

Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council

Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

4th November 2024 starting at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Karen Bregazzi-Jones
Councillor Nic Leon
Councillor Hugh Schneiders
Councillor Julie Steer
Councillor David Stent (Chairman)
Councillor Philip Walker
Councillor Pauline Wright

Also present:

County Councillor Richard Roberts & Parish Clerk

Press:

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Representatives from the Village:

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A minute's silence was observed in honor of Councillor Adrian Watney following his passing.

To receive apologies for absence

1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Graham Barrett, Councillor Foulds, Borough Councillor Riddick & Borough Councillor Adeleke

Specific Declarations of Interest

2 Councillor Steer declared an interest in item (8.1.1) (d) That the Council approves the revised Memorial Hall hire charges to take effect from 1 April 2025.

Public Question Time

3 **3.1** The recent first aid course held in the village was reported to have been a success, with 32 residents attending. Gratitude was expressed to BPC for providing the grant that made the event possible. A total of £200 was raised and donated to the St John Ambulance Dacorum Network.

3.2 Councillor Steer noted that several residents who attended the Neighbourhood Plan meeting had raised the possibility of introducing a one-way system to alleviate congestion on the High Street. she suggested this be discussed at a future council meeting. Councillor Stent agreed, emphasising the need to explore the feasibility of such a proposal. It was mentioned that the 2012 High Street Improvement Plan included a similar suggestion, which could be revisited. County Councillor Roberts expressed his support and encouraged further discussions on implementing the possibility of a one-way system.

4	<p>Signing of Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 2nd September 2024 Those Councillors present agreed the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2024 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Stent.</p>	
5	<p>Matters Arising from Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 4th November 2024</p> <p>(a) Hedge on the corner of Little Park & Green Lane is over grown.</p> <p>Councillor Steer asked County Councillor Roberts for guidance on whom to contact regarding overgrown hedges, as issues reported through the Hertfordshire County Council fault portal are consistently being closed without resolution.</p> <p>Councillor Walker said he would visit resident in Little Park and also Newhouse Road and ask them to cut their hedge back as it causing issues for wheelchair users and pushchairs.</p> <p>(B) The kerb edge near Tesco is higher than the path which dangerous</p> <p>Due to cars frequently driving on the pavement between the doctor’s surgery and Tesco to avoid parked cars, the kerb edge has risen above the pavement level, creating a serious trip hazard. Additionally, the edges of the pavement are deteriorating, and the road surface in the same area has developed several large potholes.</p> <p>Councillor Steer also raised concerns about the pavement from Tesco to Dudley House, noting it is uneven and overgrown with weeds people with walkers and wheelchairs struggling. County Councillor Roberts has stated he will investigate both issues.</p> <p>Councillor Stent asked County Councillor Roberts for an update on the consultation regarding the proposed crossing at the top of the High Street. County Councillor Roberts did not have any updates at the time. It was suggested that County Councillor Roberts and Councillor Stent arrange a meeting with Andrew Freeman to discuss the progress.</p> <p>Councillor Stent noted that he had not received any further communication from Dan Rogers regarding the High Street parking restrictions. He requested the Parish Clerk to follow up with Dan Rogers for an update, as Councillor Stent believes the changes are imminent.</p> <p>Councillor Steer asked County Councillor Roberts for updates on several matters, including the pavements on Hempstead Road, the white lines outside Newhall Mews and the Archway outside the shops and the bus stop on the High Street. Councillor Roberts advised that he would provide an update via email shortly.</p> <p>Councillor Steer also asked Councillor Roberts about a dropped kerb opposite the Halfway House as currently there isn’t one.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk has, as requested written to Tesco to request that they install a bench but is yet to get a response.</p>	<p>Councillor or Walker</p> <p>Councillor Roberts</p> <p>Councillor Roberts/Councillor Stent</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Councillor Roberts</p>

6	<p>Crime Report The crime report was shared with all Councillors prior to the meeting. The Parish Clerk had requested a more detailed report but has not received a response. Councillor Steer has since followed up on this request but is still awaiting a reply.</p>	
7	<p>To receive and adopt the following Committee minutes:</p> <p>Planning Committee Meetings: (i) 4 November 2024 (ii) 25 November 2024 (iii) 16 December 2024</p> <p>Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	
8	<p>Finance & General Purposes Committee (i) 16th October 2024 Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p> <p>Feedback from Chair of Committees:</p> <p>8.1 Finance & General Purposes Committee (8.1.1) Resolutions to be considered from the Finance & General Purposes Committee - Proposer – Councillor Julie Steer</p> <p>a) It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Stent the Council approve the draft budgets for the Memorial Hall for 2025/2026 as set out.</p> <p>(b) It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Schneiders that the Council approved the draft budgets for the Parish for 2025/2026 as set out.</p> <p>(c) It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Schneiders that the Council approves the proposed precept for 2025/2026</p> <p>(d) It was proposed by Councillor Stent That the Council approves the revised Memorial Hall hire charges for 2025/2026 to take effect from 1 April 2025</p> <p>8.2 Memorial Hall Management Committee Councillor Bregazzi-Jones and Councillor Steer are meeting this week to run through hall checks There have been no Memorial Hall Management Committee meetings</p> <p>8.3 Outdoors Committee No meeting since September Councillor Wright announced that a meeting will be arranged with herself, Councillor Barrett, and Rob Hiller to discuss the docks and determine the most effective use of the £3,000 donation from Cala Homes for their renovation.</p> <p>Councillor Wright inquired about the timeline for clearing the reeds in the pond on Bovingdon Green, which could not be completed last year due to wet weather. Councillor Schneiders indicated that, weather permitting, the task would likely need to be scheduled for August or September.</p> <p>Councillor Steer reported on a meeting held with Sunnyside Rural Trust before Christmas to address ongoing concerns, particularly regarding litter picking. It was noted by all attendees that litter in the village has increased. Councillor Steer also informed the council that the October and November invoices from Sunnyside Rural Trust remain unpaid. The Parish Clerk and Councillor Steer are collaborating on a letter to Sunnyside requesting a reduction in their invoice. Councillor Steer Informed the councillors of the trees that have been requested from Hertfordshire County Council</p>	<p>Councillor Bregazzi-Jones/ Councillor Steer</p> <p>Councillor Wright/ Councillor Barrett</p> <p>Councillor Schneiders</p> <p>Councillor Steer/ Parish Clerk</p>

Hyde Lane 1-5 – 3-4 trees, fallen tree needs removing and stumps all taken out, dead trees to be felled

Old Dean: The stump near High Street requires removal, and a request has been made for a replacement tree.

Deanfield: A replacement tree has been requested for the dead tree, which died due to a lack of watering after being moved during the installation of new parking bays.

Tree Tracker Update: Councillor Steer has requested that Highways provide details from their “tree tracker” document regarding trees in Bovingdon.

Wardens Job List: An email was sent to all councillors requesting suggestions for additional tasks to include on the wardens’ job list. No responses were received.

Land Ownership and Disabled Parking:

Councillor Walker has investigated the ownership of the land between the School and the Memorial Hall. The land is currently unregistered.

Councillor Walker will approach Dacorum Borough Council to discuss the possibility of installing a disabled parking bay on this site. If the Borough Council agrees, Bovingdon Parish Council may fund the installation using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

Councillor Walker

Councillor Wright/Parish Clerk

Grasscrete – Old Dean and Bovingdon Green

Councillor Wright will provide the office with measurements of the areas being considered for grasscrete installation. The office will then obtain quotes for the work.

Councillor Steer has arranged for a new drop post to be installed opposite the Library. The warden will install, and it has been agreed that Rob Cassidy at Dacorum will retain two keys to facilitate grass cutting.

8.4 Personnel Committee

There have been no meetings held since the last full council meeting.

8.5 Planning Committee

The planning committee has considered 34 new planning applications since the last full Council meeting.

Report from the Council’s Representative on outside groups / bodies:

9.1 HMP The Mount

Councillor Leon said there was not a lot to report apart from that the prison was running well he will be visiting the prison over the next few weeks.

9.2 Bovingdon Community Library

There are no significant updates from the Library at this time. However, Councillor Steer said that the regular clubs that run from the Library were all doing well and there has been a influx of new volunteers which had been very positive.

9.3 Chilterns Conservation Board

No representative at present – Volunteer needed

9.4 Bovingdon Primary Academy

Councillor Leon said that there was nothing to report.

VE Day

On Thursday the 8th May 2025 there will be a national lighting of Beacons at 9.30pm.

It was agreed that the Bovingdon Events team will look to organise a small event on the Green.

The Parish Clerk will order the special flag for the day.

Ryder Memorial – Update on insurance claim

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The Parish Clerk gave an update on the insurance claim to say that the costs had now been agreed for the repair but the contractor has requested a road Closure for the duration of the works.

Memorial Hall Parking

The parking is much improved for hall users two tickets have been issued since the last full council meeting.

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Any other urgent business

Councillor Walker has requested consideration of a bench to be installed on the green area between Pembridge road and Hyde Lane. He stated that there had previously been a bench there but it has been removed. Councillor Walker will speak with Rob Cassidy.

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To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting:

Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7.30 p.m. to be held in the Memorial Hall

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Meeting closed at 9:42 p.m.

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