

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF GREAT BEDWYN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12 JULY 2018, AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Howell (Chair), Cllr Barry, Cllr Bushby, Cllr Brunskill, Cllr Kershaw, Cllr Sheerin, Cllr Younger and 11 members of the public.

114.18 – 0. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tom Pierpoint from GWR, Khurram Hussain from Network Rail and Steve Miller from GWR gave a detailed presentation about the 10-meter extension of the siding in Bedwyn to accommodate the new 5-car hybrid diesel/electric trains from January 2019. Supporting these trains is critical to maintain the direct Bedwyn-Paddington service following electrification of the Paddington-Newbury line. The added benefits to railway users are that the service will have more seats, trains are more modern and also it is hoped that the Bedwyn-Paddington journey duration will reduce from 1:17 to 1:07. The trains are also quieter for local residents especially while idling in the siding. Work will take place between Saturday 25th August to Friday 31st August 2018 while the line is closed due to electrification of the Newbury line. The crossing will be closed for 3½ days.

Questions were raised around how to deal with the additional parking pressure resulting from a more attractive train service. GWR stated that they would like to find a solution however this could be looked at the expected franchise extension in March 2020. Most car parking business cases would be based on paid car parks which may not suit Bedwyn as this would encourage street parking.

Question from Mike Younger about lack of attendance at the Pewsey Area Board and potential lost opportunities for useful information and grants. The next meeting is in Great Bedwyn on 3 September at 7PM. Mike Younger also requested a public noticeboard at the southern end of Bedwyn.

A member of the public raised that the PCC is recruiting for administrators by 15 July and there may be some potential synergy for GBPC Clerk.

115.18 – 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Clack, Cllr Stone, Cllr Nunn, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Wheeler.

116.18 – 2. MINUTES

All voted in favour of a motion that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2018 were a true record of that meeting.

117.18 – 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

118.18 – 4. FARM LANE

Cllr Howell spoke to raise awareness and suggest means of accident prevention following an accident involving a child and a motor vehicle at the playground entrance. Cllr Howell proposed spending up to £300 on a mirror to help southbound vehicles see the entrance to the playground and also help pedestrians see the cars coming from the north. This mirror would be erected provided a suitable position can be found with the co-operation of local residents. Cllr Barry seconded. All voted in favour.

119.18 – 5. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Nick Wilkinson summarised his recent article in the Parish News about the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The only viable place for suitable housing is the land to the north of the School however this is not in the parish and cannot be in the NDP. Proposal is to submit the NDP as it is to Wiltshire to act as a guidance document. Then to pause the plan to allow the focus to shift to the extension of the boundary of the parish to include the target field and then to setup a trust for the building of social housing on that land. Once that it in place then the Neighbourhood Plan work can continue and be taken to approval.

Cllr Howell proposed to pause the plan and investigate applying for a boundary change. Cllr Bushby seconded. All voted in favour.

120.18 – 6. CLERK RESIGNATION

This is a summary of the attached report following minute 110.18.

The view of the aggrieved parties was sought as to whether they wanted to publish the record of communication leading to the clerk's resignation. The primary aggrieved party did not wish to publish therefore publication will not proceed.

The recommendations in the report were discussed and the following final recommendations were proposed by Cllr Barry, seconded by Cllr Howell and all voted in favour:

1. Councillors should continue be regularly reminded of their duties under the Code of Conduct and that breaches of the code should be reported promptly to the Chair and if appropriate to Wiltshire Council.
2. Members of the public be regularly reminded that it is their duty to hold their council to account in a respectful manner and that abuses of this will not be permitted.
3. A formal employee harassment policy should be put in place.
4. Isolation of communications between accused parties (whether internal or external) and employees should be put in place in circumstances where it is clear there is a problem and should not necessarily wait for a formal complaint from the employee.
5. Communications blocks should work in both directions and the employee must not communicate with the accused parties.
6. Employee should be reminded of their option to report behaviour that potentially meets the standards for the criminal offence of harassment to the police.
7. A PO Box should be setup for written communication to the clerk.

8. Employees should have a formal line manager appointed from the body of councillors who should meet with them regularly, provide support and protection and represent them when appropriate.

Cllr Howell gave an update on the search for a new Clerk and is hopeful that a suitable clerk will be identified by the next meeting.

121.18 – 7. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed:

- Email from Shalbourne PC following success in having Oxenwood listed as a Community Asset.
- Correspondence re. Network Rail using Wharf for parking.
- Letters and emails concerning FOI requests. It is thought that GBPC might be reported to the ICO following a rejected FOI request.
- Communication from GWR requesting support for a Heathrow Link to the west.
- Wiltshire council communication recycling changes from July 2018 allowing more items and wider range of plastics to be recycled in the blue bin.

122.18 – 8. EMAIL ADDRESSES

Recommendation to move to council email addresses was discussed and Cllr Barry took the action to arrange @greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk email addresses for all new councillors.

123.18 – 9. PLANNING

There were no planning items for discussion.

124.18 – 10. FINANCE

The finance report previously circulated was reviewed.

A suggestion was discussed to use Joanna Pike on a freelance basis to assist with some of the financial administration and especially the 17/18 internal and external audits. The cost to GBPC of the assistance would not exceed the budgeted cost for clerking & financial administration. Cllr Howell proposed. Cllr Barry seconded. All voted in favour.

125.18 – 11. CHEQUES

The following cheques were approved for payment:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Cheque #</i>	<i>£ Gross</i>
Friendship & Mobility Group: Grant	1409	250.00
Andy Ford: Spraying Crosskeys to Three Tuns and Village Square	1410	20.00
Andy Ford: Playground timber cleaning & preserving	1413	195.00
Unicorn Restorations: Phone box restoration materials	1411	1,043.40
Great Bedwyn Pre-school: Grant	1412	1,200.00
Andy Ford: Footpath grass cutting Copyhold to Farm Lane	1414	200.00
J R de Wesselow: Mowing of Jockey Green and Galley Lane	1415	130.00
Last Landscaping: Mowing of playing field and church yard Jan-Jun 2018	1416 & 7	2,545.20

Meeting ended 9:30pm

The next full council meeting is on the 13 September 2018.