



# PEASEDOWN ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

The Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN

Tel: 01761 433686 E-mail: [clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## Statement of Proposed Financial Activities 2023-24



**T**he Parish Council of Peasedown St John was formed in 1955 and represents the interests of the communities of Peasedown St John, Carlingcott and Braysdown. The current Council consists of seventeen Parish Councillors who are local residents and give their time voluntarily.

The Parish Council's main role is to ensure that the delivery of services to meet local needs is maintained and that the quality of life in the community and the environment of the Parish are improved. To operate effectively, the Parish Council requires an annual income and the majority of this is obtained through a levy on each household - this levy is known as the "Precept" and forms a small percentage of the Council Tax that each household pays.

The Parish Council ensures that its finances are well managed, by scrutinising the accounts at every meeting of the Finance & Amenities Committee and quarterly at Full Council meetings (all of which are open to the public). Detailed spending plans for the coming year must be provided to Council Tax payers when the precept requirement reaches a certain level.

### What has been achieved in 2022/23?

Some major achievements for 2022/23 have been:

- Installation of the Jubilee Garden next to Beacon Hall
- Jubilee Celebration Event
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Tree planting with the Mini Police
- Installation of a Canteen and Accessible Toilet at the Recreation Ground
- Improvements to the dugouts on the Recreation Ground Football Pitch
- A new vehicle for our Caretakers to carry out their duties
- Replacement of the heating/hot water boiler in the Parish Office at Beacon Hall
- Continuation of phase 2 of the cremated remains plots at Ashgrove Cemetery
- Replacement of fence around the play area at the Recreation Ground
- Return of the Christmas Tea Party for older residents

## How is your money spent?

Peasedown St John Parish Council provides, manages and maintains a number of facilities and services in the village, including:

- Public open spaces (the Village Green, the Carlingcott Tump and Ecewiche Green)
- Beacon Field and Beacon Field play areas
- Ashgrove Cemetery
- The Recreation Field, including the football changing rooms, canteen, toilet and play areas
- BMX track and skate park
- Braysdown Lane Allotments
- Beacon Hall
- Street lighting (126 lights are owned and funded by the Parish Council)
- Maintenance of footpaths
- The Council Office
- Parish newsletters
- Maintenance of roundabouts and flower beds
- Floral displays in hanging baskets and planters
- Festive lights and decorations
- Funding for the School Crossing Patrol
- Parish Council website and Facebook page
- Winter support for all residents - supplying and refilling grit bins
- Litter picking around the village
- Staff and Councillor training
- Community grant scheme
- Civic events



## Council Staff

The Parish Council employs a mixture of full-time and part-time staff.

Staff work closely with the Councillors to deliver:

- Day to day running of all the Parish Council facilities and services (see above list)
- Attending all Council meetings to provide administrative support and to ensure that all legislation and policies are complied with
- Up-dating financial records and preparation of financial reports
- Providing the first point of contact for enquiries from residents of the village
- Maintaining and filing all parish administrative records
- Beacon Hall bookings, invoicing, caretaking and cleaning
- Implementation of projects agreed by the Parish Council
- Co-ordinating with contractors to assist with delivering the Council's objectives

## What is different this year?

Our long-serving caretaker, who used his own vehicle, left us towards the end of 2022. We have also had an increase in both the facilities that we manage and, due to taking on land previously managed by the housing developer, the area of outdoor space that we are responsible for. We have needed to source a vehicle for our caretaking staff to use, and we are looking to fund a full-time caretaker (in addition to our remaining staff). This, combined with national staff pay increases and rising fuel/energy costs, has meant that we have had to increase our operational budgets for these areas.

The Parish Council closely monitors tasks to ensure we have the correct balance between our employed staff and contracted works. So although some budgets remain fluid, this will not affect the overall budget.

We also continually review services, budgets and suppliers to reduce the day to day running costs when possible, and this year has been no exception. Taking all factors into consideration, including the long-term view of the Council's finances, we report that we have been able to maintain the precept at the same level this year as for 2022/23. This has been possible due to using underspend from the Covid years. However, this year our income is very close to our total expenditure and so an increase in the precept will be likely for 2024/25.



## Forthcoming Projects and Ear-marked Reserves

In addition to its normal activities and routine expenditure, the Parish Council also needs to raise finance for the long-term development and enhancement of the facilities in the village. This is done by allocating funds from the precept, which can be used during the same year, or built up over a number of years (Ear-marked Reserves). Although several larger projects have been actioned over the last year, some are still in progress.

Some of the projects to be completed over the coming year are:

- Extension of the accessible allotment plots
- Beacon Hall - install audio-visual equipment for streaming meetings and events
- Persimmon Homes land transfer
- King's Coronation celebration
- Asset signage and historical informative signage project
- Refurbishment of telephone kiosk in Carlingcott

We also have some larger operational works to include in the budget to plan for future funding, including:

- Ashgrove Cemetery pathways
- Beacon Field play area resurfacing
- Pension deficit and staff costs

Further suggested projects on the Council's wish list may include:

- Installation of an irrigation system at Ashgrove Cemetery
- Village War Memorial - moving the existing memorial or funding a new memorial
- Water fountain installations around the village
- Outdoor adult gym equipment
- Lighting for the MUGA on Beacon Field
- A dog area on the Recreation Ground
- Improvements to Ashgrove/Bath Road to tackle speeding

## Where does the money come from?

Budget 2022/23

Budget 2023/24

Income	£	Income	£
Precept*	251,452	Precept*	251,452
Interest	0	Interest	100
Donations	700	Donations	1,000
Environment	580	Environment	605
Allotments (rents)	1,115	Allotments (rents)	1,269
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	5,830	Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	5,830
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	15,000	Beacon Hall (hire fees)	18,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>274,677</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>278,256</b>
Expenditure	£	Expenditure	£
Staff Costs**	106,472	Staff Costs**	145,857
General admin	23,670	General admin	24,600
Community Grants/Village Events	10,593	Community Grants/Village Events	10,593
Newsletters/Website	3,000	Newsletters/Website	3,000
Amenities	8,800	Amenities	10,200
Parish Council Vehicle	0	Parish Council Vehicle	6,559
Lighting	5,500	Lighting	6,500
Environment	7,000	Environment	7,000
Cemetery	7,150	Cemetery	7,450
Recreation Ground	12,750	Recreation Ground	13,500
Beacon Hall & Field	21,740	Beacon Hall & Field	26,440
Infrequent Operational Expenditure	15,000	Infrequent Operational Expenditure	15,000
Contracted Amenities Works**	13,000	Contracted Amenities Works**	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>234,675</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>278,199</b>
<b>Income less expenditure ***</b>	<b>40,002</b>	<b>Income less expenditure ***</b>	<b>57</b>

\*For explanation of the precept, see front page.

\*\*There may be some fluidity between budgets for Staff Costs, Contracted Amenities Works and Beacon Hall cleaning.

\*\*\*This balance is used for projects and Ear-Marked Reserves. For a full explanation see left.

**For further details of the Parish Council's plans and activities and actual spend against budget reports, please refer to its website and look out for the regular newsletters.**



## Contingency Reserves

In addition to the above listed figures the Parish Council is obliged to maintain funds in reserve for emergency/contingency purposes. The Parish Council's contingency reserves are £65,000 which may need increasing slightly to maintain levels in line with the Auditor's recommendations of the amount of money required to operate the Council, in the event of an emergency situation, for a period of three months. This level will continue to be monitored.