

# Your Newsletter

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

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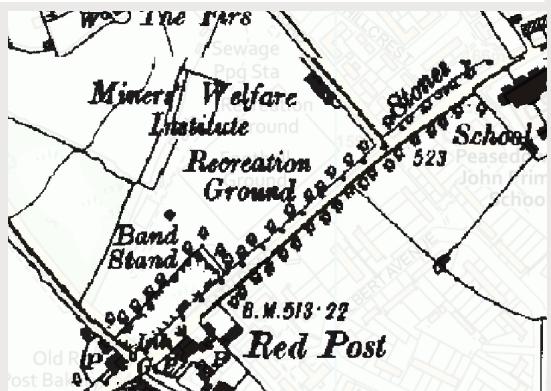
Beacon Hall, French Close, Peasedown St. John, BA2 8SN ~ 01761 433686 ~ clerk@peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk

### Focus on the Recreation Ground

The area we know as the Recreation Ground or “Rec” was land originally purchased by the local mining community in the 1920s for the social well-being and recreation of the workers and their families.

The land is held under Charitable Trust and the Parish Council became the Charity Trustee in the 1990s. Since that time a lot has happened, with a major refurbishment of the changing rooms in 2012, and the installation of some exciting new equipment which provides a wider range of outdoor activities for local residents to enjoy.

The football facilities are now used by five different local teams, including one under-15s team. The facilities are maintained by the Parish Council who spend nearly £4,000 per year on maintaining the pitch and the associated buildings. Around half of this cost is covered by donations from the football clubs using the pitch.



This map from the 1920s shows the Recreation Ground was originally home to the ‘Miners’ Welfare Institute’ and featured a Band Stand.



The Parish Council has up-dated the facilities on the Recreation Ground in recent years, to include a skate park, new play equipment and a shelter with seating.



The football facilities are used by five different teams and the Parish Council now maintain both the pitch and changing rooms.

### Community Grants



The Parish Council recognises the crucial role that volunteers and community groups play in Peasedown St John, and how key they are to a successful community. The Council has allocated budget for the 2020/21 financial year and welcomes applications for funding through their Community Grants Scheme. The Council can only award grants using certain legal powers, and must be confident that any grant awarded will benefit residents of Peasedown St John, Carlingcott, New Buildings, Braysdown and Woodborough. Community grants will only be considered once during this financial year and the application deadline is **12 noon on Friday 3rd April 2020**. Forms are available from the Parish Office or can be downloaded via our website.

Photo shows Cllrs Jo Davis and Andy Larcombe, who are respectively Vice-Chair and Chair of the Finance & Amenities Committee.



## 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 2020-21



**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 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 2019?

Some major achievements for 2019 have been:

- Installation of further Equality Act compliant gates to our areas of public open space
- Christmas Tea Party for senior residents of the village
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Grants to support local community
- Defibrillator training for the village
- Event to commemorate Commonwealth Day and Remembrance Day
- Installation of additional waste and dog waste bins
- Purchase of new ride-on mower
- Beacon Field Dog Exercise Area and additional bench seating

## 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 (1226 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 Field play areas
- Beacon Hall
- Litter picking around the village



## 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 (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.

## What has changed this year?

This year we were faced with pension deficit costs. It was agreed to pre-pay this for three years, as it resulted in a much greater saving to the council in the longer term.

The Parish Council continually reviews services, budgets and suppliers to make reductions within the day to day running costs, when possible. Reductions to services were again considered this year, but it was viewed to be more practical to invest the money into improving the services and facilities we already have and into those projects requiring longer-term investment. Operational costs, generally, continue to increase and so it was decided to increase the precept slightly to bring the total for a Band D property to the equivalent of £9.78 per month, an increase of 11p per month.



## Where does the money come from?

	Budget 2019/20	Budget 2020/21
<b>Income</b>		
Precept*	£ 247,736	£ 251,452
Interest	30	201
Donations	900	2,000
Environment	550	562
Allotments (rents)	796	796
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	2,300	2,353
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	16,000	20,000
Contingency Reserves**	17,500	Contingency Reserves**
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,812</b>	<b>277,374</b>

	Expenditure		Expenditure	
Staff Costs	123,860	£	Staff Costs	£ 134,539
General admin	23,070		General admin	21,200
Community Grants/Village Events	9,500		Community Grants/Village Events	16,093
Newsletters/Website	3,500		Newsletters/Website	3,500
Amenities	10,380		Amenities	9,130
Projects***	27,500		Projects***	27,500
Lighting	8,200		Lighting	8,200
Environment	9,200		Environment	7,650
Cemetery	5,750		Cemetery	6,445
Recreation Ground	9,100		Recreation Ground	9,550
Beacon Hall & Field	20,752		Beacon Hall & Field	19,940
			Agreed one-off operational expenditure	8,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,812</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>244,747</b>

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

\*\*For explanation of Contingency Reserves, see below.

\*\*\*For explanation of Projects and Ear-marked Reserves, 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

The Parish Council is obliged to maintain funds in reserve for emergency/contingency purposes. Last financial year it was agreed to increase the contingency reserves to £65,000 in line with the Auditor's recommendations and to provide sufficient cover for any staff sickness. This level has been maintained and will continue to be monitored.

# Thoughts from the Chair



Spring is nearly here and with it some changes, including a new era outside the EU. Some may be pleased, whilst others may be feeling sad or worried about what's to come. Whatever your views on recent political events at a national level, Councillors will be working hard to look after the village, and the needs of local residents. We are holding regular Advice Surgeries at Beacon Hall, where you can call in and have a chat with your councillors and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Recent Advice Surgeries have been well-attended, and have generated some good ideas, including plans for the telephone kiosk on Bath Road mentioned below. Our next advice surgeries will be Friday 21st February 2020 3-7pm; Friday 20th March 2020 3-7pm and Friday 24th April 2020 3-7pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes, Kathy.

## Primary School “Park and Stride”

Councillors were pleased to learn that Peasedown St John Primary School is setting up a “Park and Stride” scheme, where parents/carers are encouraged to park their car a 5-minute walk from school and then walk the rest of the way with their children.

The school have asked parents to park in the car park at The Red Post Inn on Bath Road, and to walk the remaining 300m to the school. Cllr Kathy Thomas said: “We welcome this initiative from the Primary School, which we hope will not only encourage the children to adopt a more healthy lifestyle, but will reduce traffic and improve safety at dropping-off times.”



## Annual Village Meeting

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

**BEACON HALL**

**31 MARCH 2020**

**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

24th March 2020 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.

## New Beginnings for an Old Box

Mobile phone ownership has caused a dramatic fall in the use of phone kiosks, and many have now been removed as a result. The phone kiosk on Bath Road in Peasedown St John was scheduled for removal, but there are now plans for the Parish Council to “adopt” it and for a group of local residents to put it to good use for the local community.

The group are interested in taking responsibility for the kiosk, in conjunction with the Primary School. They plan to use the box as a multi-purpose space for the community, with ideas ranging from a food box for surplus allotment produce to a community display-case for artwork. They hope to get children from the Primary School to help design the interior, and to involve other groups such as the new Youth Group at “The Hive” (formerly Peasedown Youth Hub).

Cllr Kathy Thomas said: “The Parish Council successfully adopted the telephone kiosk in Carlingcott in 2012 and oversaw its transformation and conversion into a community book-exchange by a group of local volunteers. We are delighted that there is interest in taking on another kiosk on Bath Road, which will preserve part of our local heritage. We would love to hear your ideas on how the kiosk could be used for the community”.

Please let us have your ideas by e-mail, to:  
[kiosk@psjpc.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:kiosk@psjpc.onmicrosoft.com)



Above left: the telephone kiosk in Carlingcott, following restoration.  
Above right: Cllr Kathy Thomas with a group of local residents outside the kiosk on Bath Road.