

BASILDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Basildon Parish Council held on the 12th November at the Village Hall in Upper Basildon.

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

Apologies: Councillor Barnes.

The following members of the public attended: Mr De Souza, Mr Klosi

1.OPEN FORUM

None were raised.

2.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were raised.

3.MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October having been circulated to members in advance of the meeting was signed by the Chairman. Councillor Kilgour requested a change to the section around bulbs and this was amended on the physical copy of the minutes.

4.PLANNING

The following applications were reviewed:

25/02172 Hadleigh Wood, Bethesda St – Removal of previous planning conditions

The Parish Council reviewed the application and objected to the removal of conditions unanimously. It was noted that the original condition around the garage was one specifically requested by the Parish Council and added by the planning inspectorate at the appeal stage. The Parish Council believes that the contextual circumstances have not changed and therefore no amendment should be granted.

25/02342 Fisher House, Aldworth Road – extensions

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

25/02350CERT 20A Tenepias – separate dwelling

The Parish Council had no view.

25/02464 Pond Cottage, The Triangle – Replacement Windows

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

25/02489 Grove Farm Cottage, Hook End Lane – New Annex

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

Confirmed Decisions

25/01691 Caius Cottage, Aldworth Road, Detached Garage – WBC Approved, PC No Objection.

The Clerk informed the meeting that 25/01275 for a replacement house at Greenways on Aldworth Road has gone to appeal with the meeting likely in December.

5. GENERAL ITEMS

The Chairman updated the meeting on the village survey. The final draft survey and text have been passed to the Country Neighbour with a likely publication date in the first quarter of 2026. This will take the form of a four page pull out listing both questions and details of current/previous initiatives and spending. Additionally, a QR code will be generated for the Parish Council website and shared via social media to allow the survey to be completed electronically.

It was noted that there has been another accident at the Hook End Lane Crossroads. The Chairman will raise this at the next Neighbourhood Action Group meeting and request an occasional police presence in a bid to dissuade drivers from ignoring the clear road signage. Further comments were provided by District Councillor Coyle and are noted in section 6 of these minutes.

The Chairman confirmed he'd requested and received quotes for a defibrillator at the phone box in Lower Basildon which the Parish Council supported. An update was provided on installation with the community heartbeat organisation the likely contractors for the work. This will be followed up by the Chairman who also noted that signage for Lower Basildon will be arranged and training offered at the village hall for residents.

6. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR UPDATES

The District Councillor delivered the following report:

Planning/enforcement issues(1) - Tomb Farm (Berkshire Shooting School) – still no indication from the officer as to what their intended decision is but as per previous reports will be called in to the Planning Committee if officer recommending approval.

Planning/enforcement issues(2) Greenways – the applicant has appealed the Council's refusal of the application to the Planning Inspectorate, and the Inspectorate is inviting written representations by 16 December. All previous comments have been forwarded to the Inspectorate.

Traffic issues - Hook End Lane/Aldworth Road junction – as the PC is aware there has been another crash at this location. I am in ongoing discussions about what can be done. One thing I am following up with officers particularly hard is trying to find out which apps have the junction marked incorrectly such that Hook End Lane traffic has right of way, as this seems one possible reason behind some of the crashes, particularly those involving people who are not local to the area.

School footpath - I am aware that the PC has received a representation re the fencing off of the public footpath from the school grounds. The Council's definitive map officer has inspected and confirmed that the route actually used by members of the public has been left open and with a good width, so he does not consider it to merit more detailed investigation.

Council wide news - Local Government Reorganisation Update. The proposal for a Ridgeway Council received support from Full Council on 4 November and the Council Exec then approved the proposals. These have been sent to the Government and we await their decision.

SEND provision - West Berkshire Council is consulting on our proposal to expand the Resource Unit at Westwood Farm Federation (Phase 1) to increase specialist provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), particularly those with Complex Needs.

This forms part of the Local Authority's SEND Sufficiency and Inclusion Programme to grow high-quality local provision. The formal consultation will run from 5 November to 17 December 2025. Further details can be found on the West Berkshire Council Consultation and Engagement Hub at <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/consultations> and we invite you to share your views via the online survey, which you can access at www.westberks.gov.uk/westwood-farm-resource-unit, along with supporting information and a FAQ.

7.FOOTPATHS, HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported that the recent wet weather is starting to gradually effect local paths, however, generally, all remain useable and in good condition. It was noted that the school had erected a new fence which deviates footpath 5 from its original route. West Berkshire Council have confirmed that this will require a minor change to the online route but is otherwise acceptable.

The Clerk and Chairman will kick off the quotation process for grass cutting.

8.FINANCE - UPDATES

The following cheques were presented to the meeting:

Cheque No	Payee	Purpose	Nett	VAT	Total
103732	R Greasley	Salary	428.13	0.00	428.13
103733	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Grass Cutting (cost over 12 months)	288.50	57.70	346.20
103734	Tactical FM – c/o Bibby financial	Monthly bin emptying charge	24.83	4.97	29.80
103735	Alan Braclik	Hedge works – war memorial	90.00	0.00	90.00
103736	Royal British Legion	Wreath for war memorial	150.00	0.00	150.00

The Council accepted cheque numbers 103732 to 103736 and the clerk confirmed the direct debit to HMRC and SSE. Account totals were also shared with the meeting.

The Clerk has been asked to meet with the bank (HSBC) to discuss safeguarding for the Parish Council bank accounts. This will take place on the 13th November.

Councillor Greasley took the meeting through the quarterly spend for the Council and shared bank statements and reconciliation. This was accepted by the meeting with Councillor Kilgour signing off the presented form on behalf of Councillors.

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting concluded at 8:45pm. The next meeting will be on the 10th December.