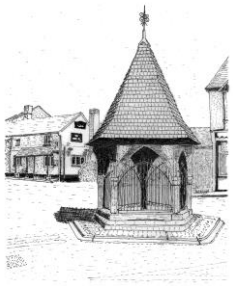
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Bovingdon Parish Council

Meeting of the Outdoors Committee
held in The Memorial Hall, High Street, Bovingdon
on Monday 23rd February 2026 starting at 18.30.

Present:
Councillor Caroline Barnett
Councillor Graham Barrett
Councillor Nic Leon
Councillor Pauline Wright (Chairman)

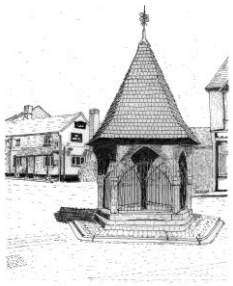
Also present:
Parish Clerk
Councillor Phillip Walker
Councillor Ian Field
Village Warden

1.	**Apologies for absence**	
	There were apologies for absence received from Councillor Karen Bregazzi-Jones and Councillor Hugh Schneiders.	
2.	**Declaration of Interests linked to any of the items**	
	There were no Declarations of Interest.	
3.	**Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2025**	
	It was agreed by those present, that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2025 were a true representation of the meeting and were signed by Councillor Pauline Wright.	
4.	**Matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2025 not on the agenda**	
	There were no matters arising.	
5	**Litter**	
	Councillor Barnett remains strongly supportive of the parish's participation in the Great British Spring Clean. The councillors also expressed concern regarding the increasing amounts of litter in the village. Councillor Barnett will write to David Taylor MP to inquire whether the Government has any strategies in place to address littering and fly-tipping. She will provide an update once a response is received. Additionally, the councillors have requested the installation of anti-litter signs throughout the village. Councillor Walker said that when he contacted Dacorum	**Councillor Barnett**

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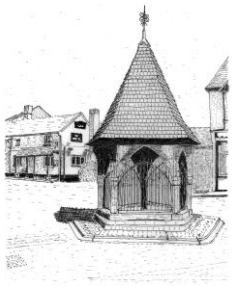


	Borough Council about placing signs along the A41, he was informed that they were currently out of stock. The Parish Council has instructed the Parish Clerk to obtain quotes for four anti-litter signs, which could be installed at the village gates. These quotes will be presented at the next full parish meeting. The Village Warden will measure the gates to determine the appropriate sign size and will notify the office accordingly. Councillor Leon reported on discussions with the Governor of HMP The Mount regarding the ongoing litter problem at the prison. The Governor expressed a desire to involve prisoners in litter-picking activities but noted that, at present, there are no eligible inmates available to carry out the work. It was suggested that volunteers participating in the Great British Spring Clean might consider visiting The Mount to assist. However, it was agreed that, as the area is private land, the responsibility for addressing the litter should fall to the prison itself. The councillors also raised the issue of whether the prison would be willing to pay the Village Warden or clearance company to clear the area. The Village Warden highlighted concerns regarding the substantial amount of rubbish trapped in the hedge rows and drainage ditches, noting that this litter is difficult to remove. He proposed that a group of councillors meet up on a weekend to tackle some of this issue, with a suggestion to begin clearing Shantock Hall Lane. The councillors expressed their willingness to take part, and the matter will be added to the next full council agenda to agree on a suitable date for the clean-up. The councillors have requested that the Parish Clerk contact Dacorum Borough Council to inquire about the installation of a camera to help combat fly-tipping in the area. Additionally, they would like to know how the camera would be monitored if it were to be installed. Councillor Steer (not present) suggested that litter picking be treated as a separate agenda item rather than falling under the "Outdoors" category, and she offered to lead this initiative. After discussion, the councillors agreed that it was unnecessary to create a separate item for litter picking, and any concerns related to it should be directed to the Parish office for management.	**Parish Clerk**
6	**Police Commissioner**	
	Councillor Wright inquired about the progress of the Police Commissioner's grant and the Village Gateways project. Councillor Barrett explained that the	

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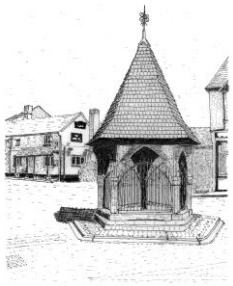


	project was scheduled to take place in Quarter 4. He will follow up on the status and provide an update as soon as he has more information.	
7	**Grass Create Old Dean/ Bovingdon Green**	
	Councillor Barrett has been in contact with Rob Cassidy to inquire whether Dacorum Borough Council would undertake the works if Bovingdon Parish Council funded them. Rob Cassidy responded that, as Dacorum currently does not have a contractor for Grasscrete, he has requested that the council forward the agreed quote so he can try to get the works approved. The Parish Clerk agreed to send the quote to Councillor Barnett for further action.	
8	**Village Warden**	
	The Village Warden provided an update on his planned activities for the next few weeks, which include cleaning all the road signs, clearing drains, and completing other annual tasks. He also asked whether he should be responsible for grass cutting in the village. The councillors agreed to discuss this further at the main council meeting, and the office will inform the Village Warden once a decision has been made. Councillor Wright asked the Village Warden if he could continue cutting back the brambles on Bovingdon Green. The Village Warden explained that this is a large and time-consuming task. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next full council meeting to determine whether it would be more efficient to instruct a contractor to carry out this work. The Village Warden noted that some of the wood on the village gates has rotted. The councillors discussed the possibility of having the gates painted white and agreed that Councillor Wright would look into the costs for this. However, there were concerns about the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of keeping the gates white. The Village Warden also inquired about planting plans for the year. Councillor Wright stated she would get back to him with more information once plans are confirmed.	
9	**Trees**	
	At the last full council meeting, the councillors discussed the possibility of planting a permanent Christmas tree in the village, rather than using a cut tree on the High Street. Councillor Wright has looked into the costs, and the tree would be approximately £650. However, the councillors expressed concerns about the size of a planted tree and whether the current location on the High Street would be suitable for it. There was also discussion about the potential redevelopment of the Memorial Hall site, which may provide a better location	

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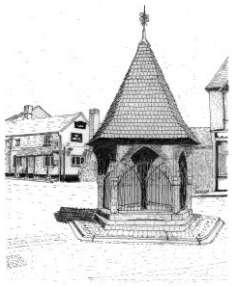


	for a planted tree in the future. As a result, it was agreed that the council will continue with a cut tree for this year. Councillor Wright reported that five Hornbeam trees have been planted in Hyde Lane, with three on the right-hand side and two on the left. Councillor Wright also raised concerns regarding the replacement tree planted by Dacorum on Bovingdon Green. She felt that it was positioned incorrectly and that the old tree should be replaced in its original spot. The cost for this would be approximately £500. The councillors agreed to bring this to the next full council meeting for approval of the expenditure.	
10	**Hedges**	
	Councillor Wright expressed concern about the hedge bordering the Taylor Wimpey site, noting that it had not been cut since last March. She felt that it needed attention. However, as this is private land, the Parish Council has no authority to compel the site to carry out the work.	
11	**Hanging Baskets/Christmas Lights**	
	It was agreed that, as no survey of the lampposts has been conducted, hanging baskets will not be placed on the lampposts this year. The Parish Clerk will now order the new lamppost survey, following Councillors Walker and Field's identification of which lampposts are to be surveyed. Councillor Walker highlighted the poor condition of many of the lampposts, which may pose issues for both hanging Christmas lights and baskets in the future. The councillors also discussed that, now the lampposts will not be used for hanging baskets, the number of baskets and where they can be located this year will need to be reconsidered so that the Parish Clerk can make the order. The councillors have asked the Parish Clerk to obtain a cost estimate for replacing 5-6 lampposts, should this be necessary in the future.	
12	**Bovingdon Green Pond**	
	Councillor Wright confirmed that the Dacorum Green Grant had now been applied for, for the regeneration of the pond	
13	**The Docks**	
	The Parish Clerk confirmed that she had left a message for the contractor but had had no response. Councillor Wright explained that she had spoken with the contractor and they have said that they are having difficulties with the supplier of the posts but has ordered them so they are unsure when the work is likely to commence.	
14	**Christmas Lights**	
	Once the lamppost survey has been completed and the council knows how many lampposts can be used for hanging Christmas lights, the Parish Clerk will look into tendering for a new Christmas light contractor.	

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14	**Any other urgent business**	
	There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8.30pm	
15	**Date of next meeting – TBA**	