



GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 2nd April 2026 7.30PM
IN GREAT BEDWYN VILLAGE HALL

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

26/01. Welcome and public participation. To note that any comments in this item are a summary only and not a verbatim report.

4 members of the public attended plus Ward Cllr Wheeler. Their comments were:

To note that council meeting dates also clash with the WI on occasion. This will be addressed during the agenda item.

The community bus is still not performing adequately. There can be long waits to get a bus and then it travels all over the area before arriving at the destination. Then due to lateness of arriving at the destination, appointments aren't kept and its' too late for the return bus.

There was a query over the availability to book the Link bus any further than 2 days in advance and whether it would take people shopping. Cllr Angus said advanced booking (more than 2 days) is encouraged and he suspected that the Link scheme would take the elderly to the shops if they did not have another method of transport.

Cllr Angus reported that the police won't send a traffic team to the area. The police want official stats that the area has a traffic issue. They will respond with visits depending on the number of incidents in an area.

If there is a public meeting arranged with a police presence then more people need to attend to demonstrate to the police that there is local concern.

A question was asked on whether we get advised when road closures change or are cancelled. No. We get the original notification from WCC but do not get updates.

Ward Cllr Wheeler advised about the consultation with regards to WCC bin emptying frequency changes. Parking charges in Marlborough are also being looked at. Will be rounding the charges up he expects. If the changes are approved they will start in 2027. WC Wheeler expects WCC to vote at the next council meeting.

He also advised that WCC Highways are talking to Tottenham House with regards to the road between the A4 and the house. WCC are hoping for a contribution to repair the damaged road in this area due to HGV visits to the house. WCC do not have enough funds to fix all potholes across the county. Fixes also do not tend to last long meaning re-visits to the same pothole often happen. Parish Stewards are currently assisting but are not properly trained to fill potholes.

Cllr Shill commented that the social care uplift providers information has been published. There is actually a 5% reduction in funds going to providers. Is this correct? WC Wheeler will check and report back.

Chairmans Signature.....

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A short presentation was received from Rob Dunton from Bruce Boats.

The 75th anniversary is this year for the canal trust. Would like to commemorate this with events over the entire 90 miles of canal. Will be using one of the boats as a floating exhibition. Starting in Great Bedwyn on 2nd June. They will head west and join the Bristol Harbour Festival, with events along the way. They will then head back to Great Bedwyn for a Midsomer fete at the Wharf on 21st June. There will be a shuttle service to get to the events. They would like to hear of suggestions for part of the events.

They are also proposing to improve the buildings on site for the use of visitors to Bruce Boats. They need an updated building for the boat hires which includes toilets and the facilities to carry out boat maintenance. They are in the early stages of planning and provided some drawings of the proposed structure which the Clerk can email on request. This will replace the original building and will need planning permission.

Question about the use of AI for council documents especially the housing survey document. It was advised that the document was entered into AI and then asked to provide a summary report with suggested action points that the council could discuss and vote on. Council then used this document as a talking point. AI was not given any instructions to alter or change results etc. The PC will note to show the questions asked of AI when using it again in a similar way.

Question on the possible well on an allotment plot. Very early stages still. The PC doesn't know yet if its viable. Need to get the water tested and also consider the costs involved. Also needs a way of getting the water pumped to the surface. A lot of steps before the project is confirmed.

26/02. Apologies for absence and vote to approve them.

Cllr H Cooper and D Cooper are away and Cllr D Sanday is unwell.

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

Cllr P Sims has a 6 month's dispensation due to injury.

26/03. Declarations of interest. None

26/04. Approval of Minutes from 19th February 2026

The minutes of the meeting of 19th February 2026 were proposed as accurate. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/05. 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. PENDING
Clerk	900.24 – 17	To look for other types of leave policy such as carers leave. PENDING
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 Now part of the loneliness project and Cllr Angus' contact list. DONE No progress made with surgeries at present.
Clerk	937.25 – 27	Invite someone from North Wessex Downs to a council meeting once consultation and plan complete. PENDING
Clerk	967.25 – 25	Do ACV for 3 Tuns pub DONE and submitted.
Cllr Sims	971.25 – 30	To see if the newer SID is downloading information ok PENDING
Clerk	975.25 – 33	Arrange for suggestion box at surgery to be brighter. PENDING

Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	981.25 – 01	Ask WCC about re-painting white lines Ask LHFIG/WCC about re-painting white lines or adding new white lines. PENDING
Clerk	1000.25– 20	Are white lines enforceable? – check Check emergency access requirements for 999 vehicles – Emailed Cllr Sanday to see if she had information.
Clerk	1009.25 – 01	Ask Cllr H Cooper for update on public transport meeting plans. PENDING. Add to May annual meeting?
Clerk	1019.25 – 11	Ask Wilts Police if they can visit to look at dangerous junctions and give advice DONE. Letter sent.
Cllr Sims	1021.25 – 13	Download the data on the SID before its moved to Church St. CLOSING DUE TO CLLR SIMS DISPENSATION.
Clerk	1028.25 – 20	Add updated IT policy to the website DONE
Clerk	1054.25 – 16	The Clerk will arrange for the planters to be refreshed. PENDING. WAITING FOR WCC PERMISSION
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. PENDING, WAITING FOR WCC REPLY.
Clerk	1081.25 – 09	Arrange for the handyman to do the playground inspection course PENDING.
Clerk	1083.25 – 11	Arrange with the RFO to provide the grant to Great Green Bedywn DONE
Clerk	1085.25 – 13	Ask Wiltshire council about planting plans and crown lift for central chains area. PENDING WAITING FOR WCC PERMISSION Is there a way to the get road sweeper out more often. PENDING For the Feb agenda – pavement gritting. Pot holes and pavement conditions DONE
Clerk	1086.25 – 14	Report to Wilts Council on the list of requested but stop improvements DONE, NOT HAD FEEDBACK
Clerk	1090.25 – 18	Work with the handyman on improving the shed area. PENDING
Clerk	1091.25 – 19	Add Data Protection policy to the website DONE
Cllr Sheerin	1103.25 – 06	Provide the Clerk with the information on the Three Tuns for the ACV DONE
Clerk	1105.25 – 08	Add to Sept agenda – what grants to ask for, from Network Rail – when the fund is next available. DONE
Clerk	1106.25 – 07 and 09	Add 2 agenda items to April agenda – Approval of bank recs and standing orders. DONE
Cllr Thompson	1108.25 – 11	To draft the submission to the Best Kept Village competition DONE
Clerk	1109.25 – 12	To work on stages 1 to 6 on the follow up actions from the Housing Need survey. Also contact Little Bedwyn. WIP
Clerk and Cllr D Cooper	1112.25 – 15	Cllr D Cooper to complete the letter to Wiltshire Council/Network Rail. COMMS VIA EMAIL AND POSSIBLE SITE VISIT Clerk to write to WCC and WC Wheeler ref potholes and other questions raised. DONE
Clerk ALL CLLRS	1116.25 – 19	Work through action points ref shed and add item to the next agenda. PENDING Cllrs to visit allotments and look at potential sites for new shed/building. DONE

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Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	1117.25 – 20	Load up approved policies to website PENDING
Clerk	1119.25 – 22	Add orchard update to next agenda. DONE
Clerk	1120.25 – 23	Purchase additional Xmas lights and warning triangles. Triangles DONE, lights pending.
Clerk, Cllr Sheerin and Cllr White	1121.25 – 24	Clerk to talk to the village hall committee ref using the field for an event. DONE, if cricket not playing then field can be used. Cllr White to talk to residents who may be able to set up the event. DONE Cllr Sheerin to talk to History group. DONE
Clerk	1122.25 – 25	Respond to WCC with planning app vote. DONE
Clerk	1123.25 – 26	Add comms item to next agenda. DONE
Clerk	1124.25 – 27	Add comms reminding residents of grit bin locations and that they can be used for road and pavement gritting. DONE
Clerk	1126.25 – 28	Add comms reminding that dog waste bags should not be hung in trees DONE
Clerk	1126.25 – 29	Add quotes for play area repairs to next agenda if received in time. DONE
Clerk	1129.25 – 32	Add allotment well to next agenda. DONE

26/06. Council meeting dates clashing with other events. To discuss and steps to take.

The Clerk was given an action to look at any clashing dates with WI or cinema etc and ask Cllrs if they want to move any meeting dates. To be done offline via comms.

26/07. FINANCE To approve the council's outstanding bank reconciliations.

A proposal was made to approve the outstanding reconciliations. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/08. FINANCE. To vote to approve all Standing Orders and Direct Debits the council makes for goods and services.

A proposal was made to approve the list the RFO had provided of all standing orders and direct debits. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in approval.

26/09. FINANCE. To vote on a grant request of £1440 from the Bedwyn Performing Society to assist with new shutters in the village hall.

A proposal was made to grant £1440 from the councils CIL funds if possible, or general grant fund if not. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/10.FINANCE. To approve the council's current asset register.

A proposal was made to approve the asset register the RFO had provided. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

It was noted that PC's should not depreciate their assets due to the AGAR.

26/11. FINANCE. To review and vote on purchasing professional packages of Claude.AI at approx. £14.93 per month per “seat”.

A proposal was made to approve 2 seats after a suitable policy on use was created and approved. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

Cllr Withanichchi will assist with the policy and it was suggested to check any Gov guidance for use. The pro version of Claude.AI guarantees the councils data will be secure.

26/12. FINANCE. To note any actions taken by council staff since the last external audit.

The actions taken by staff as shown in the report was formally noted by the council.

26/13. FINANCE. To review the updated dog bin emptying costs and compare to other quotes.

The Tactical Facilities Management costs have risen to £25.33 per week. Costs from Allbuild would be £30 a week.

A proposal was made to retain the service from Tactical Facilities Management. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

The Clerk is to check if Tactical have a regular schedule that they visit the parish on and also if there is any penalty to them for failure to deliver the service.

The Clerk is to get a list of what bins WCC empty.

26/14. FINANCE. To look at SSEN grants. For low carbon technologies or flood resilience.

A proposal was made to get a grant submission raised for a method of drawing water from the well if we re-install it. Solar or manual powered. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/15. FINANCE. To approve costs of £127.00 plus VAT and £10.00 delivery for the painting kit for the BT box in the village.

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

26/16. BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION. Update and approval of funds to spend.

A list of actions needed was supplied by Cllr Thompson which the council agreed should be carried out.

A flyer is required for all homes to advise on how they can assist.

The church are helping by doing work at the churchyard.

There is a need to talk to all business owners in the parish to ask if there is anything they can do, or anything they need assistance with.

A proposal was made to approve a £100 budget to print flyers and buy other small items that may be required. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/17 Pride in the Parish (PiP)

This is part of the Best Kept Village agenda item at present. These 2 items will be combined until the competition is concluded.

26/18. Social Connections Project. To receive any updates

A meeting is to be held with Colin the Vicar on the 14th April. Hoping to get the Primary School involved at the next meeting.

26/19. Social Connections Project. To look at approving a logo for the project.

3 examples were looked at. The general idea was in favour of a logo. The examples will be shown to the church and school for their ideas. To bring the item to next meeting with any logo adjustments.

26/20. Travel and Highways. To receive any updates from Cllr D Cooper with regards to Network Rail.

No update.

26/21. To vote on how to clear the council's shed and surrounding area.

The councils handyman has said he can build a new shed. Could ask him to manage the build? Ask him to cost it up and work out a new footprint. Needs a storage area for PC supplies and a small workshop area. Must be secure and safe.

Could use CIL funds as it would be a community asset with the workshop. Ask Great Green Bedwyn for help to install a rainwater garden. Won't need planning permission as it's a temporary structure. This could work as a project for the community.

To bring back to the next agenda.

26/22. To approve policies: Personal data audit.

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.

26/23. Allotments. To discuss any well updates and next steps.

It does look like the project could be viable. Next steps are:

- Find out more about water testing.
- Work out a plan so the site is safe.
- Need to work out how often in the year there is water on site.
- The Clerk to update the Ramsbury estate as landowner.
- The Clerk is to find water testing companies
- Cllr Angus will look at ways the water can be drawn

To be added to the next agenda for a progress report.

26/24. Allotment orchard update.

Apple trees have been pruned. Remedial work and damaged branches.

Crown lift to above eye height and suckers removed.

Brash is to be burned on an empty plot

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Will need an annual prune in Autumn when birds have finished nesting.

The Clerk will ask Drew to check the glass in the green house. Is it safety glass? Can we add a film to make it safe?

Cllr Thompson will get the insurance costs for the group who will lease the orchard so the council can consider a grant to pay for this. Cllr Thompson is working on this project.

26/25. Allotments. To approve a shed for plot 117.

A proposal was made to approve the shed for the site. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/26. Events for the forthcoming year.

A date for the summer event is needed.

The History group can hopefully help with a date for "Bedwyn Day".

Don't merge it with the Bruce Boats event.

To consider a winter event for when the lights are turned on. Add to next agenda for consideration.

26/27. PLANNING. To vote on the response to WCC for application PL/2026/01399. Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. New roof to existing kitchen extension. New front porch and associated alterations. Willow View, 43 Church Street, Great Bedwyn, Marlborough, SN8 3PQ

A proposal was made to respond to WCC with no comment. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/28. PLANNING. To vote on the response to WCC for application PL/2026/01333 To the First Floor of the Old Stables: Reconfiguration of corner room layouts; and consolidation, filling and venting of F21 fireplace. To the Ground Floor of the Old Stables: removal of G23 chimney breast; reconfiguration of G24 chimney breast; and associated works. Tottenham House and Estate, Grand Avenue, Savernake, SN8 3BE

A proposal was made to respond to WCC with no comment. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/29. PLANNING. To vote on the response to WCC for application PL/2026/01719 Prior approval. Agricultural storage building. Crofton Farm, Crofton, Marlborough, SN8 3DW

A proposal was made to respond to WCC with no comment. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

26/30. COMMUNICATIONS. To discuss any actions for the following.

Cllr White will make sure there is an update on the housing survey in the next Bedwyn News.

Cllr Angus – V11 of the contacts/responsibility document will be sent out shortly.

Cllr Shill – no school related updates.

26/31. To review any comments in the suggestion box at the Drs surgery.

No comments received.

26/32. Playground update if required.

Some fencing needs replacing. The Clerk will work on this with the handyman.

A quote has been received for major repairs.

Some of the posts on the main unit need replacing and metal feet adding. This is £1880.00

To replace the timber steps is £745.00

A proposal was made to approve these 2 costs. The proposal was seconded and all Cllrs were in favour.

Other items for later in the year are:

Basket swing upgrade £1741.00

Rotating climber bearings £220.00

Grass matting junior swings needs replacing.

Junior swings need replacing soon. £3849.00

These items will be looked at during the year and other quotes obtained.

The post replacement will be a rolling project year on year.

26/33. Finance report

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



Great Bedwyn Parish Council Finance Report 24th March 2026

Payments Since Last Meeting

Date	Payee	Description	Gross £	VAT £	Net £
12/02/2026	Great Bedwyn Parish Council	Internal transfer savings to current a/c	3,000.00		3,000.00
16/02/2026	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. Monthly fee, printer ink, 75 C4 envelopes, 2 books 2nd class stamps and 50 letter envelopes	61.77	7.48	54.29
24/02/2026	Staff	February salaries	583.84		583.84
24/02/2026	HMRC	February payroll Tax/NI	146.20		146.20
24/02/2026	DCK Accounting	February payroll	37.80	6.30	31.50
24/02/2026	DCK Accounting	March payroll (invoiced early)	37.80	6.30	31.50
26/02/2026	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	Feb grass cutting and bin empties	519.97	86.66	433.31
28/02/2026	Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service & transaction charges	8.25		8.25
06/03/2026	Handyman	Handyman Feb hours	520.00		520.00
06/03/2026	Handyman	Handyman Feb Expenses. Fixings for street signs, screws for playground and paving slab for covering allotments well	44.54		44.54
10/03/2026	Tenant	Allotment plot 117 deposit refund	50.00		50.00
16/03/2026	Lloyds Bank	Unity card. Monthly fee & printer ink	9.49	1.08	8.41
17/03/2026	PCAP for Great Green Bedwyn	Donation for repainting 3 metal road signs in the village	50.00		50.00
Total			5,069.66	107.82	4,961.84

Bank Reconciliation at 24th March 2026

		£	£
Balance b/fwd at 5 Feb 2026		48,272.38	
Receipts		3,100.18	
Payments			5,069.66
Balance c/fwd 24 Mar 2026			46,302.90
		<u>51,372.56</u>	<u>51,372.56</u>
Balance per bank statements			
TSB Business A/c	51634	24/03/2026	206.00
TSB Saving A/c	7018306	24/03/2026	77.99
Unity Business A/c	20460060	24/03/2026	2,890.62
Unity Savings A/c	20482873	24/03/2026	43,228.29
			46,402.90
Less unapproved payments/unpresented cheques			
OLB 125	50.00		
OLB 127	50.00		
			100.00
Balance at 24 Mar 2026			<u>46,302.90</u>

26/34. Items for the next agenda

Cllr Thompson – discussion on white lines with regards to email from Steve Smith.

Cllr Thompson – to discuss new signs for the area, directing visitors to the High St.

Cllr Thompson – to determine how to use the £250.00 centenary fund if successful with the grant request. To include any extra items such as hanging baskets?

Chairmans Signature.....

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The meeting closed at 21.02

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th May 2026 Village Hall Legion Room at 7.30pm, The annual meeting of the Parish Council will begin at 7.00pm.

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	937.25 – 27	Invite someone from North Wessex Downs to a council meeting once consultation and plan complete.
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.
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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	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	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	1090.25 – 18	Work with the handyman on improving the shed area.
Clerk	1091.25 – 19	Add Data Protection policy to the website
Clerk	1109.25 – 12	To work on stages 1 to 6 on the follow up actions from the Housing Need survey. Also contact Little Bedwyn.
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.
Clerk	1116.25 – 19	Work through action points ref shed and add item to the next agenda.
Clerk	1117.25 – 20	Load up approved policies to website
Clerk	1120.25 – 23	Purchase additional Xmas lights
Clerk	26/06	Check clashing meeting dates and rectify offline with Cllrs to choose new dates if required
Clerk	26/09	Arrange for grant of £1440 to Performing society with RFO
Clerk	26/11	Arrange for AI policy to be written and completed and then sign up for 2 paid seats with Claude AI
Clerk	26/13	To check our service level with Tactical ref bin empties and if there are any penalties. To check with WCC on what bins they empty.

Chairmans Signature.....

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Owner	Minute ref	Action
Clerk	26/14	Look at SSEN grants for well water provision.
Clerk	26/19	To bring back draft logos for the social connections project for approval when ready
Clerk	26/21	To get a quote from the handyman to build a new shed. To look at using CIL to fund. Add to future agenda.
Clerk	26/22	Add personal data audit to website policy page.
Clerk Cllr Angus	26/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out more about water testing. • Work out a plan so the site is safe. • Need to work out how often in the year there is water on site. • The Clerk to update the Ramsbury estate as landowner. • The Clerk is to find water testing companies • Cllr Angus will look at ways the water can be drawn Add to the next agenda for a progress report.
Clerk	26/24	To check with handyman on whether greenhouse glass is safe and look at alternatives.
Clerk	26/26	Add to next agenda the Bedwyn event day for a progress report
Clerk	26/27,28,29	Respond to WCC with the decision of the 3 planning apps
Cllr White	26/30.	Update Bedwyn News with AI article update
Cllr Nicholson	26/32	Respond to contractor with approval of items for repair at Play Area.
Clerk	26/34	Add items to next agenda.

Chairmans Signature.....

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