

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES OF GREAT BEDWYN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 10 JANUARY 2019, AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Howell (Chair), Cllr Barry, Cllr Clack, Cllr Kershaw, Cllr Nunn, Cllr Sheerin, Cllr Younger, and 10 members of the public.

153.18 – 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Patrick Pease spoke in objection to the planning application from the Croquet / Bowling club for a path to Browns Lane that was recently approved by Wiltshire Council. The planning application had been objected to by the Parish Council. Kevin Challen, said the Village Hall Committee had not properly discussed the matter and there was not likely to be funding.

The council was asked about the possibility of investigating funding support for 2 additional defibrillators to be placed at the southern end of the village and at the school. Cllr Sheerin agreed to investigate options.

Kevin Challen spoke about how the Parish Council could raise the precept, so more money was available for good causes and other significant projects and encouraged the Parish Council's vision to include more significant projects. Cllr Howell stated that the Parish Council has money for good causes and that parties need to come forwards with their cases. Cllr Howell mentioned the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund of approx. £7,500 which the Parish Council can consider for specific projects.

Mike Younger also highlighted that the Pewsey Area Board is asking for greater level of matched funding going forwards and that the Parish Council may need to increase its grant giving to compensate.

154.18 – 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Brunskill, Cllr Bushby, Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Stone.

155.18 – 3. MINUTES

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

156.18 – 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

157.18 – 5. APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

Cllr Kershaw confirmed that the Parish Council received 2 applications. One withdraw before the interview. The remaining applicant, Joanna Pike, was interviewed and met the job specification requirements and has been appointed to the role to start on 1st February at a salary on the appropriate government band.

Councillors welcomed the appointment of the new clerk.

It was agreed that the council would setup a PO Box to protect the new clerk's address and that the costs for this are included in the proposed 19/20 budget.

It was discussed that, as previously agreed, a harassment policy would be drawn up urgently.

It was agreed that the council would outsource payroll in line with best practice.

158.18 – 6. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, PHONE BOX, BEST KEPT VILLAGE PLAQUE AND HISTORIC INFORMATION BOARD

Cllr Howell thanked Cllr Barry and Patrick Pease for their efforts in refurbishing the Telephone Box into an Information Kiosk. Cllr Barry also thanked Susie Brew from the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership.

Cllr Howell confirmed that the Historic Information Board and Best Kept Village Plaque have been put in place.

Councillors welcomed the Christmas lights that were put up by Cllr Barry and Cllr Howell with assistance from Cllr Sheerin. Expenditure was £269.91 ex. VAT, higher than budgeted in the previous meeting due to the robustness of the lights and the need to purchase a second car battery to power them every day. The lights are expected to be reused in future years. A motion to accept this additional spending was proposed by Cllr Barry, Cllr Howell seconded and all voted in favour.

159.18 – 7. BUDGET FOR 2019/20

Cllr Barry summarised the finance report and draft budget previously circulated. An underspend is forecast for 18/19 due to a further unforeseen Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payment being received, lower staffing costs and lower Neighbourhood Development Plan costs. The reserves as of 1 April 2019 are forecast at £36,060.

The 19/20 budget was proposed according to strict principals to cover staffing, administration, village maintenance, playground upkeep, allotments upkeep, grants and special projects.

The precept for 19/20 was proposed to be lowered from £20,000 to £18,000 due to the surplus and proposed to be return to £20,000 in 20/21. The precept for 19/20 will be £31.22 per band-D household, a reduction of £3.89 compared to 18/19.

A motion to accept the 19/20 budget and 19/20 precept was proposed by Cllr Howell and seconded by Cllr Barry and all voted in favour.

In addition to an effective grants budget of £2,984, the Parish Council will have a £7,557 CIL fund and a £3,750 special projects budget that can be spent in 19/20 and it was agreed that the council should solicit ideas from the parish as to what projects could be undertaken to benefit the community.

The finance report and budget are available on the website.

160.18 – 8. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from Patrick Pease about reinstating the parking committee. Cllr Howell agreed so speak to Cllr Brunskill about progress on joint committee with GWR and Wiltshire Council to look at additional station parking.

161.18 – 9. PLANNING

18/10020/FUL, 5 Shawgrove, single story front extension, no objection

162.18 – 10. FINANCE

The finance report previously circulated was reviewed. The following cheques were approved for payment:

<i>Cheque - Payee – Description</i>	<i>£ Gross</i>
1427 - Great Bedwyn Memorial Hall - Cinema project grant, minute ref 133.18	200.00
1428 - Woodhenge Carpentry - Phone box materials, minute ref 134.17	1,492.59
1429 - Ian Barry - Christmas Lights materials, minute ref 152.18	318.09
1430 - Bruce Mason - Clearing of allotments flood defence	60.00
1431 - Patrick Pease - Information Kiosk launch costs	65.55
TOTAL	2,136.23

Meeting ended 8.45PM.

The next full council meeting is on 14 March 2019.