

**Bonsall Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Bonsall Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.30pm at**  
**Bonsall Village Hall**

**Chair of the Council:** Cllr Mark Harris

Clerk: Julia Milverton 69 Yeoman Street Bonsall DE4 2AA; telephone: 07306 311451; email: bonsallclerk@gmail.com

Minute No	Item	Action
18/02/1	<b>Present:</b> Cllrs Grover (Chair), S Smith, J Smith, Barry, J Milverton (Clerk/RFO), District Councillor M Buckler (DDDC), K Potter (Peak Park Forum)	
18/02/2	<b>Apologies for Absence:</b> M. Harris, B Cartwright, L Caudwell	
18/02/3	<b>Variation to the Order of Business:</b> None	
18/02/4	<b>Declaration of Interests:</b> None	
18/02/5	<p><b>Public Speaking:</b></p> <p>Kath Potter urged residents to take part in the 'Have Your Say' online consultation which is aimed at improving walking cycling, riding etc in Peak Park. Details on the PDNP website.</p> <p>She went on to report that the income PDNP receives from central government has been cut by 50% in real terms over the last 10 years. As a result, the up-coming restructure will involve extremely painful decisions as to the services PDNP can provide.</p> <p>Cllr Buckler made reference to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and urged residents to engage with this. He also reported that there is now no bank in PDNP. A temporary banking hub will be opened in Bakewell by the end of February until a more permanent solution can be found. The hub will be in the Agricultural Business Centre.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that a resident had asked to record their objection to the idea of white poppies (Remembering all victims of war and a commitment to peace) being placed on the war memorial. It was also noted that the poppies need to be removed from the Cross in accordance with the previous decision. Cllr Barry agreed to do this.</p>	JB
18/02/6	<p><b>Minutes of the last meeting:</b> The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.</p> <p>Matters outstanding from last meeting not covered by this month's agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clerk reported that the cost of a new grit bin in Slaley would be about £130. It was reported that Pete has put bags of grit in the phone box and it was agreed this is a sensible and economic solution.</li> </ol>	
18/02/7	<p>Chair's Announcements: None</p> <p>Clerk's Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further correspondence with Nat Grid re. light at the Cross. This should now be closed but await next bill to check. Nat Grid agreed to backdate to Sept 24. Credit notes for £185 received and bills are estimated to be reduced by half.</li> <li>2. Correspondence with Slaley resident and DDDC re provision of dog waste bin for Slaley. Evidence sent and request for this to be considered by DDDC.</li> <li>3. Further correspondence with resident re Moor Lane damage following response from DCC. Open Gardens had offered assistance but the Parish Council could do no more.</li> <li>4. Resident concern re. overhanging vegetation on The Dale</li> <li>5. The grit bin map had been put on website however it was noted that the number of bins was different to the number surveyed. Map and policy to be updated with actual bins</li> </ol>	Clerk

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	<p>6. Policies – in process of standardising policies on website. Grit Bin policy and Recording policy to be added.</p> <p>7. Churchyard Claim sent to DDDC and estimated cost of churchyard for coming year submitted.</p> <p>8. Appraisal done for MB</p> <p>9. Issue over Muttering format for website resolved.</p> <p>10. VAT claim processed and money received.</p>	Clerk
18/02/8	<p><b>VILLAGE MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>a) Flooding:</b></p> <p>I. There has still been no response to the letter BPC wrote last year concerning flooding. It was agreed Clerk will re-send this to the new MP and also to Cllr C Cupit (on Cllr Buckler's recommendation)</p> <p>II. Clerk to find out if anyone in the village took up the DCC offer of measures to help with flooding.</p> <p><b>b) Park: to discuss</b></p> <p>I. Renewal of Diocese Lease for park. The Clerk reported that the representative of Fisher German (agents for the diocese) had visited and had been shown the park and its importance to the village. There is no update on a possible rent increase.</p> <p>II. Developments relating to play area. Cllr J Smith reported that matters are progressing. She is waiting to hear from DDDC about the date of a handover meeting. DDDC will not carry out any further remedial work. There is a lot to consider here: insurance, risk assessments etc Cllr J Smith has produced a report for Mutterings so residents will be aware. It was agreed that going forward the Play Area / Park group would be set up. The Council thanked Cllr J Smith for her work. Clerk to send Cllrs copy of the tree survey of the park as trees adjacent to play equipment were a potential risk</p> <p>III. Potholes in car park. Clerk to ask PS/GH to fill the potholes with the filler which is still at the side of the park.</p> <p>IV. Litter bin in bus shelter. Clerk reminded the Council that DDDC had confirmed some time ago they would not provide another bin, but BPC could provide their own and be responsible for emptying it. It was decided PS/GH should be asked to clear the litter on a monthly basis.</p> <p>V. Car park by-law. It was decided not to pursue this at the moment.</p> <p>VI. Bus shelter. It was agreed to install the art work which had previously been in the church. The Arts Trail will finance the framing and installation.</p> <p><b>c) Website:</b> Clerk reported she had put the grit bin map on the website and was organising and updating the policies. It was noted that there had been changes and progress on both updating the website and documents. It was still work in progress and it was agreed to refer reviewing progress until next month. Clerk to continue to work through the October Gap analysis</p> <p><b>d) Quarrying:</b> Cllr Grover reported he would attend the Quarry Liaison Group meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb, otherwise there was nothing to report.</p> <p><b>e) Road, verges, footpaths:</b></p> <p><b>I. Narrowing of upper town lane and potholes.</b> Clerk reminded the Council that she had forwarded the response from DCC which informed them that DCC had visited and did not think the state of the verges warranted any action by DCC. The narrowing of Uppertown lane was discussed and it was noted that the banks had gradually encroached onto the road, there was tarmac under the earth and grass and this had impinged on the gullies. Clerk confirmed she had reported the potholes and was asked to send the reference numbers. It was decided</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>JS/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>RG</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>RG</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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	<p>Lengthsmen should be asked to cut back the hedges impinging on Uppertown Lane and to ensure gullies are clear.</p> <p>II. <b>Cleaning gullies:</b> Clerk reported that the lengthsmen had cleared some of the drains. She confirmed that the lengthsmen regularly clear out drains and their work in this regard has not changed due to any instruction from herself. It was noted that the lengthsmen recognised which drains get blocked and should continue with clearing them. It was agreed to report via the Clerk any particularly badly blocked drains or gullies to DCC for action.</p> <p>III. <b>Revisit discussions with Green and Clean team re village road cleaning including Via Gellia footpath.</b> Cllr Grover reported that residents on Clatterway and Church Street were still clearing leaves in desperation of lack of cleaning by DDDC and this was unacceptable. The first and only clean of Clatterway had been in mid-February and that had been one side only. The gutter side is still full of rotting leaves. The Clerk was asked to revisit notes of the last meeting with the two people from DDDC Green and Clean Team to both chase for further clearing wherever needed in the village and arrange for future prompt cleaning. It was noted residents had worked hard to clear some of the leaves but why should they be doing the job of DDDC. Clerk noted that these bags of leaves could have been collected by DDDC if they had been reported. Cllr Grover said that this situation could not happen again next year. The Via Gellia footpath needed cleaning desperately and only then could any pavement repairs be addressed..</p> <p>IV. <b>overhanging vegetation the Dale.</b> A resident had reported this issue, but it was felt this is not something BPC can really get involved in. If a serious issue then it was a matter that needed reporting to DDDC</p> <p>V. <b>Dog waste bin Slaley.</b> The Clerk reported that this is progressing with DDDC.</p> <p>VI. <b>Potholes Clatterway.</b> Cllr Grover said he had reported this 3 times along with other residents. A resident has also reported the issue to the Leader of DDDC and the Clerk will follow up on this report with the resident. Mutterings report to request that resident send their pot hole report reference numbers to the Clerk for all potholes they have reported to DCC to enable the PC to keep an eye on this.</p> <p>f) <b>The Cross:</b> to discuss developments connected with repairs. Following the surveyors report. Cllr S Smith reported that the church builders, Howletts, recommended the upper mid-price option. Cllr Grover agreed to take the lead on this and initially talk to the conservation engineers to seek advice and report back with an outline plan and ideas for funding and grant applications.</p> <p>g) <b>Policies:</b> to discuss scheduling, updating and reviewing of policies. The Clerk issued a schedule of policies with review dates. It was noted that some policies had passed their review date but this did not accord with the exercise led by Cllr Harris where all existing policies were reviewed and brought up to date. The new grit bin and recording policies were tabled but needed amendment before publication. It was noted that the HR policy published was different to the one that was adopted by the Council. Cllr Grover agreed to circulate the agreed and adopted draft from July 2023. It was noted that the Clerk had carried out quite a bit of work on updating policies but will need to continue to tidy up the policies including the new policies for recording of meetings and the grit bin policy. Policies will be reviewed prior to the next meeting. Clerk to construct a Financial Regulations policy using the Dalc template.</p> <p>h) <b>Councillor Induction and Code of Conduct:</b> to discuss. It was noted that the Councillor Code of Conduct was not on the website and there were two sets of standing orders on the website, one predating the other. The Clerk was tasked with contacting DALC and determining what the latest versions of our Code of Conduct and Standing orders should be. It was unclear whether the most recent Councillors had been inducted, sent all documentation and offered training as had been the past practice. The Clerk needed to look into this and to determine the price of an induction course with Dalc. It was also noted that Councillors do not have the Login for Dalc and they need to rely on the Clerk for advising on all recommended updates from Dalc on policies and practice.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>RG</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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	<p>i) <b>Public WC's:</b> lease transfer update. Clerk reported there continues to be no further news. Clerk to re-send, It was also noted that the PC had received both the £3,000 grant and the £2,062 repair back log payments.</p> <p>j) <b>Noticeboards:</b> To discuss condition. Cllr S Smith offered to repair once the weather improves</p> <p>k) <b>War memorial:</b> Cllr Barry agreed to paint the railings in conjunction with 4 hours of the Lengthsmen's time</p> <p>l) <b>Yeoman St Community Garden:</b> The Service Level Agreement from DDDC was discussed. There would be a charge of approx. £200 for their legal costs. Clerk reported DDDC has confirmed there would be no issue if Wilder Bonsall ceased to care for the garden as it would revert to DDDC. It was agreed that the insurance situation needs to be ascertained as there was concern as to the situation if a member of the public was injured in the garden. Clerk to contact insurers to check volunteers and the work they do are covered by the Public Liability insurance and to ask DDDC for their Risk Assessment for the garden. The service level agreement did not indicate any of DDDC's obligations and again this was noted as a concern. In respect of the service agreement and the Wilder Bonsall Management Plan for this area it was agreed to defer decisions until next month.</p> <p>m) <b>Training for Lengthsmen:</b> It was decided to close this as chainsaw training is not practicable.</p> <p>n) <b>Churchyard Burial extension:</b> It was decided to close this.</p> <p>o) <b>Risk Assessments:</b> Clerk to send Risk Assessments for employees to Cllr J Smith</p> <p>p) <b>Wilder Bonsall:</b> Management Plan submitted by Wilder Bonsall. It was decided to forward this to next month after the insurance situation is clarified. The plans for the park bank (next to the churchyard steps) were discussed. Wilder Bonsall's Management Plan requested that this should be strimmed in the autumn, not earlier, to facilitate the creation of the wildflower meadow. This conflicted with the historic maintenance of the park and some resident's expectations for carnival week. It was reported that some people had said that they are not happy with the bank not being strimmed until September. To be forwarded to the next meeting for further discussion, however with the number of issues connected with the play area and park it was agreed that a working group or committee would assist before discussion next month. The other three areas, i.e Rag Croft, Nether Green and Top of High St had been worked on by Wilder Bonsall for over a year but these areas were not necessarily in the Councils ownership. The Council did not see any immediate issue with Wilder Bonsall continuing but overall, volunteer policies, risk assessments etc needed to be considered.</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>JB</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

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18/02/9	<p>Finance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Monthly Payments received: £101 (Defibrillator donation) £1356.40 (VAT refund) £3179 (Village Hall ref cooker)</li> <li>b) Statement/ Annual Accounts: the accounts for period 10 were approved.</li> <li>c) Cllr S Smith reported this had been done.</li> <li>d) The Clerk reported the VAT and churchyard maintenance payments had been received. Roy Johnson's mowing charges will increase by £3 per visit.</li> <li>e) The PC noted that they could have raised the precept by more than has been done, especially with the extra cost of the play area to consider, but decided not to. (It was raised by approx. £4.50p.a. per household.)</li> <li>f) The Clerk did confirm that the budget for 2025-26 had been agreed in Dec 24. Clerk said she would re-send it.</li> <li>g) It was decided to consider setting up a finance Committee as our finances have become more complex following the increased liabilities of the council e.g the toilets, the play equipment and the cross. Cllr Grover to consider draft Terms of Reference for the March Meeting.</li> </ul> <table border="1" data-bbox="277 792 1358 1223"> <tr><td>Online</td><td>J Milverton</td><td>£740.08</td><td>Salary</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>P Spencer</td><td>£91.92</td><td>Salary + exps</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>G Hardy</td><td>£137.86</td><td>Salary</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>M Biggin</td><td>nil</td><td>Salary + exps</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£314.52</td><td>PAYE month 8</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>R Allsopp</td><td>£120</td><td>WC cleaning</td></tr> <tr><td>Card</td><td>L Hands</td><td>£7.99</td><td>Plants</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>Long Eaton Appliance</td><td>£2868</td><td>Cooker (ref village hall)</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>Salisbury &amp; Wood</td><td>£396</td><td>Grit</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>e-on</td><td>£18.22</td><td>Electricity Park</td></tr> <tr><td>Online</td><td>e-on</td><td>£18.23</td><td>Electricity Park</td></tr> <tr><td>DD</td><td>Virgin/o2 Mobile</td><td>£14.24</td><td>Phone charges</td></tr> <tr><td>DD</td><td>Virgin money</td><td>£10.55</td><td>Bank charges</td></tr> </table>	Online	J Milverton	£740.08	Salary	Online	P Spencer	£91.92	Salary + exps	Online	G Hardy	£137.86	Salary	Online	M Biggin	nil	Salary + exps	Online	HMRC	£314.52	PAYE month 8	Online	R Allsopp	£120	WC cleaning	Card	L Hands	£7.99	Plants	Online	Long Eaton Appliance	£2868	Cooker (ref village hall)	Online	Salisbury & Wood	£396	Grit	Online	e-on	£18.22	Electricity Park	Online	e-on	£18.23	Electricity Park	DD	Virgin/o2 Mobile	£14.24	Phone charges	DD	Virgin money	£10.55	Bank charges	Clerk  RG
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18/02/10	<p><b>Planning:</b></p> <p>None</p>																																																					
<p align="center"><b>Next meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.</b></p>																																																						

Signed .....