



GREAT BEDWYN PARISH COUNCIL

PO BOX 4326

Marlborough

Wiltshire

SN8 9FS

www.greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk

clerk@greatbedwyn-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. 11.6.2026.

Village Hall, Frog Lane, Great Bedwyn. 7.30pm

26/01. Chairman of the Parish Council's welcome

Cllr Bruce White welcomed those attending and advised on the speakers for the evening. There would be an informal chat session at the end of the meeting where the public could discuss matters with any of the speakers.

26/02. Allotment update from Cllr Thompson

- All plots are currently occupied.
- The recent burning of all waste materials from the orchard area was successful.
- Community orchard project – trees pruned, ground strimmed, will be carrying out further pruning in Autumn 26. A group will be set up to manage the area so that visits to the site can be arranged.
- Have located a covered well at the allotments. Working to see if it can be re-introduced as a well for tenants to use. Will be testing the water quality.
- Sheds. Will be confirming a maximum size for the lease at the next council meeting. Won't issue any type of penalty for sheds already in place larger than this size. All shed placement must be checked with GBPC first.

26/03. Social Connections Project update from Cllr White.

- Building on what makes Great Bedwyn "Great".
- Have partnered with the Parish Council, St Mary's Church and Great Bedwyn Primary School.
- To make sure everyone feels included in local life.



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- Looking at a story telling and photography project. Celebrate people in the area. Hilary Stock's work from 15 years ago will be included.
- Will interface with Bedwyn Day
- Would welcome new ideas and also interaction with other groups – new parents, teenagers, and other groups that may not feel connected.
- There is a suggestion box in the Doctor's Surgery. Please do use it.
- A telephone number is being set up where a voicemail can be left or a text sent. Would like to use this to record stories via voicemail.

26/04. Play area update. By Clair Wilkinson, Clerk to the Parish Council.

- Handyman booked on an external play inspection course.
- Ongoing replacement year on year of wooden parts of the play equipment.
- New basket swing seat ordered
- A visual inspection of all items is carried out every 2 weeks by the handyman.
- Bark is to be ordered once repairs are concluded for 2026.

26/05. Best Kept Village update from Cllr Thompson.

- First time Great Bedwyn has entered in 10 years.
- Able to enter 2 categories. Large village and best newcomer.
- First round results not yet published.
- Everyone should be proud of how the village looked regardless of the outcome.
- The Parish Council will thank everyone involved in due course.
- If we win the first round of judging we will be entered into the Wiltshire stage, with another round of judging with another visit.
- There is a cash prize available.
- Thank you to everyone who helped with preparations.



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26/06. Highways and Transport update from Cllrs Sims, D Cooper and Thompson.

- Due to the regular bus service being lost and replaced with Wiltshire Connect, the Parish Council are working to try to make this service better. Please keep telling us about issues you face with the service so we can tell Wiltshire Council.
- Railway issues. Working with Steve Smith and Bill Wells who work very hard and the community is lucky to have them.
- Would like to develop more parking places for the railway station area with minimal effect on village life. Could get an extra 12 parking spaces.
- We have a new contact at Wiltshire Council and Network Rail.
- Funds need to be raised as Great Western is being nationalised at the end of 2026.
- We need people to use the train station but also minimise the impact on Church Street and other surrounding roads.
- Parish Cllrs Sheerin and Angus did a tour of our local bus stops and reported issues back to Wiltshire Council
- The Parish Council is talking to Wiltshire Council about placing a bench at the Three Tuns bus stop. A resident has kindly offered funds to assist with this.
- The street lighting survey on Brook St and Jockey Green was carried out and LHFIG at Wiltshire Council (Local Highways and Footpath Groups) and Pewsey Area Board have approved funds for this. The Parish Council will be covering part of the costs.
- The Parish Council is working on a project to request residents cut back foliage that is blocking pavements or narrowing roads with no pavements. Will escalate to Wiltshire Council if needs be.
- The Church St traffic speed monitoring device is in place. This is from a successful LHFIG bid to have the speed monitored with a view to reducing the speed limit.
- The SID project will be picked up now Cllr Sims is able to take the lead.
- The police will be given the results of our SID data.



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26/07. Bedwyn Day update by the volunteer working party.

- This will now be an annual day to celebrate the parish.
- Taken from St Anne's feast which has occurred for hundreds of years on 26th July but stopped in Victorian times.
- Different venues are hosting – the church, the village hall, the café and the Three Tuns pub.
- Ongoing agenda of events during the day including: dog show, free brunch, bake off, bouncy castle, messy play, drama – “Play in a day”, kids choir, BBQ, bar.
- Helpers still needed.

26/08. Pewsey Community Area Partnership (PCAP) update from Susie Brew.

- Created when Wiltshire Council was formed but they receive no funding from Wiltshire Council now.
- Meet once a quarter to discuss local issues. Lots of projects – Cost of Living, Funding food boxes for disasters, banking and insurance for small groups, youth projects, memory cafes, community gardens.
- Also includes the Pewsey Vale Tourism Partnership. Supports local businesses who pay a small fee to access the services. Such as walking leaflets in the BT box.
- Also helping to protect the North Wessex Downs. Activities such as bulb planting, new signage on main roads, information boards at train stations.

26/09. Bedwyn Footpaths Group and Health Walks update by Judy Haynes and Cllr Peter Angus.

- The footpaths group has been active for 11 years. They keep paths clear and promote walking. They have an email circulation of around 150 people who get a monthly update.
- The walks are all free, vary in location, distance and ability.



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- The routes are on their website and they have self-guided walks leaflet paid for with a Parish Council grant.
- They are restoring way markers and Great Bedwyn was the first stile-free parish in the country.
- Health walks are supported by Wiltshire Council and the “Get Wiltshire Walking” group. It’s a 2 mile walk unaided. They go at the pace of the slowest walker. GPs will offer referrals. Often 6-18 people per walk. Apart from the benefits of exercise there are the benefits of a social gathering. They meet at the village hall every Monday morning. Set off at 10.25am. (Except bank holidays) No need to book, just turn up.

26/10. Great Green Bedwyn and Open Gardens update by Sylvia Wyatt.

- This scheme is now 5 years old and started with a lottery grant. They aim to tackle climate change and promote climate resilience.
- They provide free thermal imaging surveys of properties and have carried out 45 surveys so far. These will resume in October.
- They run Green open homes events so other people can get ideas for a greener home.
- They support nature recovery and local farming with farm walks and talks. 60 people attended the last one.
- Work on flooding and water quality working with ARK. They formed the first UK rain garden project which aims to slow the flow of water into rivers during and after storms.
- There is a local sell, swap and share event on 28th June.
- They arranged a repair café in the church hall in 2025 but H&S and insurance are proving problematic.
- A new Green Value project has been started with a lottery grant – promoting these activities to 26 other local parishes. There is an Open garden event with rain gardens on display on 28th June.



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26/11. Bedwyn Link Scheme update by Sylvia Wyatt.

- Running since 2012. This is a vital scheme if you cannot drive or do not have a car. They will provide this service for essential journeys.
- In 2025 they did 238 trips and volunteers drove for 1131 hours and provided Wiltshire with the equivalent of £21,000 in local economy spending.
- They need more drivers as they have had to turn down journeys.

The meeting concluded with an informal open chat session between all attendees.