Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Parish Office on Thursday 8th September 2026

Present:

Phil Bean (PB)	P	Sarah Brown (SB)	NP
Louise Eddy (LE)	NP	Jordan Fox (JF)	P
Martin Keyte (MK)	P	Francesca Maritan-Hawkins (FMH)	P
Les Orvis (LO)	P	Cathy Robinson (CR) **- CHAIR**	PP
James Rowlands (JR)	P		

Present (P) Not Present (NP) Part Present (PP)

Also Present: Kate Hope, Parish Clerk/RFO (Clerk)
Judith Lillis, Finance Officer (FO)
Cllr Paul Miller, Hampshire County Council
Cllr Kate Tuck and Cllr Sheena Grassi, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council
Two members of the public

1. *FMH Chaired the beginning of the meeting as CR had not arrived at the meeting.*

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from LE who was on holiday.

2. **Declarations of Interests and Requests for Dispensations**

None declared or requested.

3. **Public Participation**

A member of the public addressed the Council to pay tribute to Derek Kearns, former Chairman of Old Basing Parish Council, who passed away in July 2026 aged 96.

The speaker reflected on Mr Kearns' significant contributions to the parish, including his work as an architect, the design of Old Basing Village Hall, his service as Parish Council Chairman from 1990 to 1996, and his involvement in local community projects and campaigns. Mr Kearns was remembered for his dedication to the village, leadership, and commitment to public service.

Members thanked the speaker for sharing the tribute and their personal recollections of Mr Kearns. It was agreed that a copy of the written remembrance would be published alongside the meeting papers on the Council's website.

CR arrived at 19.35.

4. Members received the minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 6th August 2026.

DECISION: RESOLVED to accept the minutes as an accurate reflection of the events which took place at the Full Parish Council Meeting held on 6th August 2026.

5. **Updates from County & Ward Councillors**

Borough Councillor Kate Tuck reported on the Government's decision to pause the proposed local government reorganisation for Hampshire. Whilst the devolution programme and proposed mayoral authority are expected to continue; the future structure of local government remains uncertain. It was noted that local elections are expected to proceed as normal in May 2027.

Members also heard that delays in obtaining water infrastructure evidence have required the Borough Council to restart work on its Local Plan under the new planning framework, with a revised timetable of approximately three years.

Local matters raised by Borough Councillor Sheena Grassi included action taken regarding an abandoned trailer on Swing Swang Lane and reports of rough sleeping in the parish area. An update was also provided on the Daneshill Woods working group, which has attracted volunteer interest. Councillors discussed the forthcoming move to fortnightly refuse collections and the ongoing challenges affecting progress on the Borough's Local Plan.

The County Councillor provided an update following a meeting with Hampshire County Council's Executive Member for Highways. Members were encouraged to continue reporting highway defects through the County Council/FixMyStreet reporting systems, as evidence-based reporting remains the most effective means of securing action.

A discussion took place regarding speeding concerns within the parish, including on Great Binfields Road and the A30 corridor. The County Councillor advised that any proposals for speed limit changes would require supporting evidence, police involvement and funding, potentially through developer contributions where appropriate. The Parish Council also noted progress with the installation of Speed Indicator Devices at approved locations around the village.

6. Chair's Report

Advice from the Parish Council's planning consultants to continue progressing the Neighbourhood Plan as a priority was noted, despite the delays to the Borough Local Plan due to concerns over water supply capacity. Members noted the potential for increased speculative development in the absence of an adopted plan and it was noted that although the Neighbourhood Plan cannot determine housing numbers or allocations, it remains an important planning document and may provide some protection while a replacement Local Plan is prepared.

Feedback from a recent meeting with the local MP and the implications for future development management were discussed.

The Chairman also reported ongoing uncertainty regarding local government reorganisation and devolution arrangements within Hampshire. Members agreed to continue monitoring developments.

7. Council Finances

7.1. Members reviewed the **budget monitoring report** and discussed several income and expenditure forecasts, including bowls club charges, cemetery income and rental income from the Groundsman's Cottage. It was noted that cemetery income was currently forecast to exceed budget, reflecting higher than anticipated usage. Members also noted the tenants' notice to vacate the Groundsman's Cottage and were advised that provisions were made within the budget to manage any associated costs, including a potential void period between tenancies.

7.2. The Council considered the schedule of payments over £100 for August 2026 and raised no objections.

DECISION: RESOLVED to agree the schedule of payments over £100 for August 2026.

7.3. The bank reconciliation for August 2026 was reviewed and noted, with Members satisfied that the accounts had been reconciled correctly.

8. Council Insurance Policy

The Council considered a report on the annual renewal of its insurance arrangements under the existing three-year long-term agreement. Members noted that there were no significant changes to the policy cover and that the Council's asset register and property revaluations had been incorporated into the renewal process.

The report also included details of the Council's cyber insurance renewal. Members noted that the combined insurance costs were slightly above the current budget provision but that this could be managed within existing budgets.

DECISION: RESOLVED to approve the renewal of both the Council's main insurance policy and cyber insurance cover for 2026/27 under the existing three-year Long-Term Agreement and approve payment of the premiums of £10,350.06 and £374.80 respectively.

9. Grant Application

The Council received a presentation from a representative of the Old Basing & Lychpit Village Show Committee in support of a grant application for £500 towards the purchase of replacement tables for the show's refreshment area.

Members heard that the 2026 Village Show had been particularly successful, attracting the highest number of entrants since 2010 and the highest attendance since 2019. The existing tables used for serving refreshments were described as no longer fit for purpose and presenting a potential health and safety concern. It was also noted that the new tables could potentially be shared with the Village Hall for wider community use.

Members were reminded that the committee had previously been encouraged to seek support through the Parish Council's grant budget rather than through CIL funding.

DECISION: RESOLVED unanimously to award a grant of £500 to the Old Basing & Lychpit Village Show Committee for the purchase of the new tables.

10. Councillor Training

The Council received a new councillor training record and details of forthcoming training opportunities. Members were encouraged to undertake relevant training, particularly in finance and planning. The importance of ongoing councillor development was noted, and members discussed the availability of bespoke Hampshire ALC training and potential in-house training on the Council's digital systems.

DECISION: RESOLVED that councillor training updates should be reviewed periodically to ensure Members remain aware of available opportunities and completed training records. Members thanked the Clerk for establishing the training record system and for the ongoing development of the Council's SharePoint resources.

11. Committees & Working Groups

11.1 The Council considered the Speed Indicator Device (SID) Policy and Deployment Plan, which had been prepared following receipt of the required licence from Hampshire County Council. It was agreed that the documents would support the installation and use of the device.

Members agreed that the primary value of the SID would be in gathering traffic speed and vehicle volume data to support the work of the Traffic Working Group and provide an evidence base for future traffic management initiatives. It was noted that the data would help assess whether perceived speeding concerns reflected actual traffic conditions.

Members discussed whether the device could be moved between locations more frequently to accelerate data collection. It was noted that the operation and relocation of the SID would be undertaken by the Council's grounds contractor, with associated costs to be confirmed and incorporated into future contract arrangements.

Members also noted ongoing work by the Traffic Working Group to collate evidence relating to traffic issues at Milkingpen Lane. An update was provided on measures being taken by the local school to encourage considerate parking, including communication with parents and on-site monitoring at peak times.

DECISION: RESOLVED to adopt the Speed Indicator Device Policy and Deployment Plan as presented.

11.2 Members noted the **decisions issued by the Local Planning Authority** since the last meeting.

11.3 Members noted the **planning applications considered under delegated authority** since the last meeting.

12. The Council received the **Monthly Monitoring Report**. Members noted that the public toilets maintenance contract had been issued and arrangements were in hand for execution of the agreement. An update was provided on CIL-funded projects, including completion of the Village Hall floor works. Members were advised that works to the beech tree at Bellevue Recreation Ground remained outstanding but were scheduled to be completed alongside other maintenance works. No further matters were raised.

13. **Date of Next Meeting -** Tuesday, 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm, Parish Office

14. **Confidential Matters**

Members to RESOLVE to exclude the press and public from the meeting in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and Standing Orders 3(d)

Members noted that the 2026/27 Local Government Services pay award had been agreed. The Council confirmed that staff salaries should be updated in line with contractual provisions, including backdating the increase to 1 April 2026 and applying the revised rates to any eligible overtime payments. It was noted that provision had been made within the staffing budget for the increase.

Meeting ended at 9.02pm

SIGNED:..... DATED:.....