

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**  
held on Wednesday 13th April 2011 at 7.30 in the Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs Roger Durie (chairman), Ruth Francis, Julie v Haperen, Steve Hobson, Paul Knowler, Charles Howell, Jim Raff, Sally Rhodes and Jenny Clack  
PC Cath Hollands, PCSO Helen Ringstead and 14 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllrs Gordon Stone, Karina Nicholson and District Cllr Stuart Wheeler,

**Minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010:** The minutes were read and approved.

**Matters Arising:** None

**AOB, Public discussion:**

Jennifer Harrison stated that she would be stepping down from her duties as overseer for the notice boards. A new resident is to be sought to take over her duties.

**Financial Statement:** The financial statement was reviewed and accepted.

Great Bedwyn Parish Council,	Financial Statement	Income & Expenditure Account	
Income	Year Ending	31-Mar-10	31-Mar-09
Precept		13000	14000
Capital grants		--	15000
Interest & Investment Income		8	263
Parks & Open Spaces		360	1126
Allotments		503	455
Litter Collection		100	100
Misc		255	250
Allotment Deposits		125	125
Total		<u>14351</u>	<u>31319</u>
(VAT refund		800	1017
 <b>Expenditure</b>			
Estab' & General Admin		5901	5519
Election Expenses		--	--
S 137 Grants		2548	585
Capital Expenditure		--	--
Parks & open spaces		4473	4657
Allotments		500	1552
Cemetery		205	205
Play Equipment		631	1490
Litter collection		184	179
Lighting and Street Furniture		208	420
Misc		140	374
Total		<u>14790</u>	<u>14981</u>
Bank Balance C/F		<u>19976</u>	<u>20673</u>

## **Chairman's report 2010-2011**

### **Kennet & Avon 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

At the start of the year The Parish Council was involved in the organisation and running of the celebration of 200 years of The Kennet & Avon Canal at The Wharf. This was a highly successful event master-minded by David Harris with significant support from The Parish Council.

The success of the event prompted The Parish Council to ask British Waterways for permission to assume responsibility for the grassed area at The Wharf, in order that it could be maintained for future use during village events. Although British Waterways responded positively to this request they have failed to confirm the arrangement and it now seems likely that The Bruce Trust will be developing the area.

An information 'roundel' was designed, funded and erected at The Wharf to commemorate the anniversary and our thanks go to all our local sponsors, British Waterways and Pewsey Area Board who all made this possible.

### **Our Village Defibrillator**

Our Village Defibrillator jointly funded by Dr Ballard and The Parish Council was installed in The Surgery car park and training/awareness sessions have taken place at various times throughout the year.

Further activity to increase awareness and familiarity with the unit is planned.

### **Youth Club**

The Youth Club opened on May 1<sup>st</sup> with Parish Council support and we received a very positive report from the club in March. A new assistant has been recruited and will start in May.

### **Allotments**

The allotments have seven new allotment holders and now total forty three. It has been a busy year during which some unattended plots have been re-let and are now being cultivated. Drainage where flooding previously took place has been improved and skips have been supplied to remove non-organic waste. Our thanks to councillor July van Haperen for her hard work in organizing and managing all matters associated with the allotments this year.

### **The Phone Box**

Our phone box was finally re-painted after a persistent campaign by our new clerk Colin Brinsden to spur BT into action.

### **Traffic issues**

Our 'Community Speedwatch' team consisting of four volunteers carried out six speedwatch sessions on Forest Hill and are planning more sessions later this year. Thanks go to Councillor Sally Rhodes for organising this activity.

Traffic issues have included the placement of additional bollards in Church St. to prevent parking outside The Surgery and the long overdue re-surfacing of Brook St between Farm Lane and the bridges (once again a concerted effort by our clerk helped to achieve this).

Road surface problems in Back Lane have been resolved by residents capitalising on the opportunity presented by surplus tarmac from the Brook St. re-surfacing.

### **Christmas Lights**

New LED Christmas lights were sourced by Councillor Paul Knowler and installed/removed with the help of Lee Mason. Many thanks to both of you for our best display so far!

### **Parish Council Document Store**

The Parish Document store is now up and running thanks to Councillor Steve Hobson. All documents can now be accessed by members of the public via the following web link <http://cid-18d98cbfb3b5ae6f.office.live.com/documents.aspx>, and imminently via the Great Bedwyn website.

### **Parking in The Knapp**

Parking in the Knapp is more of a problem than ever before with increased numbers of commuters from outside the village using the station. Police assistance has been sought to deal with illegal parking and The Parish Council has worked hard to arrange meetings with Network Rail and Wiltshire Council in an effort to improve the situation.

Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group have produced and distributed leaflets encouraging commuters to park considerately.

### **Planning**

Although the number of planning application has been fewer this year I should like to make a point of thanking Councillor Jenny Clack for her continued hard work in arranging all our site meetings and communicating the Planning Committee responses to Wiltshire Council throughout the year.

### **Our new Parish Clerk – Colin Brinsden**

Colin has now completed his first full year and has coped very well with taking on board all the knowledge required to do the job very effectively.

My thanks to all councillors and our Clerk for your support throughout this year.

Roger Durie