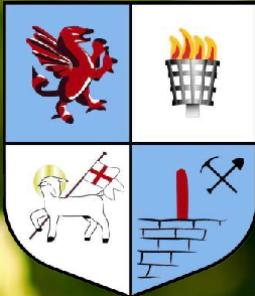


SPRING 2018



# 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

### Welcome To Our New Assistant Caretaker



We were very pleased to welcome Luke to the Parish Council team at the start of 2018. As Assistant Caretaker, Luke will be helping our Caretaker, Jim, with his work looking after our trees, hedges and flower beds.

He will also be out and about checking open spaces, play areas, pavements and verges around the village, together with Beacon Hall and the Recreation Ground changing rooms.

### Help For Social and Wellbeing Group

Peasedown Social and Wellbeing Group was the beneficiary of one of last year's Community Grants.

They are an inclusive community group which aims to increase self esteem and combat depression and loneliness within the Peasedown community.

They will be using their grant of £75 to supply crafts and lifeskills tuition to members of the group. Crafts are a regular part of their sessions, including activities such as making blankets for the neonatal unit at the RUH.

The group meets every week on a Tuesday from 11am to 1pm. New members are always welcome. For more information, please call Dianne on 01761 431706.

The photo shows Parish Councillor Tom Clifford presenting a cheque to the group.



### Community Grants Scheme 2018-19

The Community Grants Scheme for this year is now open and the application submission deadline is **12 noon on Friday 20th April 2018**. If you run an organisation that benefits our community and would like to apply for a grant please contact the Parish Office (contact details above) or download an application form from the website.

The Parish Council also invite organisers of events to be held in the Parish of Peasedown St John during 2018/19 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.

## **What has changed this year?**

As you may be aware, central government has cut the funding to local government affecting the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, under which the Parish Council received an annual grant. This year, this grant has been cut by a further £2,770, and the following year it will be reduced to £0.

The Parish Council has worked hard to revise the operational budget to absorb this reduction in funding within the day to day running costs. As a consequence, it was determined that the amount payable under the council tax for services in the village will remain unchanged from 2017/18.

We continue to look at earmarked reserves to improve the village in the long term or to potentially invest in areas which will reduce the operational cost of the services to the village.



**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 part 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. 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 2017?**

- Some major achievements for 2017 have been:
- Continuing to improve our communications and contingency planning by building on our IT system and recording our processes and procedures
- Works progressed on the Garden of Remembrance at Ashgrove Cemetery with new gazebo and pergolas
- Replacement notice board at Carlingcott
- New open space signage around the village
- Christmas Tea Party and gifts for senior residents of the village
- New village entrance sign from Wellow approach
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Grants to support local community
- Upgrade of street lights to LED
- Upgrade of office computers and computer support



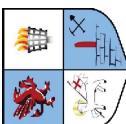
**How the money will be spent**  
Peasedown St John Parish Council provides, manages and maintains a number of facilities and services in the village, including:

- Public open spaces: the Village Green, the Tump and Ecewiche Green
- Ashgrove Cemetery
- The Recreation Field, including the football changing rooms and play areas
- Braysdown Lane Allotments
- 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
- BMX track and skate park
- Parish Council website and Facebook page
- Winter support for all residents and support for the snow warden scheme
- The Beacon Field and Beacon Field play areas
- The Beacon Hall
- Litter picking around the village

## **Statement of Proposed Financial Activities 2018-19**

### **PEASEDOWN ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL**

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



## Council Staff

The Parish Council currently employs 1 full-time and 5 part-time members of staff. We have now appointed an Assistant Caretaker. Staff work closely with the Councillors to deliver:

- Day to day running of all the Parish Council facilities and services (listed on page 2);
- 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.



## Other Projects

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.

Some of the additional projects being considered for the coming year and beyond, are:

- Installation of Equality Act compliant gates to our areas of open space
- Beacon Lighting Event for 2018 (Armistice Day Centenary)
- Community Grants - additional funding for community projects
- Recreation Ground Play Area refurbishment/replacement
- Additional cremated remains plots at the cemetery
- Improvements to Beacon Hall e.g. painting, lighting, storage
- Signage - historical information signs
- Improvement works associated with possible Persimmon land transfer
- Replacement ride-on mower
- Extending the tarmac pathway on the Recreation Ground
- Resurfacing of tarmac pathways at Ashgrove Cemetery

## Where does the money come from?

	Budget 2017/18	Budget 2018/19
Income	£	£
Precept*	174,564	174,845
B&NES grant	5,550	2,780
Interest	40	15
Donations	700	700
Environment	530	540
Allotments (rents)	660	660
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	2,980	2,700
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	13,000	13,000
Earmarked Reserves**	£66,000	£66,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,024</b>	<b>195,240</b>
Expenditure	£	£
Staff Costs	103,874	103,462
General admin	15,660	17,700
Community Grants/Village Events	8,300	9,000
Newsletters/Website	3,300	3,100
Amenities	13,650	11,350
Projects**		
Lighting	15,000	9,200
Environment	7,000	6,500
Cemetery	7,700	5,450
Recreation Ground	4,600	7,100
Beacon Hall & Field	18,940	19,940
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,024</b>	<b>192,802</b>

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

\*\*For explanation of Earmarked Reserves and Projects, see below and 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.



## Reserves

The Parish Council is obliged to maintain funds in reserve for emergency/contingency purposes. It was agreed at the Council meeting on 23/01/2018 to hold contingency reserves of £50,000, in addition to £66,000 as earmarked reserves, to be spent on such projects as detailed opposite, during 2018 and beyond.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the level of its reserves on an ongoing basis and any funds considered surplus to requirements will be used to reduce future precepts, in line with the auditor's recommendations.

# Thoughts from the Chair

By now we will know the outcome of the Greenlands Road proposed housing development. The Parish Council has worked hard on behalf of residents to represent their concerns.

On planning matters, Bath & N E Somerset Council are consulting on the allocation of land to accommodate approximately 700 homes. At a recent meeting the planning officers outlined the timetable for consultation and invited parishes to participate. So the parish will be consulting with all residents during the summer months.

It is a loss to the village that Michael Gould's Estate Agent has relocated to Midsomer Norton having been here in Peasedown for a number of years. On a positive note, the 'butcher's shop' is being considered by the Methodist Church as a coffee shop. Another important change is the likelihood of the Youth Hub either being managed in a different way or, if no solution is found, having an uncertain future.

Thankfully, now the snow has gone, we can look forward to a flowerful spring as the Parish Council's flower beds and tubs bloom. It remains for me to wish you all a Happy Easter. Best Wishes, Kathy.

## Snow Clearance

Thank you to our Snow Warden, Calvin Bird and his volunteer helpers for clearing the snow from some of the pavements and footpaths around the village. Thank you also to our caretaker, Jim, for ensuring that the Parish Council grit bins were all topped up for the recent spell of freezing weather. For information, the green grit bins are supplied and re-filled by the Parish Council and the yellow ones are supplied and re-filled by Bath & N E Somerset Council. Grit bins on areas managed by CURO are the responsibility of CURO. You are welcome to use the salt but please spread it thinly - one table spoon is enough to treat 1 square metre.



# ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2018

FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF  
PEASEDOWN ST JOHN,  
BRAYSDOWN & CARLINGCOTT

BEACON HALL  
**10 APRIL 2018**  
**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 3rd April 2018** by contacting the clerk on 01761 433686 or by e-mailing: [clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto: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.

**PRESENTATIONS AT  
THIS YEAR'S MEETING WILL FOCUS ON  
COMMUNITY GRANTS**

# PEASEDOWN PARTY IN THE PARK

*Celebrating 10 years*

**Saturday 9th June**  
12 noon - 7 pm, Beacon Field

**Want to be a part of our 10th  
birthday?**

**Volunteer at Party in the Park...**

We need your help to collect donations at entrance gates, distribute event programmes and keep the site clean. Shift times are flexible.

We'll give you a **certificate**, a **reference** for education/employment, and a fantastic volunteering **experience!** For further details email:

[nathan.hartley@peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk](mailto:nathan.hartley@peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk)  
or sign up at [www.peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk](http://www.peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk)