

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 10th September at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

Present: Mr Parsons (Chair), Mrs Greasley, Mr Gidden, Mr Couchman, Ms Mealor, Ms Cox, District Councillor Ms Coyle, Mr Greasley (Clerk).

Apologies: Mr Chadwyck-Healey, Ms Barnes

1.OPEN FORUM

None were raised.

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

3.MINUTES

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

4.PLANNING

The following applications were reviewed:

25/01733 Tomb Farm, Lodge Opening hours, retention of building and overflow car park resurface.

The Parish Council reviewed objected on the following grounds:

The proposed revision to opening hours is likely to cause a significant increase in traffic on what is essentially a single track road (Hook End Lane). The Parish Council notes and fully supports those comments made by Ashampstead Parish Council who refer to the already poor condition of verges, large stretches of hedgerows and numerous blind spots which currently make the road difficult to navigate and are likely to cause further issues should the application proceed.

Additionally, the Parish Council notes the potential effect on revised opening hours to local residents which could be significant with respect to both noise and traffic.

25/01264 The Tree House, Beckfords – New vehicular access

The Parish Council reviewed the application and noted the following:

The plans do not state whether the current access will be retained or permanently closed off. Should the applicant wish to retain the current entrance then the Parish Council objects to the application. However, if the existing access point is permanently closed off and a single entrance retained then the Parish Council has no objections.

Confirmed Decisions

25/01652CERT – White Lodge, reading Road, Chimney stack removal – PC No view, WBC Approved

25/01349 - Church Farm, Lower Basildon – Minor Interior alterations – PC No Objection, WBC Approved

25/01275 Greenways, Aldworth Road, Demolition of existing and new house – PC Objection, WBC Refused

25/01219 Tomb Farm, relocation of condenser unit – PC No Objection, WBC Approved

25/01161 Tomb Farm, new enclosed porch, PC No Objection, WBC Approved.

Note – 25/01888 was listed in the agenda as requiring review, however, West Berkshire Council approved this prior to the meeting taking place. The Clerk noted that due to this being a 'Certificate' based application the Parish Council would have no view.

5. GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman has contacted Councillor Kilgour regarding bulb planting and an initiative to fill green spaces with spring flowers. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

Councillor Greasley asked Councillors to consider a donation to the local football club Basildon Badgers FC. The club is now in its 11th year and has around 100 players either registered to league teams or actively meeting on a Saturday for training at the Village Recreation Ground. Councillor Greasley outlined a number of significant recent costs including goal refurbishment and replacement and groundworks to bring the pitch up to Oxfordshire League standard as it was too small in its previous format. With the work done, further pitches can be laid out allowing more league teams (and hopefully players) in the future. The Chairman proposed a grant of £2500 to cover the ground works costs and support a number of initiatives including new nets and a grant towards goals for the U13 team. This was unanimously supported by Councillors (note, Councillor Greasley did not take part in the vote). Councillor Greasley will provide an update on progress over the coming months.

The village survey was discussed. The Chairman has met with the Country Neighbour and secured space in the late autumn / winter edition (likely November or December) with a view to providing an outline of progress against the previous plan, show potential spending options and offer up around a dozen questions for residents to answer. There was discussion around question content and this will be finalised before the October meeting. It was suggested that different survey options should be available to residents in addition to that in the Country Neighbour and Councillors agreed to fund an online survey tool and explore whether the form could also be filled in via the Parish Council website.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor updated the meeting with the following:

Red Lion Pub - As residents will be aware, the Red Lion appears to be in the process of changing hands. As the property has an Asset of Community Value designation, the Council should have been informed but I am told this has not been done yet. NB although where an asset is sold as a going concern the restrictions on disposal do not apply. I have asked officers to find out what is going and on and get back to me.

Council wide news

Local Government Reorganisation Update

Reading Borough Council is consulting on putting a proposal to Government to include WBC Eastern wards, including Pangbourne and Theale, in a new Greater Reading authority. There is a lot of concern about this locally, particularly in the east of Basildon ward.

Jeff Brookes, the leader of West Berks Council is attending meetings of Parish Councils in affected wards to listen to concerns- details are as follows:

- Pangbourne - 7.30 pm on 9 September
- Theale - 7.30 pm on 15 September
- Purley - 7.30 pm on 29 September
- Tidmarsh with Sulham – 7:30 pm on 2 October

Reminder re three weekly bin collections

From Monday 22 September 2025, West Berkshire Council will introduce three-weekly black bin collections as part of our ongoing efforts to encourage more recycling, reduce waste, and protect vital local services.

- Collection calendars and information leaflets have been delivered =
- Households with larger families or medical needs can apply for extra black bin space.
- Continued offer of replacement, and extra recycling containers free of charge.
- Parents can request free real nappy starter packs and cashback to reduce nappy waste.

- Collection days will not change
- Residents can sign up for updates at: www.westberks.gov.uk/3-weekly-collections.

7.FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported that the footpaths remain in good condition generally with no issues raised. A resident has raised the issue of a fence needing to be replaced by the entrance to Wakemans. This will be followed up with West Berkshire Council to see if ownership can be determined.

8.FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103722	R Greasley	Salary and donation to Good Excahnge for Hungry Holidays (£1000)	1428.13	0.00	1428.13
103723	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Grass Cutting (cost over 12 months)	288.50	57.70	346.20
103724	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Monthly bin emptying change	24.83	4.97	29.80
103725	PKF Littlejohn	Audit Costs	210.00	42.00	252.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103722 to 103725 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE. Account totals were also shared with the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit is now completed with notices to be posted between now and the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:50pm. The next meeting will be on the 8th October.