

Annual Bovingdon Parish Meeting

held in the Memorial Hall, Bovingdon on
Monday, 12 May 2025 starting at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Graham Barrett (Chairman)
Councillor Karen Bregazzi-Jones
Councillor Michael Foulds
Councillor Nic Leon
Councillor Julie Steer
Councillor Philip Walker
Councillor Pauline Wright

Also present:

Herts County Councillor Richard Roberts
Dacorum Borough Councillor Stewart Riddick
Parish Clerk Gemma Coventry

Press:

Gary Cullum, The Bovingdon Villager

Representatives from the Village:

Ten residents

1.	Welcome by Councillor Graham Barrett, Chairman of the Parish Council Councillor Graham Barrett chaired the meeting and extended a warm welcome to everyone.	
2.	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hugh Schneiders and Councillor David Stent.	
3.	To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024 Those present agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 May 2024 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Graham Barrett.	
4.	Presentation by County Councillor Richard Roberts Councillor Roberts began by introducing himself and highlighting the significance of Hertfordshire's contribution to the UK economy. He emphasised the county's growing prominence in industries such as film and the positive impact this has on local economic development. However, he also acknowledged the current economic challenges, noting the strain on public sector budgets, particularly in areas such as highways maintenance, education, and other essential services. He then addressed the topic of Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation in Hertfordshire. Devolution refers to the transfer of certain powers from central government to local authorities. The government's current proposal involves creating "Strategic Authorities", which would be led by elected Mayors. Councillor Roberts explained that a new Strategic Authority could either be formed solely for Hertfordshire or in collaboration with neighbouring counties. This authority would be responsible for overseeing key areas including:	

5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Highways and transport • Economic growth • Skills and employment support • Environment and climate change • Health and public safety <p>Following the presentation, Councillor Barrett thanked Councillor Roberts for his informative update.</p> <p>During the Q&A session, members of the public raised several concerns, including traffic and speeding issues on Chesham Road. In response, Councillor Roberts explained that he would not be in favour of implementing a 20 mph speed limit. He also noted the difficulty of enforcing such a limit and expressed his opposition to the use of speed humps.</p> <p>To receive the Parish Council's Annual Report 2024 – 25 Was circulated to those attending the meeting</p> <p>Meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.</p>	
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