

Meeting of the Bovingdon Parish Council

Held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon

23 June 2025 starting at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrett (Chairman)
Councillor Caroline Barnett
Councillor Michael Foulds
Councillor Nic Leon
Councillor Hugh Schneiders
Councillor Julie Steer
Councillor David Stent
Councillor Pauline Wright

Also present:

Parish Clerk Gemma Coventry

Press:

Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager

Representatives from the Village:

Seven residents

1.	To Receive Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Philip Walker.	Parish Clerk
2.	Specific Declarations of Interest There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	Public Question Time 3.1 A member expressed thanks to all those involved in the Bovingdon Scarecrow Festival, noting that it was a great event. It is hoped that the festival will continue next year. 3.2 The Village Warden reported ongoing incidents of fly-tipping near the bins by Bovingdon Primary Academy and those at the King George V Playing Field. In response, the Council has issued a letter to village residents requesting vigilance and encouraging the reporting of any such activity.	
4.	Signing of Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 12 May 2025 Those Councillors present agreed the minutes of the meeting of Bovingdon Parish Council held on 12 May 2025 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Barrett.	
5.	Matters Arising from Minutes: Bovingdon Parish Council Meeting, 12 May 2025 Dust around the village As Councillor Walker had sent his apologies for the meeting, no update was available regarding his planned meeting with Taylor Wimpey.	

	<p>Councillor Wright reported that she had spoken to Lovedays concerning the dust coming from their site; they advised that a water bowser is in use, which should help to alleviate the issue.</p> <p>Bench – Tesco Still ongoing. The Parish Clerk will write to the community champion at Tesco's to request that a bench be installed outside the Tesco Express store.</p> <p>Pedestrian crossing – Chesham Road It was agreed that Bovingdon Parish Council will match fund, using CIL monies, a pedestrian crossing on Chesham Road (just before the Hyde Lane roundabout) in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council. Councillor Roberts agreed and will liaise with his team and come back to Councillor Steer. Councillor Steer has not yet heard from Councillor Roberts and had no further updates.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Councillor Steer/ Councillor Roberts</p>
6.	<p>To receive and adopt the following Committee reports:</p> <p>6.1 Planning Committee Meetings: (i) 2nd June 2025</p> <p>Resolved that the minutes of these meetings as circulated, be received and adopted.</p>	
7.	<p>Feedback from Chair of Committees:</p> <p>Finance & General Purposes Committee Resolutions to be considered from the Finance & General Purposes Committee.</p> <p>7.1.1 To receive and approve Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that the Council receive and approve Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025</p> <p>7.1.2 To receive and approve Section 2 – The Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Foulds and resolved that the Council receive and approve Section 2 – Accountancy Statements 2024/2025</p> <p>7.1.3 To approve the dates for the public rights inspection period Friday 27th June to Friday 11th August 2025 (30 working days excl. weekends and bank holidays) It was proposed by Councillor Steer, seconded by Councillor Barrett and resolved that the Council approve the dates for the public rights inspection period – Friday 27th June to Friday 11th August 2025.</p> <p>7.1.4 Councillor Steer reported that the accounts for both the Memorial Hall and the Parish Council had been returned by the internal auditor, who raised no concerns.</p> <p>7.1.5 CIL Expenditure</p>	

	<p>It was agreed that the Council will allocate up to £10,000 for wildflower planting and other planting initiatives throughout the village.</p>	
7.2	<p>Memorial Hall Management Committee</p> <p>The Office received a request from Community Action Dacorum inquiring whether the Memorial Hall could be used in the event of a major emergency, such as incidents similar to Grenfell, Buncefield or the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council agreed in principle to support its use in such circumstances. However, it was noted that the Memorial Hall is a busy facility with daily bookings, which may impose some limitations.</p>	
7.3	<p>Outdoors Committee</p> <p>Following the conclusion of the Sunnyside Rural Trust contract, the Council has appointed a second part-time Warden, Kevin Furness. Kevin attended the meeting, introduced himself, and shared his experiences from his first few weeks working in Bovingdon.</p> <p>7.3.1 Daffodils – Councillor Schneiders requested an update regarding the daffodils planted along Chesham Road, which were disturbed by Taylor Wimpey. Councillor Wright reported that she had visited the Taylor Wimpey site and emailed the regional manager, providing details of the contractor who carried out the planting. A response is still awaited, and Councillor Wright will follow up.</p> <p>7.3.2 The Docks – Councillor Wright reported that only one quote has been received so far for the refurbishment of the docks. Councillor Barnett noted that a contractor has assessed the work but their quote is still pending. Councillors were reminded that all quotes must be submitted to the Office.</p> <p>7.3.3 Ryder Memorial Repair – The Parish Clerk confirmed that arrangements for the repair are in hand. She has been liaising with both the contractors and the insurance company and will provide a further update once more information is available.</p> <p>7.3.4 Grasscrete – It was agreed that three quotations for Grasscrete installation would be obtained. Councillors Barrett and Wright measured the two areas: Old Dean at 40 sqm and The Green at 16 sqm. The Parish Clerk and Councillor Wright will arrange to meet the contractors on site to show them the two locations.</p> <p>7.3.5 Planter Outside Archway Surgery – Councillor Steer raised a concern regarding the planter outside Archway Surgery, noting that it has been displaced from its original position due to being knocked by cars. Councillor Schneiders agreed to relocate the planter.</p> <p>7.3.6 Newhouse Road – Overgrown Hedge – The Parish Clerk has contacted the owner of the overgrown hedge, who has agreed to meet with Councillors Steer and Wright. The Parish Clerk will arrange the meeting.</p> <p>7.3.7 Hanging Baskets – The hanging baskets supplied by Bovingdon Horticultural Society have now been installed.</p> <p>The Parish Clerk reported that the licence from Ringway is still pending.</p>	<p>Councillor Wright</p> <p>Councillor Barnett</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p> <p>Councillor Wright/ Parish Clerk</p> <p>Councillor Schneiders</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>

	<p>As a result, the hanging baskets installed by Windowflowers on the lampposts will need to be temporarily removed until the appropriate licence has been granted.</p>	
7.4	<p>Personnel Committee There have been no meetings of the Committee. The council agreed to adopt the Civility and Respect pledge as per the NALC guidelines.</p>	
7.5	<p>Planning Committee The Committee has met twice since the last meeting of the Parish Council and considered 31 applications.</p>	
8	<p>Report from the Council's Representative on outside groups/bodies:</p>	
8.1	<p>HMP The Mount Councillor Walker and Councillor Leon met with the new Governor of The Mount to discuss concerns regarding parking and litter in the area. The Governor advised that the parking situation is expected to improve after September, once the ongoing building works at the prison are completed. To address the litter problem, the prison plans to organise supervised litter-picking by prisoners. In addition, they are looking into enhancing the planting around the prison, which has been somewhat neglected.</p>	
8.2	<p>Bovingdon Community Library Councillor Steer reported that Bovingdon Community Library has passed on more than 100 donated books to Bovingdon Primary Academy.</p>	
8.3	<p>Bovingdon Primary Academy There have been no formal meetings with the school; however, Councillor Walker is in ongoing contact with them regarding potential funding available through the Section 106 agreement linked to the Taylor Wimpey development.</p>	
8.4	<p>Police Liaison Councillor Stent reported ongoing contact with PCSO Paul Humphries regarding anti-social behaviour in the village. The PCSO has visited local schools to speak with students about the potential consequences of their actions. The police have also advised that they are looking at holding some drop-in sessions for local residents at the library.</p>	
9.	<p>Events Team Update</p>	
9.1	<p>The Scarecrow Festival – was well received by the public, with 45 scarecrows entered into the competition, 104 votes cast and 250 programmes sold. All profits from the event will be donated to local charities.</p>	
9.2	<p>Bovingdon Classic Car Show – The Bovingdon Classic Car Show will take place on Bovingdon Green on Sunday, 6th July, with 300 classic vehicles expected to be on display. The events team has advised that volunteers are still needed to support the event.</p>	

9.3	Christmas Fayre – Councillor Leon will be liaising with the Bovingdon Parents Association over the coming weeks to confirm dates for the upcoming tractor event. The events team is also still considering the feasibility of holding a street fayre this year.	
10.	Grant Applications There were two grant applications considered. The Bovingdon Pensioners Lunch Club submitted a request for £235 to assist with rising running costs. The Council agreed to approve and support this application. Bovingdon Community Choir requested a grant for £500 to help with resources for the choir. The Council agreed to approve and support this application.	
11.	Christmas Lights – The Parish Clerk advised that the licence application to Ringway must be submitted by the end of July and therefore requested a confirmed date for the Christmas lights switch-on. Councillors agreed on 16th November as the official switch-on date.	
12.	Hanging Baskets – see 7.3.7	
13.	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Updates	
13.1	Councillor Stent advised that he plans to reconvene the Hall Redevelopment Working Group. Prior to this, Councillors Stent and Barrett intend to carry out further research and visit village halls that have recently undergone redevelopment.	Councillor Stent/Councillor Barrett
13.2	Parking in High Street – This will be included within the remit of the Hall Redevelopment Working Group.	
13.3	Wildflower spend – see 7.1.5	
14.	Any Other Urgent Business	
14.1	Councillor Training – The Parish Clerk will confirm the cost of the councillor training and arrange a suitable date. Councillors have been asked to provide their holiday dates so the training can be scheduled accordingly.	Parish Clerk
15.	To note date of the next Bovingdon Parish Council meeting: Monday, 1st September 2025 at 7.30 p.m. to be held in the Memorial Hall Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.	