

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 8th October at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

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

Apologies: Mr Parsons

1.OPEN FORUM

None were raised.

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

3.MINUTES

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

4.PLANNING

The following applications were reviewed:

25/02003 – 10 Tenepas Drive, Two story Extension

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

Confirmed Decisions

25/01888CERT Woodgreen Farm Buildings, change of use (to clinic) WBC Approved, PC No View

25/01652CERT White Lodge, Reading Road, chimney stack removal. WBC Approved, PC No View

25/01264 The Tree House, Beckfords, New Vehicular Access. WBC Approved, PC Objection

25/01691 Caius Cottage, Aldworth Road – new detached garage. WBC Approved, PC No Objection.

5.GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman confirmed that conversations around a village survey had taken place with the Country Neighbour with space put aside for 4 pages worth of updates / questions in or around the New Year edition. Further discussions on the contents of the survey will take place next month.

The Chairman confirmed that the phone box in Lower Basildon has been checked by a local electrician and has suitable power for a defibrillator. Community heartbeat have been contacted as part of the next stage of work.

A request has been received from the community speedwatch team for new equipment to help with the detection of motorists speed. It's been suggested by Thames Valley Police that a tripod-based system will provide better results with a likely cost of around three thousand pounds. Councillor Barnes confirmed that this would be investigated by Michael Warren and the Council can then vote based on the proposed costs. The Chairman placed on record his thanks for the work done by Michael and the team to date and this was echoed by various Parish Councillors.

Support for the library service for 2025/26 was discussed. It was agreed to retain the current service with costs for the Pop up Library service totalling £1790 and the community bookshelf a further £1691. The Clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

Having received confirmation that West Berkshire Council is responsible for a small strip of land by the entrance to Wakemans, the Clerk has requested that a broken fence situated there is repaired.

Councillors Giddon and Kilgour updated the meeting on various planting initiatives. Councillor Giddon has arranged for bulbs and trees to be given to the Parish from the woodland trust with various locations discussed in the meeting. Councillor Kilgour also confirmed a separate delivery of up to 1500 bulbs following a separate application for planting over the next month. Arrangements for this will take place outside of the meeting.

The Chairman updated the meeting on electricity costs for the streetlights in the Parish. The Parish Council had paid a daily standing charge of £2.84, however, on the completion of the current contract this reverted to £18. The Chairman confirmed that a new agreement has now been reached which reduces this charge to £1.50 which should ensure the annual cost for lighting drops below £1500. The Clerk will continue to monitor bills as required.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor delivered the following report.

Planning/enforcement issues

Tomb Farm (Berkshire Shooting School) – we discussed at the meeting – just to update that there have been a lot of objections now– if goes to planning committee (because officer minded to approve) will let the PC know (although you should also be notified by WBC)

Lower Basildon View – possible breaches of planning permission in relation to height of building and also concerns around activity in neighbouring field. I raised the building height issue with enforcement back in May and have chased this up – not looked into yet due to staffing issues.

Traffic issues

I wanted to make you aware that the Council is putting together plans to roll out 20mph zones (subject to consultation of course) on appropriate roads across villages in West Berks (this was part of the Council strategy) and I have learnt recently that Streatley is on the programme for the proposed introduction of a 20mph zone in 2027/28. The plan would be for the zone to cover most roads, but there might be some exceptions, and the exact area of proposed coverage would be determined following an assessment closer to the time, and in discussion with Parish Councils, and there would be a public consultation on the plans.

Council wide news

Local Government Reorganisation Update

The proposal for a Ridgeway Council will come to Full meeting of the Council on 4 November and if approved, which is anticipated will happen, the proposal will be sent to the Ministry for Local Government and Communities.

Three weekly bin collections

From Monday 22 September 2025, West Berkshire Council introduced three-weekly black bin collections. I am not aware of any significant issues with this but please let me know if you are aware of concerns.

7.FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported that the footpaths remain in good condition generally with no issues raised. Arrangements have been made for the trim back of the war memorial hedge over the next month.

8.FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103727	R Greasley	Salary	428.13	0.00	428.13
103728	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Grass Cutting (cost over 12 months)	288.50	57.70	346.20
103729	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Monthly bin emptying charge	24.83	4.97	29.80
103730	Goring Gap Electricals	Phone Box power supply investigation	50.00	0.00	50.00
103731	Basildon Badgers FC	Donation	2500.00	0.00	2500.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103727 to 103731 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE. Account totals were also shared with the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:15pm. The next meeting will be on the 12th November.