

Great Bedwyn Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th November 2011

Present: Cllrs Roger Durie (Chairman), Jenny Clack, Jim Raff, Charles Howell, Karina Nicholson, Tom Mallinson, Steve Hobson, Gordon Stone, Paul Knowler and Nick Gibbins, District Councillor Stuart Wheeler and approximately 7 members of the public.

Apologies: PCSO Coralie Nash

Minutes: The minutes of the October 2011 meeting were approved.

Declaration of Interests: There were no Declarations of Interest.

Public Discussion:

Jan Thornton requested an update regarding “white lining”. The Chairman reported that following enquiries concerning the possibility of applying white lines instead of double yellow lines, he had been informed this was not current WC policy. It was noted however, that white lines are used extensively across the UK to assist with parking management and there are white lines in Great Bedwyn already. The Parish Council will have further discussions with WC concerning this issue. **Jan Thornton** also stated that whilst decisions were still outstanding, regarding parking restrictions in The Knapp, several residents who had requested disability bays were put on hold. District Councillor Stuart Wheeler requested a list of the residents who had applied, and would follow up their applications.

Prudence Collett-Jobey referred to the minutes of the September Council meeting, quoting that “The Parish Council had voted and rejected, in its entirety, the draft proposals presented by Wiltshire Council Highways”. It was pointed out that this was inaccurate. The actual statement in the minutes read:- “The Parish Council then voted and rejected, in its entirety, the draft proposals presented by Wiltshire Council Highways, **whilst all other options are being pursued. Including, but not limited to, the possibility of Sarsen Housing adopting the cul-de-sacs, and some limited parking restrictions around the bend by the bus stop.**”

Numerous e-mails had been received from **Anthea Rogers**, which, if not already answered, will be responded to. Parking problems in The Knapp remain an issue which the Parish Council is concerned to resolve, but the Chairman noted that it was not helpful for public questions repeatedly going over ground that had already been covered, as the Parish Council was a voluntary body with limited resources and time, at its disposal. **Anthea Rogers** was asked why she had inundated the Parish Council with questions, which, had she attended previous meetings, she would have been aware of the Parish Council’s responses. Many of her questions had no, or very little, relevance to The Knapp parking problems. **Anthea Rogers** pointed out that she was not a member of The Knapp Tenants Association and as a council tax payer, she had every right to ask questions and expect answers. The Chairman asked **Anthea Rogers** if she considered her own credibility when making these requests.

Anthea Rogers questioned a statement made in the September minutes. The statement read; The Parish Council did not propose the current scheme, and they have not been invited to attend any on-site meeting with Mr.Storey.” This statement is true, and precise. The draft proposal presented by Alister Storey did not reflect the PC’s original suggestions to Peter Harris and the only consultation (instigated by the PC) was the telephone conversation with the Chairman, when Alister Storey was only prepared to consider very minor amendments to his draft proposal, and did not acknowledge the PC’s concerns about the excessive nature of the scheme. The Chairman again made it clear that the result of the “show of hands” taken at the public meeting on 14th September showed a majority against the draft proposals presented by WC Highways. The Chairman stated that there had been 85 people against the draft proposals. This was made up from 26 who totally rejected the proposal (at the meeting), plus the 34 who would agree to partial restrictions (at the meeting), plus the 25 e-mails/letters received that were against the use of yellow lines. The show of hands contributed to the Parish Council decision, but views and opinions were also shaped by the perceived excessive proposals set out by WC Highways. It is for this reason that the Parish Council is now pursuing alternative measures.

Questions were asked (during public discussion and later) about the Council’s policy on Equality and Diversity; how the Parish Council applies the Equality Act of 2010; and whether any Councillors had received training. The Council’s Standing Orders (9e) require the Council to have regard to the Equal Opportunity obligations in all its dealings. No Councillor has received specific training; The Council will issue its policy statement by the end of January 2012.

Matters Arising:

1. Allotments. (SH):

- 1.1. A response has been received from The Scouts representative, and this is being followed up with a request for The Scouts, to outline their plans for the development of their allotment.
- 1.2. We have been made aware of 3 allotments being vacated. Priority is being given to Great Bedwyn residents for re-allocation. The waiting list is now very short, and residents are invited to add their names to the list, if interested. Item to be include in Parish News.

2. Youth Club. (KN)

- 2.1. No update available.

3. Traffic items.

3.1. Parking outside the Royal British Legion (High Street)

- 3.1.1. Wiltshire Planning has confirmed that they have no objection to the removal of the centre wall. The Legion has been informed.

3.2. Bus Route and Station Parking (RD/CAB)

- 3.2.1. The Parish Council Chairman (RD) and District Councilor Stuart Wheeler, had a meeting with a representative of Sarsen Housing, on 25th October to discuss parking and traffic issues within The Knapp. Sarsen Housing are unwilling to take ownership of the two cul-de-sacs, but will try to help by marking car parking bays, in the car park behind the flats. Residents of The Knapp will then be notified that parking is available for their carers and visitors.

- 3.2.2. The Parish Council contacted Paul Bolland regarding whether white lines as proposed by the BTPG can be laid at the same time as the 20mph speed limit is introduced. There was a negative response from Paul Bolland. The Parish Council has again contacted Wiltshire

County Highways, requesting further consideration, and Paul Bolland will consult with his manager, when he returns from leave at the end of November.

3.2.3. Network Rail has again been contacted, and the Parish Council has been informed that the area requested for the car park extension has been “cleared for use”. (still subject to £5000 for Network Rail to carry out their feasibility study) The PC is applying for a grant for this amount, via Pewsey Area Board.

3.3. A report on Rail Services in Wiltshire has been made available, and a copy can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.

3.4. 20 mph Scheme:

3.4.1. The 20 mph scheme for central Great Bedwyn is due to start by the end of November 2011.

4. General Village Upkeep/Appearance

4.1. Proposed alteration to corner of Brook Street/Church Street:

4.1.1. The Parish Council has agreed to contribute £500 towards the cost (£4500) of the new dropped pavements and restructuring of the corners of Brook Street/Church Street and Brook Street /Farm Lane. This will significantly improve pedestrian safety at this junction.

4.1.2. Wiltshire Council has now agreed that the trees at the junction of Brook Street and The Knapp are their responsibility, and they will undertake the pruning work.

4.1.3. Sarsen Housing to be approached, regarding skip outside 3, Railway Terrace.

Post meeting note: Sarsen Housing has agreed to get the skip removed, and also to review/improve the general condition of footpaths.

5. The Three Tuns.

5.1. No further information is available

6. Parish Council Governance

6.1. The Parish Clerk distributed Standing Orders, Risk Management and Financial Regulations to all councilors.

7. Christmas Lights. (PK)

7.1. Lights to be erected as previous year. Additional new lights to be purchased.

8. The Wharf.

8.1. British Waterways to be approached again, regarding, their, Bruce Trust and the PC’s ideas on utilization of the large grassed area..

9. Budget Forecast. (CAB)

9.1. Moved to next month to allow further analysis.

10. Queen’s Jubilee.

An item is to be placed in the Parish News, requesting ideas from residents for the celebrations.

11. Snow Preparations.

Snow shovels have been purchased and will be stored with the salt spreader in the British Legion. Volunteers are to be sought for assisting in each area of the village. (Particularly where elderly residents are located). and an hourly rate negotiated for this. It was agreed that someone should be recruited to use the salt spreader when required. The Parish Council has capped the annual cost of casual labour for salt spreading at £1000.

Correspondence Received: The correspondence received was reviewed. These included the following:-

1. Letter from CPRE Protect Wiltshire regarding National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) proposed changes.
2. Letter from Andrew Hutchison regarding concern over possible planning applications from Crown Estates.
3. Letter from Prudence Collett-Jobey, The Knapp Tenants Association, regarding consultation with Disability Law Service.
4. E-mail from Anthea Rogers requesting amount of grant paid to Bedwyn Train Passenger Group since 2005.
5. E-mail from Anthea Rogers asking whether current Councillors have been elected or co-opted.
6. E-mail from Anthea Rogers requesting the minutes and agendas from the last 5 Council meetings.
7. E-mail from Anthea Rogers regarding parking matters in The Knapp.
8. E-mail from Anthea Rogers regarding Declaration of Interest listed in September minutes.
9. E-mail from Anthea Rogers regarding parking issues in The Knapp.
10. E-mail and letter from Highways giving details of the 20mph restrictions and details.
11. E-mail from Prudence Collett-Jobey, The Knapp Tenants Association, in response to e-mail from The Chairman.
12. E-mail from Anthea Rogers requesting items to be added to the agenda for this meeting.
13. E-mail from Anthea Rogers requesting that the PC make public, their "Equality and Diversity" policy.
14. E-mail from John Thornton requesting items to be added to the agenda for this meeting.

Note on correspondence: The Parish Council noted that responses to correspondence received by email will NOT normally be dealt with between Parish Council Meetings as the members of the Parish Council are all unpaid volunteers with limited time available and all councillors must be given an opportunity to respond to received correspondence before the Parish Council responds as a body

Planning October 2011: (JC)

Parish Council, no objection: (omitted where approval is listed below):

None

Parish Council objection/comment:

None

Wiltshire Council full planning:

75, Church Street.

Wiltshire Council:

8, Brook Street – 2 storey extension with single storey link. Full planning refusal.

Cheques: The following cheques were approved:

No 963 for £308.46 to Plandscape for ground maintenance, October 2011.

No 964 for £31.17 to C A Brinsden for purchase of 3 snow shovels (on line RINKIT Ltd)

A.O.B:

1) **Police Report ~ Great Bedwyn : Nov 2011**

Dear Great Bedwyn Residents,

Our new priorities are : Scrambler bikes-Great Bedwyn

: Anti social behaviour, Rawlins Road, Pewsey

: Burglaries-Vale of Pewsey(both East and West)

Crimes:

Over the past 4 weeks, the following crimes and incidents have been reported to the police:

-There have been ongoing complaints to the police in relation to obstruction and parking issues in and around the train station and the knapp. Although this issue has been removed from our priority list, local officers are still monitoring the situation and will respond and deal accordingly.

- A resident has been receiving suspicious calls to her home from an unattainable Scottish landline number, each time the caller asks for the lady of the house and when told the person answering is the carer, they hang up.

- Unknown suspects have stolen 2 bikes and a large amount of fishing gear from a secure shed, by forcing the hasps.

- Unknown offenders have cut the padlock off a door to a barn and entry has been made, although it is not known at this stage what has been stolen.

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There has been a change to our local NPT and we are still awaiting the details of the person who is going to take the position of beat manager for Pewsey East, although I can reveal that her name is Theresa Herbert and we will keep you up to date in relation to a start date and hopefully you will meet Theresa very soon.

As the evenings are drawing in, we would also like to give the usual crime prevention advice re burglaries. This time of year thieves start getting geared up for Christmas and will take every opportunity they can. Please take every security measure you can to help keep your home protected; light timers are a good idea as it gives the impression someone is home, even if they are not.

We would ask people to stay vigilant and report anything suspicious to the police, be it persons or vehicles.

2) **Resignation of Ruth Francis.** Letter sent, thanking Ruth for her valued service and support during her time as Parish Councilor and Vice Chairman of The Parish Council. Nominations were sought for new Vice Chairman. Charles Howell was nominated and unanimously accepted as Vice Chairman.

3) **Re-surfacing of A338 local to Great Bedwyn.** Letter in support of the re-surfacing to be sent to Parvis Khansari with a copy sent to Dick Tonge, the cabinet member for highways.

4) **Olympic Torch.** The Torch will be paraded through Wiltshire in May and July next year. It will be in Marlborough on the 23rd May and Tidworth on the 11th July. There will be an overnight stop in Salisbury on the 11th July. Look out for the organized events.

The meeting closed at 9:26 pm

.....chairman date