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

Present: M. Brennan, Chair (MB), T. Purpuri (TP), D. Beard (DB), & D. Cossins White (DCW) & Liz Daly (Clerk).
No members of the public in attendance.
The meeting started at 7.30 pm.

		Actions Actions struck through are complete
	Welcome: The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that the meeting would be recorded for minuting purposes only.	
2026/132	**Apologies:** G. Ardrey (GA), J. Helps (JH), L. King (LK) & R. Scofield (RS) due to family commitments and holidays.	
2026/133	**Declarations of interest:** None	
2026/134	**Minutes of the previous meeting**	
	The Minutes of the previous Bathampton Parish Council meeting held on the 17th September 2026 had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. The Minutes were unanimously **APPROVED** by the Council and would be signed by the Chair at the end of the meeting.	~~**MB**~~
2026/135	**Public Participation**	
	There were no members of the public in attendance.	
2026/136	**Review of actions carried forward from previous meeting.**	
	Following the review of updated reports and verbal updates provided during the meeting. The following actions were discussed: 1) **Proposal for the purchase of a hedge trimmer:** Following a discussion it was agreed to defer the decision to the next Parish Council meeting in November. The Clerk was asked to include the item on the agenda. Councillor Cossins-White agreed to consult with a friend who works for Stihl to obtain further information regarding recommended equipment. 2) **Debris removal from the bottom of St George's Hill:** Councillor Beard requested that this item remain on the outstanding actions list. The Chair highlighted a similar issue at the bottom of the Bridleway. Councillor Beard agreed to raise this additional location when following up on the original request. 3) **Removal of Sycamore Tree and vegetation outside the King Edward's Playing Field:** The Clerk reported that the Clean and Green team had confirmed that they would attend earlier that day to remove the recently established sycamore tree and clear the vegetation that was obstructing the pavement. 4) **Defibrillator:** This item had been included on the meeting agenda for discussion. The Clerk had circulated relevant information and quotations outlining the associated costs. 5) **Council Reserves:** The Clerk had reviewed the council's reserves, following feedback from the external auditor, BDO who had highlighted that the level of reserves appeared excessive. The information had been forwarded to the Chair for review. The review showed reserves at £30,029 and expenditure of £28,806 for the 2025/26 Financial Year. The Chair and Clerk both considered the level of reserves reasonable, and it was agreed that the council would aim to keep the next Precept within this level of expenditure when setting the 2027/28 budget.	**Clerk** **DCW** **DB**

	6) **Promotion of the 2027 Grant process:** The Clerk confirmed that information about the grant process had been published on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. 7) **Resident concerns regarding the Padel Court Application:** Councillor Purpuri confirmed that he had advised the resident to contact BANES directly. He also confirmed that an email had been sent to the Primary School expressing the Parish Council's concerns regarding their lack of involvement in the application process, which had since been approved. 8) **Large pothole on the Towpath.** Councillors Cossins-White and Beard confirmed that the large pothole on the Canal Towpath had been filled. No further action was considered necessary. 9) **Parish Council Christmas Tree:** The Clerk had obtained quotes, and the matter was included on the meeting agenda for discussion. 10) **Bathampton Lane Vans:** The Clerk reported that she had contacted the Julian House Outreach team, which had provided the contact details for the Alongside Charity, an organisation that specifically supports people sleeping in their vans. The Clerk had received an email from the Charity on the 7th October confirming that they would undertake a welfare check and establish whether anyone requires support. 11) **Devonshire Road Streetlight:** The Clerk reported that she had emailed Volker on several occasions by email and phone, including leaving a voice message and speaking to head office to request an update on when the streetlight would be repaired. Having received no satisfactory resolution, she had contacted Ward Councillors Sarah Warren and Kevin Guy to seek further assistance on the matter. The Clerk would provide an update at the next meeting. All remaining unresolved actions were carried forward.	**Clerk**
2026/137	**Finance**	
	a) Financial Report for October 2026	
	This had been circulated previously.	
	Table 1	
	The Clerk referred to the financial report, circulated prior to the meeting, which outlined cash movement for both the month and year to date. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's current cash balance stood at £140,935.42 of which £110,286.23 is earmarked for the Playground Project. The Clerk reported that an error identified by the Chair would be corrected, where Microsoft Licence costs had been incorrectly recorded under website hosting expenses.	~~**Clerk**~~
	Table 2	
	Transactions from the 1st September up to the 30th September 2026 were noted.	
	Table 3	
	Expenditure totalling £289.41 was approved for payment. **Date** | **Payee** | **Details** | **Net** | **VAT** | **Gross** 15.10.2026 | Valda Energy | Street Lighting Energy (13.09.26 - 12.10.26) | £45.78 | £1.43 | £47.21 15.10.2026 | Clerk Expenses | IONOS (July, August, September & October 2026) | £6.00 | £1.20 | £7.20 15.10.2026 | Minuteman Press | Printing of the November 2026 Newsletter | £235.00 | 0.00 | £235.00 **Sub Total** | **£289.41** Net salaries totalling £1,358.25 and the NEST pension contribution of £64.77 were also authorised.	
	c) Clerk's Report	
	The Clerk referred Councillors to the Clerk's Report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting and provided updates on matters arising from the previous Parish Council meeting held on 17 September 2026. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with Councillor Ardrey to arrange the quarterly verification of the accounts for the period July to September 2026. A further update would be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.	

	The Clerk confirmed that the second Precept instalment of £16,500 had been received on the 1st October 2026.	
	The Clerk noted that a draft renewal letter for allotment plot holders had been prepared. The Clerk would prepare individual renewal letters over the coming weeks, to be issued out with the new Allotment Rules and Health and Safety Guidelines.	
	The Clerk referred to the resurfacing works undertaken on Holcombe Lane and several adjoining streets. She asked whether the Council wished to send a letter of thanks to the team for completing the works so promptly, keeping residents informed throughout the process and remaining approachable.	~~Clerk~~
	It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk prepare a letter to be sent to the Principal Engineer for Highway Maintenance & Drainage at B&NES expressing the council's thanks and to forward to the team responsible for the works.	
	The Clerk referred to a missed call and an email from a resident on which she had been copied into. Concerns had been raised about electric-powered quad bikes and e-bikes weaving in and out of traffic and mounting the pavement, creating potential safety risks for pedestrians. Councillors noted that the matter had already been raised with a police force contact by email from Councillor Guy.	~~Clerk~~
	It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk follow up on the correspondence to obtain an update on the matter. It was further **RESOLVED** that Councillor Purpuri would contact the Bathampton Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).	~~Clerk/TP~~
	The Clerk referred to correspondence received from a member of the public prior to the meeting regarding the defibrillator located outside the surgery. She advised that she had responded to the resident, clarifying that the Parish Council did not own the current defibrillator. The resident had also been informed that the matter was included on the meeting agenda for discussion, and that a further update could be provided following the meeting regarding whether the Parish Council would consider taking responsibility for the purchase and ongoing maintenance of a replacement.	
	The Clerk referred Councillors to the remaining correspondence detailed in her Report.	
2026/138	**Parish Council Christmas Tree**	
	The Clerk referred councillors to the two quotations included in her report for the purchase of the Parish Council's Christmas Tree.	
	RESOLVED: The Council agreed to purchase an 8ft 3in – 9ft 10 in Norway Spruce from the Scouts at a cost of £75 + VAT. The decision was made in recognition of the lower costs compared with the usual supplier and to support a local charity. The Clerk would check the delivery date.	~~Clerk~~
	The Clerk also referred Councillors to her report outlining the Playgroup's proposal to organise a Christmas Tree switch on event to raise funds for the Playgroup.	
	The Council expressed its support for the event, proposed to take place outside the Village Hall on the 3rd December 2026. Councillors expressed reservations about the use of supplier sponsored decorations, noting that the Council already have baubles to decorate the tree. However, the Council were supportive of the children creating decorations to be placed on the lower branches of the tree. The Clerk was asked to provide feedback to the Playgroup.	~~Clerk~~
2026/139	**Parish Council November Newsletter**	
	The Parish Council reviewed and agreed the content of the newsletter and noted the proposed timings for getting the information to Councillor Helps and the newsletters distributed.	~~All~~
	Councillor Beard agreed that his telephone number could be included in the newsletter for residents wishing to contact him regarding footpaths or volunteering opportunities, as he does not regularly monitor his Parish Council email account.	
2026/140	**Parish Defibrillator**	

	The Clerk referred Councillors to her report which detailed costs for a replacement defibrillator and heated cabinet. The Clerk reported that London Hearts had quoted £950 for the unit and heated cabinet, with the total including delivery and VAT being £1,159.20. The Clerk also outlined the ongoing maintenance costs, advising that battery replacements would be required approximately every 5 years at an estimated cost of £395 and replacement pads every 3 years, or following use at a cost of £47. The Council considered the purchase of a replacement defibrillator, noting that no specific provision had been made within the current year's budget for this expenditure. It was noted that funding could be made available from the contingency budget and the existing playground repair allocation. As the planned replacement of the playground is being progressed through a separately allocated project budget, the anticipated requirement for the original playground repair provision has been redirected. Councillor Helps and King had confirmed their support for the purchase of the unit, by email prior to the meeting. **Resolved:** That the Parish Council approve the allocation of £400 from the contingency budget, with the remaining balance to be met from the Playground repair budget, to fund the purchase of the replacement defibrillator. It was further **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the surgery manager to confirm that the surgery is still willing to monitor the unit and to be the email contact for notifications regarding battery and pad replacements. Subject to this confirmation, the Clerk was authorised to accept the quotation. The Clerk was additionally asked to find out if the Surgery could recommend or provide details of their electrician that they use to install the unit once delivered.	~~**Clerk**~~ ~~**Clerk**~~ ~~**Clerk**~~
2026/141	**Review of Policies and Website Accessibility Statement**	
	The review of the policies was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting to allow the Councillors sufficient time to review the documents in advance. The Clerk was asked to circulate the policies in suitable time before the next meeting to enable a thorough review.	~~**All**~~
2026/142	**Ongoing Items**	
	a) Climate Emergency: There was no further update to report. **b) Playground Project:** The Clerk reported on a site meeting with Dragon Play, during which measurements were taken to access the proposed layout in relation to the existing trees and light. Dragon play will prepare a visual which would typically be produced at the contract stage. The Clerk noted that due to the light, some equipment may need to be repositioned, and minor adjustments may be required to the wet pour safety surfacing. The Clerk further reported that Dragon Play would provide a Purchase Order for the Parish Council to progress the order as they do not have a formal process in place. It was expected that the deposit would be 30% with the remaining balance on competition of the Project. **RESOLVED:** Subject to receipt and approval of the final design, the Council approved the raising of a purchase order to proceed with the order. It was agreed that work on the project would commence after Christmas to avoid a break in the works over the Christmas period and to allow additional time to finalise the arrangements and tender process. It was additionally **RESOVED**, that any additional Playground funds acquired through interest earned on the funds would be retained as a contingency reserve for the project.	**Clerk**
2026/143	**Group Reports** **Planning & Conservation** In the absence of Councillor King, the Chair referred to the planning report, circulated prior to the meeting. Planning applications considered:	

	Application 26/03620/TCA: – Court Leet Farm, Bathampton Lane. Tree works. The planning report recommended a 'No Objection' response. The Council considered the recommendations and unanimously agreed the proposed response. The Clerk will submit the response after the meeting.	~~**Clerk**~~
	Highways Councillor Purpuri provided an update on the traffic issues along the A36 and the damage to the bridge near Sydney Garden's in connection with the ongoing works. There were no further updates to report. **Footpaths & Drainage** Councillor Beard reported that he had contacted Public Rights of Way, regarding the felled tree in the Triangular Field but had not yet received a response. Councillor Beard agreed to follow this up with Public Rights of Way. **Leisure & Amenities** The Clerk raised the issue of the padlock on the allotment gate, explaining that the button needed to be pushed to ensure it closes properly. The Clerk agreed to email allotment tenants to remind them of the correct procedure to prevent the gate being left open. The Clerk additionally reported that Councillor Helps and the Handyman had been considering suitable locations on the recreation ground for the planting of the two new Cherry trees which were due for delivery during November. The Clerk reported that the Parish council had provided information on its allotments to BANES and promoted the survey to allotment holders, encouraging them to participate. BANES had subsequently shared the findings relating to the Bathampton allotments with the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to circulate the survey findings to Councillors for information. **Policy & Finance:** There was nothing further to report. **BPC's Digital Presence:** There was nothing further to report. **Canals:** Councillor Cossins-White reported that approximately five litres of blue paint had accidentally been spilled into the Canal by a groundsman from King Edwards School. This paint had since been cleared by Wessex Water. There was nothing further to report.	**DB** **Clerk** **Clerk**
2026/144	**Open Forum** Councillor Beard raised a query from a member of the community regarding the possible reinstatement of speed bumps along Holcombe Lane. It was noted that there was an old sign relating to the speed bumps remaining in place, although the speed bumps themselves had not been present along the road for many years. Councillor Beard also reported that the heritage sign on the humpback bridge had been temporarily removed to allow the removal of lead-based paint.	
2026/145	**Date of next Parish Council meeting.** The meeting date would take place on the 19th November 2026.	
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20. 46 pm	

Signed: .....
Chair
Date: .....