

GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 8th JANUARY 2026 7.30PM

IN GREAT BEDWYN VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr B White (Council Chairman), Cllr P Angus, Cllr C Thompson, Cllr S Shill, Cllr K Nicolson, Cllr J Sheerin, Cllr H Cooper, Cllr D Cooper (Vice Chairman), Cllr C Withanichchi. Clair Wilkinson (Parish Clerk).

1073.25 - 01. Welcome and public participation. To note that any comments in this item are a summary only and not a verbatim report. 2 members of the public. Ward Cllr Wheeler & Polly from Shalbourne Growers were in attendance.

Ward Cllr Wheeler reported:

A new waste policy is being considered at Wilts Council. Food waste collected weekly, recycling every 2 weeks and residual waste in black bins every 3 weeks. If there is no food in black bins then a 3 weekly collection should work.

A question was asked about nappies and dog waste bags. Which bin should these go in?

Wilts Council may introduce a booking system for the Marlborough recycling centre.

With regards to the query on Back Lane road adoption by Wilts Council from a resident – the council is under no obligation to adopt the road but they can if they want to. Residents are responsible for funding necessary repairs to get the road to a suitable standard for adoption. This is the same as if a developer wanted the council to adopt a new road. If the council adopted the land they would probably introduce parking restrictions. Back Lane is also a BOAT (Byway Open to all Traffic).

Judy from Bedwyn Footpath Group advised on the agenda item regarding the PROW public consultation. Can only object using historical evidence. Can't object on safety or environmental grounds. If the application is not withdrawn then it will go to the Government Inspectorate if Wilts Council reject the application. Tottenham Estate and Network Rail have objected.

Wilts Council will be assessing the width of the track, as part of the Enclosure Act. A narrow section could be cleared to be 3 metres wide but this isn't likely to happen in practice.

1074.25 – 02. Apologies for absence and vote to approve them.

Cllr Sims is unwell and Cllr Sanday had not added the date to her diary.

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

1075.25 – 03. Declarations of interest. Cllrs H Cooper, D Cooper and Thompson are allotment holders so will not vote on the allotment rent review item.

1076.25 – 04. Approval of Minutes from 20th November 25

The minutes of the meeting of 20th November 2025 were proposed as accurate. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1077.25 – 05. Review of action points from last meeting (completed items in grey)

Owner	Minute ref	Action
Cllr H Cooper	878.24 – 24	Talk to Steve Smith and PCAP about provision needed to tie in with trains. Share any information found on community car shares.
Clerk	900.24 – 17	To look for other types of leave policy such as carers leave.
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. Move to Sept
Clerk	937.25 – 27	Invite someone from North Wessex Downs to a council meeting once consultation and plan complete.
Clerk	966.25 – 24	Twice a year handyman to review all physical assets and do any easy repairs
Clerk	967.25 – 25	Do ACV for 3 Tuns pub
Cllr Sims	971.25 – 30	To see if the newer SID is downloading information ok
Clerk	975.25 – 33	Arrange for suggestion box at surgery to be brighter.
Clerk	979.25 – 38	For Sept agenda: Move to Oct. Bin outside PO always overflowing. Ask if WCC can empty more often.
Clerk	981.25 – 01	Ask LGFIG about new white lines. DONE Ask WCC about re-painting white lines Ask WCC if they will move their dog waste bins
Clerk	1000.25 – 20	Ask LHFIG/WCC about re-painting white lines or adding new white lines. Are the enforceable? – check Check emergency access requirements for 999 vehicles
Clerk	1009.25 – 01	Ask Cllr H Cooper for update on public transport meeting plans.
Cllrs Sheerin and Angus	1018.25 – 10	Do an inspection of all parish bus stops and suggest improvements where the PC can request WCC do the work from the budget funds available in 2026 DONE
Clerk	1019.25 – 11	Get update from WCC on re-painting all of GB's white lines Ask WCC if GBPC can pay for a traffic warden for the day Ask Wilts Police if they can visit to look at dangerous junctions and give advice
Cllr Angus	1019.25 – 11	Write a draft letter for Wilts Police to visit for the Clerk to send – ref item above DONE
Clerk	1020.25 – 12	To see if anyone has ideas on a car sharing Whatsapp group. Add to Bedwyn News.
Cllr Sheerin	1020.25 – 12	To make enquiries as to who owns the land at the end of Frog Lane
Clerk	1021.25 – 13	Clerk to ask WCC if the device can be added to a pole on Brook St, DONE. NO, not owned by WCC
Cllr Sims	1021.25 – 13	Download the data on the SID before its moved to Church St.
Clerk	1028.25 – 20	Add updated IT policy to the website DONE
Clerk	1030.25 – 22	Add Post office bin issue to next agenda and ask WCC for options DONE
Clerk	1031.25 – 23	Ask WCC what the largest bin is that they empty and whether WCC will empty them more often. Ask Tactical Facilities for larger bin costs.
Clerk	1032.25 – 24	Send out letters to local groups and businesses for 2026/27 assistance. Ask if it can be added to the next Bedwyn News.
Clerk	1046.25 – 08	Add the 26/27 budget to the council's website DONE

Chairmans Signature.....

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Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	1047.25 – 09	Item for Jan agenda to review allotment fees, DONE Add item for Jan agenda for renewing the planters in the village triangle DONE
Clerk	1050.25 – 12	Contact Pandora for code for SID data DONE. Pandora say we have the code
Clerk	1051.25 – 13	Add EV charging points to the parking project and survey request. Add to Jan agenda. DONE
Clerk	1053.25 – 15	Advise RFO of £2500 grant to Village hall from CIL for kitchen replacement DONE
Cllr Angus	1054.25 – 16	Cllr Angus to draft a report for the Bedwyn News ref hedges. DONE
Clerk	1054.25 – 16	The Clerk will arrange for the planters to be refreshed. The Clerk will contact the resident who planted up the tubs at the chains The Clerk will ask the resident about re-painting faded street signs The Clerk will update Cllrs with jobs the handyman has completed.
Clerk	1055.25 – 17	Add bus stop improvements to next agenda. DONE To check the scope of the WCC funds to see if a bench can be added at the 3 Tunns stop. Look at GBPC adding one if not.
Cllr D Cooper	1056.25 – 18	Talk to Network rail about parking
Clerk	1057.25 – 19	Reporting bus parking issue to WCC Add large vehicle and bus parking to the transport and survey for LHFIG. DONE
Clerk	1059.25 – 21	Add the Loneliness project to the Jan agenda. DONE
Clerk	1060.25 – 22	Ask Handyman the questions about the shed and ask him to report back. DONE
Clerk	1061.25 – 23	Publish the info about the 29 th Nov lights switch on DONE
Clerk	1063.25 – 26	Report back to WCC on the planning app vote. DONE
Clerk	1062.25 – 26 and 1063.25 – 27	Add both bin issues to the Jan agenda. MOVE TO FEB
Clerk	1066.25 – 28	Add response to business and groups to Jan agenda. MOVE TO FEB

1078.25 –06. Discussion with Polly from Shalbourne Growers with regards to the orchard site at the allotments

Key points:

- Renovate the area, involve the community and invite residents
- Creates a community space
- Can add water butts to the green house
- Can add communal compost bins and nesting boxes
- Can arrange a new Whatsapp group for all those interested in the project and use of the site
- FIPA could fund some of this work?
- Can involve the school? Polly is happy to be involved.

Cllr Angus is trained in tree pruning with the RHS so he can assist with this work.

The Clerk will ask the RFO to check our insurance policy for any issues.

Cllrs Thompson, H Cooper, Shill and Nicolson to form a working party to work with Polly and others who may be interested.

Chairmans Signature.....

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The item will be added to the next agenda to discuss progression.

1079.25 – 07. FINANCE. To vote on a grant of £1000 for the Bedwyn Footpath Group.

A proposal was made to approve the grant for £1000.00. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1080.25 – 08. FINANCE To approve the council's bank reconciliation carried out since the last council meeting.

Move to the next agenda as the document had not been provided.

1081.25 – 09. FINANCE. To vote on approving funds for the new handyman to attend a course for the weekly playground checks.

A proposal was made to delegate the booking of a course for the handyman to the Clerk. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour. It was noted that the last course cost £123.00

1082.25 – 10. FINANCE. To vote on whether to increase the allotment fees.

It was confirmed that the council will review this around October 26 so that costs vs income for the allotments for the year to date can be reviewed. A 5% increase was suggested but no decision made.

The Clerk is to diarise this. Cllrs D Cooper and Thompson are happy to look at the figures with the RFO.

1083.25 – 11. FINANCE. To vote on a donation to Great Green Bedwyn for their work in re-painting road signs. This item was merged with the following agenda item to vote on refunding Great Green Bedwyn for the costs of paint for painting the road signs.

A proposal was made to a total of £50.00 to cover paint and a gesture of goodwill for road sign painting. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1084.25 – 12. TRAVEL & HIGHWAYS. To discuss any possible sites for EV (Electric Vehicle) charging points.

It was decided that an article would be written for the next Bedywn News. There is a link the public can use to tell Wilts Council what local locations would be of benefit.

The suggested areas are the village hall carpark, the Three Tuns pub and the railway station.

This will be added to Facebook as well to get as much support as possible.

1085.25 - 13. Taking Pride in our Parish "PiP"

A proposal was made to remove the slabs and old pots at the chains position in the centre of the village, and add new drought resistant planting. The area around the tree to be dug out as well for drainage. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

The Clerk is to ask whether we can get the Wiltshire Council road sweeper more often – what is the schedule for it? Can we also lift the crown on the tree at the chains?

These items require approval from Wiltshire Council Highways dept.

For the next agenda the council will discuss:

- Pavement gritting. Can we assist with this?
- Potholes and pavement conditions

1086.25 – 14. Travel and Highways. To vote on what bus stop improvements to request to Wiltshire Council.

A proposal was made to report the full list that Cllr Angus supplied to Wilts Council for potential improvements from their fund. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1087.25 – 15. Travel and Highways. To receive an update from Cllr D Cooper on the letter to Network Rail ref parking issues.

Pending for the next meeting. Cllr D Cooper would like to ask them to attend a site visit.

1088.25 – 16. Travel and Highways. To vote on the response to Wiltshire Council for the modification of the definitive bridle way map.

A proposal was made to still object to the proposed changes to the bridle way. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1089.25 –17. Loneliness Project.

Some of the Cllrs met with the new vicar. He is keen for the church, PC and school to work together as it will catch all demographics. There are Wiltshire Health Walks that can help with loneliness.

There will be another meeting to discuss the matter further.

Cllr Angus has started a list of all local organisations in the area that may be able to help. He would like feedback on what to add to the list.

To be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

The Clerk is to confirm the budget amount for the project.

1090.25 – 18. To vote on how to clear the council's shed and surrounding area.

A proposal was made for the Clerk to have delegated power to work with the handyman on hiring a skip and clearing the area. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

An item will be added to the next agenda to discuss other ways in which the shed can be used. The fencing was not voted on as it was not known what the new café owners would want. To be confirmed at the next meeting.

1091.25 – 19. To approve the new data protection and GDPR policy

A proposal was made to approve this policy. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

The Clerk will add the policy to the website.

1092.25 – 20. To vote on the response to Wiltshire Council for planning application PL/2025/09530 Second storey extension, erection of pergola on site and lime render to brickwork. 39 Church Street, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough , SN8 3PQ.

A proposal was made to submit “No comment” on this application. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1093.25 – 21 COMMUNICATIONS. To discuss any actions for the following.

- Outreach PC surgeries at the school in September. How will this work and how often should the council provide this extra service. Cllr Shill is still talking to the school. No update on this item.
- PC to write to organisations locally asking them what their needs for the coming year were. Cllrs Shill and White to provide an update.

No updates. The letter to businesses and groups project will be carried out annually. An update will be provided at the next meeting if more responses to the letters have been received.

1094.25 – 22. To review any comments in the suggestion box at the Drs surgery.

There were no items to review.

1095.25 – 23. Playground update if required. Cllr Nicolson reporting.

RoSPA report showed some items that needed attention. Cllr Nicholson is to meet with the contractor to get a quote for repair works. If a quote is received this will be added to the next agenda. The handyman has a list of minor items to work on.

1096.25 – 24 Finance report

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

Great Bedwyn Parish Council Finance Report 6 January 2026

Payments Since Last Meeting

Date	Payee	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Net £
17/11/2025	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. Monthly fee, printer ink	7.49	0.75	6.74
25/11/2025	Allotment Tenant	Allotment plot 114 partial refund of double payment (renewal due)	35.00		35.00
25/11/2025	Staff	November salary & expenses	579.92		579.92
25/11/2025	HMRC	November payroll Tax/Nl	141.40		141.40
25/11/2025	DCK Accounting	November payroll	37.80	6.30	31.50
30/11/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service & transaction charges	8.55		8.55
02/12/2025	Handyman	November handyman hours & expenses	400.00		400.00
02/12/2025	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Nov grass cutting and bin empties	488.77	81.46	407.31
09/12/2025	Vision ICT	Annual website hosting and support	175.76	29.29	146.47
15/12/2025	Great Bedwyn Parish Council	Internal transfer savings to current a/c	5,000.00		5,000.00
16/12/2025	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. Monthly fee, printer ink, stamps and Christmas lights	136.92	18.26	118.66
18/12/2025	Staff	overtime	1,260.71		1,260.71
18/12/2025	HMRC	December payroll Tax/Nl	432.55		432.55
18/12/2025	DCK Accounting	December payroll	37.80	6.30	31.50
18/12/2025	Great Bedwyn Memorial Hall	Grant for new kitchen	2,500.00		2,500.00
18/12/2025	Ramsbury Estates Ltd	Allotment rent for 01/01/26-30/06/26	250.00		250.00
31/12/2025	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service & transaction charges	9.45		9.45
Total			11,502.12	142.36	11,359.76

Bank Reconciliation at 6th January 2026

			£	£
Balance b/fwd at 12 Nov 2025			53,612.70	
Receipts			10,346.63	
Payments				11,502.12
Balance c/fwd 6 Jan 2026				52,457.21
			63,959.33	63,959.33
Balance per bank statements				
TSB Business A/c	51634	06/01/2026	206.00	
TSB Saving A/c	7018306	06/01/2026	77.72	
Unity Business A/c	20460060	06/01/2026	5,880.20	
Unity Savings A/c	20482873	06/01/2026	46,228.29	
			52,392.21	
Less unapproved payments				
			0.00	
Add unpresented cheques				
Chq 1		30.00		
Chq 2		35.00		
			65.00	
Balance at 6 Jan 2026			52,457.21	

1097.25– 25. Items for the next agenda

Cllr Sheerin – planning for 2026 Xmas lights. Investigate road closures. Also discuss assisting with the set up for a summer fete and events in general. Can we provide funds and work with the church?

Cllr Sheerin – vote on expenditure for a PA system and more Xmas lights.

Chairmans Signature.....

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The meeting closed at 20.48

Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th February 2026 Village Hall Legion Room at 7.30pm, there will be an informal discussion from 7.00pm.

Action Points

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Clerk	1057.25 – 19	Reporting bus parking issue to WCC.

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Clerk	1081.25 – 09	Arrange for the handyman to do the playground inspection course
Clerk	1082.25 – 10	Add allotment rent review to October agenda.
Clerk	1083.25 – 11	Arrange with the RFO to provide the grant to Great Green Bedywn
Clerk	1084.25 – 12	Add EV Charging point survey to Facebook.
Clerk	1085.25 – 13	Ask Wiltshire council about planting plans and crown lift for central chains area. Is there a way to get the road sweeper out more often. For the Feb agenda – pavement gritting. Pot holes and pavement conditions
Clerk	1086.25 – 14	Report to Wilts Council on the list of requested but stop improvements
Clerk	1090.25 – 18	Work with the handyman on improving the shed area. Add to next agenda on how other ways the shed could be used.
Clerk	1091.25 – 19	Add Data Protection policy to the website
Clerk	1093.25 – 21	Update on next agenda. Business and groups support letter responses if received.
Clerk	1094.25 – 23	Add any quotes for playground repairs to the next agenda if received.
Clerk	1095.25 – 25	Next agenda items: 2026 Xmas planning. More lights and possible road closure. Working with the church on a summer fete or other parish events. Vote on buying a PA system for events.

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 08.01.26