

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL
Wednesday 12 August 2026
7.30pm
Village Hall, Upper Basildon

AGENDA

1. Open Forum

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors are asked to state if they have a conflict of interest in any of the agenda items that follow.

3. Minutes

To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2026 as a correct record.

4. Planning Applications

To review the following planning applications:-

26/01353	Apricot Day Nursery, Lescun, Pangbourne Road	Change of use to residential	Mr & Mrs Williams
26/01083	Land south of Church Farm cottages, Lower Basildon	Retrospective change of land use to allow outdoor recreation/ events	Fun Active Creative Events
26/01490	Hampstead House, Blandys Lane	Install solar panels	Mr Smith
26/01449	Hampstead House, Blandys Lane	Single storey extension	Mr Smith
26/01506	Salad Days, Bethesda Street	Demolition of conservatory/garage and new garage extension	Mr & Mrs Howard
26/01468	Hornbeam, Longbottom Road, Upper Basildon	Garage conversion	Mr Baines

5. Dedicated Council Email Addresses

To agree to establishing dedicated council email addresses for all councillors.

The internal audit report dated 26 April 2026 recommended common email address be established for all councillors which is seen as necessary for privacy, credibility and to maintaining professional standards in councillors' dealings with residents. It will also be useful as an audit trail and in keeping council work separate from private business.

6. **Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders have been amended as follows:-

(a) To remove Standing Order 14.d

~~*“The Council or those with the delegated responsibility for considering tenders, is bound bound to accept the lowest or give adequate reasons for non acceptance of the lowest quote.”*~~

This is in contradiction to the Financial Regulations 5.14.

~~*“The council shall not be obliged to accept the lowest or any tender, quote or estimate.”*~~

(b) The addition of Standing Order 5.h.

“Both the Chair and Vice Chair will serve a maximum term of no more than 5 consecutive years (with an election held each year as set out in section e above).”

There is still some discrepancy between the Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations which needs to be addressed and both documents will be brought back to the meeting at a future date. In the meantime the meeting is asked to approve the amendments to the Standing Orders as set out above.

7. **SSE Contract**

The contract with SSE for providing energy for the streetlights around Wakemans and the Pangbourne Road came to an end on 31st July 2026. Since no other energy supplier responded to an invitation to quote a new contract with SSE has been agreed which sees a slight increase in standing charge and unit cost but prevents the Parish Council falling in to the much higher rates by being out of contract. The rates for the next 12 months are as follows while estimated spend for the year is £1509.

Standing charge will move from 149.833p/day (current) to 151.018p/day (new).
Unit cost p/kWh will move from 24.916 (current) to 29.769 (new).

8. **Gigaclear/Vodafone**

Gigaclear started laying fibre broadband in the Parish around 2016/2017 as part of the initial phases of the Superfast Berkshire project rollout and there is currently no alternative for fibre internet other than Starlink. Gigaclear make a substantial offer for new subscribers but not to existing members. It does work in partnership with other small service providers but none of them are major providers such as BT, Sky or Virgin.

Several years ago Vodafone applied for planning permission to erect a mobile phone mast near Kiln Ride but at that time there was considerable opposition from people living near the mast and permission was refused by West Berkshire Council. Times have changed since the application was refused and a strong mobile signal is now considered an essential part of everyday life. Currently tradespeople are unable to make or receive phone calls and residents are having to rely on an extremely poor

signal.

It is believed that West Berkshire Council provided Gigaclear with financial support as the start up costs of supplying fibre broadband to the village was high. If this was the case the Parish Council asks whether West Berkshire Council could exert any influence in requesting Gigaclear to consider extending the discounts offered to new subscribers to existing subscribers within the Parish.

District Councillor Coyle is also asked to raise the issue of the poor mobile signal throughout the Parish with West Berkshire Council.

9. District Councillor Report

To receive a report from District Councillor Laura Coyle.

10. Finance

To authorise and sign cheque payments as set out in the attached cheque list.

11. AOB