

GREAT BOWDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Great Bowden Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Community Pavilion on 20th May 2025 @ 19:30

Present:

Bob Hooper (Chairman), Paul Claxton (Vice Chairman),
Richard Emery, John Wilson, David Hayes

In attendance

5 members of the public

		Action
	<u>Annual Meeting of the Parish Council</u>	
AM 1	<u>Election of a Chairman</u> Councillor Claxton proposed Bob Hooper as chairman, seconded by Cllr Wilson. All voted in favour.	
AM 2	<u>To Elect a vice chairman and other officers</u> Cllr Claxton was nominated as vice chairman by Cllr Emery and seconded by Cllr Wilson. All voted in favour. Cllr Claxton asked if anyone was willing to tackle the ongoing traffic calming project in the village. There should be more money available as the trigger point for money to be paid from the developers of Airfield farm has been reached. A public consultation can now be held. It was decided to continue this as a complete council	
AM 3	<u>Chairman's report</u> Cllr Hooper read his report for the year 2024/25 as follows: He welcomed Cllr David Hayes to the parish council this year. Several items are on going: Drains in the car park of the recreation ground. Traffic calming within the village Open spaces/wildflower verges. Recently the Parish council have regained control of one of the important open spaces identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. Sarah Hill is now the elected county councillor representing Gt Bowden.	

AM 4	<u>To review the Annual Return</u> Cllr Claxton had circulated all necessary forms prior to the meeting and presented them to the meeting explaining all figures. Forms were: a) Annual Governance statement b) Accounting statements 2024-25 c) Bank reconciliation 2024-25 d) Explanation of Variances e) Breakdown of reserves Held All Forms were approved ready for the auditor and cllr Claxton proposed that LRALC, should be appointed as auditors This was seconded by Cllr Hooper. He also proposed that both the internal and external auditor's reports for 2023/24 should be accepted. All cllrs were in favour. The Asset register has been updated to include new outdoor exercise equipment.	
AM5	<u>To review Standing Orders, financial regulation, insurance and other procedural documents</u> Clerk to review standing orders and other procedural documents to ensure gender neutral language is being used. Insurance is still within the 3 year agreement with the company	
AM6	<u>Date of the Next Annual Meeting</u> The next annual Parish council meeting will be 13th May 2026	
05/25/40	<u>Ordinary Meeting</u> <u>Welcome and to receive apologies for absence</u> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Almond (health reasons)	
05/25/41	<u>To receive public questions and comments on items on the agenda</u> Carolyn Ford referred to item 03/25/31 stating that she did not need money allocated for watering cans at the moment as some had been donated. The money will remain available however for when the need arises. She also pointed out that her name has been incorrectly spelled. This has been altered. She also asked if Cllr Emery could give an update on speed camera Brackets. Mary Morgan-Stanhope who lives at Gallow Lodge Farm spoke at length about the nuisance suffered by her family and tenants from JG Pears rendering plant. She explained that this had been ongoing for many years and was causing misery in their lives. Despite contacting the district council and the environment agency they were unable to get any help with the problem and the factory are denying any fault on their part. She asked if anyone from the parish council would be willing to act as witnesses on occasions when the smell is bad in the hope that this might support their case. Cllr Hooper has given her his contact number. Steve Oldfield asked if the parish council would be willing to help finance a new artificial wicket for the cricket club. Two quotes (£8,850 and 7,790) have been received. Cllr Claxton advised to wait until September when further community grants will be available. The PC will apply for the grant and pass this on to the cricket club. He proposed that the quote(s) should be accepted and all voted in favour.	
05/25/42	<u>Declarations of interest both personal and pecuniary on items on the agenda</u> None received. Cllr Hooper asked for clarification of "interests" as the company he works for is using Fisher German for services and the parish council are using them for legal advice. This was not considered to be a problem	

05/25/43	<u>Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025</u> These were approved by all cllrs and signed by the chairman with the alteration described at 03/25/31	
05/25/44	<u>To receive district and County Councillors reports</u> No reports from district councillors. County Councillor Sarah Hill reported that she should be able to attend future meetings but as yet had nothing to report	
05/25/45	<u>Updates on previous meeting agenda items</u> a) Bowden Cricket Club lease Parish Council now needs to instruct Fisher German to proceed b) Bench On Nether Green Cllr Claxton has spoken to lady offering to donate, The contact for the family who own the plaque on the present bench is on holiday at the moment. Cllr Wilson offered to contact her when she returns . c) Digitisation of information. Cllr Hayes reported as follows: Current website needs updating, lacks dedicated storage and difficult for all users to access information. He has consulted with Netmajik the website providers to suggest possible solution i.e. Microsoft 365 Business Basic (web). Costs involved £868 to cover purchase of 10 basic licences, nominal licence fee, email migration and 4 hrs Netmajik support/training, not including any additional call-out support. Cllr Claxton felt the cost was too high at the moment and will contact LRALC to ask how necessary this is in a small organization. Cllr Hooper stated that this needs to be considered carefully.	JW/PC
05/25/46	<u>Report from PCSO Laura Bolton</u> No Report received	
05/25/47	<u>Financial report</u> Cllr Claxton had circulated the report prior to the meeting and this can be viewed in full as an addendum to these minutes. He asked for the following additional items to be taken into account : a) Clerk's wages b) £10 for village hall small meeting room (NP meeting) He also asked for approval for payment of 2.5 hours for the annual meeting of the parish at the village hall and to pay a specialist VAT consultant for advice (cost £150 per hour, for 2 hours). All financial transactions were approved	PC
05/25/48	<u>Planning report</u> Cllr Hooper had circulated this prior to the meeting. It can be viewed on the planning page of the website. The proposal for extension in Horseshoe Lane mentioned by Jim Culkin at the last meeting has been withdrawn. Proposal for 8 self build home on land East of Welham Lane. Cllr Hooper has written a reply on behalf of the parish council objecting to this.	BH
05/25/49	<u>Report from the Neighbourhood Plan monitoring and review committee</u> Peter Mitchell read a report detailing activities for the last two months. This can be viewed in full on the neighbourhood plan section of the website	PM

05/25/50	<u>Report from the Environment focus group (open spaces)</u> Cllr Emery had circulated the report prior to the meeting. This can be viewed in full on GBPC website under environment focus group. Issues discussed were as follows: 1) Main St. Blocked drain at the junction with Upper Green Place has been reported to county hall. 2) Wildflower verge on Main st which was mowed in error. Cllr Claxton has spoken to contractor who has compensated with 150 yellow rattle plant plugs. 3) Welham Rd. Temporary entrance to the building site needs tidying. This is ongoing and will be dealt with when the work is finished. 4) Mud wall capping. This is still to be followed up 5) Stile on A63 has been completed. Payment has been approved so can be paid before the next meeting. 6) Old bench on Welham Rd is being consumed by the hedge. Is there anything that can be done?	RE
05/25/51	<u>Report on Tree and Green maintenance</u> The tree surgeon has lifted the crowns of the trees round the recreation ground as requested by the cricket club. Cllr Claxton has complained to Spendlove about standards of green maintenance this year. This is due to a wet start to the year and staff illness. It is now improved. The wildflower triangle was mown in error (05/25/50 above). Cllr Almond has suggested installation of a flagpole on the memorial green which could fly flags at half mast on appropriate occasions. Planning permission might be needed for this and there would be some ongoing cost. Cllr Claxton would like to install a "Tommy" statue behind the rock plinth if it is possible to obtain a grant towards this (cost £650 plus installation). Cllr Wilson will ask Market Harborough Building Society if they would be able to contribute.	PC/JW/JA
05/25/52	<u>Report from the Pavilion Management committee</u> Cllr Wilson reported on this meeting as follows: Appointments for this year—Bob Hooper chairman, Gary Waterfield Secretary Pavilion insurance; Cllr Claxton to obtain breakdown of current insurance cover costs and to show the cost of the element for insuring the pavilion. Replacement posts. Rob Gomez to obtain fresh quotes for the cost of replacing posts at the entrance to the recreation ground. Outstanding Money. Paul Claxton to work out what he considers BCC owe in rent etc and provide this to pavilion management committee members to be discussed at the next meeting. Pavilion heating will be turned off for the summer and resume from 3rd October. Party has been booked for 4th October 2025 Moss treatment on pavilion roof. Some minor elements to be completed. Repairs to play area fence are inadequate and need to be completed. Paul Claxton liaising with contractor to bring about satisfactory repair. Perimeter fencing. Dangers from exposed spikes on council fencing on boundaries with Station Rd properties were highlighted, GPBC to give this some attention.	PC/Clerk

	Dog fouling. Cricket club felt that the situation had improved. Clerk to write to dog walking companies to highlight the matter. Grass Cutting. Agreed that contractor was not adhering to agreed frequency and standard of cuts on the recreation ground. Paul Claxton was addressing the matter. Annual "Mallard Cup" 6 aside tournament. The annual charity event on 24th August wished to feature a pop band at the interval (around 3.30pm for 45 minutes) and at the end of the competition (approx. 6pm for 45 minutes). GBPC permission was sought for this to happen. The event raises funds for Cancer Research and Macmillan nurses. The Parish council had no objections to this proposal.	
05/25/53	<u>To discuss maintenance of the recreation ground</u> The Fence round the back of the recreation ground up to Madeline Close has been cut into to make entrances for some of the houses adjacent. This needs to be replaced or repaired as it forms the boundary of the recreation ground. This will not be popular with the residents and legal advice may need to be sought. The Tennis club have consulted with the manufacturers of the drainage pump on their premises who have explained how the tank can be emptied on a regular basis to prevent a surge of water which floods the car park	PC
05/25/54	<u>To discuss the rewilding project</u> Discussed in 5/25/50. Cllr Claxton has issued instructions that this area should not be mown again. Pockets of flowers and bulbs have been left and the area is back on track	
05/25/55	<u>To appoint a delegate for LRALC AGM</u> There was no interest for this event.	
05/25/56	<u>To Discuss a meeting with LCC Traffic and Safety Team</u> Cllrs Claxton and Emery will set up a meeting and report back to the village	PC/RE
05/25/57	<u>To Receive a report on the new councillors training</u> Cllrs Wilson, Emery and Hayes had recently attended training for new parish councillors provided by LRALC on Zoom. They all pronounced it useful and worthwhile attending.	
05/25/58	<u>To Discuss resiting the bin and noticeboard outside Weltons</u> The owner would like the present bin removed and replaced with a smaller aluminium bin which he can empty more frequently. The present bin belongs to HDC so he would need to speak to them but the parish council would support this. He would also like the village noticeboard sited on the front wall next to the ATM and is willing to pay for this. However this is at the foot of the disabled access so would not be ideal. It might be necessary to consult the land registry to ascertain who the land belongs to. The notice board needs work so money will be included in next year's budget for this. The parish council do not support moving the notice board.	
05/25/59	<u>To Discuss placing a village map in the village and on the website</u> It was felt that this would be an asset to the village and it would be easy to take a map from the Neighbourhood plan and increase the size. Cllr Wilson to take this forward and check if any licence is needed.	JW

05/25/60	<u>To receive Chairman's announcements</u> There were no further announcements	
05/25/61	<u>Correspondence for discussion</u> Letter from Jessica Jaques at LCC re a grant towards traffic calming in the village. She has just taken over this project and keen to move forward before the £121,796 already paid to the council expires on 12/08/2026. Cllr Claxton will liaise with her. There has been a complaint from a resident about the hedge on the corner of Langton rd and Main st. This is growing over the pavement and caused his son to fall from his bike. Clerk to write to the owner.	PC/Clerk
05/25/62	<u>Items for next meeting</u> Speed camera brackets and safety checks. Digitisation of information	
05/25/63	<u>Date of next meeting</u> July 16 th 2025 Meeting closed at 9.50 pm	

Councillors: Bob Hooper (Chairman), Paul Claxton (Vice Chairman), Jon Almond, Richard Emery, John Wilson, David Hayes

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