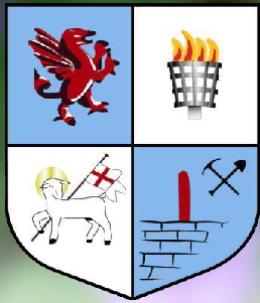


SPRING 2019



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

New Play Projects



By the time you receive this newsletter, works will be well underway on some exciting new play equipment provided by the Parish Council. This includes the new Multi Use Games Area on Beacon Field, shown above, together with a youth shelter on the Recreation Ground, shown on the left. Works will soon be starting on new play equipment for younger children on the Recreation Ground and a new basket swing.

The games area on Beacon Field can be used for basketball or football and has improved what was previously a rather untidy area of the field. The basket swing, youth shelter and other play equipment on the Recreation Ground will replace some existing older equipment which has reached the end of its useful life and, for safety reasons, was in need of replacement.

Historic Tickets

The Tickets for "A Grand Dance" held on Thursday 27th September 1945, at the Red Post Inn, Peasedown St John. This event, organised by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, was in celebration of the end of the Second World War and featured the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) Dance Band. Red tickets were for Civilians and blue for H M Forces in Uniform.

The tickets were kindly donated by local builder Kas Talkowski, who found them when renovating his house and thought they might be of interest to local residents. The photo shows Kas (right) and Cllr Andy Larcombe with the framed tickets, which are now displayed in Beacon Hall.



What has changed this year?

Central government has continued to cut the funding to local government affecting the Local Council Tax Support Scheme, under which the Parish Council received an annual grant. The grant, originally £13,870, has been reduced over the last four years and this year has been reduced to £0.

Furthermore, we undertook a full staff review to bring all staff onto formal NALC contracts and pay scales. This was amended to correlate with the changes to the National Living Wage and has resulted in an increase to staff costs.

The Parish Council has worked hard to make reductions within the day to day running costs, however, we were faced with an operational budget shortfall for the coming year. A number of options were looked at, including reductions to services, but we have decided that the best way to make up the shortfall is to raise the precept. This will bring the total for a band D property to the equivalent of £9.66 per month. We continue to balance investment in projects that will improve the village against those to reduce our operational costs.



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 - grit bins and the snow warden scheme
- Beacon Field and Beacon Hall play areas
- Beacon Hall
- Litter picking around the village

Statement of Proposed Financial Activities 2019-20



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.

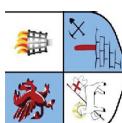
The Parish Council's main role is to ensure that the delivery of services to meet local needs is maintained and that the quality of life in the community and the environment of the Parish are improved. To operate effectively, the Parish Council requires an annual income and the majority of this is obtained through a levy on each household - this levy is known as the "Precept" and forms a small 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 (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 2018?

Some major achievements for 2018 have been:

- Installation of Equality Act compliant gates to our areas of public open space
- Christmas Tea Party for senior residents of the village
- Upgrade of play area on Recreation Ground
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Grants to support local community
- Upgrade of street lights to LED
- Upgraded website
- New Multi-Use Games Area on Beacon Field
- Event to commemorate the Armistice Centenary
- Installation of additional waste and dog waste bins
- Upgrade of external lighting at Beacon Hall
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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.

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.



Where does the money come from?

	Budget 2018/19	Budget 2019/20
Income		
Precept*	174,845	247,736
B&NES grant	2,780	0
Interest	15	30
Donations	700	900
Environment	540	550
Allotments (rents)	660	796
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	2,700	2,300
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	13,000	16,000
Earmarked Reserves**	66,000	17,500
Total	195,240	250,812
Expenditure		
Staff Costs	103,462	123,860
General admin	17,700	23,070
Community Grants/Village Events	9,000	9,500
Newsletters/Website	3,100	3,500
Amenities	11,350	10,380
Projects**	27,500	27,500
Lighting	9,200	8,200
Environment	6,500	9,200
Cemetery	5,450	5,750
Recreation Ground	7,100	9,100
Beacon Hall & Field	19,940	20,752
Total	192,802	250,812

*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 22/01/2019 to increase the contingency reserves from £50,000, to £65,000 in line with the Auditor's recommendations and to provide sufficient cover for any staff sickness. All previous earmarked reserves have now been spent on the projects listed on this leaflet.

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



Following the snow, the early flowering plants are braving the winter weather. Snowdrops are in abundance and hazel catkins are adorning the hedgerows. Look very closely, and you will see the tiny pink flowers on the twigs.

I am pleased that we have some new volunteers joining the snow warden scheme: our parish depends on volunteers who work in various organisations providing services for the village. In May 2019 you will vote for the parish councillors who will serve the community for the next four years. If you are interested in serving your residents in this way, then now is the time to get yourself nominated - forms are available from the Parish Office. Parish councillors are not paid, they are volunteer public servants, and are a very important section of local government.

As our four-year term comes to a close, I trust that you approve of the changes we have made to our parish. Climate change is always in the news, and we have played our part by replacing our streetlights with environmentally-friendly LEDs. Our play facilities have

been improved to encourage outdoor activity and new gates on our open spaces will make access easier for all our residents. Following a successful negotiation with Persimmon Homes, we will be taking control of additional areas of land around the parish and will be maintaining them in the future. Our Community Grants scheme is now open for applications - come along to our Annual Village Meeting to hear more about this and our other activities. Lastly, on March 11th we shall be raising the Commonwealth Flag at 9.45am at Beacon Hall. Details of both these events are to be found on our web site.

Best wishes, Kathy

Dog Free Football Pitch

Following a number of reports of people seen exercising their dogs on the Recreation Ground football pitch, we would ask dog owners to please take note of the signage around the pitch which says that dogs are not allowed. The pitch is used by children's teams as well as adults and there are obvious health risks associated with playing sports on an area where there has been dog fouling. If you notice anyone walking their dog on the pitch we would be grateful if you could contact the Parish Office to let us know.



Annual Village Meeting

For all residents of
Peasedown St John,
Braysdown, Carlingcott & Woodborough

**BEACON HALL
2 APRIL 2019
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 26th March 2019 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.

**PARTY
IN THE
PARK 2019**

Saturday 8th June
12 noon - 7 pm, Beacon Field

**Want to be a part of our 11th
festival this summer?**

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 **reference** for education/employment, food vouchers on the day, and a fantastic volunteering **experience**!

For further details email:

nathan.hartley@peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk
or sign up at www.peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk