

# GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

### HELD ON 13 MARCH 2025 7.30PM

### IN GREAT BEDWYN VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr K Nicholson, Cllr D Cooper (Council Vice Chairman) Cllr Bruce White (Council Chairman), Cllr H Cooper, Cllr S Shill, Cllr P Angus, Cllr C Withanachchi, Cllr Chris Thompson. Clair Wilkinson (Parish Clerk).

**884.24 - 01. Welcome and public participation.** 11 members of the public who raised the following points. To note, this is a summary of comments and not a verbatim report.

- Felt the Aster Housing reply letter was inadequate and also had lowered the amount of properties in the parish that they had sold off. They should keep up with maintenance on their properties so they can afford to keep them and not have to sell them. Need to keep these affordable homes in the area.
- Someone from the Parish went to 10 Downing St to raise the issue. There is nothing that central Government can do. A copy of a letter to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was provided. The Clerk will scan and email a copy to all Cllrs.
- The Clerk will write to the Mayor of Marlborough to see what assistance they can offer and Cllr D Cooper will write to MP Danny Kruger.
- The Clerk will do a FOI request to Aster to ask for the figures of what houses have been sold in the parish and how many have been built, or maintained and still owned in the parish.
- It was commented that Aster sell houses in GB which have a high market value and then buy more homes elsewhere where homes are of a lower market value.
- It was noted that it's a national policy to sell off socially owned houses, so there isn't a way for local councils to resolve this.
- It was noted that MP Danny Kruger had commented that replacement homes should be built for local people.
- Castle Road was social housing (around 40) and there are a lot less there now. The actual figure was under discussion.

3 members of the public leave the meeting.

The Clerk will add an item to the May agenda to discuss moving to monthly council meetings.

**885.24 – 02. Co-option of candidates for Councillor.** There was 1 candidate. Mrs Christine Thompson

The paperwork from Mrs Thompson had been received and provided to the council. The Clerk had checked the candidate's eligibility to join the council.

Cllrs D and H Cooper met with the candidate prior to the meeting to discuss any concerns or questions and had no matters to raise after the meeting.

Mrs Thompson addressed the council and advised the following:

Lived in village for 28 years, now with grown up children. Was working full time and now part time and due to retire shortly. Has worked within strategic planning & corporate governance for higher education and for the Research Councils in Swindon. Interested in sustainability and has been a volunteer for the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Is the Director and Secretary of the St Mary's field management company.

**A proposal was made to co-opt Mrs C Thompson to the council. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.**

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 13.03.25

The candidate signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the council meeting.

**886.24 – 03. Apologies for absence and vote to approve them.**

Cllr Sanday is unwell. Cllr J Sheerin had a work commitment There were no apologies from Cllr Sims.

**A proposal was made to accept these apologies given with the reasons stated. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.**

Ward Cllr Wheeler had also sent his apologies.

**887.24 – 04. Declarations of interest.** None

**888.24 – 05. Approval of Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> January 25**

The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were proposed as accurate. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

**889.24 – 06. Review of action points from last meeting** (completed items in grey)

Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	765.24-23	Add SID moving schedule to September agenda. Need to publish schedule. Investigate quotes to fund gully cleaning work. Can Canal and Rivers Trust assist – NO LONGER NEEDED
Clerk	785.24 – 20	Add planning decision making process and check list to next agenda. PENDING
Clerk	793.24 – 28	Arrange purchase of play area bark. PENDING.
Clerk	797.24 – 01	Compile a list of highways concerns and invite a WCC Highways officer to visit. Includes minute ref811.24 – 15 - DYL near school. COMPLETED
Clerk	826.24 – 07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask Aster to a public meeting to explain their recent actions. DONE</li> <li>• Clerk to invite other local housing providers to the same meeting DONE</li> <li>• Contact Homes for Wiltshire regarding local properties going to local residents. Invite them to a separate meeting to discuss this further. DONE</li> <li>• Write to the Housing Ombudsman about the current issues DONE</li> <li>• Write to WCC to advise on new housing stock being created in GB. DONE</li> </ul>
Cllr Sheerin	849.24 -31	Cllr Sheerin to email the council with information on the skills and knowledge sharing event PENDING
Clerk	855.24 – 01	Advise resident when planning comments are loaded onto WCC website DONE
Clerk and Cllr Shill	867.24 – 13	Obtain more quotes for new PC logo. DONE
Clerk	872.24 – 18	Add to March agenda to vote on extra deposit for structures on plots DONE
Clerk	873.24 – 19	Contact supplier of SID ref upgrade and repairs. DONE Contact WCC ref posts remaining on site when SIDs are removed. PENDING
Clerk	874.24 – 20	Contact Richard Scofield to ask him to assess the defib device Add to March meeting agenda with any update PENDING RESPONSE
Clerk	875.24 – 21	Write to WCC ref selling off housing stock. DONE

Owner	Minute ref	Action
Cllr H Cooper	878.24 – 24	Write to MP D Kruger ref local bus provision. Talk to Steve Smith and PCAP about provision needed to tie in with trains. Share any information found on community car shares. PENDING

**890.24 – 07. TRANSPORT. Changes to the train station parking area to allow greater bus access.**

Overall the council was disappointed that WCC did not contact the PC to ask for local information on whether this proposed project would be welcome. There is a overall loss of 5 parking spaces, with the addition of new bus facilities in the station carpark.

It was discussed whether there was any land in The Knapp where WCC/GWR could be requested to add more parking. Cllr Angus is going to look into this and draw up a potential plan that the Clerk can send to WCC/GWR/Railtrack. A feasibility study would be needed.

The Clerk will write to WCC with a formal complaint that this work went ahead without PC or public consultation. The Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group will be CC'ed.

**A proposal was made for Cllr Angus to draw up a draft plan for proposed new parking and the Clerk to write a letter of complaint to WCC. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.**

**891.24 – 08. To approve the council's bank reconciliation carried out since the last council meeting.**

**A proposal was made to approve the bank reconciliation as accurate and complete. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.**

**892.24 - 09. FINANCE. To vote on a quote to create the PC's new logo**

Cllr Shill and the Clerk had obtained a suitable quote for £300 from Sanders Webworks. As this fell within the delegated power to the Clerk, given at the Jan 25 meeting, the order was placed to create the logo from the artwork from the recent school competition.

An item will be added to the next agenda on how we can meet up with the school to present the final logo.

**893.24 – 10. FINANCE. To vote on the costs of installing a replacement dog bin. Tactical Facilities Management £240.00 plus VAT, post, install and removal of old bin.**

**A proposal was made to approve these costs for the replacement bin. The proposal was seconded and the majority of Cllrs were in favour.**

**894.24 – 11. FINANCE. To vote on placing a new dog mess bin at Back Lane from Tactical Facilities Management. £435.00 plus VAT for supply and install. A weekly empty of the bin will be £5.37 per week.**

**A proposal was made to approve the costs of £435.00 plus the weekly cost of £5.37 for a new dog mess bin at Back Lane. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.**

The Clerk will confirm the final local before install proceeds.

**895.24 – 12. FINANCE. To look at whether to purchase new Christmas lights.**

The Clerk needs to contact WCC to see if we can tap into the electric supply at the bollard on the triangle area. Cllr Angus will supply the technical information.

Quotes for electricians can then be obtained for approval. May have to look at battery lights if WCC do not agree.

The Blanchere lighting catalogue has many options that the council can then choose from.

To add to the May Full council meeting if there are any updates.

**896.24 – 13. FINANCE. To approve a quote to fix the broken diodes on the original SID.**

The diodes are currently all working. This will be added to a future agenda if needed. No action needed at this time.

**897.24 – 14. FINANCE. To vote on a new solar power system for the original SID.**

Due to the costs of this it was decided not to proceed at the present time. Cllr D Cooper will continue to charge the batteries off site and replace as needed. This can be placed on an agenda when the batteries reach the end of their life and a purchase will need to be considered to keep the SID working.

The Clerk will ask the supplier Pandora if they can supply the access codes needed to download data.

Cllr D Cooper, Cllr Sheerin and the handyman will move the SID at Jockey Green to a new location in April.

The Clerk will look for a welfare policy for Cllrs and add it to a future agenda for approval.

**898.24 – 15. FINANCE. To vote on any actions to take with regards to the defib outside the Drs surgery. Requires either a new battery or a new device.**

The ownership of the device is believed not to be with GBPC. The Drs surgery has no provided any evidence of this.

The report on the status of the device has not yet been received. If this arrives before the next agenda, the Clerk will add as an agenda item.

**899.24 - 16. FINANCE. To vote on any action to take with regards to Wiltshire Polices enquiry about CCTV for Church St.**

The report from Wiltshire Police was read out. It was noted there is no GBPC budget for measures such as CCTV.

It was noted that there is going to be a public consultation on the matter in general arranged by Wilts Police. Cllr Shill will ask if he can attend. A note is to be placed in the Bedwyn Parish News to ask all residents to report crimes no matter how minor so that Wilts Police can have an accurate picture of crime in the area. To be added to FB as well. There was no proposer to go ahead with a plan or CCTV or other measures.

3 residents left the meeting.

**900.24 – 17. POLICIES. To approve the new staff sickness and absence policy.**

**A proposal was made approve the new policy. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.**

The Clerk will look for other types of leave policies such as carers leave and bring back to a meeting for approval.

**901.24 – 18. PLANNING. Discuss and vote on the response to PL/2025/01605 T1-**

Marcrocarpa- reduce limb by 4m to relive weight leaving a radial spread of no less than 4m  
T2- leylandii- Remove lowest 2 branches and reduce remaining canopy to match the rest of the crown, leaving a radial spread of no less than 3m. T3- ash tree- Fell to ground level T4- ash tree- Fell to ground level. HILLCREST, 11, GREAT BEDWYN.

A proposal was made to vote to provide no comment to this application. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

**902.24 – 19. PLANNING. Discuss and vote on the response to PL/2025/01037.** A series of conservation-led plain plasterwork repairs and reinstatement works across the Ground Floor of the Main House; installation of new wall and ceiling finishes; and other associated and ancillary works. ACCOMMODATION, TOTTENHAM HOUSE, SAVERNAKE.

A proposal was made to vote to provide no comment to this application. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

**903.24 – 20. PLANNING. Discuss and vote on the response to PL/2025/01252.** Installation of Air Source Heating within the property, with two external units and 5 internal units. Sweet Briars, 6 Brook Street, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough, SN8 3LZ. To note that WCC advise that a further application is expected for the heat pumps.

A proposal was made to vote to provide no comment to this application. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

**904.24 – 21. PLANNING. Discuss and vote on the response to PL/2025/02317.** T4 - Magnolia, Weeping Pear and Prunus above patio area, fell. T5 - Medlar, fell. T7 - Row of Beech in centre of garden, crown raise to 4 m above ground level and remove deadwood from throughout crowns. 4-5 Browns Lane, Great Bedwyn.

A proposal was made to vote to provide no comment to this application. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

**905.24 – 22. COMMUNICATIONS. To discuss any actions for the following.**

- **Outreach PC surgeries at different locations involving local organizations.**  
Cllrs Shill and White will work on this project and bring information back to the next meeting.
- **Call an informal meeting/gathering to engage with past Cllrs with regards to new co-option**  
It was decided not to proceed with this option. To not show any bias to old Cllrs.
- **Discuss a robust method of having a Cllr attend each Pewsey Area Board meeting**  
The list of dates has been sent to all Cllrs. Cllr H Cooper can do the June date. The Clerk will create a list for future attendance needs.
- **PC to write to organisations locally asking them what their needs for the coming year were.**  
Cllrs Shill and White will work on this project and bring information back to the next meeting.

**906.24 – 23. To review any comments in the suggestion box at the Drs surgery.**

There were no items to review.

**907.24 – 24. Playground update if required. (Cllr Nicholson)**

The repairs are being carried out and are due to be finished on Mon 17<sup>th</sup> March.

**908.24 – 25. ALLOTMENTS. To discuss and vote on any further deposit to tenants who want to place a structure on their plot.**

After a discussion a proposal was made that deposits remain the same however if a tenant request permission to place a structure on their plot they will be advised that they must either remove it at the end of their tenancy or make a mutual agreement to give/sell the structure to the next tenant or another allotment plot tenant. Failure to do any of these will mean the council retain the deposit to cover the costs of removing defunct structures. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

**909.24 – 26. Finance report**

There were no comments or issues with the finance report shown below.

**Great Bedwyn Parish Council Finance Report 4th March 2025**

**Payments Since Last Meeting**

Date	Payee	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Net £
07/01/2025	Last Landscaping	Grass cutting churchyard Q3 2024-25	1,026.00	171.00	855.00
10/01/2025	Great Bedwyn Parish Council	Internal transfer savings to current a/c	5,000.00		5,000.00
16/01/2025	PCAP	Grant to support local work	250.00		250.00
14/01/2025	Ramsbury Estates Ltd	Allotment rent for 01/01/25-30/06/25	250.00		250.00
16/01/2025	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. HP Printer Ink, pack of 50 envelopes & 4 books of 2nd class stamps (2 standard & 2 large)	55.38	2.33	53.05
21/01/2025	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	October grass cutting. Inv-2506	279.60	46.60	233.00
21/01/2025	Staff	January salaries	566.00		566.00
21/01/2025	HMRC	January payroll Tax/NI	141.40		141.40
28/01/2025	DCK Accounting	January payroll	36.00	6.00	30.00
30/01/2025	Vision ICT	2 new Cllr emails (Cllrs Angus & Withanachchi)	31.99	5.33	26.66
30/01/2025	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Jan bin empties inv 2932	55.85	9.31	46.54
31/01/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	8.10		8.10
17/02/2025	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. HP Printer Ink	3.99	0.67	3.32
17/02/2025	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. Dell laptop power adapter for clerks laptop	22.99	3.83	19.16
17/02/2025	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. Monthly fee	3.00		3.00
25/02/2025	Staff	February salaries	568.60		568.60
25/02/2025	HMRC	February payroll Tax/NI	141.40		141.40
27/02/2025	Allotment Tenant	Allotment plot 116 refund of deposit & 50% annual rent	65.00		65.00
28/02/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	8.25		8.25
03/03/2025	DCK Accounting	February payroll	36.00	6.00	30.00
04/03/2025	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Hedge cutting at allotments	810.00	135.00	675.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>9,359.55</b>	<b>386.07</b>	<b>8,973.48</b>

**910.24 – 27. Items for the next agenda. None**

It was noted that the first grass cut was due the w/c 17<sup>th</sup> March.

The meeting closed at 21.17

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Village Hall Legion Room at 7.00pm, there will be no informal discussion from 7.00pm as the council's annual meeting will occur at 7.00pm.**

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 13.03.25

## Action Points

Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	765.24-23	Add SID moving schedule to September agenda. Need to publish schedule.
Clerk	785.24 – 20	Add planning decision making process and check list to next agenda.
Clerk	793.24 – 28	Arrange purchase of play area bark.
Cllr Sheerin	849.24 -31	Cllr Sheerin to email the council with information on the skills and knowledge sharing event
Clerk	873.24 – 19	Contact WCC ref posts remaining on site when SIDs are removed.
Clerk	874.24 – 20	Contact Richard Scofield to ask him to assess the defib device Add to May meeting agenda with any update
Cllr H Cooper	878.24 – 24	Write to MP D Kruger ref local bus provision. Talk to Steve Smith and PCAP about provision needed to tie in with trains. Share any information found on community car shares.
Clerk	884.24– 01	Provide a scanned copy of the provided letter to all Cllrs Write to the Mayor of Marlborough ref social housing Do a FOI request to Aster Add agenda item for May to move to monthly meetings
Cllr D Cooper	884.24 – 01	Write to MP Danny Kruger ref local housing issues
Clerk & Cllr Angus	890.24 – 07	Cllr Angus to create a diagram of possible new parking areas and the Clerk will submit to WCC The Clerk will write a formal complaint over lack of consultation
Clerk	892.24 – 09	Add item to May agenda on how the PC and school can get together ref the new logo
Clerk	893.24 – 10	Advise Tactical to go ahead with replacement bin installation
Clerk	894.24 – 10	Advise Tactical to go ahead with new dog bin on Back Lane once location confirmed
Clerk and Cllr Angus	895.24 – 12	Cllr Angus to create the spec needed for the connection of Xmas lights to the WCC bollard and also the spec for an electrician for install. The Clerk will contact WCC to ask for the permission to use the bollard electricity.
Clerk & Cllr D Cooper	897.24 – 14	Ask Pandora for the code to download data from the SID Cllr D Cooper to arrange the movement of the Jockey Green SID The Clerk will look for a welfare policy for Cllrs and add to the next agenda
Clerk	898.24 – 15	Add the Drs surgery defib issue to the May information if new information is received.
Cllr Shill	899.24 – 16	To ask to attend public consultation that Wilts Police are carrying out
Clerk	900.24 – 17	To look for other types of leave policy such as carers leave.
Clerk	901.24 – 18 902.24 – 19 903.24 – 20 904.24 – 21	Respond to WCC with planning app decisions.
Clerk, Cllr Shill and Cllr White	905.24 – 22	Cllr Shill and Cllr White to work on PC surgeries and local organisation needs and bring back to May meeting Clerk to hold a list of PCAP dates and make sure a rota of Cllrs can attend.

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 13.03.25

Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	908.24 – 25	Clerk to ask RFO to advise all allotment tenants of the new deposit terms

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