

Being a Good Councillor

Twelve members of your Parish Council attended a training session on a sunny June day, entitled, "Being a good Councillor". The training day, held at Beacon Hall, was attended by 35 cllrs from the area – including Saltford, Clutton, Dunkerton, Newton St Loe and Peasedown St John councils. The course, which was run by GAPTC (Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils) was facilitated for the day by Kim Bedford, GAPTC's Chief Officer. GAPTC is the County Association affiliated to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the only body in the country specialising full-time in the work of Parish and Town Councils and Parish Meetings, with advice and guidance to its member councils based on more than 40 years experience of acting solely in their interests.

Kim Bedford, who began her council experience many years ago as a clerk, shared a wealth of knowledge and gave information and training on all types of matters that may arise during our term in office, such as staffing, budgets, conflicts, standing orders, how to keep in touch with the residents, how to produce good agendas and minutes and how to keep full council meetings flowing and interesting! All 12 members of Peasedown Parish council who attended the training agreed the day had been extremely worthwhile, not only for all the information, help and advice that had been gained but also meeting members of other councils in the area and exchanging ideas and methods.

Advice Surgery

Four Cllrs from Peasedown St John Parish Council held their first advice surgery in the Coffee Hut on the 18th July. Cllrs Karen and David Walker and Cllrs Neil and Sam Hopkins took time out of their working day to meet members of the public who wanted to have a chat about village issues. Several members of the public attended and subjects ranging from the Parish Council Website to an overgrown hedge near the Cemetery were discussed and noted for future action.

"We really want to meet as many of the residents of Peasedown St John as we possibly can and holding Advice Surgeries seems to be just one way we can achieve this" said Cllr Karen Walker who had arranged the meeting in the Coffee Hut. "We have set up a small Communications Working Party who are working on the most efficient way of keeping residents informed of what the council is doing and finding out what is required within the village".

The 18th July was also the 21st birthday of Administrative Officer Emily Wilson and she was invited to leave her post in the Parish Office and enjoy the warm and friendly hospitality of the Coffee Hut as a small thank you from the 17 new Cllrs along with an unruly bunch of balloons which filled the back of Emily's small car!

Another advice surgery has since been held on the 16th August in the Waggon and Horses pub (thank you to the Waggon for allowing us to use the pub for this) - the Parish Council are aiming to hold advice surgeries each month, the next one being held in the car park of Tesco Express in the morning of Saturday 17th September.

Please come along and meet us if you can!

Garden of Remembrance

Cllr Kelly Souter has taken on the challenge of continuing with the planning and construction of a Garden of Remembrance in Peasedown St John. Cllr Souter has already had many meetings with residents, horticulturalists, representatives of the churches and some of the former Parish Cllrs who have an interest in this project. This is something which has to meet the needs of as many people as possible and the council will be very pleased to hear from anyone who would like to make comment or suggestions. Cllr Charlie Harrison will be assisting Cllr Souter with the Garden of Remembrance project.

A Sincere Apology

Prior to the May election, comments were made by a Peasedown 1st candidate which caused offence to many residents. Those comments were wholly inappropriate and immediately regretted by the person who made them; and a public apology followed. To that I add my own unreserved apology that such a thing happened during a campaign intended for the good of the community; and I confirm that the comments are not condoned by Peasedown First or the Parish Council.

With Sincere regret,
Andrew Fraser, Chairman of the Peasedown 1st Community Association

Community Group Funding

Do you need funding or a donation for your community group or association?

Each year the Parish Council sets aside money in its annual budget for applications from community groups and associations who may need help with funding for projects.

If you think the council may be able to help your group by providing a much needed cash boost then please make an application in writing to the council via The Parish Clerk – all applications will be considered and voted upon at full council meetings. The money is there to help our community – although we may not always be able to help we will always give your application full consideration. Please do not be afraid to ask!

Get In Touch!

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Peasedown St John Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2011

Parish Council Update

I am writing to assure all residents that the new Parish Council is up and running and "firing on all cylinders." Our Clerk has been on sick leave since 10 May; however, procedures are in place to enable the day to day running of the Council to continue. Recently we welcomed Debbie Parish as Office Manager who is covering for the absence of our Clerk. Debbie is in the Parish Office five mornings a week between 9:00 and 12:00; she is assisted on three mornings by Emily Wilson, our Administrative Officer. Jim Murtagh and Chris Champion, our caretakers and grounds men, are responsible for up keeping the wonderful floral displays and the play areas as well as for grass cutting and general maintenance throughout the village. I would like to thank all the Staff for their continuing support as the Council moves forward.

You will see from this newsletter and the website various exciting projects the Council is currently undertaking. The website and the notice boards throughout the village are continuously updated with our latest minutes and news of meetings. A team of your Councillors have been busy with important procedural financial matters. We have recently prepared, approved & submitted the Annual Return and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2011. A new Internal Auditor (IAC Ltd.) was appointed and has completed the required review of last year's governance; this has raised a number of important issues and concerns that are now being taken 'in hand' by your Council. This Council welcomes input from all residents - please contact the Parish Office with any concerns, ideas or suggestions you may have. Alternatively, feel free to contact myself, or indeed any of your Parish Councillors.

Neil Hopkins, Chairman

Election Results

Just in case you were not aware, Peasedown St John has 17 new Parish Cllrs; the local election on 5th May enticed 48% of residents to vote and, between the 17 new cllrs, 70% of the votes were won. A huge thank you to everyone who made the effort and voted for us – now we have the task of doing our very best to make Peasedown St John an even better place to live.

Winter Weather Surveys

At the Annual Parish Meeting in April, a local resident from Old England Way asked for Grit Bins to be placed at the top of Old England Way. The resident expressed concerns that during long spells of severe weather residents are unable to move their cars and of even more concern, that emergency vehicles would not be able to get to the very top of the road. In response to this request, Councillor John Bailey conducted a survey last month of the residents of Old England Way, Adams Close, Saxon Way, Old Forge Way and Heritage Close.

The survey asked for information, to establish traffic patterns and the degree of the difficulty faced during snowy conditions. It was delivered to 209 addresses and 67% replied. The very useful information gathered by Cllr Bailey has been analysed and presented to B&NES Cabinet Member for Transport, Roger Symonds, along with a copy of the report to Ward Councillor Nathan Hartley. Mr Symonds was very interested in our findings and confirmed that B&NES are looking at different ways of gritting locally, including the experimental appointment of local "Snow Wardens". The matter will be pursued by the Parish Council.



Snow Arrangements for Carlingcott

Cllr Richard Formby has been dealing with the concerns of the residents of Carlingcott regarding the lack of snow clearing and gritting during the past few winters, often leaving the residents stranded for several days at a time. 64% of the residents surveyed in the village confirmed that they had been unable to attend work/school during periods of freezing weather. A staggering 95% of those surveyed said they support a request for Carlingcott to have at least one gritted route in and out of the village after 2 continuous days of severe weather conditions. Cllr Formby's findings were also presented to Roger Symonds of B&NES.

Both of these concerns for the residents and businesses of Peasedown St John and Carlingcott will continue to be addressed by the Parish Cllrs. If you too have concerns on this subject please contact us with your views, or if you would like to see further information about the surveys then please visit our website. Many thanks to all those who took the time to respond to our surveys – your local parish council are here to help you and it is important to us to be made aware of your concerns.

Full Council Meetings

All 17 newly elected Peasedown Parish Cllrs would like to say thank you for the support and encouragement we have received since the May elections. Although it hasn't been the smoothest of transitions, we have been overwhelmed with the support at the full council meetings that have been held so far. The full council meeting, held in July, saw over 20 members of the public in attendance, including members of the Youth Club, Football Club, Reverend Matthew Street, our local B&NES Cllrs Sarah Bevan and Nathan Hartley along with several residents.



Peasedown Athletic Football Club carried out a presentation to appeal for funds for their run-down changing facilities, Cllr Nathan Hartley brought everyone up to date on matters in the whole of the B&NES area, as well as in Peasedown and Roger Symonds, B&NES cabinet member for transport attended to hear residents concerns regarding winter road clearing arrangements. The council's next full council meeting is on Monday 26th September – for further information please visit our website – agendas will be posted on the village notice boards nearer the time.

Peasedown Athletic Football Club

Peasedown Athletic Development Fund made a presentation at the full council meeting on the 25th July 2011 to appeal for funding to bring the club's changing facility up to date. The shower blocks have been in a poor state for many years and initial plans were to modernise the block and to also extend the current facility to provide a public toilet and storage facilities. Estimates had been received but at over £25,000, for the basic work, would be beyond the clubs affordability for many years.

After the presentation by the club, Cllrs considered the funding of the refurbishment of the shower block on the Recreation Ground from the S106 money allocated by B&NES and the developer of the Sunnyside development. Thirteen Cllrs voted for the project to go ahead, to maximum funding of £30,000, on the condition a working party of cllrs plus a representative of the football club was set up to oversee the building works and finances.

Although the building work is urgent and is planned to be carried out in the next 2 months, concerns were raised over the safety of the electrics in the block as they stand at the moment and it was suggested this matter was addressed immediately before the new season began. The council would like to thank local electrician, John Davis, who offered to make safe the current electrics in the shower block and issue the club with a safety certificate, free of charge. Hopefully we will be able to report the completed works in our next newsletter!



Village Clean Ups

Parish Cllr Karen Walker, organised a village clean-up in June and invited local residents to join in. The event, one of many planned for the forthcoming year, aimed to encourage social action and to help residents feel a great sense of pride in their community. Local Parish Cllrs, along with Peasedown 1st Members and one of the B&NES Ward Cllrs, spent time on a wet and windy Saturday morning picking up litter in the Frederick Avenue/Wellow Lane area.

The clean-up team were joined by Frederick Avenue resident, Luke McCafferty and his 9 year old son – the whole group were then warmed up with free coffee and biscuits, courtesy of Simon Sandall at the Red Post Inn. Cllr Adi Davis, who took part in the clean up said "As part of a community we all have a social responsibility to work with other residents to build a society that we can be proud of. The Big Society model means people at local level can play a role in running their own communities, and organising events, like community clean ups"

Further information about other litter picks and clean-up events will be posted on the Parish Council Website.

The Parish Council Goes Electronic!

One of the first items on the agenda of the new Parish Council was the use of paper, envelopes, ink and postage. Charges for the distribution of agendas, minutes and other information has cost the Council on average £1000 per year for the past few years in paper, ink, envelopes and postage. All 17 members of the newly elected Parish Council voted unanimously to move over to electronic copy with immediate effect.

Other savings are being made too by the Cllrs voting to deliver the Council Newsletters personally from this point forward - thank you to the scouts for their help over the past few years in the distribution of the council news – but now it's time for the cllrs you elected to do the legwork! The council has also agreed to allow a small amount of advertisements in council newsletters, providing the adverts are local – whilst the council do not endorse any of the advertisements they are grateful for the additional revenue, which will be used towards the costs of producing the newsletters.

Who Are Your Councillors?



Cllr Michael Abolins



Cllr Garry Abrams



Cllr John Bailey



Cllr Calvin Bird



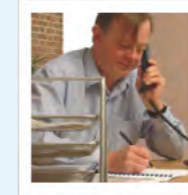
Cllr Mandy Clarke



Cllr Adi Davis



Cllr Jo Davis



Cllr Richard Formby



Cllr Andrew Fraser



Cllr Charlie Harrison



Cllr Neil Hopkins



Cllr Sam Hopkins



Cllr Eric Lindsay



Cllr Kelly Souter



Cllr David Walker



Cllr Karen Walker



Cllr Jason Wilber

Your Council Notice Boards are sited at Eckweek Lane, Orchard Way, Carlingcott Village and Peasedown High Street.

Structure of the Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr Neil Hopkins - **Vice Chairman:** Cllr Eric Lindsay

Amenities Committee:

Chairman: Cllr Eric Lindsay

Members: Cllr Andrew Fraser, Cllr Charlie Harrison, Cllr Kelly Souter, Cllr David Walker, Cllr Jason Wilber, Cllr Neil Hopkins

Environment Committee:

Chairman: Cllr Andrew Fraser

Members: Cllr Michael Abolins, Cllr Garry Abrams, Cllr Mandy Clarke, Cllr Adi Davis, Cllr Jo Davis, Cllr Richard Formby, Cllr Kelly Souter, Cllr Jason Wilber, Cllr Neil Hopkins, Cllr Eric Lindsay

Finance Committee:

Chairman: Cllr Richard Formby

Members: Cllr John Bailey, Cllr Calvin Bird, Cllr Andrew Fraser, Cllr Sam Hopkins, Cllr David Walker, Cllr Jason Wilber, Cllr Neil Hopkins, Cllr Eric Lindsay

Planning Committee:

Chairman: Cllr Karen Walker

Members: Cllr Calvin Bird, Cllr Mandy Clarke, Cllr Adi Davis, Cllr Jo Davis, Cllr Sam Hopkins, Cllr Neil Hopkins, Cllr Eric Lindsay

Policy and General Purposes Committee:

Chairman: Cllr Eric Lindsay

Members: Cllr Calvin Bird, Cllr Jo Davis, Cllr Richard Formby, Cllr Andrew Fraser, Cllr Karen Walker, Cllr Neil Hopkins