

GREAT BOWDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Community Pavilion on January 14th 2026 @ 19.30

Present:

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

In Attendance

PCSO Laura Bolton (plus Colleague), and 3 members of the public

		Action
01/26/01	<u>Welcome and to receive apologies for Absence</u> The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Jon Almond (personal reasons).	
01/26/02	<u>Public questions and comments on items on the agenda</u> Carolyn Ford sent the following questions as she was unable to attend the meeting: 1) Could the council explain why it did not submit and objection to the planning application from Jelson Homes for up to 52 houses (25/01492/OUT). This is a major development and likely to cause disruption to Leicester Lane in particular for 3 to 4 years with heavy lorries, construction traffic etc. Cllr Claxton proposed that the council should object and Cllr Hooper seconded this. The development will increase the limits of the village. They will meet to go through the application. 2) This relates to speed Camera Brackets and was discussed under item 01/26/07	PC/RH
01/26/03	<u>Declarations of interest both pecuniary and personal on items on the Agenda</u> Cllr Claxton declared that he is Vice president of Bowden Cricket Club Cllr Hooper declared that his employer uses a different section of Fisher German for their business. Cllr Hayes declared that he is vice president of the business management committee for the all-party parliamentary group on governance	
01/26/04	<u>To Approve and Sign minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2025</u> The minutes were approved and signed.	

01/26/05	<u>To Receive a report from PCSO Laura Bolton</u> In the last 8 weeks 21 reports linked to Gt Bowden. 3 remain confidential as per data protection law. Police have attended 5 incidents where we have needed to place necessary safeguarding measures to ensure welfare of the individuals. A dead swan spotted at bridge no 9 which had been shot. 2 weeks before another swan found shot at bridge no 10. This was not reported to the police. This is an offence under the Wildlife and countryside Act. Despite an investigation no offender has been located. The Rural team at Harborough Police station are monitoring that stretch of the canal. One of the litter wombles has been verbally abused and had litter thrown at them from a passing car on Leicester Lane. Police removed a car which was crashed and blocking the highway on Leicester Lane. A Gt Bowden resident has had his number plates stolen. Police have had two “monitored intruder Alarm” alerts for separate businesses in the village. On attendance both were false activations. A member of the public notified us that he had broken down on the GB/Desborough roundabout and was blocking the carriageway. Report of a car crashed from the centre of pond 254m from the waterways on Leicester Lane. Engine still running and apparently rolled several times. Hospitals contacted and thermal imaging cameras used but no casualties found. VRMs removed and attempt to cover the VIN mark had been made. Owners of vehicle not located. Police removed abandoned car on Welham Lane. Resident reported that she could hear a cow in distress. Police attended but could not find anything. Report of an abandoned car by the canal. Not blocking the highway so would be a matter for HDC. Blue transit van parked blocking the pavement on Manor rd. Also, residents cars. If police remove the transit van, they will also have to remove the residents’ cars. Cllr Claxton will contact the residents in the area to notify them so the Transit can be dealt with. At the moment there appears to be a question about the ownership of this vehicle. Following the report PC Josh Lansdale introduced himself and spoke about his role as a newly serving officer in the Market Harborough area. He is a response officer and is called to all incidents and enjoys engaging with the community. He has been working for 8 months and has targets to meet before he will be able to work as an independent officer. The Parish Council wished him well in his career.	PC
01/26/06	<u>District and County councillor reports</u> None Received	

01/26/07	<u>To receive updates on previous meeting agenda items</u> a) Bowden Cricket Club Lease. Cllr Hooper reported that an email had been received from Fisher German stating that the lease was now being looked at by the Parish Council's solicitor. £1,500 is needed to complete the work including Land registry Entries. Cllr Hooper will instruct them to complete the work. b) Speed Camera Brackets and traffic calming. Cllrs Emery and Claxton have met with LCC highways. A plan has been made which will be progressed in 2 phases. Phase 1) a mandatory 20mph speed limit will be instigated throughout the village and new "gateway" signs will be placed at each village entrance, also 5 new speed camera posts and a new MVAS camera and possibly dragon's teeth on the tarmac. The Timescale for this will be few months and s106 money (106K) is available to fund this. The existing speed camera can also be kept if it can be upgraded and made to fit. All agreed that Lee Bibby should be asked to charge the camera and replace on the existing bracket in Leicester Lane. Phase 2) This will be brought in more slowly and may include suggestions from the public such as speed humps/tables, give way/chicanes and planters. A further £300k s106 money is available to be spent before 2030. This will enable speed assessment data to be examined and a public consultation to take place. c) Employment of a responsible Financial Officer and request for funding. Cllr Hayes suggested that an agency could be used to supply a locum Financial Officer for 6 months or so. That will enable the Parish Council to scope the job and ascertain the number of hours needed before getting involved with employment law. Cllr Claxton had recently spoken to LRALC who offered to advertise the position with no cost to all local clerks, some of whom may wish to work some extra hours. Cllrs Claxton and Hayes will meet to decide how to take this forward. A decision to be made by the next parish council meeting.	RH RE DH/PC
01/26/08	<u>To receive the financial report from November 2025 to January 2026 and to discuss and agree GBPC budget and Precept for Financial year 2026/27</u> Cllr Claxton had circulated the report Prior to the meeting. This can be seen as an addendum to these minutes. He asked for approval to pay two further items: Clerk's Salary and LRALC audit fee £304.50. These payments were approved by all other Cllrs. With Reference to the Pavilion management committee minutes item 3 5) Cllr Claxton explained that on 11th September 2024 £172.86 was paid to Rob Gomez by bank transfer. This was the whole of the deposit paid to Octopus energy on behalf of BCC. He also drew attention to point 1) which states that Cllr Claxton asked that the fact that BCC representatives agreed to his statement that the Great Bowden Parish Council Pavilion Extension account are Parish Council funds and parish council alone. This request was accepted unanimously by the PMC meeting. The proposed budget for year ending 31/03/2027 had been circulated prior to the meeting along with last year's budget for comparison. This can be viewed on the website as an addendum to these minutes. Funding for the following items expected within this period were considered: Legal Fees, Admin fees for the clerk and employment of a responsible financial officer, Drain repairs for toilets in the recreation ground, Traffic management scheme including public viewing of suggestions, unexpected costs of the Neighbourhood plan, Office expenses including digitization. To date Cllr Hooper has met with an engineer from Anglian Water who cleaned debris from the drain but they have not accepted it is their drain. Council are awaiting the engineer's report. A further meeting needs to be arranged with the Tennis Club and 3 quotes obtained for the cost of the drainage work. The electrical installation condition report needs to be carried out before the end of January as the current certificate expires then thus making the pavilion unusable. Income and reserves considered were Mowing rebate, interest, reserves for drainage. Total payments estimated are therefore £71,810 minus reserves of £10,000. Therefore, it was resolved to set a budget of £61,810. It was resolved to send a precept to Harborough District Council for £54,200	PC

01/26/09	<u>To receive a report from the planning Committee</u> Cllr Hooper circulated this prior to the meeting. Details can be found on the planning report page of the website. Further information re the anaerobic digestion plant at Marigold Farm has become available. Residents have asked if the parish council will be sending a response. Cllrs Hooper and Claxton will meet to take this forward. Cllr Hayes stated that residents of Berry Close have responded and he will try to obtain a copy of this. They will also respond to the Jelson Development application discussed in item 01/26/02above.	BH
01/26/10	<u>To receive a report from the neighbourhood plan monitoring and review committee</u> Peter Mitchell had circulated the report prior to the meeting together with supporting documents. Cllr Hooper read it. It can be viewed on the Neighbourhood plan section of the website. In addition, the following motion was put forward: “Great Bowden Parish Council resolves to formally approve the January 2026 Reviewed Neighbourhood Plan, together with appendices: (The Housing Needs Assessment, The Design Guide and Code, Site Options Appraisal, Environment inventory, Local Green Spaces Evidence List, Description of Important Views and GB listed buildings as compiled by Historic England), The Basis conditions statement, The Consultation Statement, The Statement of Modifications, The Plan of the Neighbourhood Area and the Pre-submission responses, For submission to Harborough District Council under Regulation 16”. Cllr Hooper proposed that it should be moved onto regulation 16. Cllr Hayes seconded this and all voted in favour. Clerk to thank Peter Mitchell and Colleagues for all their hard work to get this far.	PM Clerk
01/26/11	<u>To Receive a report from the Environment Focus Group (open spaces)</u> Cllr Emery had circulated the full report prior to the meeting. This can be viewed on the environment focus section of the website. Issues discussed were as follows: Cllr Claxton asked if the councillors were happy for him to sign the grass mowing contract. Cllr Wilson asked for clarity of costs involved and rebate from LCC i.e. were the parish council getting the best value by managing the mowing themselves. Cllr Claxton gave the following figures: cost of all mowing for next year £9,300. Rebate from LCC is £2,112. All councillors were happy for agreement to be signed. Welham Rd. Temporary entrance to the building site needs tidying. Ongoing Mud wall capping. One tile has been replaced, one still cracked Welham Lane. Rotten branches brought down by the storm. Cllr Emery to contact LCC highways. Langton Rd. Bollards have been suggested. Main St. Fly tipping on grass bank needs reporting. Trees shedding leaves, oak branches growing with telephone lines. The tree is too big to prune and is to be removed. Tree surgeon to be asked, if possible, to replant somewhere else in the village. Cllr Claxton will try again to obtain the cowslip plugs from Spendlove as promised. Horseshoe Lane. Sign is still damaged and propped up against the fence. Cllr Emery to report to highways. Main rd open space. Discuss oak tree pruning with the tree surgeon. Sign from Weltons. Owners are having it renovated. Taking more time than it was thought. The purchase of two “Do not park on the grass” signs was approved to be placed outside the village hall.	RE/PC
01/26/12	<u>Report on Tree Maintenance in the Village</u> Cllr Almond had reported that this is on schedule and the 5-year plan, which was devised to improve the condition of all the trees in the village, is coming to an end. Therefore, the amount of money delegated to tree care has been reduced. Cllr Almond will meet with the tree surgeon to check prices and ensure the budget is not exceeded. Cllr Hooper asked how the parish council could demonstrate value for money despite being satisfied with the work provided above and beyond requirements. He suggested that the work plan already compiled should be used to get a tender from another contractor to compare costs. Cllr Wilson stated that this should also be done with the mowing contract	JA

01/26/13	<u>To Receive a report from the Pavilion Management committee</u> Minutes from the meeting held on 7th January were circulated. These can be viewed on the PMC section of the website. Action points will be considered, Clerk to write again to contractor to install replacement posts. Item 2 – Covid Grant Monies. Two members of the cricket club asked about £5,000 from the Covid grant which had been paid into the Parish council account. Their question was what had it been spent on. Cllr Claxton read the decision made at the parish council meeting held on 29/09/2020 as follows: Since the change in regulations in August GBPC have received the Covid grant of £10,000. After much discussion it was proposed by Cllr Claxton that BCC could receive £5,000 from the Pavilion fund to cover costs lost throughout the season. BCC agreed and this will be formalised at the next GBPC meeting. GBPC also confirmed the £10K grant should be put forward for projects in the pavilion and recreation ground. Cllr Claxton named a number of projects including: New Heating system for the pavilion plus installation (£7666.05); Recreation ground new fencing (£9045.60); New play equipment (£9679.30); Play area refurbishment and Improvement (£44,796.60). In total the money spent on improvements over the last five years has been £118,525.17 far in excess of the initial £10k grant.	Clerk
01/26/14	<u>To discuss maintenance of the recreation ground</u> Some sharp spikes have appeared on the boundary fence. Cllr Hooper will survey the whole fence and remove spikes. Cllr Claxton will get a quote for repair from the entrance to the corner of Madeline Close. Some residents have erected gates in the fencing giving them access to the recreation ground. Legal advice may be needed on this matter if the fence is to be replaced. Wicksteed have supplied a quote for repair of the fence damaged by a driver (£16,046.16). The quote has been sent to the person concerned who has sent it to their Insurance company. New panels will be put in the top corner when the weather improves. HDC will put in a new bin as requested. Cllr Claxton would like the black bin in the corner replaced plus one other supplied.	PC
01/26/15	<u>To consider a request for funding for digitisation including transition to a gov.uk domain</u> Expenses involved already considered in the budget. Cllr Hayes suggested the website could be rationalised. Cllr Claxton suggested that they might meet and decide how this could be done. It may be desirable to ask Net Magik to help.	DH/PC
01/26/16	<u>To discuss the Stait Bench</u> A resident had offered to replace a broken bench on Nether Green some time ago. Cllr Wilson was in touch with the present owners (Stait family). He has so far not received a decision from them re sharing ownership of the new bench so will contact them again.	JW
01/26/17	<u>To discuss the grass cutting contract</u> Already covered in item 01/26/11 above.	
01/26/18	<u>Update on the Fallen tree in Manor rd</u> This tree does not belong to the parish council so is the responsibility of the landowner.	
01/26/19	<u>To Receive Chairman's Announcements</u> None received	BH
01/26/20	<u>To receive correspondence for discussion</u> A resident has written asking if he would be able to install grass cell blocks along the side of a footpath outside his property. They would cross land owned by the parish council. Cllr Hayes suggested that legal advice should be sought and any permission would need to be formalised. Cllr Hooper to obtain relevant land registry documents.	BH
01/26/21	<u>Items for next meeting</u> Please send to the clerk by 02/03/2026	
01/26/22	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm	
	Meeting Closed at 21.48	

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

Clerk to the Council (Lindsey Wolstencroft): clerk@greatbowdenparishcouncil.org.uk

District Councillors: Phil Knowles, Buddy Anderson

County Councillor Sarah Hill