

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 11th February at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Chadwyck-Healey (Chair), Mr Parsons, Mr Couchman, Mrs Greasley, Mr Gidden, Ms Barnes, Mr Greasley (Clerk)

Apologies: Ms Cox, Mrs Mellor, Ms Coyle, Mrs Kilgour

1.OPEN FORUM

None were raised.

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

3.MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th January having been circulated to members in advance of the meeting was signed by the Chairman.

4.PLANNING

It was confirmed that no applications for the Parish had been received.

Confirmed Decisions

25/02675 Alda, Kiln Corner, Detached Garage – WBC Approved, PC No Objection

It was confirmed that 26/02610 for Duffles had been withdrawn.

5.GENERAL ITEMS

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had received a request to support the Pangbourne Toilets charity. It was noted that previously the Council had donated £520 for 2025 and this was confirmed again for 2026 following a vote.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Survey is now live and has been published in the Country Neighbour. Returns will be reviewed over the coming weeks.

The Clerk has followed up the condition of the Grotto with the District Councillor. Ownership continues to be an issue and stalls any prospect of a positive outcome for the building. This was continue to be followed up.

Councillor Gidden updated the meeting on the Village Green tree planting project. A stump has been removed and plans put in place for new trees to be planted shortly. These will be looked after by local residents with the Horticultural Society helping with pruning and other maintenance.

It was confirmed that the February meeting would be last for Councillor Sarah Barnes who steps down after 17 years of service. The Chairman, and others, thanked Sarah for her considerable work over the years and a small token of thanks was presented. The Clerk will remove Sarah from the cheque approval list and add the Vice Chairman in due course.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor continues to work on local issues.

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 presented quotes to the meeting for the 2026 grass cutting across the Parish. Three requests for quotes were made and two in turn received. Of these, Scofell offered the best value in the opinion of Councillors who voted for the contracted to be awarded accordingly. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

8.FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total	Initial	Initial
103747	R Greasley	Salary	428.00	0.00	428.00		
103748	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Grass Cutting (cost over 12 months)	288.50	57.70	346.20		
103749	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Monthly bin emptying change	24.83	4.97	29.80		
103750	Berkshire Stump Removal	Village Green – removal of large tree stump	140.00	0.00	140.00		
103751	Oliver Chadwyck - Healey	Expenses	41.99	0.00	41.99		
103752	I Parsons	Expenses	17.40	0.00	17.40		

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103747 to 103752 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE.

OTHER BUSINESS

An update on the Red Lion was offered. It was confirmed that the proposed purchase had fallen through and the building is now available for sale or rent.

The meeting concluded at 8pm. The next meeting will be on the 11th March