

Little Bedwyn & Chisbury Parish Council meeting
Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 7.50pm
St Michael's Church

Those present: Cllr Ball; Cllr Preston; Cllr Brown; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Nokes

Apologies: Cllr Weatherill; Cllr Wheeler (Wiltshire Council)

Four members of the public were in attendance.

1. **Approval of Minutes from 21st February 2024:** Proposed by Cllr Nokes; seconded by Cllr Preston and unanimously approved.
2. **Matters arising**
 - 2.1 **Roads, verges and culverts:** Cllr Wheeler has followed up with Wiltshire Council on the issues raised at the 21 February meeting.
3. **Co-option of new member of the Parish Council:** Following the resignation of Phil Gray from the Parish Council, Paul Cameron was co-opted on to the council. Proposed by Cllr Preston; seconded by Cllr Nokes and unanimously approved.
4. **Roads, verges and culverts:**
 - 4.1 People are encouraged to continue to report potholes and other road issues to Wiltshire Council via MyWilts (Wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting) – the more that these issues are reported, the more likely it is that action will be taken. Councillors expressed concern that the repeated temporary repair of potholes, that open up again within months, did not represent good value for money – a case in point being the pothole on Brown's Lane. It was noted that the leader of Wiltshire Council had recently met selected parish councillors at a meeting convened by the Pewsey Community Area Partnership to discuss Highways issues.
 - 4.2. The Discretionary gully crew will be in the Pewsey Community Area (which includes Little Bedwyn) on 28 – 31 May. Each parish has been asked to identify the top 5 priorities for action. It was agreed that the drains on the High St are a priority. The gullies in Chisbury were cleared earlier this year.
 - 4.3 Councillors discussed the flooding that affected properties in Little Bedwyn earlier this year. The volume of water running down the High St from south of the village was such that several properties close to the canal experienced flooding; properties north of the canal were also affected by overflowing drainage channels and the high water table. Members of the public in attendance shared their experience of trying unsuccessfully to seek assistance from the Drainage team at Wiltshire Council. A member of the public presented a paper setting out the history and situation of the barrel culverts on the river, which were installed when the railway was built in 1862. Given that the related sluices are in a derelict state, concern was expressed at the potential for catastrophic flooding.

Cllr Ball agreed to follow up with Wiltshire Council the lack of response to communication from a parishioner. If unsuccessful, the Parish Council will then follow up with the local MP, as suggested by a member of the public.
 - 4.4 **Network Rail culvert:** Cllr Ball has asked Network Rail to contact him regarding clearing a blocked culvert between Sandy's Wood and the canal (under the railway), but has not yet had a response.
 - 4.5 **Chisbury road signs:** The parish steward was in touch on 4 March to confirm that he had reported the missing Chisbury road sign to Wiltshire Council and was waiting to hear back; the clerk will follow up.
5. **Planning:** The following planning application was received since the last council meeting:
 - PL/2024/01658: no comments submitted
6. **Defibrillator:** Following an exploratory conversation with a provider of defibrillators, Cllr Ball will explore this further, with a view to installing one defibrillator in Little Bedwyn and one in

Chisbury, potentially in the phone boxes, at a cost of £2,770. Cllr Ball will explore options for grants and matched funding to part-finance the cost. Proposed by Cllr Nokes and seconded by Cllr Brown; unanimously approved.

7. **Finance:** The parish precept for 2024/25 remains unchanged. Councillors discussed maintaining grants at the same level as last year. Proposed by Cllr Preston and seconded by Cllr Brown; unanimously approved.
 - Little Bedwyn Playing Field Trust: £350
 - St Michael's PCC: £350
 - St Katharine's CoE School: £300
 - St Katharine's PCC: £100
 - The Bedwyns Link Scheme: £200
 - Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group: £250
 - Great Bedwyn CoE School: £300
 - Pewsey Community Area Partnership: £250
8. **The Bedwyns Link Scheme:** The Treasurer of the Bedwyns Link Scheme explained how the scheme works, with a network of volunteer drivers, co-ordinators and a committee who provide support across several local parishes, for example by taking people to medical appointments. They thanked the Parish Council for their donation; the chair noted that Little Bedwyn Parish Council is the only parish council covered by the scheme to make a donation.
9. **Dates for this year's Parish Council meetings:**
 - Wednesday 7th August
 - Wednesday 6th November
 - Wednesday 5th February
 - Wednesday 7th May (Annual Meeting and Parish Council meeting)

The meeting ended at 8.55pm.