

Welford • Hoe Benham • Easton  
*Welford Parish Council*  
Weston • Wickham • Halfway

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at  
7:50pm in Wickham Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllr Henry Burgoyne-Probyn (Chair), Cllr Martyne Ellard (Vice Chair) and Sam Kynaston

**In attendance** Angela Boyce (Clerk), District Councillor Denise Gaines and 1 member of the public.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Councillors Paul Stanley, Sam Bell and District Councillors Tony Vickers and Dennis Benneyworth.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest.** There were none.
3. **To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.** RESOLVED the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025**
  - 4.1 Bus Shelter at Wickham. The clerk noted, installation was delayed due to unexpected groundworks costs of £3478.63. The Parish Council declined the additional charge. West Berkshire Council will cover the full cost. Installation is expected in January, date TBC.  
Actions: Final position to be marked out and photographed. Councillors to meet to confirm the position, Clerk to confirm contractor schedule.
5. **OPEN FORUM.** No issues were raised by members of the public.
6. **Correspondence received after the agenda was published.** There was nothing received.
7. **Reports**
  - 7.1 **District Councillor's Report** Cllr Gaines discussed budget pressures, and spoke about the Lets Talk, drop in sessions, being held by WBC. Where residents can speak to someone face-to-face to get advice and find help about a council service, filling in forms, or just need some guidance. <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/lets-talk>.
  - 7.2 **Chair's Report** The Chair noted there had been a significant increase in fly-tipping in the parish, tyres, bedding and a fridge. West Berkshire Council responded promptly. There was a discussion on deterrents, tip booking system, and adding the issue to Parish Plan. He also noted vegetation had been cut and dumped on land adjacent to the common in Weston.
  - 7.3 **Clerk's Report.** The clerk noted, she has taken the map out of the noticeboard at Easton and it requires to be moved. The Clerk noted, the defibrillator at Weston needs to be moved from the existing location. She has sought an alternative location in the village and requires permission from the owner and an electrician to move it.

- 8. **Grant request from Welford Cricket Club for a defibrillator.** There was a discussion, the PC agreed to a grant of £250.
- 9. **1977 Jubilee bench at Weston.** There was a discussion regarding the Jubilee bench at Weston. The Chair and Clerk to investigate ownership.
- 10. **Litter bin on Wickham playing field** There was a discussion about reinstating the litter bin collection on Wickham playing field. The clerk to investigate who previously maintained the bin.
- 11. **Compliance with Assertion 10 (Digital & Data Standards)** The clerk noted, the policies and procedures will be ready for the March meeting. She will also obtain quotes for .gov.uk email addresses.
- 12. **Planning Applications**
  - 25/02862/HOUSE** Elton House, Weston, Newbury, RG20 8JG Construction of a garden room. No objections.
  - 25/02517/FUL** Echo Barn, Elton Farm, Weston, Newbury RG20 8JG. Application under section 73-A, for Retrospective Planning Consent, for domestic garden landscaping works and means of enclosure, including the minor extension of the residential curtilage. The PC objected to the application.
  - 25/02720/FULMAJ** - Adjacent Parish Harry Derham Racing, Upper Farm Boxford RG20 8BR Section 73A: Vary condition 9 'scheme of landscaping', 22 'landscape and ecological management plan', 23 'updated ecological appraisal', 24 'bat mitigation strategy', 25 'biodiversity monitoring strategy', 27 'external lighting' and 29 'biodiversity mitigation and enhancement' of planning permission 21/02529/COMIND (Fully retrospective: Proposed change of use from agricultural to new equine facility (racehorse training and stabling) for 45No horses, including the installation of associated car park, all storm water and foul water drainage, and new landscaping. The installation of new entrance gates within existing vehicular access and gallops. Refurbishment of existing former farm buildings, demolition of existing hay barn, erection of new stable building, horse walker and lunge pen). The PC had no comment.

**11.2 Decisions** There were none.

**11.3 Planning applications and decisions received after the agenda has been published.** There were none.

**13. Finance – The following payments and receipts were approved**

**10.1 Payments**

30/12/2025	Clerks salary December	481.75
30/12/2025	BIBBY - Dog Waste bins December	88.4
16/12/2025	Bank Service charges	4.25
04/12/2025	RBL - Poppy wreaths	66
04/12/2025	Clerks salary November	493.18
04/12/2025	BIBBY - Dog Waste bins November	88.4

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18/11/2025 Bank Service charges 4.25

**10.2 Receipts**

10/11/2025 Interest received 2.19

09/12/2025 Interest received 1.99

**14. Budget 2026/27 To discuss and approve the Budget for 2026/27.** The Budget was agreed for 2026/27 at £24738.46.

**15. Precept 2026/27 To discuss and approve the Precept for 2026/27.** The Parish Council agreed there would be no change to the precept for 2026/27. The figure was agreed at £12428.00

**16. Parish Plan update.** The PC agreed to have a parish plan meeting via zoon on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

**Close of meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:25pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm in Wickham Village Hall.