



## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

### **Present**

Councillors Mr S Hoskins (Chair), Mr S Dunn (Vice Chair), Mr G Allwright, Mr J Woodford and Mr K Rhatigan.

Cllr Mellor, Cllr Bound and members of the public were also present.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Conquest, Cllr Morrow, Cllr Parker and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall. Cllr Allwright had kindly agreed to take the minutes of the December 2025 meeting which was greatly appreciated by the Clerk.

### **2. Declaration of interest**

None.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting for approval**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were approved by the Chair and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### **4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points**

Cllr Dunn confirmed that 3 additional litter bins had been allocated to the recreation ground in Headley and their locations were being considered. \*

In the absence of Cllr Morrow, Cllr Woodford's previous question to Cllr Morrow regarding the Environment Agency's response to the waste overflow for the new housing development in Ashford Hill could not be answered. \*

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### **5. Adoption of the Budget & Precept 2026/2027**

The adoption of the budget and precept for 2026/2027 was proposed by Cllr Woodford and seconded by Cllr Rhatigan. The precept request form to BDBC was duly signed by both Councillors and the Chair.

### **6. Highways issues**

Cllr Woodford reported that the oldest Speed Indicator Device (SID) in Ashford Hill was faulty and the reason was being diagnosed. A discussion would ensue as to where the best location was to site it for the future.

Cllr Dunn reported that the new SID purchased for Headley would soon be installed on the Ashford Hill Road.

Cllr Dunn reported that fly tipping on Thornford Road had been dealt with by BDBC very quickly.

## **7. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications received in the month of November 2025.

## **8. Ashford Hill Play Area Project Subcommittee Report**

Cllr Rhatigan agreed to circulate to Cllr Allwright and Cllr Parker some dates to meet on site and discuss options. Ideas for consideration included the game of pétanque, concrete table tennis, adult gym equipment and grouped picnic tables for small gatherings. \*

## **9. Reports**

### **County Councillor**

Cllr Mellor reported that the local government reorganisation review was still ongoing. Cllr Mellor confirmed that HCC's priority was to maintain the county's network of public footpaths as well as opening new ones. Cllr Mellor reported that the county schools' populations were diminishing with a very low intake for 2026. Cllr Mellor concluded his report by confirming that the Council's financial performance was good.

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### **Borough Councillors**

Cllr Bound had previously circulated a report;

“A good news story coming from the Borough is I think, the Housing Allocation Scheme review. Its main headlines are:

- The gap between demand and supply is closing

- An increase in Transfer Applicants undertaking a move
- The number of Social Rent properties advertised have increased
- Vivid re-lets were appreciably higher than Sovereign during the year
- The Scheme clearly prioritises strong local connections.

### **Local Government reorganisation:**

- The government has now launched its consultation on proposals for new unitary councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The consultation can be found on the Gov.UK web site and amongst others, Parish Councils are encouraged to add their thoughts/comments.
- BDBC have been working with other councils across the county, and a joint business case was supported by and submitted to the government by 11 councils in September. This set out three options for four new mainland unitary councils in Hampshire, with the Isle of Wight remaining as a separate island authority. Each option is based on having a unitary built around the population centres of Portsmouth, Southampton, Winchester and Basingstoke. All three options would see the creation of a new North Hampshire unitary authority to deliver all council services to the 407,500 people in Basingstoke and Deane, Hart and Rushmoor.
- The 11 councils who submitted the joint proposals are the 2 existing unitary councils of Portsmouth and Southampton and the 9 existing districts and borough councils of Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, Fareham, Hart, Havant, New Forest, Rushmoor, Test Valley and Winchester.
- An alternative proposal, developed by Hampshire County Council and East Hampshire District Council for 3 larger mainland unitaries with the Isle of Wight remaining an independent island unitary council was also submitted to the government. This proposal would see Basingstoke and Deane form part of a bigger unitary council joining with Hart, Rushmoor, East Hampshire and Winchester.
- The government is consulting on all the options submitted to them in September and are inviting feedback on the options by the 11 January 2026.
- The Borough expects the government to decide about the proposal they wish to implement in March next year. The new councils would then replace the existing councils on the 1 April 2028.
- In terms of devolution, the Government has now put off elections for regional Mayors for quite some time (2028), so there won't be Mayoral elections in May 2026.

[Public electric vehicle chargers now live across Basingstoke and Deane](#)

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases: Council serves up tennis court refurbishment>

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:Infrastructure work lay the ground for new homes at Manydown>

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases: New consultation on borough's plan for new homes and places to work>

<https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:New home for golf facilities set to be considered by councillors>

[https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:Ambitious plans to accelerate Basing View and town centre regeneration](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:Ambitious%20plans%20to%20accelerate%20Basing%20View%20and%20town%20centre%20regeneration)  
[https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:Repair work in final phase as part of major investment in Basingstoke's flagship cultural buildings](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:Repair%20work%20in%20final%20phase%20as%20part%20of%20major%20investment%20in%20Basingstoke's%20flagship%20cultural%20buildings)  
[https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases: First Homes scheme delivers new affordable home options for first-time-buyers “](https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/press-releases:First%20Homes%20scheme%20delivers%20new%20affordable%20home%20options%20for%20first-time-buyers)

### **Chair of the Parish Council**

The Chair's verbatim report:

#### **“Speed Camera**

The ANPR equipment has been taken over by Cllr Parker and Cllr Allwright and trialled. We are now waiting to sign up volunteers for the police led online training. We believe there are around 10 people who have volunteered to help with the programme.

#### **Tree Management**

New saplings around Headley recreation ground, potential meeting in January with Cllr Dunn to agree on locations.

#### **BDBC Revised Local Plan**

Letter received from BDBC leader, advising that government has directed them that they have until December 2026 to submit a revised local plan.

Because of the large volume of new homes being built / scheduled to be built, the plan does need revising. They have offered to come to our Parish Council meeting, which we will accept. There is also a “drop in” event at The Woodpecker, Wash Water on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### **Remembrance Sunday**

Parish Councillors laid wreaths at both village church services.

#### **Parish Council's 'WhatsApp' group**

The meeting agreed to have a Parish Council 'WhatsApp' group to communicate with each of us. This would be for casual use, and not “official business”.

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#### **Parish Council January 2026 meeting**

The meeting will be delayed by one-week to the 19<sup>th</sup> January due to the Clerk's annual leave.”

### **Parish Councillors**

Cllr Rhatigan reported that a planning application for new homes at Limewood, Ashford Hill had been refused by BDBC and the decision is unlikely to go to appeal.

There had been a hard standing entrance laid down in a field near to the Catts Farm development, and this should be monitored to ensure no breach of planning laws takes place.

Sapling trees have been knocked down in the car park opposite Ashford Hill School and will need to be replaced. \*

Once again there has been large scale flooding near to The Ship Inn in Ashford Hill and Cllr Rhatigan suggested that an investigation as to why, and how to reduce the water coming down the hill on the road be undertaken. \*

Cllr Woodford commented on a staffing matter which he would deal with.

Cllr Dunn confirmed that the topographical survey had been completed as part of the Parish Council's planning application for additional parking spaces in Thornford Road, Headley.

This would provide Headley recreation ground with around 15 additional parking spaces.

Cllr Allwright briefed Councillors on the progress of the MUGA survey, which had to date received around 90 completed surveys, mostly indicating that residents are keen to use the facility. Around 140 people have said on the survey that they would use the MUGA. There were also some great suggestions for the future use of the MUGA, and the recreation ground in general. It was agreed in the meeting that the 20% response rate to the survey was very encouraging.

Cllr Dunn reported that the cleaning of the playgrounds had been completed and included removal of areas of moss growth.

## **10. Recess**

Discussion ensued about the flooding on Common Road in Headley and the Chair asked the resident for further information and agreed that the Parish Council would write to the landowner. \*

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## **11. Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £9020.95

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £37,068.96

## 12. Payments for approval and payment

Mr S Marshall – Clerk’s salary & expenses – January – March 2026 - £5064.47

Mr J Kirkby – Litter Warden’s salary – January – March 2026 - £561.81

Mrs S Kemp – Litter Warden’s salary – January – March 2026 - £1074.33

Hampshire County Council – S72 licence for installation of SIDs - £300.00

Bramley Business Services Ltd – PAYE administration - £105.00

Bramley Business Services Ltd – HMRC payment of employee income tax Jan-Mar 2026 - £1237.20

Cllr G Allwright – reimbursement of payment to Baker Goodchild Direct Marketing Ltd for distribution of MUGA survey - £844.73 - **PAID**

The Chair declared the meeting closed 8.25pm.