MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8th JUNE 2026

Present

Councillors Mr S Hoskins (Chair), Mr S Dunn (Vice Chair), Mr G Allwright, Mrs K Parker, Mr J Gallagher and the Clerk, Mr S Marshall.

County Councillor Mark Wilson-Thomas, Cllr David Conquest, Cllr Kerry Morrow were also present together with members of the public.

Before the meeting started the Chair, Cllr Hoskins, made a presentation to Mr John Kirby, Litter Warden for Ashford Hill, who was retiring after 31 years of loyal service to the Parish Council and the community. Cllr Hoskins sincerely thanked John for his many years of hard work and commitment and the Clerk read out a message from Cllr Woodford, previous Chair of the Parish Council, which reflected on the years of John's service but also on his personality as a kind and cheerful member of the community.

1. **Apologies**

   Apologies had been received from Cllr Woodford.

2. **Declaration of interest**

   None.

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

   The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026 and the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the same day, were approved by the Chair and signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. Matters arising & Outstanding Action Points

Cllr Allwright was still awaiting a response from Headley Tyres regarding the purchase and installation of a defibrillator at their premises. Cllr Dunn agreed to contact the owners for a response. *

Cllr Parker agreed that there was still a need to undertake the training of volunteers to operate the ANPR equipment who would then be a part of a rota system to operate the equipment at the approved sites. *

The roadside fencing panels at the Retreat in Ashford Hill had been replaced.

Details of the previous village fete had been passed to Cheam School for their information.

The Chair confirmed that there was not an alternative means of communication available to successfully replace the Parish Magazine.

The Clerk was asked to enquire with Mr Miles as to the possibility of him manufacturing some metal goal post sockets for the recreation ground at Ashford Hill. *

5. Councillors' vote to proceed with the MUGA project

The Chair referred to the briefing paper written by Cllr Allwright which contained the background information relating to the project as well as the pertinent financial detail needed to make a decision on proceeding with the project.

All Councillors present were in favour of proceeding with the project by a show of hands, and the Clerk had received a proxy vote from Cllr Woodford in favour of the project proceeding.

The Chair confirmed the proposal to proceed with the MUGA project had received unanimous support from Councillors and the proposal to proceed with the MUGA project was adopted by the Parish Council.

The Clerk reiterated the Chair's remarks from a previous meeting that such a decision needed to be well communicated to parishioners and suggested that a Royal Mail letter from the Chair be compiled and sent out informing residents of the decision and the timeline for the start and completion of the project together with details of the games area and how the facility could be booked by residents.

Post meeting note: Cllr Allwright agreed to compile a draft letter from the Chair to residents. *

6. **Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2025 / 2026**

The Clerk had sent Councillors an advance copy of the completed Return explaining that the Return included a report from the independent internal Auditor confirming that the Parish Council had achieved the internal financial control objectives that were required. Furthermore, the Clerk confirmed that the Return stated that "to the best of our knowledge (Councillors) that there is a sound system of control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements 2025 / 2026.
The Clerk requested a proposer for the adoption of the financial results 2025/2026 and a seconder; Cllr Allwright proposed the adoption which was seconded by Cllr Gallagher with all Councillors present in favour of the adoption.

7. **Highways issues**

The Chair reported that the Ashford Hill Road from near the Thornford Road crossroads to St Paul's church had been resurfaced, although the worst section from the crossroads to the A339 had not been repaired.

Discussion ensued about the repair works on both the Ashford Hill Road and the B3051 in Ashford Hill. Cllr Wilson-Thomas was awaiting clarification from the Highways department regarding the outstanding repairs on the B3051 and commented that now specific repairs had been marked out by the Highways department as in need of repair, there was now a liability on the part of the County Council to have the repairs undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

The Chair further reported that the 8 no. of streetlights along the A339 between Thornford Road and Ashford Hill Road where the amount of foliage from residents' properties is preventing the light reaching the pavement, had been further reported to Enerveo. The contractor had suggested that when LEDs were installed in June, the foliage may be cut back then when a 'cherry picker' woud be available.

The Chair also commented on the overhanging tree branches from private gardens that were obstructing pedestrian access on the pavements on the A339. The Clerk would compile a letter reminding residents that it was their responsibility to cut back overhanging tree branches which were emanating from trees within their private gardens.

8. **Planning Applications**

25/01337/OUT - Appeal Inquiry - Land Opposite Limewood Farm Ashford Hill Road Ashford Hill

- Outline application for the provision of up to 45 dwellings and a flexible workspace/community hub building together with new access road from Ashford Hill Road with access for consideration (landscaping, scale, siting and appearance as reserved matters)

- The Inquiry into this appeal is to be held as an in-person event in the Civic Offices, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH commencing on 9 June 2026 for a duration of 6 days.

WBDC 26/00324/FUL - West Berkshire Council Consultation - Land at Brimpton Lane and Brimpton Footpath 20 nd, Blacknest Lane, Brimpton Common, Reading

- Change of use of land to a residential caravan site consisting of 3 pitches, each pitch comprising 1 day room, 1 static caravan, storage space for 1 touring caravan, 2 parking spaces, cycle and bin stores, associated infrastructure to include 2 new highway access points (part retrospective**)**

- *No objection*

9. **Reports**

County Councillor

Cllr Wilson-Thomas' verbatim report:

"This is my first monthly report as your newly elected Hampshire County Councillor for the Tadley & Baughurst Division. Starting with this report, I will strive to provide regular updates on county-level matters affecting the division, together with information about local issues that residents and councillors have raised, and the work I am undertaking on their behalf.
As always, if there are any issues that Parish and Town Councils would like me to investigate or pursue with HCC, please let me know.

County Councillor Grant Scheme

The County Councillor Grant Scheme is expected to reopen on 1 July 2026. It gives me an annual budget of £5,000 to allocate to local projects, initiatives, or organisations across the division. I'll be able to share more details once the scheme is live. If you have a project in mind, please do get in touch. There are some constraints on what sort of projects and organisations can be funded – you can read more at:
https://www.hants.gov.uk/community/grants/grants-list/county-councillor

My County Council Responsibilities

I have been appointed to the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee. The committee covers policies on delivering wellbeing for adult residents including adult social care and public health. It has its first meeting of the new council on 16 June. For more details on the role of this committee and its meetings,
https://democracy.hants.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=184

I look forward to reporting back on matters relevant to local communities.

Highways

One of my top priorities is to ensure residents issues with the local road system are properly resolved.

Resident issue reports are one of the most important ways of identifying potholes and other highway defects without waiting for inspections. I strongly encourage you to download the OurHants app on your mobile phone if you have one and use it whenever you encounter a pothole or other item in need of repair. You can use the HCC website, but the phone app has the significant advantage of easy capture of location and pictures for your report. The report IDs from this system are also very useful when I'm following up on issues on your behalf.

You can get the app at https://tinyurl.com/OurHants or by scanning the QR Code below. Once you have it, set up your account and you'll be ready to report issues whenever you see them.

mark.wilson-thomas@hants.gov.uk

FB: https://tinyurl.com/mwilsonthomasFB 0747 22543142

Local issues raised

Since being elected, I have already begun raising a number of local issues on behalf of residents and Town & Parish Councils. These include:

Improving phasing of the A340/Franklin Ave Traffic Lights
Following up on a temporary "repair" blocking drain on A340
Dealing with an overgrown pathway
Helping a resident deal with claims for pothole damage
Working to avoid "accidental widening" in road repair schemes around Baughurst
Routing queries to the correct HCC people about the quality and extent of resurfacing on the Ashford Hill to Headley Road

Many of these issues are ongoing - I will continue to pursue them with the relevant county council officers and cabinet members.

Community Engagement

I always aim to be accessible to all residents and welcome enquiries from residents and councils in my division (contact details below). I'm also available to residents on Facebook and other social media channels where I will be posting periodic updates and items of interest."

Borough Councillors

Cllr Morrow's verbatim report:

"Important changes to your bin collection

Recently we were briefed on the Council's Waste Strategy, which is progressing with key changes to meet national "Simpler Recycling" requirements and the Environment Act. Weekly grey bin waste collections will continue until October 2026, after which services will align with neighbouring councils, with weekly food waste collections and alternating grey and green bin collections. The successful rollout of food waste collections last year has been a strong step in the right direction in improving recycling rates in Basingstoke and Deane, delivering the Government's required scheme locally, while other councils are struggling to meet the same deadline due to procurement challenges. However, there is still significant work to do, with around one-third of residual waste in our bins remaining recyclable. A key factor will be the delivery of the delayed £50m Materials Recovery Facility in Eastleigh now expected by Spring 2028. Further enhancements by the Borough include the introduction of kerbside small electricals collection in Spring 2027 and supporting the unique challenges of waste collection in flatted developments, alongside aligning services with Hart and Rushmoor and strengthening consistent communications.

There was a clear emphasis on the need for behavioural change to improve recycling rates, particularly given Basingstoke and Deane's historically poor performance (29% Recycling Rate). This is increasingly important as the Government will charge local authorities based on residual waste tonnage, which could result in significant additional costs if recycling rates are not improved. In addition, contamination costs, currently around £2m, remain an ongoing concern that must be addressed to reduce waste processing costs and improve overall efficiency.

Local Government Reorganisation will combine the responsibilities of waste collection and processing; therefore, it is very important that we make improvements both to avoid future government fines and better look after our environment.

Links

Community Infrastructure Fund (2026)

- https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/infrastructurefund [basingstoke.gov.uk]
- **Councillor Community Grant Scheme (2026/27)**
- https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/cllr-community-grants [basingstoke.gov.uk]"

Cllr Conquest reported on a meeting with Kit Malthouse MP and Thames Water to discuss the problems associated with illegal sewage spills as well as the increased demand for water related services in the district.

Chair of the Parish Council

Section 137 grants

The Chair reminded Councillors that Section 137 grants are discretionary funds awarded by parish, town, and community councils in England and Wales to local non-profit organisations allowing the financing of projects that directly benefit their local area or inhabitants when no other specific legal power exists. The Chair proposed that the Parish Council award a non-binding donation of £1000 to the Headley Community Shop. Further to discussion the Councillors present were to varying degrees in favour of such a proposal and it was agreed that further discussion woud take place outside of the meeting. *

Community Summer Fete hosted by Cheam School 2027

A list of events from the fete held in 2015 had been sent to Cheam School who have advised they are currently looking at a date of Saturday 19th June 2027.

Planters for noticeboards

The planter beneath the noticeboard opposite the Community Shop in Headley had been planted out and woud be reviewed by the Ashford Hill Village Hall Committee to see if there was a need for one outside of the Village Hall. The noticeboards and the royal coronation benches were to be stained. *

The Chair expressed the Parish Council's appreciation to Cheam School for funding the purchase of the planter and the planting of it for the benefit of the community.

Ashford Hill Primary School

The Chair reported that the new Head Teacher had responded to the Parish Council's concerns about road safety when parents use the housing development's car park opposite the school. The Clerk would further pursue the matter with the school in due course. *

Southern Ambulance Service

The service had requested barrier codes for the barriers onto recreation grounds in order to facilitate access in the case of an emergency medical need for an ambulance. *

Parish Councillors

Cllr Allwright confirmed the need for the reinstatement of the RoW volunteers' group as there was work required on the footpaths. * Cllr Allwright reported on several aspects of the MUGA project which woud need to be considered in due course such as the points of access control to the facility and equipment storage. Cllr Allwright had submitted a detailed application to The Headley Trust in support of a grant towards the overall cost of the MUGA and associated car parking which woud be considered at the July meeting of the Trust.

Clerk to the Parish Council

The Clerk reported on the ongoing recruitment of a Parish Councillor to represent Ashford Hill. The Chair commented on the need for the current Ashford Hill Parish Councillors to approach certain individuals who they felt would be eligible for the position. *

The Clerk further reported that the recruitment of a Litter Warden for Ashford Hill had not produced any interest, but Mr Phil Kemp was kindly covering the position over the summer months and may be interested in undertaking the paid role on a permanent basis.

The Clerk had distributed the 2026/2027 Schedule of Meetings to Parish, Borough and County Councillors, drawing to their attention to the changes from the scheduled 'second Monday in the month' for the months of September 2026 and March 2027.

10. **Recess**

Mrs Allwright complimented the quality of the planting in the new planter opposite the Community Shop in Headley. The Ashford Hill Village Hall Committee was considering the installation of the same planter for Ashford Hill.

11. **Financial statement**

The Lloyds TSB current account of the Parish Council stood at £13,859.81

The Lloyds TSB deposit account of the Parish Council stood at £39,364.13

12. **Payments for approval and payment**

Mr S Marshall – Clerk's salary July – September 2026 & Expenses - £8076.03
Mrs S Kemp – Litter Warden's salary July – September 2026 - £984.18
Mr P Kemp – Litter Warden cover for April – June 2026 - £422.80

Bramley Business Services – PAYE administration - £135.0
HMRC – Employee income tax contributions - £1741.20
BDBC – Monthly playground inspections - £1348.00
EDF – Monthly electricity supply to the Headley Pavilion - £55.96
Scofell Landscape – Monthly maintenance of recreation grounds & tree saplings - £2424.83

The Chair declared the meeting closed 8.45pm.