

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 14th January at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Chadwyck-Healey (Chair) Mrs Greasley, Mr Gidden, Ms Cox, Ms Barnes, Mrs Kilgour, Mrs Mellor, District Councillor Ms L.Coyle, Mr Greasley (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillors Couchman and Parsons.

The following members of the public attended: Mr Garret, Mr Ayres, Mr King-Harris, Mrs Dewing

1.OPEN FORUM

None were raised.

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

3.MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th December having been circulated to members in advance of the meeting was signed by the Chairman.

4.PLANNING

The following applications were reviewed:

25/02610 Duffles, Aldworth Road – extension and car parking space

The Parish reviewed the application and objected on the following grounds:

The proposed extension is excessively large for the plot and is, in the opinion of the Parish Council, against the character of the original building. Concern was expressed by Councillors around the size of the ground floor and it was noted that due to the proposed close proximity to the boundary this may affect trees in the garden of a neighbouring property. The Council also notes the concerns of others, namely potential drainage issues and the proposed parking solution which does not seem realistic for the plot.

25/02802 Feathers Farm, Blandys Lane, Barn Conversion

The Parish Council reviewed and objected as the barn is outside of the settlement boundary (on the boundary map we have).

25/02822 Birchwood House, new driveway.

The Parish Council had no objections subject to the views of neighbours.

Confirmed Decisions

25/02489 Grove Farm Cottage, Hook End Lane, New Annex – WBC Approved, PC No Objection.

25/01733 Tomb Farm, revised opening hours and increased facilities use – WBC Refused, PC Objection

The Clerk informed the meeting that application for new windows at Pond Cottage had been withdrawn.

5.GENERAL ITEMS

Councillor Gidden and the Clerk have reviewed tree planting on the village green. A budget item has been added to cover costs (around £2000) with Councillor Gidden set to meet relevant suppliers for tree stump removal and planting on the 16th January. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues and provided the follow updates:

Conversations with Highways and the Hook End Lane crossroads continue. Satellite Navigation companies have been made aware of an error in some cases around priority at the crossroads, otherwise the situation is unchanged.

Residents have contacted the District Councillor to request a new path from the Swing Bridge at Lower Basildon to the Beale Park entrance. This will be followed up over the next month although options are limited due to the topology of the area in question.

7.FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported that there were no issues to report with footpaths or any open spaces other than their gradual deterioration as the wetter weather continues.

The Clerk has requested quotes for the 2026 grass cutting at the Village Recreation ground, Wakemans Park and Village Green. Once received, these will be reviewed.

8.FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103742	R Greasley	Salary	428.66	0.00	428.66
103743	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Grass Cutting (cost over 12 months)	288.50	57.70	346.20
103744	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Monthly bin emptying change	24.83	4.97	29.80
103745	SLCC	Membership	158.00	0.00	158.00
103746	Michael Cairns	Hedges – Village Hall	600.00	120.00	720.00
103747	PCC Basildon	Post Office Hire	1000.00	0.00	1000.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103742 to 103747 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE. It was agreed that the Clerk would act as one signatory as the two other signatories were absent.

The budget for 26/27 was discussed with Councillor Greasley advising of both the current and expected spend. It was noted that the Council currently holds 57K across its two bank accounts and key expected costs will be for electricity, grass cutting, the clerks salary and tree work; with other general items contributing to an overall budget of 33K. The Council agreed to the budget and agreed that the precept should be set at 23K with the Clerk to inform West Berkshire Council.

Councillor Greasley confirmed that the VAT reclaim exercise will kick off shortly and will raise approximately £1900.

Councillor Kilgour was given the bank reconciliation data to review and sign off and this was completed.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm. The next meeting will be on the 14th January.