	Guest Speaker: Helen Littlejohn Active Forest Co-Ordinator from Forestry England
22/138	<p>Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Sarah-Jane Womersley provided an update on behalf of the Binsted Fete Committee, which has kindly agreed to organise the Hog Roast and Jubilee Beacon event on Thursday 2 June at Binsted Recreation Ground. From 5pm, there will be Family fun and Entertainment, with a Hog Roast (including veggie/vegan options.) Tickets are going on sale, from http://www.thebinstedfete.co.uk/Jubilee-celebration – cost: £10/adult (pre-booked) or £12/adult (on day); £5/child (pre-booked) or £7/child (on day); Under 5s free. At 21:45: Binsted’s Official Jubilee Beacon Bonfire will be lit, followed by fireworks. Entry after 21:00 is free, for Beacon and Fireworks only. Details will also be published on Binsted Parish Council webpage: HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee.</p>
22/139	<p>Parishioners Questions:</p> <p>Don Dennison (Frith End) raised concerns about worsening traffic volumes and speeds in Frith End, and asked why promised investment in traffic calming measures from the Bordon Whitehill expansion has failed to materialise. After discussion, it was noted that Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee already plans to arrange for Hampshire Highways to conduct a site visit. It was agreed also that BPC’s Transport Committee will contact local residents to discuss and agree what additional actions are required.</p> <p>Christopher Lowther (Isington) mentioned that £10,000 has been raised by the community to support ‘Mary help of Christians School’ in Paarl, Western Cape, S Africa. Mr Lowther and Binsted School are assisting with additional fund raising. He noted that uniforms and IT are urgently required.</p> <p>Mark Weldon (Binsted) asked how much of the parish council’s expenses are fixed costs. Cllr Melvin noted that most of the council’s £70K outgoings are fixed or semi-fixed (e.g. salaries, heating, cleaning, groundsman costs), although costs do vary somewhat with the intensity of asset use.</p> <p>Ricky Hanshew (Frith End) asked how the Community Cupboard will operate. Cllr Melvin noted that a walk-in cupboard at Binsted Pavilion is available to store items that people may want to borrow from time to time, rather than having to buy everything individually. Exact details are still a work in progress.</p>
22/140	Chair’s Closing remarks The Chair thanked everyone for their participation.

Future meetings:

Planning, Finance & Governance: Tuesday 12th April 7.30pm (This was cancelled as it was not quorate.)