

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 JANUARY 2018, AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr. Howell (Chair), Cllr. Barry, Cllr. Clack, Cllr. Nicholson, Cllr. Thornton and 16 members of the public.

176.17 – 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tom Pierpoint of GWR and Ruth Leuillette of Network Rail gave an update on plans to extend the turn-around siding behind St. Mary's Church to accommodate longer trains and therefore preserve the through service between Bedwyn and London Paddington stations following line electrification. A proposed option has been selected by Network Rail which will result in minimal impact to the existing level crossing and footpath. The level crossing will be moved 10 meters to the west and the footpath rerouted with a total additional walking distance of 16.5 meters. The new crossing will be safer than currently as it is straight across and will have increased visibility. The project will cost in excess of £1m. Relevant permissions and landowner rights are being sought with the aim of implementation during summer 2018 and service to begin on 2nd January 2019.

Steve Smith raised question about the impact of a proposal from the landowner of the private car park adjacent to Hungerford train station to redevelop the site and the downstream potential impact to parking in/around Great Bedwyn station. The application was supported by Hungerford Town Council. It was not supported by GWR. It was refused by West Berkshire.

Steve Smith proposed a method for improving communication within the council. He thanked the councillors that remained on the council. Cllr. Howell thanked Mr. Smith for his suggestion and stated that communication within the council was currently acceptable.

Steve Smith made a proposal regarding white lines for Church Street. White lines were also proposed by another member of the public for the high street. Cllr. Howell made an appeal for members of the public to join the Parish Council to assist with matters such as parking and reiterated that the lack of a permanent clerk and RFO and the three councillor vacancies needed to be resolved to some degree before these matters could progress.

Karen Gardner talked about two recent complaints made to Wiltshire Council about her conduct as a councillor by Cllr. Williams. These complaints were dismissed by Wiltshire Council.

177.17 – 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr. Stone. Cllr. Thornton stated that she understood that Cllr. Williams may have submitted his resignation. Cllr. Howell could not confirm this. [Subsequent investigation revealed that Cllr. Williams resigned on 24 December 2017.]

178.17 – 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 9 November 2017, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. All voted in favour.

179.17 – 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

180.17 – 5. RESIGNATION OF PREVIOUS CLERK

Cllr. Barry gave an overview of the investigation into the departure of the previous clerk (re. minute 169.17). The working group has agreed a way forwards and has received agreement from relevant parties including Jo Pike and Cllr. Williams amongst others to meet the working group to allow it to gather the necessary information and evidence. The meetings will take place and the outcome will be presented at the next full council meeting in March.

181.17 – 6. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW CLERK

Cllr. Howell stated that 1 applicant had been received for the role of clerk following recent advertisement. The working group will meet to progress with the application.

182.17 – 7. BUDGET SETTING 2018-19

Cllr. Barry proposed the 18/19 budget which sets out the income and expenditure for the year from 1st April 2018 and how the council will meet its remit and the needs of the parish in a cost-effective and prudent manner. The full report and budget are available on the website. The budget seeks an increase in precept by £2,000 which results in an increase to council tax for the average band D property of £2.93 per year. Motion passed, all in favour.

183.17 – 8. ALLOTMENT LEASE

Cllr. Howell proposed a motion to sign a renewal of the lease on the land of the Great Bedwyn Allotments subject to final review of the terms and conditions. The lease is set at the same price as today. Motion passed, all in favour.

184.17 – 9. PLANNING

18/00195/LBC ... Tottenham House ... Redevelopment for private residence for one family including residential outbuildings ... Not discussed.

17/10344/FUL ...Brail Farmhouse ... Change of use ... No objection.

17/10861/TCA ... 54 Church Street ... Work to Trees ... No objection.

17/08418/FUL ... 88 Church Street ... Conversion of garage to playroom ... No objection.

17/10631/FUL ... 43 Brook Street ... No comment.

17/11424... 148 Stock Common ... No comment.

185.17 – 15. FINANCE

The finance report was approved and the following cheques were approved:

<i>Pay</i>	<i>Cheque #</i>	<i>£ Amount</i>
Vision ICT - Webhosting to January 2019	1392	150.00
Youth Club Nov 2017	1393	100.00
Youth Club Dec 2017	1393	100.00
SLCC Subscription	1394	41.00
David Haynes, Footpaths Group	1395	16.55
Helen Sheeham, GBNDP Expenses	1396	80.00
Last Landscaping, Oct-Dec 2017	1397	1,236.00
<i>Total</i>		<i>1,723.55</i>

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

The next meeting is on 8 March 2018.