

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2021 7.30PM
IN GREAT BEDWYN VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Barry, Cllr Clack, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Younger, Cllr Wyatt, Clair Wilkinson, Nina Hempstock and 10 members of the public.

375.22 – 1. Welcome and public participation

A resident asked numerous questions relating to the previous meeting's decision not to develop the Bedwyn Dyke field at the current time. The Chair and Clerk will respond formally by email. Cllr Barry confirmed that the decision in the previous council meeting was to "not support developing the field at this time and that the subject could be raised again on the agenda after 6 months".

Full answers to the resident's questions will be published on the councils website for those wishing to read further information on the subject.

A resident raised a concern relating to speeding on High Street, Great Bedwyn. An update was given in point 7.

A resident raised a concern that the broken glass in the Great Bedwyn Telephone Box / Information Kiosk had not yet been replaced. Cllr Barry said that he has the replacement glass in his possession and is arranging fitting.

A resident raised a concern regarding the unwillingness of traffic to give way on Church Street and this leading to 3 cars abreast and asked what signage could be put in place to resolve this. Cllr Barry agreed with the concern, wished motorists had more patience, was not aware of what signage would be permitted and helpful but would enquire with Wiltshire Council.

A resident suggest Great Bedwyn should have a skate park. Cllrs Nicholson and Wyatt spoke against this because of the difficulty in finding a site that had agreement of the neighbours, noting that Pewsey has recently shut its skate park due to the level of unsocial activity. They also added that Marlborough has an excellent skate park which the children of Bedwyn use and that a Bedwyn skate park would be meagre in comparison due to budget.

376.22 – 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sheerin.

377.22 – 3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2021 were signed as a true record.

378.22 – 4. Declarations of interest

There were none.

379.22 – 5. Appoint and welcome new Clerk and RFO

Cllrs voted unanimously to appoint and welcome Clair Wilkinson as Clerk and Nina Hempstock as Responsible Financial Officer.

380.22 – 6. Proposal to purchase IT equipment/services for new Clerk and RFO

A motion to purchase 2 Dell laptops and mice and Microsoft 365 software for the new Clerk and RFO at a total cost of £879.16 ex. VAT and total annual cost of £66.66 ex. VAT was approved by all Councillors.

Action: Cllr Barry to purchase the items and set them up.

381.22 – 7. Speeding update

Cllr Barry recognised speeding issues in Great Bedwyn and confirmed that applications for 4 traffic surveys in Great Bedwyn (2 on Browns Lane, 1 on Forest Hill and Church Street) had been submitted to Wiltshire Council. However, Wiltshire Council have not been running Traffic Surveys during the pandemic or during summer holidays as traffic patterns are not reliable. They have just restarted traffic surveys and have a significant backlog. Only after these traffic surveys are complete and they show speeding issues will the Council be permitted to install Speed Indication Device(s); the purchase of which is included in the budget but needs to be authorised at a future Council meeting. Although previous traffic surveys have been conducted these are too old to justify SID deployments.

Action: Cllr Barry to follow up regularly with Wiltshire Council to ensure the traffic surveys happen as soon as possible.

382.22 – 8. Proposal to award grant for flowers for surgery garden

A motion to award £100 under S.137 for planting at garden of The Surgery, Great Bedwyn, was approved by all Councillors. The Council also thanked Linda Fry and her team for their great work in maintaining the surgery garden.

383.22 – 9. Benches

Cllr Wyatt proposed spending £97.23 ex. VAT on wood from Benson Sawmills Ltd to refurbish the bench on the top of the Forest Hill and £20 on a plaque to commemorate Eric Bailey's contributions to the village. 3 quotes were reviewed for the wood. A parish resident has offered to carry out the work for free. All voted in favour.

Cllr Younger gave an update on a proposed bench for Farm Lane. The best site has been determined as the corner of Farm Lane and Spaines, nr. 10 Spaines. The land owner is Wiltshire Council.

Action: Cllr Wyatt to carry out Forest Hill bench refurbishment. Cllr Younger to contact 10 Spaines to request their support, inform Wiltshire Council of our plans and gain suitable quotes for the bench and its installation for discussion at the next Council meeting.

384.22 – 10. Noticeboard

The Council discussed 3 quotes and recommendations from Cllr Sheerin to replace the decrepit public and council noticeboards at Great Bedwyn Village Square. A motion to purchase replacement noticeboards from Penny's Mill for a total price of £550 ex. VAT was approved by all Councillors on conditions that Cllr Sheerin adjust the public noticeboard to be without doors and request support of the relevant wall owners.

Action: Cllr Sheerin to get support from the relevant wall owners, purchase the noticeboards and arrange installation.

385.22 – 11. Christmas lighting

Cllr Barry proposed the installation of a locked weatherproof power socket on Great Bedwyn Village Square so as to better power the Christmas lights around the tree. Wiltshire Council Highways dept. have approved the work. However, SSE approval has not yet been received. Multiple quotes were sought. However, only a single quote from a local SSE-approved contractor, Brio Technology Services, was received. The quote includes free labour for the benefit of the parish and materials of £119.84 ex. VAT for materials. This quote was approved by all Councillors.

Action: Cllr Barry to obtain permission from SSE and arrange for the installation.

386.22 – 12. Open spaces update

Cllr Barry agreed to create a draft list of Council responsibilities that the Council has to maintain the Parish and seek input from ex Councillors and clerk. Cllr Clack agreed to request Astor Housing's map of responsibilities. It is hoped this information, along with the existing information from Wiltshire Council and the Parish Steward can lead to a clear understanding of who has responsibility for the parish's open spaces and how the Council and parish residents can ensure they are maintained appropriately.

Action: Cllr Barry to create draft list of Council responsibilities in this area and circulate.

387.22 – 13. Climate

Cllr Wyatt kindly gave an introduction, and the council discussed the topic. The council voted unanimously on the following motion:

1. The Parish Council encourages parish residents to engage with Wiltshire Council's Climate Strategy, a consultation they are running from 1 September – 17 October with more information at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/climate
2. Cllr Wyatt will propose a response to the above consultation on behalf of the Parish Council, to be agreed by the Parish Council at a later date.
3. Cllr Wyatt will propose a plan to raise awareness and gather potential actions throughout the parish and take advantage of the "Together for our planet" grants available in line with COP26.

Action: Cllr Wyatt to carry out items (2) and (3) above.

388.22 – 14. External audit

The Council noted that its External Audit has been completed and its results were positive. The external auditor's conclusion was: *"On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met."*

Full details are available at www.greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk and upon request from the Clerk.

389.22 – 15. Planning report

Cllr Clack gave the planning report as follows:

- Objection:
 - PL/2021/05546 The Maltings, Farm Lane, SN8 3LU
 - PL/2021/07583 38 Farm Lane, SN8 3LU
- No objection:

- PL/2021/06256 Frogmore, Frog Lane, SN8
- PL/2021/06903 Tottenham House Estate, SN8 3BE
- PL/2021/08250 5 Rosemary Close, SN8 3FP
- PL/2021/07268 Burial Drove, Wilton
- PL/2021/06059 6 Forest Hill, SN8 3LP
- PL/2021/07589 2 Granary Road, SN8 3UE
- PL/2021/07810 1 Bedwyn Common, SN8 3HZ

390.22 – 16. Finance report

CLlr Barry gave the finance report as follows:

Cheques since last meeting:

Date	Description	Cheque #	Net
09/09/2021	External Audit	1611	£200.00
09/09/2021	Playground Bark	1612	£800.01

Bank balances:

Current	£34,223.94
Reserves	£62,158.48

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.