

WOOTTON ST LAWRENCE WITH RAMSDELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July 2026 at Ramsdell Village Hall, 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Martin Schimmer, Chairman
Cllr Sarah Curtis, Cllr Jane James
Cllr Jenny Englefield, Kirsty Shaw, Clerk
Cllr Jay Ganesh, Cllr Karl Rand,
Cllr Rhydian Vaughan
Cllr Paul Harvey, Cllr Andy Konieczko
Janet Markwick – Ramsdell Village Hall Committee
Two members of the public

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Childs, PCSO Lucas, Cllr Jordan, Cllr Minas-Bound.

Following on from the Internal Audit it was found that some items were agreed during the Annual Parish Meeting, this did not meet compliance. The decisions should be made at a proper meeting of the council. To rectify this, the agenda items have been repeated in this meeting. Next year the agenda items will be added to the first proper council meeting in May.

2. Election of Chairman for 2026-27

Cllr James proposed Cllr Schimmer and Cllr Englefield seconded the proposal. It was confirmed Cllr Schimmer will be Chairman for 2026-27.

Cllr Englefield proposed Cllr Childs as Vice Chair. Cllr Curtis seconded the proposal. It was confirmed Cllr Childs will be Vice Chair for 2026-27.

3. To Adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the NALC Model Standing Orders for 2026-27.

4. To Adopt the NALC Model Financial Regulations

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the NALC Model Financial Regulations for 2026-27.

5. Policies

The Parish Council agreed the review of the Grants Policy, Data Protection and Freedom of Information Policy and Complaints Policy. The Parish Council agreed the adoption of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Code of Conduct for Councillors and ICO Publication Scheme.

6. Register of Interests

There were no other updates to the register of interests. It was noted that the Parish Councillors need to update their register of interests on the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website.

7. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

8. Water Update – Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council

Cllr Paul Harvey and Cllr Andy Konieczko gave an update on water issues in the local area. It was explained Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council inherited the Local Plan in 2023 when it was seen to be in a good position. Then the change of Government and new Minister raised the housing numbers from 850 to 1150. The Local Plan had to begin again and to use sites that BDBC didn't want to use. It has now been requested that a water cycle study takes place because there have been concerns about South East Water's ability to supply. South East Water didn't know how much water was in the system and six months later they are still in the same position.

A licence has been removed that allowed water to be removed from one site which affects this greatly. South East Water have gone to appeal and it is expected there will be more clarity in the autumn.

Cllr Harvey noted they have asked the Government to step in and they would like protection from speculative development. Water companies are at threat of nationalisation. Thames Water is a problem with regards to sewage.

The Chairman asked if there has been any response from the Government. Cllr Konieczko replied not yet. The Local Plan deadline under the current system is 2026 and they would have been on track but South East Water has stopped this. The Local Plan will need to start again under the new system so this won't be in place until 2029. Hence, this has been raised with the Government.

Cllr Englefield highlighted the Government can't expect new homes without water supply. Cllr Harvey added due to the changes in Government they are waiting for a new Minister to be in place. Cllr Konieczko added also due to the Local Government Reform the new unitary authority will be in place from April 2028. Cllr Harvey stated they could go through legal action as this maybe the only course of action.

There is a lot of uncertainty, and they know they need protection in place. BDBC will continue to do their best. Cllr Harvey added the problem is that no one has challenged South East Water in 10 years. There may be some more clarity in the autumn.

Cllr Rand said if we bear in mind what is happening with waste, he asked if there is anything that can be done to educate people about saving water. It was agreed once there is a clearer idea this can be done. Cllr Rand added the attitude when the hosepipe ban came into force is that people pay so they feel they can use. The Chairman added there is a frustration of attitudes, and we had one of the wettest winters and now an extreme summer. Cllr Konieczko stated privatisation of water was a big mistake.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Harvey and Cllr Konieczko for coming. Cllr Konieczko left the meeting at 7.29pm.

9. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

10. Matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Curtis confirmed the work on the church path in Wootton St Lawrence has been undertaken and we have received a letter of thanks. Thanks go to Cllr Englefield for finding the right contractor.

Cllr Curtis added there is no update on the solar farm at Monk Sherborne they are waiting the new planning policy.

11. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Rhyddian Vaughan noted there is a world of uncertainty currently and no one is making any decisions. Cllr Vaughan sends regular updates via email to the Parish Council.

12. Police Report

Apologies were received from the Police, but a summary of incidents in the last 30 days were sent. In Wootton St Lawrence there was one report of a suspicion incident of clothing and items strewn across the road. In Ramsdell there were no reports.

Cllr James noted there were burglaries in Ramsdell with a suspicious man and woman in the area. The Police came out and took a statement.

The Chairman highlighted he contacted the Police with the data from the speed monitoring but with no luck of them being able to do something.

13. Play Area Updates

The inspections have continued by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

The picnic bench at Ramsdell needs replacing. Clerk will get some quotes. Also Clerk to gain some quotes from equestrian companies for the flooring of the park.

14. Borough Councillor's Report

Cllr Jay Ganesh advised the site numbers has changed for the Local Plan. They have managed to get some motion through and there is a lot of work that can be done to strengthen policies over the next 18 to 24 months.

With regards to Local Government Reform, there will be elections in May and transition to the new authority in April 2028. The new Secretary of State may speed things through so there may be an update in September. There have been 26 houses refused and they are likely to appeal with some minor changes when the new National Planning Policy Framework is out.

The general waste collection will move to fortnightly collections from October.

Cllr Ganesh noted there is a small pot of Councillor grants available, if the Parish Council would like to request a grant for anything. It is thought that a new noticeboard is needed for Ramsdell. Clerk will get a quote.

Cllr Harvey left the meeting at 7.47pm.

15. Lengthsman's Scheme

The Lengthsman has been requested to cut back the vegetation in Ramsdell to allow for the pavement to be used.

16. Highways and Speed Indicator Devices

The Chairman advised he reported the dip in the road outside the recreation ground in May, then white lines were drawn in June but since there has been now work undertaken. It is dangerous and people have to swerve to avoid it. Cllr Rand added if it is thought to be

dangerous this needs to be raised with Highways again. The Chairman noted it is thought the dip was caused by the sewer but Thames Water refuse to get involved. Cllr Ganesh asked Cllr Schimmer to raise this again and copy him and Cllr Vaughan into the email.

17. Update on Cricket Pavilion Lease

Cllr Englefield highlighted the Cricket Club solicitors have received the lease and are reading this.

Cllr Ganesh advised there is one more cycle of grants for community infrastructure before the Local Government Reform. The Cricket Club could apply next year.

Cllr Vaughan left the meeting at this point – 7.59pm

18. Financial Matters

18.1 The financial statements as at the end of April, May and June and the bank statements were agreed and signed.

18.2 The following payments were made since the last meeting:

20.04.26 - Lloyds Bank Service Charges - £4.25
19.05.26 – Vision ICT - £30.00
19.05.26 – HALC - £343.00
19.05.26 – Ramsdell Village Hall
19.05.26 – Clerk Pay and Reimbursement for Microsoft 365 - £546.73
19.05.26 – Ramsdell Cricket Club - £1400.00
19.05.26 – Lloyds Bank Service Charges - £4.25
11.06.26 - Tadley and District Citizens Advice Bureau – Grant - £250.00
19.06.26 – Lloyds Bank Service Charges - £4.25

The following payments were received since the last meeting:

27.04.26 - Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council – Precept and Grant - £6482.07

There was a total of £79,914.48 in the bank at the end of June

The following payments were approved and will be made online via bank transfer:

Clerk pay, HMRC and expenses - £374.81

18.3 A recommendation to review the Clerk's pay was made by the Internal Auditor, due to the hourly rate being near to the National Minimum Wage. The Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC) have a job evaluation sheet which calculates the job functions of the Parish Council, number of electors and Clerk experience and qualifications. The Clerk's current pay is £13.44 per hour for three hours per week with a total salary of £2097.96. The evaluation sheet calculated the current rate of pay should be £15.82 per hour, therefore, total salary of £2474.20. This is an increase of £376.24 per year. This was agreed by the Parish Council and will be reviewed annually from now on.

18.4 The entrance to the recreation ground will be discussed with the local resident and will be added to the September agenda.

18.5 The Parish Council have received quotes for the lighting at Ramsdell Village Hall. The quotes were quite high. Cllr Englefield wondered if the work could be done in stages and whether the Village Hall had any funds to pay towards the work. Janet Markwick replied no they only have one year and a bit running costs. The cheaper quote is the preferred option. The lights will be set so they are not on all the time and to protect light pollution.

Cllr Englefield asked if there were any other grants that could help. Janet is not aware of any. She added some evening bookings have been cancelled because it is too dark in the winter. The Chairman suggested the Parish Council pay for the work to be undertaken on a fixed cost basis of £19,467.00 with Hazelgrove but will not pay for the additional consultation fee for Morse Webb. Would the Village Hall be able to find the funding. Janet confirmed they could find a way.

The Parish Council agreed to fund the lighting at a fixed cost of £19,467.00. The invoice will need to be sent to the Parish Council. Clerk will email Janet to confirm the outcome.

14. Open Forum

There were no comments.

15. Planning Applications (please refer to BDBC website or click on the links below)

To receive and discuss planning applications. The Parish Council comments can be found on Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council website or click on the links below.

There were no planning applications to discuss.

16. Correspondence

Email about keeping thatched roof's safe.
Consultation from BDBC about dog fouling.

17. Date of next meeting and items for the agenda

Monday 21st September 2026, 7.00pm, Ramsdell Village Hall

Urban and Civic will attend

Manydown Company will attend

Discuss quotes for entrance to Recreation Ground

Insurance renewal

Update on recommended actions from internal audit – including risk register

The meeting ended at 8.33pm