

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7pm at Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN

Present:

Cllr Fiona Carr (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Mandy Clarke (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Richard Clarke (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Jo Davis (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Roger Dix (Planting volunteer),
Cllr Audrey Gillard-Sprake (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Michael Gregory (Peasedown St John Cricket Club),
Mr Howard Hartley (Planting volunteer),
Cllr Gavin Heathcote (Peasedown St John Parish Council/B&NES Council),
Mr Mike Ilott (Planting volunteer),
Mr Will Jackson (Peasedown St John Cricket Club),
Mr William Jones (Braysdown Allotments Committee),
Cllr Simon Kidd (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Karl Kilburn (Scout Leader, Peasedown St John Scout Group),
Ms Ashia Kusawake (Bath All Starz Cheerleading),
PCSO Tony McIntosh (Avon & Somerset Police),
Ms Ruth Noall (Headteacher, Peasedown St John Primary School),
Cllr Conor Ogilvie-Davidson (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr John Ogilvie-Davidson (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mrs Linda Parker (Peasedown St John WI),
Cllr Jonathan Rich (Chair, Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Les Sprake (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Kathy Thomas (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Daniel Walker (Peasedown St John Parish Council).

Parish Council Staff: Tracey Edge, Joy Luxford, Deborah Parish.

A total of 39 people attended the meeting.

[Link to Agenda with supporting presentations.](#)

1) Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council welcomed those present, including members of the Parish Council and the village residents present at the meeting.

The Chair welcomed and/or thanked the following for their service to the village:

- Former Parish Councillors Howard Hartley and Gill Auld
- All the volunteers who have helped to maintain our planted areas, with a special mention to Howard Hartley, Roger Dix, Mike Ilott and Gill Rogers, all of whom spend many hours weeding and planting.
- Members of the allotment holders' committee at Braysdown Allotments
- B&NES Ward councillors Gavin Heathcote and Karen Walker
- Members of Avon & Somerset Constabulary including PCSO Tony McIntosh, PCSO Louise Jones and PC Matt Bendall.

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7pm at Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN

2) Apologies for absence had been received from:

Cllr Andy Larcombe (PSJPC); Gabrielle Stanley (Pilates); Gill Rogers (planting volunteer); Anna Sabine (MP for Frome & East Somerset); Marion Button (Peasedown St John Cricket Club); Cllr Karen Walker (B&NES Ward Councillor).

3) Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024

Minutes of the previous Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024 had been circulated in advance. It was **resolved** to accept these as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4) Report from a representative of Peasedown St John Primary School

Ruth Noall, Headteacher of Peasedown St John Primary School, highlighted some of the many developments at the school during the past year, including:

- An expansion of the nursery to include spaces for children aged 2 to 4 years.
- Opening a SEND resource base with funding from B&NES, to accommodate up to 12 children who have special educational needs. This is a pioneering approach where the children are very much part of the school and receive a blended education.
- Bridging the gap between the school gates and the classroom by getting parents more involved. They run new sessions called Pop-Up and Play, for parents to come in and spend time with their reception-aged children which have been very well received.
- Offering Forest School for all children. Over the course of each academic year, every year group gets a block of Forest School lessons. Forest School is learning outside and includes some outdoor skills such as whittling, fire building and tree climbing, with the aim of building resilience, confidence and team and communication skills.
- OPAL play (Outdoor Play and Learning) this was mentioned last year but has really taken off. They were featured on ITV News and in research carried out by Exeter University which has shown that playing outside helps children's mental health.
- Promoting reading outside the classroom as well as inside the classroom, including sessions at the community library, shared reading events with parents and an author visit the school.
- Science, including a hands-on science fair where parents could come in and do a range of science investigations with their children.
- A recent Silver Arts Mark Award in recognition of everything they do for the children linked to the arts. For example, every child learns a musical instrument and last summer they were one of 60 schools that was chosen to have a piece of artwork exhibited in the National Gallery's summer exhibition.
- They continue to have a good reputation for sport and have been recognised for their equality in supporting girls' teams as well as boys' teams and encouraging more disadvantaged pupils to get involved.
- Other initiatives continue, such as trips, visitors and experiences, together with the Mini Police and links with local churches.
- Newer initiatives are Stay and Play toddler sessions run by nursery staff and an extension to their Breakfast Club which they hope to offer to all pupils.

Anyone interested in knowing more about what they're doing at the school would be welcome to call to arrange a visit.

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7pm at Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN

5) Report from a representative of the Avon & Somerset Constabulary – P.C.S.O. Tony McIntosh.

PCSO Tony McIntosh's presentation covered the following points:

- Changes to the local Beat Team.
- The area including Peasedown St John is very large and there is only one car to cover the entire area.
- Crime figures for Peasedown St John for 2023-24 are much the same overall, apart from an increase in sexual offences (mainly mobile phone-related).
- Overall, Peasedown St John is a much safer area than it was 13 years ago.
- PCSO numbers last year fell from 13 to 6. Peasedown St John still has the same team but spread over a wider area.
- In response to recent bank fraud scams, a new "159" system has been introduced. If a member of the public believes they have been contacted by a scammer, they should hang up and dial 159. They will then be asked some questions regarding the incident and will be put through to their bank to investigate further.
- The PCSOs go to The Meeting Place, Bath Road, regularly and are available for anyone who needs to speak to them informally (crimes should still be reported by calling 101).

6) Ward Councillor Report

Cllr Gavin Heathcote introduced himself as one of the B&NES Ward Councillors for Peasedown St John and passed on apologies from Ward Cllr Karen Walker. He offered thanks to all the parish councillors who do an amazing job for the village and give their time for free, and to parish council staff.

He gave an overview of the projects the Ward Councillors have been involved in over the last 12 months:

- Projects, using funding allocated to Peasedown St John, including some new street lighting, public rights of way improvements and cycle signage around the village.
- Using £1000 of Ward Councillor's Empowerment Fund to support tree planting and purchase of a polytunnel at Peasedown School.
- Submitting a wish-list to B&NES to tackle issues raised by residents including road and pavement resurfacing, pedestrian crossings and a Dunkerton Hill/Ashgrove speed limit reduction.
- Lobbying to ban pets being offered as prizes on B&NES Council land.
- Working closely with Avon & Somerset Police including a visit from Claire Moody, the new Police and Crime Commissioner.
- Holding multi-agency surgeries every quarter with representatives from Avon & Somerset Police, the Parish Council, and CURO.
- Campaigning to increase Mini Police sessions (run by PCSOs Tony McIntosh & Louise Jones) at the school, which have recently been reduced from a year to just one term.
- Negotiating a change of route for the 522 bus service, to go around Orchard Way (replacing the D2X service which will shortly be removed).
- Supporting local projects for parents and children.
- Following up on plans for a roundabout at the southern end of the village which were recently dropped by WECA, and meeting cabinet members from B&NES to discuss this and other road

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7pm at Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN

safety measures, such as crossings, a speed limit reduction on the bypass and increased safety for cyclists.

- Changing the bus lane off Wellow Lane to one way only, to improve safety, and widening the pavements on either side.

He urged those present to complete and return the resident survey which has recently been delivered to all households, so that the Ward Councillors are kept up to date with local resident's concerns.

7) Annual Peppercorn Ceremony for the rent of the Beacon Hall and Field

The Chair explained that the Parish Council had been granted a 50-year tenancy for Beacon Hall and Field from B&NES Council, for which the rent was one peppercorn per annum. B&NES Ward Councillor Gavin Heathcote received the "peppercorn rent" for the Beacon Hall and Field for the coming year.

8) Report from Peasedown St. John Parish Council Chair and Chairs of Standing Committees

Cllr Jonathan Rich introduced a video presentation regarding the work of the different committees over the past year, rather than the usual PowerPoint presentations. It was hoped that residents would find it a more engaging way to keep informed of the Parish Council's activities and that it would reach a wider audience. The video is available to view on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page.

9) Un-audited Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2025:

Cllr Jo Davis gave a presentation on the un-audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024, which will be available to view on the Parish Council's website.

The figures presented were a draft financial statement (correct as at 12th March 2025). The finalised accounts would be available to view in due course, in the Parish Office and on the website.

[The meeting was paused for a 15-minute refreshment break.]

10) Questions for the Chair

There was one question for the chair, as follows:

Last year there was a lot of talk about the village plan and possible new housing. Is there any update?

The Chair responded to say that the first stage of the process was the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA), for which the Parish Council had recently submitted comments. The next stage on from this would be a more in-depth plan. B&NES Council would be consulting with all the local parishes soon with more detailed requirements, but the exact timeframe for was currently not known.

11) Presentations were received from the following organisations providing feedback on how their 2024/25 Community Grant awards were spent [any presentation slides from these reports are available to view on the Parish Council's website].

- a) Bath Allstarz – Coach travel costs to cheerleading competition and Summer Fun Days at Beacon Hall.

**Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, held on Tuesday 25th March 2025 at 7pm
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- b) Bath Area Play Project – Summer Play Day at Beacon Field.
- c) Braysdown Allotments Committee – Allotments BBQ.
- d) Peasedown St John Cricket Club – Fireworks Display.
- e) 1st PSJ Guides and 2nd PSJ Brownies – new flag bags, guide flag and union flag.
- f) Peasedown St John WI – advertising costs.
- g) Craft & Lunch Club – craft items.
- h) 1st PSJ Scout Group – Road Closure signs (for Remembrance Parade).
- i) Somer Valley FM – Contribution towards cost of DAB up-grade.

Concluding remarks:

The Chair thanked all those who had taken part in the meeting.
The meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT