



GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 19th February 2026 7.30PM
IN GREAT BEDWYN VILLAGE HALL

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

1098.25 - 01. Welcome and public participation. To note that any comments in this item are a summary only and not a verbatim report.

3 members of the public attended. Their comments were:

- Lack of up-to-date signage at bus stops. Either none, or a brief note with a phone number. It was advised that the PC had reported a list of bus stop issues to WCC recently as part of their 2026 multi-million plan to upgrade stops.
- Query on allotment funds being spent. Advised we are not spending any additional funds at present, and have not been asked to spend any funds. An independent open day is being arranged which could include visits to the site. Looking at pruning trees in the orchard area.
- Housing survey from WCC. Confirmed 46 people responded which is a 7% response rate. The social housing response was higher than expected however some respondents do not want any new homes built in the parish. A small housing estate with a mix of homes appears to be required or new homes spread across the parish.
- Rob at the Village Hall can assist with the use of a PA system for events such as Christmas lights.

1099.25 – 02. Apologies for absence and vote to approve them.

Cllr Nicholson is away and Cllr Shill is on a course.

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

1100.25 – 03. Declarations of interest. None

1101.25 – 04. To approve a 6 month dispensation for Cllr Sims due to injury.

A proposal was made to approve this dispensation for Cllr Sims. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1102.25 – 05. Approval of Minutes from 8th January 2026

The minutes of the meeting of 8th January 2026 were proposed as accurate. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 19.02.26

1103.25 – 06. 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. |
| Clerk | 937.25 – 27 | Invite someone from North Wessex Downs to a council meeting once consultation and plan complete. |
| Clerk | 967.25 – 25 | Do ACV for 3 Tuns pub WORK IN PROGRESS |
| 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. WORK IN PROGRESS |
| Clerk | 979.25 – 38 | For Sept agenda: Move to Oct. Bin outside PO always overflowing. Ask if WCC can empty more often. COMPLETED. |
| Clerk | 981.25 – 01 | Ask WCC about re-painting white lines Ask WCC if they will move their dog waste bins COMPLETED. |
| Clerk | 1000.25 – 20 | Ask LHFIG/WCC about re-painting white lines or adding new white lines. – Merge with item above 981.25-01. 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. |
| Clerk | 1019.25 – 11 | Get update from WCC on re-painting all of GB's white lines – Merge with item above 981.25-01. Ask Wilts Police if they can visit to look at dangerous junctions and give advice WORK IN PROGRESS |
| Cllr Sheerin | 1020.25 – 12 | To make enquiries as to who owns the land at the end of Frog Lane DONE. Owned by a resident of Little Bedwyn. It is not thought they would want to sell land for extra parking. Cllr Sheerin has contact details if needed. |
| 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 |
| 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. DONE |
| Clerk | 1032.25 – 24 | Send out letters to local groups and businesses for 2026/27 assistance. DONE |
| Clerk | 1050.25 – 12 | Contact Pandora for code for SID data, DONE |
| Clerk | 1054.25 – 16 | The Clerk will arrange for the planters to be refreshed. WORK IN PROGRESS |
| Clerk | 1055.25 – 17 | To check the scope of the WCC funds to see if a bench can be added at the 3 Tuns stop. Look at GBPC adding one if not. WCC EMAILED. |
| Cllr D Cooper | 1056.25 – 18 | Talk to Network rail about parking ON THIS AGENDA |

| Owner | Minute ref | Action |
|-------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Clerk | 1057.25 – 19 | Reporting bus parking issue to WCC. DONE |
| Clerk | 1062.25 – 26 and 1063.25 – 27 | Add both bin issues to the Jan agenda. Move to Feb DONE. Bin issues resolved. |
| 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. DONE |
| Clerk | 1083.25 – 11 | Arrange with the RFO to provide the grant to Great Green Bedywn DONE |
| Clerk | 1084.25 – 12 | Add EV Charging point survey to Facebook.DONE |
| 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. WORK IN PROGRESS. 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 DONE |
| Clerk | 1090.25 – 18 | Work with the handyman on improving the shed area. WORK IN PROGRESS Add to next agenda on how other ways the shed could be used. DONE |
| 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. DONE |
| 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. DONE Vote on buying a PA system for events. DONE |

Cllr Sheerin will send the Clerk a list of events that the Three Tuns hold for the ACV application.

1104.25 – 07. 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.

1105.25 – 08. FINANCE. To vote in advance on what grants GBPC could request from Great Western Railway when the next funding is available.

Advice was given by Steve Smith, which could include:

- Heritage shelter in need of repairs.
- Extra parking provision

To be added to the Sept 26 agenda for further discussion.

1106.25 – 09. Approval of regular standing orders that the council makes.

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

1107.25 – 10. To review the current budget vs expenditure report.

There were no questions. Cllrs to contact the Clerk with any later questions.

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 19.02.26

1108.25 – 11. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION.

Will be added to the Bedwyn News for March to encourage residents to assist in tidying their local area.

Cllrs Thompson and Angus met with Danny Austin the project lead for the competition. GBPC is the first to enter for this year.

There is no charge to enter and a potential £4000 cash prize to the overall winners.

The closure date for entries is 19th April and the judging is in May and June. The competition also requires information on local community activities and engagement. To share activities the community is involved in. A report will be produced.

There will be a map of the area highlighting areas of interest and where to visit. Flyers and posters will be produced.

Cllr Thompson will prepare a draft bid for a grant application from the Centenary fund. Up to £1000 available to assist with this work. It was agreed the focus of this grant would be sustainable planting at the Chains.

1109.25 – 12. HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY.

There were 45 responses which is a 7% response rate. This is a minimum indication of need. The most popular choice for new homes was a range of 10-30 new homes. There needed to be affordable social housing to rent, and low cost options for first time buyers.

A list of 6 suggested actions for the PC was created.

1. To formally note the report from Wiltshire Council on the minutes. The Clerk will write to WCC to confirm.
2. Contact the WCC Housing Enabling team. They work with small villages to help them with choices for housing issues. To ask what GBPC can do next.
3. Invite "Homes of our Own" to attend a council meeting. They are a community led hub in Wiltshire. To look at options such as the Seend CLT.
4. Community drop in event for information. Present evidence and information about rural exemption sites and community led housing. To be investigated after items 1-3 concluded.
5. Informal site identification. Small infill sites. To allow the building of around 12 houses over 10 years. Doesn't need to be on 1 site. Begin informal conversations with landowners and WCC planning officers. To be considered when items 1-4 concluded.
6. To look at the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan which was never concluded. To investigate a new NHP.

To also update Little Bedwyn with the information known so far and ask if they have any information to share.

To make it clear that GBPC is NOT looking for sites to develop.

The full document with the suggested action points will be loaded onto the parish council's website.

1110.25 – 13. Pride in the Parish (PiP)

This is part of the Best Kept Village agenda item at present.

1111.25 – 14. Loneliness Project. To receive any updates and vote on any allocated funds from 1.4.26 onwards to spend.

Cllr White has spoken to the Vicar and Cllrs Sanday and Thompson. Further briefing to be given to other Cllrs.

A rep for the school has been identified to be able to link up with parents and carers. The group is going to meet informally to discuss next steps first.

There will be a rotating group Chairman, and a member of the Wellness Group from the Drs surgery will also attend. Can also link with other interested groups – walking groups, bridge club etc.

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 19.02.26

To ensure people are aware this is for all age demographics. Will be promoting existing activities and adding more.

To be re-named as the "Social Connections" project.

Can network for other groups who may be suffering with low numbers.

No expenditure needed at present.

1112.25 – 15. Travel and Highways. To receive an update from Cllr D Cooper on the letter to Network Rail ref parking issues.

Cllr D Cooper will meet with Steve Smith who is assisting. We would like Wiltshire Council to assist with engaging with Network Rail. Network Rail are not responding currently.

As a side note, the following will be looked at:

Write to WCC and CC Ward Cllr Wheeler ref potholes and pavement conditions. To include the roads leading to Tottenham House which are suffering due to heavy vehicle movements. To make sure Tottenham House are also aware of these issues. Vehicles are having to pull onto verges to avoid large vehicles.

Questions over WCC pothole budget – over or underspent for the current financial year? Do WCC check work afterwards? Not always done to a high standard. The council heard that Ward Cllr Jane Davies is questioning WCC on contractors' costs and work standards. GBPC will ask WC Wheeler to follow this up as well and we will CC MP Danny Kruger in comms.

1113.25 – 16. Travel and Highways. To approve the updated LHFIG costs for the lighting survey along Brook St area.

A proposal was made to approve the updated total of £3507.00 with GBPC paying 40% of this cost. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

Cllr Thompson attended the last LHFIG meeting and advised there will be no progress until LHFIG receive their new 26/27 budget. She will advise LHFIG that the updated fee has been approved.

1114.25 –17. Travel and Highways. Potholes and pavement conditions.

Refer to minute reference 1112.25 – 14 as this is included in the comms to be sent out.

1115.25 – 18. To vote on how to clear the council's shed and surrounding area.

Deferring item whilst minute ref 1116.25 – 19 is concluded.

1116.25 – 19. To vote on any new ways the council shed can be used and also approve any expenditure on this project.

There is an interest in taking the current shed down and building something new that could be used as a repair café or workshop.

The Clerk is to talk to the owners of the café to make sure this doesn't adversely affect them.

The Clerk is to talk to the Village Hall Committee as they own the land. To check who owns the fencing and the shed.

The Clerk is to ask the Handyman and RFO who manages the site for their views.

To look at moving the location of a shed to the allotment orchard site or other allotment area. To look for suitable areas within the site.

To be added to the next agenda for further discussion. Cllrs to investigate areas that can be used.

1117.25 – 20. To approve policies: New bribery and anti-corruption policy. Data Protection and GDPR. Updated IT policy.

A proposal was made to approve these 3 policies. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

The Clerk will add the policies to the website.

1118.25 – 21. Allotments. To approve a poly tunnel for plot 101.

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

1119.25 – 22. Allotments. To discuss any Orchard updates.

Cllr Thompson reports.

A lot more work to do, including arranging insurance and set up an organised group to oversee it. This means appropriate access to the area can be managed. The Handyman will work with Cllr Angus to prune the trees in the meantime.

To add to the next agenda for an update.

1120.25 – 23. Christmas 2026. To vote on works to take place and any expenditure to be made.

2 more sets of lights can be ordered to connect to the existing set. Cllr Angus is still trying to locate an electricity supplier for a mains supply. This is to come from the existing £500 budget already approved for this project.

Working with WCC to try to get the tree canopy lifted for safety reasons.

Would be helpful if anyone locally had a cherry picker we could use at the time to place the lights higher on the tree.

The old lights have been taken down.

No plans to request a road closure due to the excessive costs charged by Wiltshire Council.

There is access to a PA system so there is no need for the parish council to purchase one.

The Clerk will order a set of warning triangles that can be placed at the edges of the site to make drivers aware. This is to come from the existing £500 budget already approved for this project.

Will arrange for Marshals with hi-vis and torches to assist pedestrians.

1121.25 – 24. Events for the forthcoming year and to vote on any budget that would be required.

Points noted:

- Should not clash with any other local events.
- Best to use the cricket field as a suitable event site. Talk to Village Hall Committee.
- There are a small number of residents who may be able to help create a music event – Cllr White to ask.
- Ask the Link Scheme to help with lifts to and from an event.
- Create a “Bedwyn Day” based on a local historic event. Talk to the History Group. Not the 28th June as this is the date for the open gardens and swap/sell/share.
- Start off with a modest first event – The Three Tuns running a bar, ask the WI to do cream teas, ask the School to make bunting.
- Live Music
- Cllr Sheerin will talk to a contact he has at the history group.

A proposal was made to allocate £2500.00 to help create this event. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1122.25 – 25. PLANNING. To vote on the response to Wiltshire Council for application PL/2026/00581. T1 Apple tree in decline. To be felled. Dunluce House, Back Lane, Great Bedwyn.

A proposal was made to respond to WCC recommending that the tree be pruned and not felled. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1123.25 – 26. 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.

No update. Move to next agenda.

1124.25 – 27. To review any comments in the suggestion box at the Drs surgery.

Item received about pavement gritting which was discussed previously on the agenda. There were no contact details on the form to directly reply to the resident.

The Clerk will add an item to comms to remind residents of where grin bins are and that the public may use them for pavement and road gritting.

1125.25 – 28. To review any feedback from the letters sent to known businesses and groups.

Feedback on dog waste bags being hung in trees in rural business areas. The Clerk remind people via comms that this is not a suitable way to dispose of bags.

1126.25 – 29. Playground update if required.

It was noted that Cllr Nicholson advised the council that repairs to certain wooden items would be required and that she is gathering quotes. To be added to the next meeting.

1127.25 – 30. Finance report

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

Great Bedwyn Parish Council Finance Report 5 February 2026

Payments Since Last Meeting

| Date | Payee | Description | Gross £ | VAT £ | Net £ |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 13/01/2026 | Handyman | December handyman hours | 140.00 | | 140.00 |
| 13/01/2026 | Last Landscaping | Grass cutting churchyard Q3 2025-26 | 1,026.00 | 171.00 | 855.00 |
| 16/01/2026 | Lloyds Bank | Unity card. Monthly fee & printer ink | 7.49 | 0.75 | 6.74 |
| 20/01/2026 | Bedwyn Footpaths Group | Grant | 1,000.00 | | 1,000.00 |
| 22/01/2026 | Staff | January salaries | 584.24 | | 584.24 |
| 22/01/2026 | HMRC | January payroll Tax/NI | 145.80 | | 145.80 |
| 27/01/2026 | Tactical Facilities Management Ltd | Dec & Jan grass cutting and Jan bin empties | 924.97 | 154.16 | 770.81 |
| 27/01/2026 | Great Bedwyn Memorial Hall | Hall hire Oct-Dec 2025 | 69.00 | | 69.00 |
| 29/01/2026 | Tactical Facilities Management Ltd | Dec bin empties, including 31st July-30th Nov litter bins | 244.57 | 40.76 | 203.81 |
| 29/01/2026 | DCK Accounting | January payroll | 37.80 | 6.30 | 31.50 |
| 31/01/2026 | Unity Trust Bank | Monthly service & transaction charges | 10.05 | | 10.05 |
| 03/02/2026 | Handyman | January handyman hours | 280.00 | | 280.00 |
| | | Total | 4,469.92 | 372.97 | 4,096.95 |

Bank Reconciliation at 6th January 2026

| | | £ | £ |
|--|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Balance b/fwd at 6 Jan 2026 | | 52,457.21 | |
| Receipts | | 285.09 | |
| Payments | | | 4,469.92 |
| Balance c/fwd 5 Feb 2026 | | | 48,272.38 |
| | | <u>52,742.30</u> | <u>52,742.30</u> |
| Balance per bank statements | | | |
| TSB Business A/c | 51634 | 05/02/2026 | 206.00 |
| TSB Saving A/c | 7018306 | 05/02/2026 | 77.81 |
| Unity Business A/c | 20460060 | 05/02/2026 | 2,004.85 |
| Unity Savings A/c | 20482873 | 05/02/2026 | 46,228.29 |
| | | | <u>48,516.95</u> |
| Less unapproved payments/unpresented cheques | | | |
| | | 244.57 | |
| | | | <u>244.57</u> |
| Balance at 5 Feb 2026 | | | <u>48,272.38</u> |

1128.25 – 31. To vote on the Clerk being the Data Protection Officer for the council.

A proposal was made to approve the Clerk as Data Protection Officer for the council. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

1129.25– 32. Items for the next agenda

Cllr Sheerin – any update on the possible well at the allotment and vote on next steps to take plus any expenditure required.

The meeting closed at 21.12

Date of next meeting: Thursday 2nd April 2026 Village Hall Legion Room at 7.30pm, there will be an informal discussion from 7.00pm.

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 19.02.26

Action Points

| 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 | 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 | 981.25 – 01 | Ask WCC about re-painting white lines Ask LHFIFG/WCC about re-painting white lines or adding new white lines. |
| Clerk | 1000.25 – 20 | Are white lines enforceable? – check Check emergency access requirements for 999 vehicles |
| Clerk | 1009.25 – 01 | Ask Cllr H Cooper for update on public transport meeting plans. |
| Clerk | 1019.25 – 11 | Ask Wilts Police if they can visit to look at dangerous junctions and give advice |
| 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 |
| Clerk | 1054.25 – 16 | The Clerk will arrange for the planters to be refreshed. |
| Clerk | 1055.25 – 17 | To check the scope of the WCC funds to see if a bench can be added at the 3 Tuns stop. Look at GBPC adding one if not. |
| Clerk | 1081.25 – 09 | Arrange for the handyman to do the playground inspection course |
| Clerk | 1083.25 – 11 | Arrange with the RFO to provide the grant to Great Green Bedywn |
| 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. |
| Clerk | 1091.25 – 19 | Add Data Protection policy to the website |
| Cllr Sheerin | 1103.25 – 06 | Provide the Clerk with the information on the Three Tuns for the ACV |
| Clerk | 1105.25 – 08 | Add to Sept agenda – what grants to ask for, from Network Rail – when the fund is next available. |
| Clerk | 1106.25 – 07 and 09 | Add 2 agenda items to April agenda – Approval of bank recs and standing orders. |
| Cllr Thompson | 1108.25 – 11 | To draft the submission to the Best Kept Village competition |
| Clerk | 1109.25 – 12 | To work on stages 1 to 6 on the follow up actions from the Housing Need survey. Also contact Little Bedywn. |
| Clerk and Cllr D Cooper | 1112.25 – 15 | Cllr D Cooper to complete the letter to Wiltshire Council/Network Rail. Clerk to write to WCC and WC Wheeler ref potholes and other questions raised. |

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 19.02.26

| Owner | Minute ref | Action |
|--|-------------------|---|
| Clerk ALL CLLRS | 1116.25 – 19 | Work through action points ref shed and add item to the next agenda. Cllrs to visit allotments and look at potential sites for new shed/building. |
| Clerk | 1117.25 – 20 | Load up approved policies to website |
| Clerk | 1119.25 – 22 | Add orchard update to next agenda. |
| Clerk | 1120.25 – 23 | Purchase additional Xmas lights and warning triangles. |
| Clerk, Cllr Sheerin and Cllr White | 1121.25 – 24 | Clerk to talk to the village hall committee ref using the field for an event. Cllr White to talk to residents who may be able to set up the event. Cllr Sheerin to talk to History group. |
| Clerk | 1122.25 – 25 | Respond to WCC with planning app vote. |
| Clerk | 1123.25 – 26 | Add comms item to next agenda. |
| Clerk | 1124.25 – 27 | Add comms reminding residents of grit bin locations and that they can be used for road and pavement gritting. |
| Clerk | 1126.25 – 28 | Add comms reminding that dog waste bags should not be hung in trees |
| Clerk | 1126.25 – 29 | Add quotes for play area repairs to next agenda if received in time. |
| Clerk | 1129.25 – 32 | Add allotment well to next agenda. |

Chairmans Signature.....

Full Council 19.02.26