

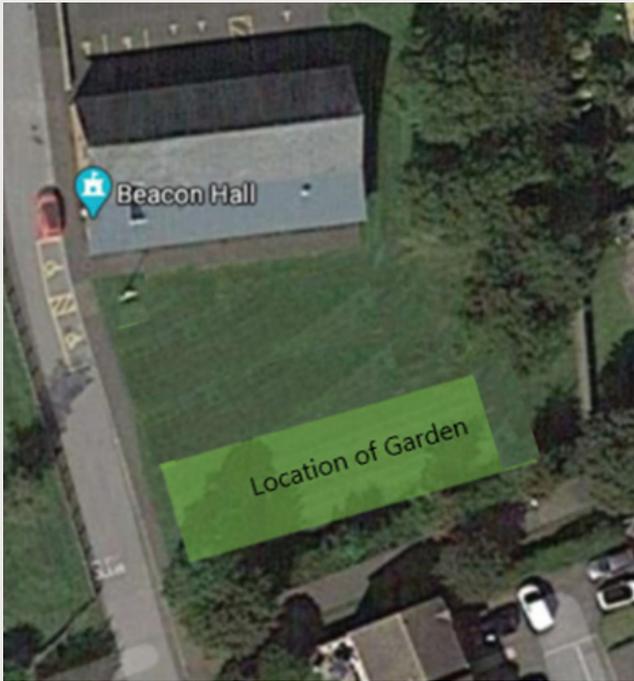
Your Newsletter

For residents of Braysdown, Carlingcott, Peasedown St John and Woodborough

Published by Peasedown St John Parish Council

Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St. John, BA2 8SN ~ 01761 433686 ~ clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

Jubilee Garden for Beacon Hall



Councillors have been working on plans for a new community garden, which will be opened in early June to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Known as the "Jubilee Garden", the area will be located beside Beacon Hall. It will feature a winding path with benches, a pergola, trees and floral planting. Cllr Conor Ogilvie-Davidson, who led the project, commented: "We hope residents will appreciate this new area, which will provide a peaceful place for a stroll, or to sit for a chat, whilst enjoying the natural surroundings. We are grateful to The Quartet Community Foundation for their generosity in providing a grant towards the cost of the project".

Following a formal tendering process, the contract has been awarded to a local landscaping firm, and works should commence in April 2022. Once the hard-landscaping is completed in early May, we would love to hear from any local residents who might be interested in volunteering to help plant-up the garden, ready for the opening in early June. For this year, the planting will feature red, white and blue flowers, in keeping with the Jubilee theme. **If you would be interested in volunteering for this project, please contact the Parish Office.**

Community Grants

The window to apply for a Peasedown St John Parish Council Community Grant is open; the closing date for applications is Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 12 noon.

Cllr Andrew Larcombe, Chair of the Finance & Amenities Committee, said: "If you run an organisation that benefits the community of Peasedown St John and would like to apply for a grant, we look forward to hearing from you. To apply, please contact the Parish Office for an application form or download one from our website."

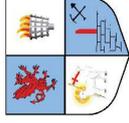
Cllr Jo Davis, Vice-Chair of the Finance & Amenities Committee, said: "Over the past few years we have supported numerous local groups and organisations with their activities or provided new equipment etc., especially now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted there is more scope for holding group activities and events. This year, depending on what is being requested for funding, we are also hoping that some local businesses may apply, particularly if they are providing some form of service, entertainment, recreational activities for residents."

The Parish Council is also inviting organisers of events to be held in Peasedown St John during 2022/23, to apply for a Village Event Grant. The event should be open to all parishioners and should be one which a minimum of 500 people are expected to attend. Organisers should be able to demonstrate past achievements in running events.

For further details, please visit our website or contact the Parish Office.



Photo shows Cllrs Andy Larcombe (L) and Cllr Jo Davis (R) outside Beacon Hall



PEASEDOWN ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

The Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St John, BA2 8SN
Tel: 01761 433686 E-mail: clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

Statement of Proposed Financial Activities 2022-23



The 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 2021/22?

Some major achievements for 2021/22 have been:

- New tarmac footpaths and improved entrances at the Recreation Ground
- Christmas Hampers for senior residents of the village instead of the tea party
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Tree planting project around the village
- New coal mining cart floral planters
- New bench seat by the Mercedes Roundabout
- Refurbishment of the telephone kiosk on Bath Road
- New flower planters on Orchard Way
- Improvements to Christmas decorations including a new tree outside Beacon Hall
- Phase 2 of the cremated remains plots at Ashgrove Cemetery

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 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 - grit bins and the snow warden scheme
- 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?

Coronavirus has continued to have an impact on activities undertaken by the Council and income generated from the hire of Beacon Hall (although not as substantially as 2020) and this, in turn, has had an impact on the Parish Council's finances. We have also had to increase the operational budgets for fuel/energy due to rising fuel costs.

The Parish Council is undertaking a review to ensure we have the correct balance between our employed and contracted staff. This will not affect the overall budget.

The Parish Council continually reviews services, budgets and suppliers to make reductions within 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 are pleased to report the parish precept will again remain the same for 2022/23.



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:

- Jubilee Garden area outside Beacon Hall
- Beacon Hall - install audio-visual equipment for streaming meetings and events;
- Additional streetlights at Hillcrest and Eckweek Gardens;
- Persimmon land transfer
- Queen's Jubilee 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

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

- Installation of an irrigation system at Ashgrove Cemetery
- Reinstating the streetlighting from Carlingcott to New Buildings
- Village War Memorial - To fund either the moving of the existing memorial from the church or to fund a new additional memorial
- Water fountain installations around the village
- Outdoor adult gym equipment

Where does the money come from?

Budget 2021/22

Income	£
Precept*	251,452
Interest	100
Donations	1,000
Environment	562
Allotments (rents)	826
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	3,663
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	12,500
Total	270,103

Expenditure	£
Staff Costs**	122,939
General admin	24,523
Community Grants/Village Events	11,093
Newsletters/Website	3,000
Amenities	7,780
Lighting	5,000
Environment	7,400
Cemetery	7,641
Recreation Ground	11,000
Beacon Hall & Field	19,471
Infrequent Operational Expenditure	15,000
Contracted Amenities Works**	0
Total	234,847

Income less expenditure* 35,256**

*For explanation of the precept, see front page.

**There may be some fluidity between budgets for Staff Costs and Contracted Amenities Works.

***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.

Budget 2022/23

Income	£
Precept*	251,452
Interest	0
Donations	700
Environment	580
Allotments (rents)	1,115
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	5,830
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	15,000
Total	274,677

Expenditure	£
Staff Costs**	106,472
General admin	23,670
Community Grants/Village Events	10,593
Newsletters/Website	3,000
Amenities	8,800
Lighting	5,500
Environment	7,000
Cemetery	7,150
Recreation Ground	12,750
Beacon Hall & Field	21,740
Infrequent Operational Expenditure	15,000
Contracted Amenities Works**	13,000
Total	234,675

Income less expenditure * 40,002**



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 is 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 has been maintained and will continue to be monitored.

Thoughts from the Chair



Spring is certainly around the corner, we welcome the lighter mornings and evenings, and new life as flowers and plants start to bring vibrant colours in flower beds & gardens across the village.

I recently attended a meeting where the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) have identified the A367/A37 corridors as one of several routes needing funding to help improve public transport and to improve safety. Initial plans are being worked on and these will go to public consultation later in year. We will update you all as soon as we know more details.

Our local pharmacy, Shaunak's, have asked us to remind residents of their opening hours (9am - 6pm), but in particular that they are **closed** between 1pm and 2pm every day, as this seems to catch a lot of people out.

The last few weeks has seen some unprecedented world events which remind us all how fortunate we really are. We will never know what the people of Ukraine are going through at this time and I am truly inspired by how hard our local organisations are all working to raise funds & collate aid to help the people affected by this crisis. The generosity of Peasedown St John residents is truly amazing, many thanks to everyone involved. Best wishes, Jonathan.

Mini Police Raise the Flag on Commonwealth Day



Photo shows pupils from Peasedown St John Primary School with Assistant Headteacher Mrs Tombs (far L) and PCSOs Louise Jones (R), Paul Thatcher (L) and Cllr Kathy Thomas

Commonwealth Day was marked on Monday 14 March 2022 with a flag-raising ceremony at Beacon Hall, helped by pupils and "Mini Police" from Peasedown St John Primary School.

The ceremony commenced with the Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Kathy Thomas, welcoming everyone and reading out the Commonwealth Day Message from The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Commonwealth Secretary-General. This was followed by the Head Girl and Head Boy and one of the Mini Police reading out the Commonwealth Affirmation. The Commonwealth flag was raised at 10am.

Commonwealth Day is an annual celebration, held on the second Monday in March. It is an opportunity for people all over the Commonwealth in Africa, the Caribbean and Americas, the Pacific and Europe to promote the Commonwealth's shared values of peace, democracy and equality and to celebrate the association's rich diversity.



ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

For all residents of Peasedown St John, Braysdown & Carlingcott

BEACON HALL
29 MARCH 2022
7.00 PM

Find out what's been going on in your village!

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the electorate of the village to raise any queries or matters of concern relating to their local community. Please raise your concerns or questions **before 29th March 2022** by contacting the clerk on 01761 433686 or by e-mailing clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Due to time constraints, questions not submitted in advance may not be answered at the meeting, but will receive a written response as soon as possible after the meeting.



ALL WELCOME
TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
BEACON HALL
JUBILEE GARDEN
ON 2ND JUNE 2022
AT 3.00PM
FOLLOWED BY TEA & CAKE
THE BEACON
WILL BE LIT AT
9.45PM



THE QUEEN'S
PLATINUM JUBILEE
BEACONS
2ND JUNE 2022