

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a meeting held on
Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm
at Brightwalton Village Hall

Present: Councillor Tim Wyatt (Chairman)
 Councillors Annie Agnew, Christine Delahunty, Damien Goatley and Sue Sayers

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)
 Councillor Clive Hooker (West Berkshire District Councillor)
 Katherine Moore (Community Coordinator)

Open Session: No questions or comments received and no members of public present.

01/2026/01 Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest
 No apologies for absence were received and there were no declarations of interest.

01/2026/02 Minutes of previous meeting
RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

01/2026/03 West Berkshire Council – Councillor Clive Hooker
 Councillor Hooker had enjoyed a visit to Brightwalton Primary School for Parliamentary Week and answered a variety of questions from the children and had a tour of the school. Councillor Hooker hopes to attend more events at the school.

West Berkshire Council's response to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has been submitted. Despite a potential reduction in Councillors under LGR, there were no plans to amalgamate Parish Councils, and the reduction would be from multi-Councillor Wards.

Councillor Agnew joined the meeting

West Berkshire Council's Budget for 2026/27 is scheduled to be agreed at a meeting on 28th January 2026.

Councillors thanked Councillor Hooker for the update.

01/2026/04 Community Coordinator
 Katherine Moore (Community Coordinator) updated as follows:

The Christmas Wreath making workshop had been a success, with attendees from across the village.

Youth Club had started back from the Christmas break that evening. Attendance was low but as expected for this time of year. Funding of £150 had been received from The Saunders Wynn & Coventry Education Foundation, which would be used to hire the Handybus to transport Youth Club to the Waterside Centre in Newbury for up to 4 visits. Council approved expenditure of up to £200 for replacement youth club equipment.

The next community event was a Board Games night at the end of January, supported by Newbury Games Café.

Councillors thanked Katharine for the update.

01/2026/05 All Saints PCC

The following update was received ahead of the meeting:

Brightwalton Church had a very active 11 days over Christmas.

On Sunday 14th December 84 people attended a Christingle service. The many children present decorated their oranges under the guidance of the Rev Mike, who himself was dressed as a giant inflatable orange and being decorated in the same way. A large collection was given to the Children's Society.

On Thursday 18th December the school carol service took place. This was well attended by parents.

On 21st December the village carol service took place, attended by 152 people. The choir, which had been training for many weeks under the excellent guidance of Judith Orpen was magnificent and there was a great atmosphere. Afterwards the congregation enjoyed mulled wine, kindly donated by Nick Arkell, and mince pies and other goodies brought by parishioners.

On Christmas Day the congregation was 187 and we ran out of seats, with some adults perched on children's pews!

Throughout December the Christmas Tree, donated by the Parish Council, glittered in the churchyard, adding to the festive spirit.

01/2026/06 Village Hall Committee

The following report was received ahead of the meeting; however, it was not picked up until after the meeting and was therefore not presented:

Grass Cutting

The scope and map for grass cutting had been shared with the Committee. Two matters arose from this:

- Any additional grass cutting, which had been paid for recently, will cease. The Parish Council will be advised if additional cuts are considered necessary or if any issues arise.
- It was noted that a small strip of grass adjacent to the storage shed by the car park did not appear to be included on the current map, although the adjoining field area and the verge opposite are included. It was requested that this area be added to the scope if possible, or that clarification be provided if this cannot be included at this time.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on 24 February 2026 at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

New Hall Flooring

New floor covering had been installed in the new hall, replacing the original flooring from when the hall was built in 2000. The Committee's thanks were recorded to all those who supported the fete, as funds raised directly contribute to repairs and improvements such as this.

01/2026/07 IT Policy

Councillors reviewed a draft IT Policy and it was agreed to provide feedback ahead of the next meeting, when the Policy would be considered for adoption.

01/2026/08 Transitioning to '.gov.uk' email domain

Councillors provided the following updates on the status of setting up their '.gov.uk' email addresses: Councillors Wyatt and Delahunty were actively using their Councillor emails; Councillors Agnew and Goatley required support setting up; Councillors Cooper and Sayers would not be using the Councillor email.

Action: Councillor Wyatt to support Councillors Agnew and Goatley to set up their new emails

01/2026/09 Planning

The following planning updates were noted:

Application	Address	Proposal	BPC response	WBC decision
25/02099/HOUSE	4 Saxons Acre	Single-storey rear extension with internal alterations	No Objection	Approved
25/02314/TPC	Church of All Saints	Tree works	Not consulted	No objection raised
25/02373/ELEC6	Overhead power lines	Replacement of 50 x HV wooden poles	Not consulted	No objection raised
25/02443/TPC	Manor Farm House	Tree works	Nil	No objection raised
25/02524/TPW	3 Saxon Acres	T1 & T2 Oaks Reduce canopy by 3m and reduce lateral branches by 2m	Not consulted	Approved
25/02871/TPC	The Lawns	Lime Tree remove to ground level. Yew Tree crown lift to 3m Conifer Tree reduce by 2m	Not consulted	Awaiting decision
25/02099/HOUSE	4 Saxons Acre	Single-storey rear extension with internal alterations	No Objection	Approved

01/2026/10 Highways

The following road closure was noted:

Pudding Lane road closure, 20th – 22nd January 2026, 08:00hrs – 18:00hrs.
Installation of 5 x new poles. Residential access maintained if possible. Blue light access maintained.

Katherine Moore left the meeting

01/2026/11 Finance

Financial reports for November and December 2025 were noted and signed by the Chairman.

Bank Balances as at 31st December 2025:

Current account £4,985.49

Savings Account £10,061.66 (includes £2,670.60 CIL Balance)

Community Account £9,928.84

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payee	Amount	Invoice Number & Date	Description
Imprint Colour Ltd	£84.00	INV24436 21.11.2025	Print cost for Brickleton News November 2025 PAID 17.12.2025
Brightwalton Village Hall	£55.00	INV157 31.12.2025	Hall hire for Youth Club 03/11- 01/12=5 sessions
M Taylor	£334.48	n/a	Clerk's Salary – November 2025 PAID 01.12.2025
M Taylor	£384.68	n/a	Clerk's Salary – December 2025 PAID 02.01.2025

01/2026/12 Play Area and Recreation Ground Maintenance

Council considered costs for the following play area and recreation ground repairs:

- i. Resetting wooden posts and fencing at the entrance to the recreation ground
- ii. Resetting wooden posts on the climbing unit
- iii. Repair leaning fence in play area
- iv. Repair and reinstallation of vandalised memorial bench
- v. Football net repair

RESOLVED to proceed with the purchase of a replacement football net, and Councillor Goatley to obtain a third quote for items i, ii & iii, and that approval to proceed with the works would be agreed via email communication to ensure the work could be completed in this financial year.

Action: Councillor Goatley to liaise with Heads Farm Contracting to obtain a third quote for items i, ii & iii.

Action: Councillor Sayers to liaise with the family regarding repair of the vandalised memorial bench in the recreation ground.

Action: Parish Clerk to arrange purchase and installation of replacement football net.

01/2026/13 Play Park Inspections 2026

Play Park inspections for 2026 were confirmed as follows:

January	Annie	May	Tim	September	Mike
February	Christine	June	Sue	October	Damien
March	Mike	July	Annie	November	Tim
April	Damien	August	Christine	December	Sue

Completed park inspection reports to be sent to the Parish Clerk.

Action: Parish Clerk to investigate the addition of 'grips / non-slip strips' for the bridge on the large climbing unit.

Action: Parish Clerk to prepare a draft maintenance programme, with estimated costs; to include twice yearly power wash, top-up of safety surfacing, cutting back trees etc, for consideration at the next meeting.

01/2026/14 Budget 2026/27

Councillors reviewed a draft budget 2026/27.

RESOLVED to adopt the budget as set out in appendix I to these minutes and to submit a precept request to West Berkshire Council for £16,820.

01/2026/15 General Matters & Updates

i. Village Spring Tidy

Action: Councillor Wyatt to produce a list of jobs, to include sign cleaning and litter picking, to be published and residents invited to carry out tasks.

ii. Any other Council updates

Nothing at this time.

iii. Ideas for Brickleton News

Village Spring Tidy.

iv. Items for the next agenda

Social Housing – it was agreed to contact Chaddleworth and Leckhampstead Parish Clerks to enquire whether they have issues with local social housing being rented outside of the requirements of Section 105 agreements.

Councillors Wyatt and Goatley to request a meeting with West Berkshire Council Housing Officer/s once data had been collected and compiled.

Action: Parish Clerk to contact Chaddleworth and Leckhampstead Parish Clerks

Action: Councillor Goatley to publish on Facebook, seeking feedback from residents who may have experienced difficulty trying to rent social housing in the parish

01/2026/16 Date of next meeting

Monday 9th March 2026, 7.30pm at Brightwalton Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm

Signed: _____

Date: _____