

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, held on Tuesday 29th March 2022 at 7pm at the Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN

Present:

Cllr Barbara Bailey (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Mandy Clarke (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Richard Clarke (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Ken Coles (Braysdown Allotments Committee),
Mrs Emma Dando (Deputy Headteacher, Peasedown St John Primary School),
Mr Francis Day,
Mrs Linda Day,
Miss Elizabeth Ennew (Headteacher, Peasedown St John Primary School),
Cllr Audrey Gillard-Sprake (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Michael Gregory (Peasedown St John Cricket Club),
Cllr Gavin Heathcote (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr William Jones (Braysdown Allotments Committee),
Cllr Simon Kidd (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Andy Larcombe (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Ray Love (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Phil Lyle (Assistant Headteacher, Peasedown St John Primary School),
PCSO Tony McIntosh (Avon & Somerset Police),
Cllr Conor Ogilvie-Davidson (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Jonathan Rich (Chair, Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Les Sprake (Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall (Vice-Chair of Bath & NE Somerset Council),
Cllr Kathy Thomas (Vice-Chair, Peasedown St John Parish Council),
Mr Nick Young (Manager, Peasedown Miners Welfare Football Club).

Parish Council Staff: Tracey Edge, Deborah Parish, Tanya West.

A total of 26 people attended the meeting.

1) Welcome

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

2) Apologies for absence had been received from:

Cllr John Bailey (Peasedown St John Parish Council), Dianne Bird (Chair, Peasedown Social & Wellbeing Group),
Cllr Adi Davies (Peasedown St John Parish Council), Cllr Jo Davies (Peasedown St John Parish Council), Mandy Eades (Line Dance with ME, Beacon Hall) Cllr Andrew Fraser (Peasedown St John Parish Council), Cllr Samantha Heathcote (Peasedown St John Parish Council), PCSO Louise Jones (Avon & Somerset Police), Anita Phillips (Peasedown Guides), Mrs Gabrielle Stanley (Zumba, Beacon Hall).

3) Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 30th March 2021

Minutes of the previous Annual Village Meeting held on Tuesday 30th March 2021 (held remotely via MS Teams due to the Coronavirus Pandemic Restrictions) had been circulated in advance. It was **agreed** that these were a true and correct record of the meeting.

4) Report from the Headteacher of Peasedown St John Primary School – Elizabeth Ennew

The Chair introduced Elizabeth Ennew from Peasedown St John Primary School and her colleagues Emma Dando (Deputy Headteacher) and Phil Lyle (Assistant Headteacher).

They provided a presentation outlining recent initiatives and improvements as the school, including:

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- A focus on core values to encourage pupils become positive and successful global citizens, using the acronym “CARE” which stands for Curiosity, Aspiration, Resilience and Equality.
- A scheme to encourage Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) where children learn through exciting outdoor activities such as Den Building and Water Play.
- The Nursery and Reception areas have been relocated to create bespoke, well-resourced areas of learning and exploration.
- There has been a focus on improving writing skills and music continues to be one of the school’s strengths.
- The school have strong community links, including Mini Police, Harvest and Christmas services at local churches, links with The Hive, Parish Council and Party in the Park.
- Wider opportunities and clubs are provided, such as football and chess clubs.
- The school will soon be offering “Wrap Around Care” for children with the start of Breakfast and After-School sessions which will be a help for working parents.

5) 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. Due to Covid restrictions, it had not been possible to get a representative from B&NES Council to receive the “peppercorn rent” for the Beacon Hall and Field for a couple of years. He was pleased to welcome Cllr Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Vice-Chair of Bath & NE Somerset Council, to collect the rent for the current year and any arrears that were due.

After receiving the rent, Cllr Stephenson-McGall mentioned that he was very pleased to attend, particularly since B&NES Council are keen to strengthen their community links. He reported that B&NES are currently reviewing their Parish Charter and have also been working on other initiatives of benefit to the wider community such as the “Parish Online” mapping system.

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

a. Full Council/General – Cllr. Jonathan Rich

Cllr Jonathan Rich, Chair of the Parish Council, gave a review of Parish Council events held during the past year, including:

- Paying respects to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh – April 2021.
- The annual Full Council meeting, held in May 2021, which was the first face to face meeting for some time, due to Covid restrictions.
- Dressing of war graves and Remembrance Day event in November 2021.
- Tree planting with the Mini Police in January 2022.
- Commonwealth Day flag raising in March 2022.

Thanks were offered to organisations of benefit to the village, including:

- Local Businesses
- School Governors
- Organisations that provide for education, recreation and religious activities
- Uniformed organisations
- Many more individuals and groups many of whom work on a charitable basis.

b. Burial Committee – Cllr. Audrey Gillard-Sprake

Cllr Audrey Gillard-Sprake, Chair of the Burial Committee, gave a review of the Committee’s activities during the year. These included:

- Meeting once as a committee and three times as an advisory panel.

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- A specimen flowering cherry tree has been planted in the central bed of the Scattering Meadow and the surrounding beds have been weeded ready for planting-up in April. The Caretaker has created a new gravel area for phase 2 of the cremated remains plots.
- There have been some changes to the regulations regarding the removal of tributes from the cremated remains plots under certain circumstances.
- Pruning and clearing of the Memorial Garden bed, which has been actioned as a combination between the Caretaker and an outside contractor and is likely to be completed in April.
- Clearance of accumulated rubbish from the lower car park.
- Provision of a special Christmas tree at the cemetery for residents to share messages and tributes.

c. **Executive Committee** – Cllr. Kathy Thomas

Cllr Kathy Thomas summarised some of the work carried out by the Executive Committee in the preceding year.

Since the Annual Full Council meeting in March 2021, the Executive Committee has met as an Advisory Panel once a month, normally the week before the Full Council Meeting. Their role has been:

- To monitor the Order of Known Business and implementation of projects.
- To advise the council on setting of priorities and to monitor agreed priorities.
- To keep council apprised of progress against agreed priorities.
- To support the Clerk in meeting objectives within realistic timescales.
- To improve communications and understanding between committee chairs.
- To improve communications and understanding between councillors.

Project work has included:

- Improving access to our open spaces including a recent project to lay a tarmac path around the entire site of Miners Welfare Recreation Ground and a new pedestrian entrance onto Bath Road.
- Transfer of parcels of land from Persimmon to the Parish Council which will enable them to be regularly maintained.
- Plans for a new community garden beside Beacon Hall, which will be opened in early June to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- Plans for interpretation boards pointing out local features of historical interest to be installed at various points around the village.
- Continuing to check and maintain our upgraded streetlights.

The slides from this presentation are attached as an appendix to these minutes.

d. **Finance & Amenities Committee including a statement on the un-audited Parish Council accounts for year ending 31 March 2022** – Cllr. Andy Larcombe

Since the Annual Full Council meeting in May 2021, the F&A Committee has met 3 times (with a further meeting scheduled for late April) and the Advisory Panel has met 4 times. This does not include any additional hours that councillors on the F&A Committee do undertaking bank reconciliations/checks etc. as part of the scrutiny checks required under our Financial Regulations.

Project and maintenance work has been carried out on:

Braysdown Allotments:

- The allotment boundary fence has been replaced.
- Quarterly Allotment Inspections resumed when Covid restrictions allowed.
- Changes to Covid restrictions also meant that Allotment Holders were able to hold their annual barbecue, with the help of a grant from the Parish Council. At this event, a plot holder was presented with a gift to mark 50 years at the allotments.

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- A total of 21 plots have been re-allocated early in 2022 which means that the waiting list for those within the parish is now quite short.

Beacon Hall:

- Bookings are now getting back to normal with children's parties, special gatherings and also a wedding celebration at Beacon Hall.
- Following Covid, a new cleaning schedule was introduced after bookings. Covid cleaning supplies are still provided.
- The first children's party post-Covid was held in July. This has meant that booking income is down, but the budgeted target for this year has been met.

Beacon Field:

- Repairs to the play equipment and play surface have been carried out.

Recreation Ground – Football facilities:

- Football facilities have now reopened as Covid restrictions have eased.
- Legionella testing had to be carried out on the water system/showers.
- The Football Club Advisory Panel made a site visit to consider improvement works.

Recreation Ground – Scout Storage:

- The two old storage containers on the Recreation Ground have been removed.
- A smart new garage storage area has been installed next to the changing rooms.

Recreation Ground – vandalism:

- There have been some issues with graffiti and other damage to signage on the Recreation Ground which have been dealt with as they have occurred.

Ecewiche Green:

- The damaged fence at the entrance from Eckweek Lane has been replaced.

Planting on roundabouts and verges:

- The floral displays looked good again this year and we are grateful to our volunteers who help with the planting-out.
- We have installed new "mining cart" planters in three locations and new hexagonal planters at the orchard on Orchard Way.
- The telephone kiosk on Bath Road has been restored and is now being used as part of the floral displays.

Defibrillators:

- The Parish Council is responsible for the defibrillators at Beacon Hall and at Peasedown St John Co-operative. They are regularly checked, and their status logged on the national database.
- The Beacon Hall defibrillator was recently used for the first time, which has meant that replacement pads have been purchased together with a spare set.
- Gates to all public open spaces will be fitted with coded locks and the Ambulance service will be given the details.

Tree damage from storms:

- The Caretaker has been involved in clearing fallen trees and branches resulting from the recent storms.

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Christmas Hampers:

- The annual Christmas Tea Party was again not possible, so hampers were delivered to all senior residents together with a Parish Council calendar, back by popular demand!

Community Grants:

- As in previous years the council awarded grants to organisations of benefit to the residents of Peasedown St John. They will make their presentations later in the evening.
- Grant application forms for 2022/23 are available on the Parish Council website. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Tuesday 19th April 2022.

Un-audited Accounts for the Year Ending 31st March 2022:

Cllr Andrew Larcombe gave a brief statement on the un-audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022.

The finalised accounts will be available to view in the Parish Office after the Full Council meeting on 17th May 2022, in accordance with the notice of appointment of date for the exercise of electors' rights.

e. Personnel Committee – Cllr. Simon Kidd

Cllr Simon Kidd, Chair of the Personnel Committee, gave a review of the committee's work throughout the year, including:

- Hybrid Working - Having had to work from home since March 2020, the office staff have gradually returned to the office. Office is now staffed at different hours each day to provide more flexibility to residents, minimise any impact of Covid, and to maximise efficiencies.
- This will be the second year of using Ellis Whittam to provide support and advice on Health & Safety and Employment Law. They are currently reviewing Parish Council policies and have proved to be very useful throughout the year.
- Councillor Surgeries have been held monthly (online during Covid restrictions).
- The Parish Council have been working towards GDPR compliance, including clearing out some of the paperwork that is not required to be kept. This confidential waste has been shredded in accordance with GDPR.
- Staff are now utilising 'To Do' as an aid to log and prioritise their workload. The workload is reported to the Executive Committee to assist with their recommendations to councillors.
- This year staff have undergone training on: Water Compliance and Legionella Control; RPII Operational play inspection examination; Parish Online mapping training;
- Since the pandemic, much of the training on offer has remained as online training. This reduces the need to travel but is not always the preferred method for some.

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

PCSO Tony McIntosh gave his report, mentioning the following points:

- There have been changes to the Peasedown and Paulton Neighbourhood Policing Team, including a new Neighbourhood Inspector, Ruth Gawler, and new Neighbourhood Sergeant, Lee Humphreys.
- A significant change was that all the local beat team were now on the same shift pattern, which means that there will be some days when none of the team are available.
- There has been an increase in crime figures locally, perhaps because of the relaxation of Covid restrictions over the past year.
- There is currently no Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village, and anyone interested in establishing one was encouraged to get in touch. Benefits can include being better informed and better able to tackle crime in the area, and sometimes cheaper house insurance.
- Similarly, anyone interested in establishing a Community Speedwatch group should contact their Neighbourhood Policing Team.

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8) Questions for the Chair

There were no questions for the Chair.

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

9) Presentations were received from the following organisations providing feedback on how their 2021/22 Community Grant awards were spent [the slides from which are attached as an appendix to these minutes]. Unfortunately, some organisations were unable to attend, but had submitted feedback.

- a. 1st Peasedown St John Guides – 25th birthday cake & equipment
Report from Anita Phillips, 2nd PSJ Brownies/1st PSJ Guides, is attached.
- b. Avon & Somerset Mini Police – Mini Anne resus dolls
Report from PCSO Tony McIntosh (presented at the meeting) is attached.
- c. Braysdown Allotments Committee – Allotments BBQ
Report from the Allotments Committee (presented by Cllr Andrew Larcombe) is attached.
- d. Hive Community Centre – Indoor play area
Report from Jill Souter on behalf of Hive Community Centre is attached.
- e. Line Dance with ME – Line dance free socials
Report from Mandy Eades, Line Dance with ME, is attached.
- f. Peasedown Cricket Club – Fireworks Display
Report from Mike Gregory, Chairman, Peasedown Cricket Club:
 - It had not been possible to hold the Fireworks after 2019, due to Covid. However, last year, thanks to the Parish Council grant they were able to go ahead. Luckily the weather was good, and they had their best crowd for years.
 - Although children from Peasedown St John Primary School get free entry, they do rely on people paying for entry to cover the cost of the display, which is over £2000. The Management Committee are truly thankful for the grant because they would struggle to organise the event without it.
 - Although the club is called “Peasedown Cricket Club” they also have over 100 children playing football, two adult football teams, two over 50s walking football teams, croquet, skittles, and darts teams.
 - Sadly, during the past year they had lost Ken Wilcox, who had dedicated his life to the club.
- g. Peasedown Miners Welfare Football Club – New away kit
Report from Nick Young, Manager, Peasedown Miners Welfare Football Club:
 - Nick had taken over as manager 3 years ago and with the support of the Parish Council and others they were now on the verge of being promoted and have plans for a ladies’ team.
 - They were very grateful for the new away kit, which signifies a new and positive relationship with the Parish Council which they hope will continue.
- h. Peasedown Social & Wellbeing Group – Running costs & craft supplies
Report from Dianne Bird, Chair - Peasedown St John Social and Wellbeing Group, is attached.
- i. Peasedown St John Residents’ Association – TV and wall bracket for group lounge
Report from Peasedown St John Residents’ Association, presented by Cllr Richard Clarke, is attached.

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- j. Southside Family Project – Group Family Picnic
Report from Tracey Vowles Counsellor and Development Worker - Southside, is attached.

Concluding remarks:

- Linda Day offered thanks to the Parish Council for all that they do, including the new pathways, floral displays, and mining cart planters. She was sad to see so few local residents in attendance at the meeting.
- The Chair thanked all those who had taken part in the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT