

# BAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7PM

PRESENT: Cllrs J Allinson (in the chair), R Smith, D Clarke, A Ogg, G Sone, A Cutler.  
 IN ATTENDANCE: C Street (Clerk), District Cllrs A Wray & A Smith, County Cllr T Fenton.

44/2025	<u>Apologies for absence:</u> The following apologies were accepted: S McLaren, P Foster, G Attar
45/2025	<u>Variation of order of business:</u> None
46/2025	<u>Declarations of interest:</u> None
47/2025	<p><u>County and District Councillors' reports &amp; questions:</u></p> <p><u>County Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget has gone through.</li> <li>• The local government reorganisation is going ahead, however, Oxfordshire are not in the first tranche of this; various proposals have been put forward; Govt target is a min of 500,000 residents per unitary council; this will go to government for a decision on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov.</li> </ul> <p><u>District Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget was approved on 26<sup>th</sup> February, which includes the acquisition of emergency housing for homeless people and replacement of waste collection vehicles.</li> <li>• Charlie Maynard MP has joined litigation at the high court against Thames Water debt and is representing the Thames water customers. It is now going to appeal.</li> <li>• Executive on Tour meeting in the village hall was well attended, however, it was noted that the advertising could have been improved. It was requested that an evening meeting would make it more available to more members of the public.</li> <li>• Open discussion with Charlie Maynard MP at the village hall on Fri 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm, booking via Event Brite.</li> <li>• Charlie Maynard MP is taking part in a walkabout on a route via Bampton, Clanfield, Black Bourton &amp; Alvescot on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March. He'll stop off en route at various locations giving the public the opportunity to walk along and talk to him one to one about any issues.</li> <li>• Suggested we invite Charlie Maynard to attend the Shirt Race.</li> <li>• Empty property loan scheme – financial support is available to renovate homes to get them back into use.</li> <li>• Concerns about the listed building left without a roof in Bushey Row. It was requested that the district councillors look into what is going to happen to this.</li> <li>• Question regarding legislation changes on renewing tenancy agreements. Has District Council looked at the impact on housing locally?</li> </ul>
48/2025	<u>Confirmation of minutes:</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 were signed as a true record.
49/2025	<u>Actions Update:</u> See appended list for outstanding actions from previous meeting/s.
50/2025	<p><u>Public participation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resident whose garden adjoins Mercury Play Park has requested the removal of a self-seeded tree on the boundary (concrete posts mark the proper boundary line of the play park). As the tree is partly on parish council land and partly in the resident's garden, the parish council suggested they contribute half the removal costs. It is not in the conservation area so permission is not needed to take it down. It was agreed the parish council would get a quote for the removal and agree this with the resident before going ahead.</li> <li>• It was noted there was an unauthorised gate access from a back garden into Mercury Play Park so it was agreed to write to the resident asking them to remove this and reinstate the fence .</li> </ul>

51/2025

Planning applications:

25/00244/FUL	Construction of a detached building for use as a fitness suite and wellness hub, along with associated car parking facilities and formation of a new access onto the highway at Rainbow Farm Buckland Road. <b>No objection in principal but we would expect details of materials landscape and junction to be approved by WODC.</b>
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52/2025

Finance and Accounts for Payments:

The following payments were approved in accordance with the budget:

OALC	Annual membership	£743.56
Stuart Ranson	Removal of xmas tree	£20
WJ Saunders Forestry	Tree work along path by cemetery & in village	£2340
Guy Wiseman	Set up standing order for cemetery mole control	SO £300 (£50 pcm x 6 months)
AK Timms	Replacement padlock for cemetery back gate	£ 23.66
Wel Medical	Replacement defibrillator pads	£83.88
David Williams	purchase of stone as per quotation for Bampton Obelisk.	£5000 (to be paid for from Section 106 Public Arts money)
Theresa Goss	Interim Internal audit 24-25	£175
Chris Smith	Cemetery bins and gate unlocking for January & February	£130

The following payments for the Recreation Ground Development were approved:

SKR Lighting	RIBA-4 / Technical / Detailed Design PART B Lighting Design Report for Planning Exterior Landscape Lighting plans. Preliminary performance lighting specifications. Control system concept. Lighting calculations to meet all necessary criteria for ILP Ecology. All of the above RIBA 2 & 3 Stages to be part of a report/strategy for submission for planning. For this stage this is the final 50% of £5550+vat total.	£3,330.00 This was agreed, but payment to be conditional on completion.
Glanville	Civil Engineering - Design Stage	£8,718.00

The following pre-paid debit card transactions were approved: None

The following direct debits and standing orders were noted:

CASTLE WATER 18.66; 23.59; EDF Energy 2,118.54; GoCardless Ltd 12.00; LLOYDS BANK CORPOR 75.67; OCC AP 750.00; SSE ENERGY SUPPLY 409.73; SSE ENERGY SUPPLY 1,625.68; VODAFONE LTD 51.14; 42.08; YU Energy 364.13; Rec Ground TOWN HALL BT BILL 35.88

53/2025

Allotments: 1 plot is still available.

54/2025

Town Hall: Nothing to report.

55/2025

The Old School Community Centre:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The maintenance agreement with Alden was renewed and signed.</li> <li>• It was noted that there are 18 months left on the lease with OCC.</li> <li>• The rental rates for users to be reviewed and increased shortly.</li> </ul>
56/2025	<u>Cemetery:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A quote for mole control was received and agreed.</li> <li>• Ex-councillor Steve Radband still keeps an eye on the cemetery and reports issues to the parish council chairman.</li> </ul>
36/2025	<u>Highways, Trees, Footpaths and Floods:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees: The coppicing of the Western line of wild plum trees and some work on 4 Lime Trees in the Cemetery and the removal of a few dead or dying trees in the Pieces Path/Chetwynd Mead area has been carried out.</li> <li>• Footpaths: The “temporary” red safety barrier next to the ditch between Ampney Orchard and Chetwynd Mead is still in place after several years. It was reported on FixmyStreet. Ted Fenton is investigating.</li> </ul>
57/2025	<u>Mercury Play Park:</u> The monthly parks inspection was reviewed and the following points were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One wooden post has mild movement. Agreed to await next inspection on 16<sup>th</sup> March before contacting our park repairs contractor.</li> <li>• The horse / rocker has been removed and the ground “made good”.</li> <li>• The entrance signage was noted to be visible and in good condition, the pole however is showing some signs of wear and tear.</li> <li>• Several pieces of fly-tipped wooden structures were noted to have been found and were temporarily moved until disposal can be arranged. These do not appear to have come from the play equipment.</li> <li>• One black residual bin – to be reported to WODC for disposal.</li> </ul>
58/2025	<u>Lengthsman update:</u> More green waste has been found dumped on path 1.
59/2025	<u>Committee meeting updates:</u> None
60/2025	<u>Correspondence:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for council to reconsider a suitable location for a memorial plaque, as the option to purchase a plot and a memorial stone in the cemetery was too expensive. It was suggested the resident purchase a sapling (under 3 foot high) of native hedging to be planted within the existing hedge surrounding the new land at the cemetery and then erect a small plaque next to this. Cllr Allinson to get advice on exact location.</li> <li>• Invitation to join the Key Individual Network (KIN) to assist Thames Valley Police with the sharing of information from police and communities during local, regional or national matters impacting the group they represent. It was agreed Cllr Sone would sign up and report back.</li> </ul>
61/2025	<u>Essential village matters (received after agenda was set):</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wed 30<sup>th</sup> April was agreed for the Annual Parish meeting, subject to availability at The Old School Community Centre (TBC).</li> <li>• OCC Flood project funding expression of interest deadline 18<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Cutler to review flooding issues with chairman of the flood prevention group; Cllr Allinson to attend flooding meeting at Brize Norton RAF Base and raise this issue there too, and then report back to the April parish council meeting.</li> </ul>

62/2025	<p><u>Recreation Ground Development Project update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EARLY WORKS: WODC have approved the additional funds to be drawn from S106 for the difference in the accepted tender figures; Purchase Orders have been issued for the gates and the container foundations and the works are in hand.</li> <li>• SKATEPARK: We have received an updated design for the skatepark extension from Bendcrete following further input from the Committee and consultation with Mario Santos of Broken Boards Ltd who is our user group representative; the priced proposal in the sum of £120,000 + VAT has been submitted for S106 funding ahead of our 19 March deadline; sketch information is to be updated to discuss with the archery club now we have the preferred skatepark footprint.</li> <li>• MUGA AND PADEL COURT: The draft reports are completed for the clearance of planning conditions for the drainage design, outdoor lighting and archaeology method statement. The Biodiversity Assessment is being updated also in accordance with the Planning conditions; WODC Planning have confirmed that the change to the plan can be submitted as a Non Material Amendment; the updated planning is required to be in place for the issue of the S106 funds; the target date for completion of draft tender documents is now 14 March 2025.</li> <li>• GRANT AND LOAN APPLICATIONS: Committee continues to collate the list of possible funding opportunities and progressing information required for registration and applications.</li> </ul>
63/2025	<p><u>Request for lighting at the sand bunker:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that WODC own the bunker and provide the sand; the land is owned and managed by OCC and they own the fire station so it was agreed for Cllr Cutler to contact WODC &amp; OCC to ask if a light can be put on the fire station wall.</li> </ul>
64/2025	<p><u>Highways walk-around update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllrs Allinson and Attar, County Councillor T Fenton and District Councillor A Smith walked around with OCC highways Chris Grain; he took notes of all our issues and asked councillors to report any major capital issues via his email address, however, residents are reminded other issues will get actioned quicker if photos and accurate locations are included on Fix My Street when reporting.</li> </ul>
65/2025	<p><u>NALC model financial regulations:</u> These were reviewed and adopted.</p>
66/2025	<p><u>Section 106 Public Art funding:</u> Section 106 funding for obelisk and tree of life projects have been agreed, leaving a further £552 available funding outstanding with a deadline of 19th March 2025; it was agreed that if we cannot come up with a project for £552 within a week we may have to lose this portion of money and focus on projects for the next tranche of section 106 money; suggestion to find someone to record the project as it unfolds for £552.</p>
67/2025	<p><u>Feedback from RAF Brize Norton airbase meeting:</u> Cllrs Allinson and Cutler attended; they were given background on what has been happening at RAF base; noise abatement issues; if we hear roaring after 6pm then we should report it as they are not allowed to use their reverse thrusters on landing after this time; noted that the airbase flooded in November from local housing development so RAF have held discussions with developers and are also holding a flooding meeting to which we have been invited. Cllr Allinson to attend.</p>
68/2025	<p><u>Initial payments for commissioned artworks from previous Section 106 monies received:</u> Payment already agreed for obelisk; agreed to ask tree sculpturer if he needs up-front payment, as he has not invoiced us yet.</p>

The meeting closed at 9.40pm. The next meeting is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

Signed..... Dated.....

**ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING/S:**

Taylor Wimpey re. village entrance planters. ON GOING.	SM
Online cemetery map to be checked. ON GOING as is weather dependant.	JA Clerk
Electric charging points enquiries. ON GOING	GA
FB post re town twinning. ON GOING	JA
Contact Cala Homes management company to install noticeboard. ON GOING	PF
Abandoned vehicle on Bridge Street. ON GOING	GA
Update sign at play park re. info on nearest phone. It was thought the pay phone will be removed from the phone box in the Market Square.	GS

**NEW ACTIONS FROM THIS MEETING:**

Unauthorised gate access from a back garden into Mercury Play Park - write to the resident.	GS
TOSCC rental review	RS Clerk
Location of memorial sapling in cemetery hedge	JA
Join TVP KIN network	GS
Confirm 30 <sup>th</sup> April date and TOSCC booking for Annual Parish meeting	Clerk
Flood project funding expression of interest	JA AC
Request OCC/WODC light for sand bunker	AC
S.106 £552 public arts project to record obelisk production	AC
Request initial invoice from tree sculpture, if required.	JA