

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF GREAT BEDWYN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10 MAY 2018, AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr. Howell (Chair), Cllr. Barry, Cllr. Clack, Cllr. Nicholson, Cllr. Bushby, Cllr. Brunskill, Cllr. Kershaw, Cllr. Sheerin, Cllr. Stone and 8 members of the public.

100.18 – 0. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Howell confirmed that recent expenditure was made to repair the playground equipment and that this was duly agreed and minuted in previous meetings.

A member of the public asked what the parish should do to tackle speeding in the village as 82% of people agreed that speeding was an issue. Cllr Howell spoke about the lack of past agreement in the village about how to solve the problem and the lack of clerk allowing the complex business such as parking groups and/or committees to proceed.

A member of the public asked what should be done to remove the current lockdown due to lack of clerk so we can better progress on items such as parking and speeding. Cllr Howell and Cllr Barry answered that clerk recruitment was on the agenda and that Cllr Howell was optimistic about improving progress in the future.

A member of the public asked about having monthly meetings to improve progress. Cllr Howell suggested that this would likely not improve progress and that it is common for PCs to meet less frequently (some neighbouring parish councils meet only quarterly).

A comment was made by a member of the public about Church Street being dug up again and potential drainage issues. This is a matter for Wiltshire Council.

101.18 – 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR ENSUING YEAR 2018/2019

Cllr Stone asked for nominations. Cllr Howell was nominated by Cllr Barry and seconded by Cllr Bushby and accepted the nomination. All voted in favour. Cllr Stone thanked Cllr Howell for his recent work as Chair and acting clerk especially in light of the lack of a dedicated clerk.

102.18 – 2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR ENSUING YEAR 2018/2019

Cllr Howell asked for nominations. Cllr Barry was nominated by Cllr Howell and seconded by Cllr Kershaw. All voted in favour. Cllr Howell thanked Cllr Barry for his recent work as a councillor and especially for also acting as Responsible Financial Officer.

103.18 – 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received by Cllr Younger.

104.18 – 4. MINUTES

All voted in favour of a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2018 were a true record of that meeting.

105.18 – 5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Stone declared an interest in Cheques.

Cllr Sheerin declared an interest in Planning.

106.18 – 6. COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

Francesca Nunn volunteered for co-option. She has lived in the village of Great Bedwyn for six years. She is a teacher and school governor in Collingbourne Ducis. She is a member of the Bedwyn Pantomime Society and the Bedwyn Footpaths Group and takes an active interest in the parish.

Cllr Howell proposed co-opting Francesca Nunn. Cllr Stone seconded. All voted in favour.

107.18 – 7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEES

Committees were agreed as follows:

- Data Protection – Cllr Kershaw. Initial focus will be on ensuring policies are fit for purpose.
- Planning – Cllr Clack (Chair), Cllr Howell and Cllr Stone, Cllr. Younger, Cllr. Bushby, Cllr. Kershaw.
- Finance – Cllr Barry (Chair), Cllr Howell, Cllr Brunskill, Cllr Sheerin.
- Allotments – Cllr Clack (Chair), Cllr Younger.
- Highways – Cllr Brunskill

Parking / speeding responsibility to be discussed at next meeting.

108.18 – 8. GRANT REQUESTS

Link Scheme requested £350: Motion proposed by Cllr Howell. All voted in favour

Friendship & Mobility Group requested £250: This is an increase from £100 grant last year and there was a discussion on whether this could and should be afforded. Motion proposed by Cllr Barry to award the full £250. All voted in favour except for Cllr Stone who abstained.

Great Bedwyn Pre-School requested £100 per month: Motion proposed by Cllr Barry that a one-off grant of £1200 be given for the year to March 2019 without any precedent being set for next year. Seconded by Cllr Bushby. All voted in favour.

109.18 – 9. CORRESPONDENCE

E-mail from Shalbourne Parish Council about declaring Oxenwood Centre as a Community Asset :-

- Cllr Nicholson commented that the outcome of the recent community meeting was that Wiltshire Council will cease running the centres and this cannot be overturned. The action must now be to convince Wiltshire Council to sell the centres as a going concern to a suitable party and not sell the land for development.
- Motion proposed by Cllr Howell that we will write to support Shalbourne PC. All voted in favour.

- Motion proposed by Cllr Howell that Cllr Nicholson contact Community First Youth Action Wiltshire to understand how we can support their potential takeover. All voted in favour.

DPA request dated 12/4/18 from an ex-councillor for copies of data including all email correspondence mentioning them. All councillors voted in favour of refusing this request and sending the draft response as previously circulated.

FOI request dated 2/5/18 from an ex-councillor for copies of data of all kinds mentioning their name - including all correspondence to and from themselves. All councillors voted in favour of a response to refuse this request. Councillors to be circulated with draft reply.

110.18 – 10. CLERK REPLACEMENT AND INVESTIGATION

Clerk Replacement

One application received from a village resident some months ago. They have good financial experience but no clerking experience. Subsequent to advertising with WALC a second application had come from outside the village. Again applicant had financial but no clerking experience.

Cllr Stone raised that we must do more to get a clerk in place and a discussion ensued.

A motion was raised by Cllr Stone to interview existing candidates and to empower a widened recruitment committee comprising Cllr Howell, Cllr Stone and Cllr Kershaw to offer employment to one of the candidates if they believe they have the potential to meet the criteria in the job description. All recruitment would be subject to normal probation periods. All voted in favour.

Investigation into Previous Clerk Resignation

Cllr Barry gave an update on progress which is slow as written material has not been available until a fortnight ago.

Cllr Stone, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Bushby expressed their concern about the purpose of the investigation and the amount of time and effort it is taking up. A lengthy discussion between Cllrs followed to attempt to understand how to bring the matter to a suitable conclusion which would allow the aggrieved parties some closure and allow the Parish Council to learn any lessons regarding protection of the clerk.

Cllr Barry proposed a motion to redefine the investigation into two parts as follows:

- 1) Produce a comprehensive public record of written and electronic communication between the relevant parties without any commentary or judgement. Cllr Barry will ask the aggrieved parties whether they wish to continue with this and if they do then it will be done. If it is done then sensitive personal information from all parties will be redacted.
- 2) Lessons learned regarding clerk protection. Cllr Barry will conclude his investigation and make a statement about this for agreement at the next meeting.

All voted in favour.

111.18 – 11. PLANNING

Cllr Clack presented the following:

No objection:

- 18/02756/FUL – 148 Stokke Common – Internal & external modifications.
- 18/03265/LBC – 7 Church Street – Courtyard & garden work.
- 18/02203/FUL – 7 Church Street – Courtyard & garden work.
- 18/03655/TCA – 6 Farm Lane – Tree work.

No comment:

- 18/02995/FUL – 8 Forest Hill – 2 storey extension, single storey porch.

Comment:

- 18/01914/FUL – 72 Church Street – 2 storey rear extension: Proposed extension is too large for the site.

112.18 – 12. FINANCE

Cllr Barry gave a financial update.

113.18 – 13. CHEQUES

Cllr Barry proposed a motion to approve payment of the following cheques. All (of those who had not declared an interest) voted in favour.

<i>Payee</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Cheque</i>	<i>£ Amount</i>
Wiltshire Association of Local Councils	WALC Subscription 2018/19	1406	555.84
G R Stone & Sons	Hedge Cutting	1404	237.60
John Talbot	Return of deposit for allotments	1407	75.00
Helen Sheehan	GBNDP administration expenses (inv. #14)	1408	97.90
<i>Total</i>			<i>966.34</i>

Meeting ended 9:25pm

The next full council meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 12 July 2018.