

# Bovingdon Parish Council



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## **Annual Bovingdon Parish Meeting Held in the Memorial Hall, Bovingdon Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 starting at 6.30pm**

### **Present:**

Councillor Caroline Barnett  
Councillor Graham Barrett (Chairman)  
Councillor Karen Bregazzi-Jones  
Councillor Ian Field  
Councillor Nic Leon  
Councillor Hugh Schneiders  
Councillor Julie Steer  
Councillor Phillip Walker  
Councillor Pauline Wright

### **Also Present:**

Parish Clerk Gemma Coventry  
Assistant to the Parish Clerk Lisa Edwards

### **Press:**

The Bovingdon Villager, Gary Cullum

### **Representatives from the Village:**

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### **26/APM/001**

#### **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Dacorum Borough Councillor Stewart Riddick.

Councillor Mike Foulds was absent. No apologies for absence were received.

### **26/APM/002**

#### **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Those present agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were a true representation of the meeting and the minutes were signed by Councillor Graham Barrett.

### **26/APM/003**

#### **To receive reports on actions agreed at the last Annual Parish Meeting**

None.

26/APM/004

**To receive the Parish Council's Annual Report 2026/2027**

Councillor Graham Barrett, as Chairman, welcomed those present to the meeting and gave a short address highlighting key points from the Annual Report. Copies of the report were circulated to attendees and will remain available on the parish website.

26/APM/005

**Question Time**

**Following the reduction in funding provided to the Parish Council by Dacorum Borough Council, clarification was sought as to whether Dacorum Borough Council would assume responsibility for the services and work previously funded through this allocation.**

The Councillors explained that this would not be the case, and confirmed that Dacorum Borough Council would not be taking over the services previously funded through the grant. It was noted that this was the primary reason for the increase in the current year's precept, in order to cover the resulting shortfall.

**A query was raised as to whether the limited capacity at Bovingdon Primary Academy and the lack of local medical facilities could be used as material considerations in objecting to any further development within the village.**

Councillor Barrett said that school capacity can be taken into account in planning decisions because it relates to local infrastructure. However, he explained that pressure on schools is often dealt with through planning conditions or developer contributions, such as Section 106 agreements. Because of this, a shortage of school places on its own is usually not enough to refuse a planning application unless the impact is very serious and cannot be managed. He also noted that a lack of GP or healthcare facilities tends to carry less weight in planning decisions than issues such as schools or highways.

**It was asked whether the Parish Council could approach the local GP surgeries to establish if they have reached capacity, and if not, what their current capacity is.**

It was agreed that the Council would approach the two local GP surgeries to establish whether they are currently operating at capacity, and if not, to request information on their patient capacity levels.

**What would happen to the Dacorum draft Local Plan if it had not been adopted by the time Dacorum Borough Council is disbanded, and whether the plan would subsequently be abandoned.**

The Council said that they were not sure but would hope that this would not happen

**CIL: A question was raised as to whether the Parish Council could request a share of Dacorum Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, and whether there is a list of potential projects for which CIL monies could be allocated.**

The Council advised that Borough Councillor Philip Walker had approached Dacorum Borough Council regarding CIL funding and had been informed that no funds were currently available. It was also noted that the Council does have a list of potential future CIL projects it would like to undertake.

**A member of the public advised that he had recently been in contact with Thames Water and Affinity Water and had successfully received a rebate from Thames Water. He explained that he had been informed that Bovington's waste water is largely managed through soakaways around the village, and that the water companies do not provide surface water drainage services. As a result, he was advised that residents in Bovington should not be charged for surface water removal and may also be entitled to a rebate. He asked the Council how this information could be shared with other villagers.**

The Council thanked him for the information and agreed that, together with The Villager, they would look into the matter further.

**With the recent update on local government reform, what is the Parish Council's view on the potential merging with other unparished areas**

The Council explained that they would rather focus on Bovington and cannot see any benefits of joining with unparished areas.

**Could CIL money be used to have extra dog waste collections.**

The Council explained that this would not be possible and advised that Dacorum Borough Council intends to remove the existing dog waste bins over the coming months and replace them with dual-purpose bins for both dog waste and general waste.

No further questions were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions throughout the meeting.

Refreshments were provided to those attending, and special thanks were extended to Leon Catering for arranging and providing them.

The meeting closed at 19:44

**Date of Next Annual Parish Meeting. The date is likely to be Monday 10th May 2027**