



PEASEDOWN ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Statement of Proposed Financial Activities 2025-26

**An accessible version of this leaflet is available on our website:
www.peasedownstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk**



The Parish Council of Peasedown St John was formed in 1955 and represents the interests of the communities of Peasedown St John, Braysdown, Carlingcott & Woodborough. The 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 & Governance 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 2024/25?

Some major achievements for 2024/25 have been:

- Completed transfer of land from Persimmon Homes to the Parish Council
- Appointment of a new Responsible Finance Officer and Grounds and Maintenance Manager
- Insulation and solar panels installed at Beacon Hall (with the aid of WECA grant funding)
- Installed new pathways at Ashgrove Cemetery
- Repairs to play surface and play equipment on Beacon Field
- Continued maintenance of our open green spaces
- Installation of Hive boiler programmer at Beacon Hall

Organised events, including:

- Beacon Lighting Event for 80th anniversary of D-Day
- Christmas Tea Party for older residents
- Wildlife events in association with the Natural History Consortium
- Allotments BBQ

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:
 - football changing rooms, canteen, toilet, play areas, BMX track and skate park
- Braysdown Lane Allotments
- Beacon Hall including the Parish Council Office
- Street lighting (126 lights are owned and funded by the Parish Council)
- Maintenance of footpaths
- Maintenance of roundabouts, flower beds and floral displays in baskets and planters
- Festive lights and decorations
- Maintaining the Parish Council website and Facebook page
- Publishing a quarterly parish newsletter
- Staff and Councillor training
- Administering a Community grant scheme for local organisations
- Funding for the School Crossing Patrol
- Organising civic events
- Litter picking around the village
- Winter support for all residents - supplying and refilling grit bins



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
- Updating 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

Councillors:

Our Parish Councillors all work for free, in a variety of capacities, supporting the council staff.

What is different this year?

We were very pleased to welcome our new full-time Grounds & Maintenance Manager and part-time Responsible Finance Officer to the team, who will be working closely with the Clerk with the aim of reducing the Clerk's workload to a more manageable level. We have also recently appointed a new Grounds & Maintenance Manager from early February 2025.

The Grounds & Maintenance Manager and outside services team will continue with the management of our existing facilities, but with the transfer of land from Persimmon Homes now complete, they will be able to address some areas of open space which have been neglected for many years. We are excited to see how some of these will develop and will consult with local residents on possible ideas.

We were delighted to receive a grant from West of England Combined Authority to cover the cost of insulation and solar panels at Beacon Hall. It is hoped that this will not only reduce our running costs for the hall but the feed-in tariff from any excess energy generated will help to offset costs further, which will be of benefit to local residents.

In 2025/26, we have submitted a zero-based operational budget where the planned expenditure is based on our planned income. This decision is based on many hours spent scrutinizing the figures and ensures we can maintain and improve village facilities and services for residents.

Excitingly, the proposed budget will enable us, in the coming year, to invest in youth services and maintain and improve new areas within the Parish Council such as the land transferred from Persimmon. We also plan to make improvements to Beacon Hall and upgrade the pathways on Beacon Field.

As a consequence, we have raised the precept to £362,271 which equates to a monthly increase for a Band D property of £0.87 or an annual increase from £156.63 to £167.08. Many residents will not pay that much. We believe this is good value for money, considering all the services we provide.



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:

- Improvements to the security of the allotments site and maintenance of the hedges
- Beacon Hall - replacement of misted glazed window panels and replacement lighting
- Completion of asset signage and historical information signage project
- Wildlife pond at Ecewiche Green
- Upgrade of our website
- Works to trees and hedges throughout the parish
- Beacon lighting and event to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day

Further suggested projects that councillors will review to determine their viability, include (but are not limited to):

- Mature tree planting at Beacon Field to provide shade
- Replacement flooring for Beacon Hall entrance and kitchen areas
- Further improvements at Ashgrove Cemetery including working towards Green Flag status
- Establishment of a strategy for the Parish Council
- Planning for future maintenance of our infrastructure and open spaces

Where does the money come from?

Budget 2024/25

Budget 2025/26

Income	£	Income	£
Precept*	337,995	Precept*	362,271
Interest	1,500	Interest	3,000
Donations	1,000	Donations/sponsorship	1,750
Environment	615	Environment	631
Allotments (rents)	1,296	Allotments (rents)	1,350
Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	5,830	Cemetery (burial & memorial fees)	5,830
Beacon Hall (hire fees)	18,000	Beacon Hall (hire fees)	15,000
Total	366,236	Total	389,832
Expenditure	£	Expenditure	£
Staff Costs**	173,917	Staff Costs**	204,790
General admin	26,270	General admin	27,490
Community Grants/Village Events	12,100	Community Grants/Village Events	14,815
Youth services	0	Youth Services	5,000
Newsletters/Website	3,500	Newsletters/Website	6,110
Amenities	12,900	Amenities & Tools	14,880
Parish Council Vehicle	6,979	Parish Council Vehicle	7,483
Lighting	5,500	Lighting	4,000
Environment	7,500	Environment	26,683
Cemetery	7,850	Cemetery	8,911
Recreation Ground	14,610	Recreation Ground	15,995
Beacon Hall & Field	25,110	Beacon Hall & Field	38,674
Infrequent Operational Expenditure	15,000	Infrequent Operational Expenditure	15,000
Total	311,236	Total	389,831
Income less expenditure ***	55,000	Income less expenditure ***	1

*For explanation of the precept, see front page.

**New Grounds & Maintenance Manager and Responsible Finance Officer appointed.

***This balance is used for new projects and Ear-Marked Reserves. For a full explanation see left. We have no new projects planned, but will be completing projects which already have funds allocated. 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 have been increased to £90,600 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.