

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2026.
Bathampton Village Hall, 7.30pm.**

Present: M. Brennan, Chair (MB), L. King, Vice-Chair (LK) G. Ardrey (GA), D. Beard (DB) R. Schofield (RS)

D. Cossins White & L. Daly (Clerk).

2 Members of the public in attendance.

The meeting started at 7.30 pm.

		Actions
		Actions struck through are complete
	<p>Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair noted that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes only.</p>	
2026/001	<p>Apologies: J. Helps (JH) & T. Purpuri (TP), sent apologies due to other commitments.</p>	
2026/002	<p>Declarations of interest: None.</p>	
2026/003	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p>	
	<p>The Minutes of the Bathampton Parish Council meeting held on the 11th December 2025 had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The Minutes were unanimously APPROVED by the Council and would be signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.</p>	MB
2026/004	<p>Public Participation</p>	
	<p>A couple attended the meeting regarding their property in Trossachs Drive. They highlighted ongoing stress from opposition to their recent planning application and following the application being approved. They have also recently been advised that residents had requested yellow lines in the turning bay outside of their property.</p> <p>They noted that their steep driveway makes this space necessary for parking, as there is no other lawful parking nearby. Previous parking-related requests in the area had not sought yellow lines in this location, and the existing turning point is currently underused as there is a main turning head on the site that was built following expansion of the development. While they are constructing a garage for future parking, completion may be several years away, and yellow lines would leave them without a space.</p> <p>The Parish Council noted that they have not yet been formally consulted by BANES regarding the yellow lines and will seek further information on the timing of these Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) before taking any position. The residents mentioned a feedback deadline of February, while the Parish Council understood the next TRO round to be in May.</p> <p>The members of the public then left the meeting.</p>	TP
2026/005	<p>Review of actions carried forward from previous meetings</p>	
	<p>Following the review of updated reports and verbal updates provided during the meeting, the following actions were confirmed as completed and will be removed from the 'Actions Carried Forward' list by the Clerk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Road Markings and Signage from Tying Lane: BANES have placed the markings outside of the school on file to be included in the next TRO review. Replacement parking time signage was in the process of being ordered. 2) TRO process & Timings: Cllr Purpuri noted in his report that his action to speak with Ward Cllr Sarah Warren regarding the TRO process and deadlines had been completed last month and should be removed. 3) Blocked Ditch on the Bridleway: The Chair reported that the ditch on the bridleway by the Scout hut had now been unblocked. 	

	<p>several plots had been relinquished late in December and re-allocated towards the end of December or early January resulting in late payment.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that hedgerow works at the allotments were scheduled to take place on the 22nd January or the 24th January should weather conditions prevent the earlier date. The works had been previously approved by the Council but delayed due to nesting birds.</p> <p>The Clerk reported back on Data Protection training which she had attended with the Chair on the 12th January 2026. The use of mobile phone numbers for council business was discussed. Councillors were reminded not to retain residents’ personal details on their personal devices and to forward any such information to the Clerk for central record keeping or securely delete as appropriate.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that issues identified from the Accessibility Report could not be addressed by IONOS. She had contacted David Mayo, who had previously assisted with the Council’s website management to find out whether he could provide support.</p> <p>It was agreed that Assertion 10 (new mandatory legislation focussing on Digital and Data compliance) would be included as an on-going meeting agenda item.</p> <p>The Clerk referred to Data Protection Training for Councillors. Councillors indicated their preferred dates, and the Clerk agreed to book the course. She would confirm availability for councillors Helps and Purpuri following the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk referred to Councillor Purpuri’s report, which noted that the new tenant in Microsoft 365 has been set up and secured. The administration email, his email and the Clerk’s email had been set up and licensed for testing. He further reported that the SharePoint page had been set up which will be tested over the coming weeks with the aim of setting up the remaining Councillor’s email accounts during February. Regarding the setting up of a Direct Debit, this would be included on the next Agenda. Cllr Purpuri was asked to put in an expenses claim for the licences purchased.</p> <p>Cllr Schofield highlighted an email package through MyParish Council that was suggested to be more cost effective than the Microsoft 365 package. He was asked to liaise with Cllr Purpuri regarding this option.</p> <p>The Clerk drew attention to correspondence received from Fine & Country regarding the sponsorship of planters, proposed to be placed at the top of the business owners drive, in front of the church sign. The Parish Council agreed that their preference was for sponsorship of the Parish Council newsletter rather than planters and noted concerns that planters could obstruct the pavement or road. The Clerk was asked to relay this information back.</p> <p>The Clerk referred to a brief meeting with the owner of the Community Small Holding, who had contacted her following the Agenda Item discussed at the December meeting (Minute 2025/188). It was noted that the landowners do not reside on the land, the animals are regularly inspected by the RSPCA and other welfare bodies with no concerns reported and that all relevant certificates and documentation are in place for all animals kept. It was further reported that the landowners welcome concerned individuals to contact them directly to discuss any issues and provide reassurance.</p> <p>Finally, the Clerk highlighted forthcoming meetings and events.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>TP</p> <p>RS/TP</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2026/007</p>	<p>2026-2027 Budget</p>	
	<p>The Chair referred to the 2026-2027 draft budget that was prepared by the Clerk and previously circulated to Councillors and updated to include actual income and expenditure to December 2025. Following consideration, it was resolved that:</p> <p>(1) The Budget for the financial year 2026-2027 be approved and</p> <p>(2) The Parish Council sets a precept of £33,000 for the financial year 2026-2027.</p> <p>The resolution was unanimously agreed.</p>	
<p>2026/008</p>	<p>Parish Council Newsletter</p>	

	The content for the February Parish Council Meeting was discussed and agreed. Councillors were asked to submit their write ups to Cllr Helps no later than 23 rd January to allow time for the newsletter to be put together.	All
2026/009	Allotment Update	
	<p>The Clerk updated the council on plots that had been relinquished and reported that there were six new allotment holders for 2026. The Clerk further reported that all payments had now been received, and that relevant paperwork and tenancy agreements had been issued.</p> <p>It was noted that one person remained on the waiting list. In addition, an email had recently been received from a further individual expressing interest in an allotment plot and this person had been added to the waiting list.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that Plot 2 would be left vacant due to significant shading caused by a large fruit tree, owned by a Holcombe Lane resident. It was also reported that plot 15b & 15C had been combined to form one plot, Plot 15b. This decision was taken as one of the plots had previously been used for a small polytunnel and the change returns the area to a more practical and workable plot.</p> <p>The Clerk reported damage to some of the plots and advised that an email had been sent to all allotment holders requesting vigilance and reminding them to ensure that the gate is properly closed, as it had been found unlocked on several occasions.</p> <p>The Clerk also advised that old signage had been removed from the allotment gate by the Handyman. The Handyman had cleaned the plastic holder, and new signage may be added later.</p>	
2026/010	Playground Project – Update and Next Steps	
	<p>The Clerk referred to the procurement process and the challenges encountered, noting that conflicting guidance had been received from the ALCA and the Cabinet Office support team. The Clerk advised that updated guidance received shortly after Christmas from the Cabinet Office support team had now been followed and the Tender had been published on Find A Tender earlier that day (15th January).</p> <p>It was further noted that the project budget had increased to £108,000 because of accrued interest on the Playground Project funds. The deadline for supplier quotes had been set as the 20th February.</p> <p>Councillors were invited to review the published tender details online and the Clerk confirmed that login details could be provided upon request.</p> <p>Approaches for consulting with the community, along with the availability of the Village Hall for potential drop-in sessions to review proposed designs, would be explored during February.</p>	Clerk
2026/011	Beaver Activity	
	Cllr King referred to the email received from Ward Councillor Sarah Warren regarding Beaver activity along the river by the cycle track between Bathampton and Batheaston. It was agreed that no further action was required.	
2026/012	Ongoing Items	
	<p><u>Climate Emergency:</u> There was nothing further to report.</p>	
2026/013	<p>Group Reports <u>Planning & Conservation</u> Councillor King referred to the planning report, circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Planning applications considered:</p> <p><u>Application 25/04928/TCA – The Old Rectory.</u> Application for various tree works. A response of ‘No Objection’ was proposed. The Council raised no queries and unanimously agreed the proposed response.</p>	

	<p>25/04747/VAR – 59 Hantone Hill. This application was a variation of a condition attached to application 23/04379/FUL. Due to the short consultation deadline, it was agreed that the Parish Council’s response would be agreed by email and this was sent to BANES on the 11/01/2026.</p> <p>The Parish Council agreed a response of ‘No Objection’ while urging the applicant to source Bath stone face blocks if possible. If this could not be achieved, rendering finish would be accepted, subject to the colour being agreed.</p> <p>Councillor King provided an update on the land (BA1/6 & BA1/7) adjacent to Meadow Lane.</p> <p>Councillor King additionally referred to correspondence from a Bathampton resident who was considering whether her sizable garden could be assessed as a potential building plot as part of the search for sites for future development within the village. Councillor King noted that she had offered some support to the owner and suggested that she contact BANE’S planning team to get some advice.</p>	
	<p>Highways There was nothing further to report.</p> <p>Footpaths & Drainage There was nothing further to report.</p> <p>Leisure & Amenities There was nothing further to report.</p> <p>Policy & Finance: There was nothing further to report.</p> <p>BPC’s Digital Presence: There was nothing further to report.</p> <p>Canals: There was nothing further to report.</p>	
	<p>Open Forum Councillor Beard reported that the allotment hut rented to the Village Show Committee was in poor condition. It was noted that a surveyor was scheduled to carry out a building survey on the 27th January to identify any structural works required. An update of which would be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>In relation to the rent, the Clerk had issued an invoice for 2026, along with a previously missed invoice for 2025, totalling £2. Councillor Bead confirmed that The Village Show Committee would arrange payment by Bank transfer.</p> <p>Councillor Cossins White referred to a swift box initiative. The Chair suggested that he contact Bathwick Residents Association, which had previously received donations for installing swift boxes but had experienced some difficulties and may be able to share their learning. The Chair agreed to find out who is the best person to contact within the Association to assist Councillor Cossins White.</p>	<p>MB</p>
<p>2026/014</p>	<p>Date of next Parish Council meeting. The meeting date would take place on the 19th February 2026.</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.08 pm</p>	

Signed:

Chair

Date: