

# Bonsall Parish Council - Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

**Parish Council Meeting** held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30 Bonsall Village Hall

**Meeting Chairman:** Cllr Mark Harris

**Clerk:** Julia Milverton

**Those Present:** Cllr Mark Harris, Cllr Richard Grover, Cllr Jackie Smith, Cllr Jon Barry, Julia Milverton – Parish Clerk. Seven members of the public (part time)

**Apologies for Absence:** Received from County Councillor, Adrian Hunter

**Recording of the Meeting:** The Chairman noted that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of the minutes. There were no objections.

**Variation to the Order of Business:** None

**Declaration of Councillors Interests:** None

Agenda /Item	Minute	Action
15/07/4	Public speaking	
a	Leigh Johnson reported that Ben Makinson had checked the electrical system in the park prior to carnival. There is some remedial work for which Leigh volunteered to take responsibility.	
b	<p>Several members of the public spoke of their opposition to the continued use of glyphosates to spray the village. One person reported that she had canvassed numerous people and that while everyone agreed that the verges need to be tidied to various degrees, no one thought using the weedkiller was the right way to deal with the problem. She suggested the formation of a group of volunteers to work on clearing the verges with perhaps residents taking responsibility for their own areas where possible. She also asked whether the lengthsman could help. She suggested to trial this for a year.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that spraying had restarted in 2023/4 as the growth was so bad that pedestrians couldn't walk down the street. We had previously stopped using spraying in 2020 at the request of villagers. This was done on the understanding that villagers would all do their bit to cut back excessive weed growth. However, this had proved to be insufficient. It was stated that the PC didn't like spraying verges any more than persons addressing the meeting.</p>	
c	There had been a response from the District Council (which will be published in the Mutterings for residents' information). One suggestion	

	<p>was to use some of the Parish Council Lengthsmen's time to assist with some strimming. The Parish Council would look at doing that if they had free time.</p> <p>DDDC don't support the use of sprays, but contract the weed control from the County Council who do not have the same policy. If there is a highway that is causing a hazard to pedestrians or cars then they will spray. In Bonsall we don't have footpaths everywhere, hence if weeds grow too dense at the side of the road, then pedestrians have to walk in the middle of the street. It is a danger even though we accept they are not A class highways. We have no say in County Council Highways policy'</p>	
d	<p>Various weedkillers have been tried but all have different issues that make them not ideal. The Highways Dept are trialling a new system that uses electricity to kill the weeds and if possible, we may decide to adopt that in the village. The Highways response was then read out to the meeting.</p>	
e	<p>The Chair asked that any group of volunteers that was formed to remove weeds should write to the Parish Council to inform them of what they intended to do. The Council would then meet up with them to discuss any proposals. Attendees at the meeting asked about removing growth from people's walls of their houses and they were told this could not be done without householders' permission</p>	
f	<p>It was also pointed out that councillor's themselves had removed weeds on Church Street with the assistance of other residents. Fifty dustbin bags of soil and weeds have been removed from Church Street alone in the last two years. This was because the children going to school were endangered by having to walk in the middle of the road on a blind bend.</p>	
<b>15/07/5</b>	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>	
a	<p>The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2025</p>	
<b>15/07/6</b>	<b>Chairmans announcements</b>	
a	<p>Julia has resigned as Clerk and RFO and will be leaving at the end of September. The PC will hold a meeting to discuss interim arrangements.</p>	
b	<p>The closure of Yeoman St. is a major disruption. Cllr J Smith will put details of the latest news from DCC on the Bonsall Village Matters Facebook page. Villagers will be able to look at the Bonsall Village Matters site which will have the full information about what is happening and what is being proposed regarding the road closure. Highways are looking at possibly deploying traffic lights on Yeoman Street to solve the situation.</p>	JS

<b>15/07/7</b>	<b>Clerks report</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DDDC was asked to remove old planning applications from the 'decisions due' page 26.06.</li> <li>2. Sent AH details of potholes on Black Tor Road and continued correspondence about the road collapsing on High St.</li> <li>3. Sent request to AH for information about grants 01.07.</li> <li>4. Resent letter to Chris Henning cc AH 18.06.</li> <li>5. Thanks sent to M Buckler and to PCC for playground donations.</li> <li>6. Asset List updated.</li> <li>7. Website: Defib map corrected; Good Councillor Guide uploaded, Personnel Policy uploaded; Social Media Policy removed; schedule updated.</li> <li>8. DDDC has been asked about weed spraying.</li> <li>9. DDDC asked about vegetation on road between car park and Fountain</li> <li>10. Buy signs re camping and sleeping to be done</li> <li>11. Gap analysis continued (to be discussed under item 15/7/8c</li> </ol>	
<b>15/07/8</b>	<b>Village Matters</b>	
a	<p><b>Flooding:</b> The PC was disappointed that the face-to-face meeting suggested by C. Henning (Head of PLACE) has still not happened. R.Ward has offered a Teams meeting only. Clerk to write again asking for a meeting in person as originally promised. Cllr Grover to arrange a pre-inspection prior to the meeting once a date is set.</p>	RG
b	<p><b>The Park:</b> Richard Stead, for Bonsall Players, has done a fantastic job re-painting the swings and was thanked sincerely for his hard work. Clerk to write to Rachel Richardson and to Richard to thank them. In the meeting it was asked that the Clerk send a copy of the invoice for the paint to Rachel Richardson and that we place our thanks on record in the Mutterings report. Both to Bonsall Players as a group and to Richard Stead.</p>	Clerk
c	<p><b>Website:</b> It was confirmed that future changes to the website would now be made by Councillor S.Smith and no further changes would be required from the Clerk"</p>	SS
d	<p><b>Quarrying:</b> Nothing to report</p>	
e	<p><b>Roads, verges and footpaths: (see also minutes under Public Speaking)</b> It was decided to ask DDDC to include Bonsall in their Nutrovolt trial. Also, it was thought that some of the lengthsman's time could be spared to do some strimming of verges. The PC was clear that the village must be the driving force behind any group formed to clear verges, rather than the PC.</p> <p>It was decided that we were not in a position to make any final decision on the subject of weed spraying until we had liaised further with DDDC regarding the NUTROVOLT project. Councillors will be liaising imminently</p>	

	with the organisers of the trial and if it is possible to avoid future spraying then that is something that the council would be keen to do.	
	It was agreed that the Clerk should edit a letter from Samantha Grisman, removing paragraph 2, but putting the rest of the paragraphs in the Parish Councils Mutterings report for the information of villagers.	Clerk
	Notices were found to be given to Slaley resident about dog waste.	Clerk
f	<b>The Cross:</b> Cllr Grover reported that a pre-planning application has been made and Councillors were meeting with the Conservation Officer soon to discuss the project.	
g	<b>Policies:</b> Nothing to report	
h	<b>Tree Management:</b> The PC has checked the trees in the park including the four identified as needing to be felled. Quotes will be sought.	
	Cllr Grover offered to create a Tree Management Plan.	RG
	The Clerk to contact a resident re: a dead tree situated in a rear garden as urgent need for removal	Clerk
i	<b>Burial Ground Inspection:</b> It was noted that this needed to be done. Clerk to arrange a walk round with Cllrs Harris, J Smith and M Biggin in the next 2 weeks. Cllr J Smith to carry out a Risk Assessment with the Church.	Clerk
	A Risk Assessment or Survey has not been done on Burial Ground since April 2021 and needs to be done urgently. Clerk to send documentation on this and Working Group to Cllr J.Smith urgently. Cllr J Smith to do Risk Assessment together with representative of the Church PCC.	Clerk
	Clerk to provide Cllr Smith with T.Payne's, Burial Clerks notes on what should be done re: burial ground	Clerk
j	<b>Noticeboards:</b> It was reported that the History Group has kindly offered to look into replacing the posters on the map boards. The PC thanked the History Group for their help	
k	<b>Asset List:</b> The Clerk reported that she had forwarded the updated Asset List to the PC. It will be reviewed by Cllrs Grover and S Smith.	RG/SS
l	<b>Public WCs:</b> Clerk was asked to contact Becky to clarify what she has bought re the last invoice and where the materials are stored	Clerk
<b>15/0//9</b>	<b>Finance:</b>	
a	Monthly Payments received: £0.17 (bank credit), £50 (playground donation) £668.96 (car park), £41.17 (WC donation box), £200 (burial fee)	

b	The monthly Statement/ Annual Accounts: the statement for period 3 detailing income and expenditure to 30 June 2025 was approved																																																		
	<table border="1"> <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>nil</td><td>Salary</td></tr> <tr> <td>Online</td><td>G Hardy</td><td>£344.96</td><td>Salary</td></tr> <tr> <td>Online</td><td>M Biggin</td><td>£198.23</td><td>Salary + exp</td></tr> <tr> <td>Online</td><td>HMRC</td><td>£395.53</td><td>PAYE/Ni month 2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Online</td><td>R Allsopp</td><td>£120</td><td>WC cleaning</td></tr> <tr> <td>Online</td><td>P Askew</td><td>£100</td><td>Strimmer repair</td></tr> <tr> <td>Card</td><td>AJGIBL</td><td>£1117.84</td><td>Insurance</td></tr> <tr> <td>Online</td><td>Roy Johnson Landscape Services</td><td>£225.60</td><td>Park mowing</td></tr> <tr> <td>DD</td><td>e-on</td><td>£17.64</td><td>Electricity Park</td></tr> <tr> <td>DD</td><td>Virgin/o2 Mobile</td><td>£16.04</td><td>Phone charges</td></tr> <tr> <td>DD</td><td>Virgin money</td><td>£17.51</td><td>Bank charges</td></tr> </table>			Online	J Milverton	£740.08	Salary	Online	P Spencer	nil	Salary	Online	G Hardy	£344.96	Salary	Online	M Biggin	£198.23	Salary + exp	Online	HMRC	£395.53	PAYE/Ni month 2	Online	R Allsopp	£120	WC cleaning	Online	P Askew	£100	Strimmer repair	Card	AJGIBL	£1117.84	Insurance	Online	Roy Johnson Landscape Services	£225.60	Park mowing	DD	e-on	£17.64	Electricity Park	DD	Virgin/o2 Mobile	£16.04	Phone charges	DD	Virgin money	£17.51	Bank charges
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<b>15/07/10</b>	<b>Planning:</b>																																																		
a	25/00510/FUL Erection of greenhouse 65 Church Street. After viewing the plans and discussion it was agreed to make no objection to this application.																																																		
b	25/00593/FUL Change of use, conversion and extension of the existing agricultural building to form 1no. dwellinghouse. After viewing the plans and discussion it was agreed to make no objection to this application.																																																		
c	Tree Works Application T/25/00076/TPO Crown thinning and lifting to give 5 metre clearance from ground of 1no. Oak Tree at Land East Of 90 High Street. After viewing the plans and discussion it was agreed to make no objection to this application.																																																		
d	T/25/00079/TCA Fell 1no. tree 25 Church Street. After viewing the plans and discussion it was agreed to make no objection to this application.																																																		
	<b>Next Meeting:</b>																																																		
	There will be no scheduled meeting in August. The next meeting will be on <b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30</b> in the Village Hall																																																		

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