

BROAD HINTON AND WINTERBOURNE BASSETT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

In the Broad Hinton Village Hall,
Tuesday 19 May 2026, 7.00pm

MINUTES

Councillors present: Adrian Smith (AS) (Chair)
Adam Gilmore (AG) (Vice-Chair)
Candace Gaisford (CG)
Damian Le Gresley (DL)
Louise Skillen (LS)
Liz Moakes (LM)
Tony Iles (TI)
David Conroy (DC)

Cllr Allison Bucknall (AB) (Wiltshire Council)

Peter Barry (PB) (Clerk)

1. Introduction, Quorum & Declaration of Interests

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and the meeting was declared quorate. The Chair stated that this year the Annual Parish Meeting would take on a very different form, in that it would include not only the normal Annual Reports, but also reports from Community Groups. The Agenda would therefore consist of the following:

- Agreement and signing off of the Minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting.
- Annual Report and Statement from the Chair
- Financial Report from the Clerk
- An update and statement from the Wiltshire Council representative
- Updates from Community Groups
- A Question and Answer session
- Refreshments and general discussion

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7 May 2024

The Minutes of the 13 May 2025 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a true copy by the Chair.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

4. Annual Parish Report

The Chair's annual summary of events during the period of the last year are as under:

Good evening, and welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. It is a pleasure to see so many community groups represented here this evening. Before reviewing the year I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, our Clerk Peter Barry, and Councillor Allison Bucknell for everything they have contributed.

The Council

The year opened with the local elections in May 2025, at which I was honoured to be elected as Chair and Adam Gilmore was re-elected as Vice Chair. Liz Moakes joined as a newly elected member and quickly became the driving force behind our Emergency Planning work. Ade Rudler was co-opted in July 2025 and has brought a valuable focus on environmental matters.

Sadly, Jim Gunter resigned from the Council in November 2025 after more than ten years of outstanding service, including a period as Vice Chair. Jim's contribution has been immense — from highways and footpaths to the early groundwork of the Neighbourhood Development Plan — and he will be greatly missed. The Council wishes him all the very best for the future. His vacancy was filled in March 2026 by the co-option of David Conroy, whom I warmly welcome.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been the defining project of the year. The Regulation 14 public consultation ran from March to April 2025, opening with a well-attended Village Hall event and generating twenty-nine responses from residents, organisations, and statutory consultees. The Steering Group worked through the summer to address every comment; Regulation 15 documents were finalised and submitted to Wiltshire Council; and the Regulation 16 consultation followed in January and February 2026, attracting a further twenty-five representations. We are now at the Regulation 17 examination stage, with an independent inspector having visited the villages and issued initial questions. A referendum is expected in July or August of this year, and I very much hope the community will support the Plan. My sincere thanks go to Cllrs Adam Gilmore, Damian Le Gresley, Liz Moakes, Ade Rudler and the entire Steering Group for their extraordinary and sustained effort on behalf of us all.

Road Safety

Wiltshire Council has approved a reduction in the speed limit on the A4361 at Gadbourne Bends to 50 miles per hour, and the Council has reserved its contribution towards the cost of that change, though we are still awaiting implementation of the new signage. Our Community Speedwatch team has been operating successfully throughout the year, and a Speed Indicator Device is now installed in Yew Tree Lane. The Council has also been engaging with Wiltshire Council on the possibility of 20mph signs near the school, and I hope to report further progress on that in due course.

Emergency Planning

Liz Moakes has built an impressive foundation for a comprehensive Emergency Plan. An Emergency Committee has been established, community hubs have been identified in each village, and a productive meeting has been held with the Village Hall committee. Work continues on auxiliary power and support for vulnerable residents. The foundations are firmly in place.

Village Hall, Environment, and the Villages

The Council made a grant towards the Village Hall's new heating system, which was installed in February 2026 and is working well. Adam Gilmore continues to serve as the Council's

representative on the Village Hall board. On the environmental front, Ade Rudler has been progressing ground nesting bird signage and maintaining good relations with local farmers, while Candace Gaisford and Ade have taken on the footpath and rights of way brief left by Jim Gunter. Our village clean-up in March 2026 saw lots of volunteers turn out across all three villages — I hope to see this repeated annually.

Looking Ahead

A new Strategic Planning Group has set out the Council's vision: to protect the rural character of the parish, use the Precept wisely, listen to residents, and support the voluntary and community efforts that make our villages what they are. The Neighbourhood Plan referendum, children's amenity improvements, and continued emergency preparedness work are at the top of the agenda for the year ahead.

It has been a privilege to chair this Council during such an active year. Our parishes are fortunate in having so many residents willing to give their time, and it is that collective effort — exemplified by the groups gathered here this evening — that makes Broad Hinton, Winterbourne Bassett, and Uffcott such fine places to live. Thank you

5. Finance Update

The Clerk gave a report on the Annual Financial Situation as under.

Good evening. As the Chair's report has outlined, this has been an active year for the Council. I am pleased to provide a summary of the Council's finances for the 2025-2026 financial year, covering 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the guidance for local councils and have been independently audited. The Council carries no debt and has made no borrowings.

Where the Money Came From

The Council's primary source of income is the Precept — the portion of your council tax that Wiltshire Council collects on our behalf. For 2025-2026, the Precept was just under £16K, equivalent to £40.97 per Band D household for the full year — roughly 79 pence per week. In addition, we received a VAT refund of just over £4,000 relating to prior year expenditure which the Council is entitled to reclaim, together with a small amount of bank interest.

Total receipts **£20,639**

How We Spent It

Total payments for the year came to just under £19K, leaving a year-end balance of £16K plus — an improvement on our opening balance of £14½ K. Our spending falls into three broad areas.

Running the Council accounted for around £7½ K. This covers the Parish Clerk's salary and tax, expenses, IT systems, insurance, subscriptions, audit fees, and Village Hall hire for our meetings — the unavoidable costs of operating as a properly governed council.

Direct community investment accounted for just over £7,000 and is where spending is most visible and where the Council has made a direct decision to spend. Three projects stand out. The Speed Indicator Device installed on Yew Tree Lane, described in the Chair's report, cost £2,830, funded

from a reserve built specifically for that purpose. The Council also made a grant of £2,500 to the Broad Hinton Village Hall towards its new heating system, installed in February 2026. And we replaced the Winterbourne Bassett defibrillator, which had developed a fault, at a cost of £1,729. All three defibrillators are now on a managed maintenance contract and in full working order.

Neighbourhood Development Plan expenditure amounted to just over £1½K, covering professional consultancy fees, Village Hall hire for community events, and printing costs. As the Chair described, this is an investment in the future of our three villages. The remaining expenditure includes the £500 election administration fee paid to Wiltshire Council and VAT on purchases, the majority of which will be reclaimed in next year's accounts.

Our Reserves

Reserves are funds set aside deliberately for specific future purposes — they are not uncommitted savings. At the year end the Council held just over £9K in earmarked reserves alongside a general fund of £7K plus, giving a total balance of £16,361.

The Highways reserve of £2,820 covers two planned projects: £875 set aside as the Council's agreed contribution to the sorting out of speed limits on the A4361 — ready and waiting for Wiltshire Council to implement it — and a further £1,000 reserved for a new bus stop shelter at the Uffcott bus stop on the main road, with the remainder held for future highways needs. Other significant reserves include £1,253 for the Neighbourhood Development Plan's remaining stages, £1,204 for defibrillator maintenance and replacement, and £600 in the Emergency Fund to support the emergency planning work described in the Chair's report.

The Year Ahead

Looking into the future, the Council is mindful of the need to control costs. We will continue with our strategic spending plan which sets out how every pound of reserve is allocated. Planned expenditure for the year totals £12,353 and includes the main road speed limit contribution, the replacement of the Post Office Lane notice board, gate improvements on local footpaths, a contribution towards a battery storage system for the Village Hall to support emergency planning (this was later changed to a contribution towards a new projector system), a new set of benches at key viewpoints, planters for Winterbourne Bassett and Uffcott, and continued funding for the Neighbourhood Development Plan as it moves towards referendum. After all planned spending, the Council expects to retain an effective reserve of just over £4,000 as a prudent financial buffer.

So in summary the Council's financial position remains sound. Every pound is accounted for, everything is planned, and there is no debt. A full copy of the accounts is available from the Parish Clerk on request. Thank you.

6. Report from Wiltshire Councillor

Councillor Allison Bucknell reported on the following from the Wiltshire Council perspective:

- This is the time of year when all Parish Councils hold their Annual Parish Meetings and she hopes to join as many as possible and, as the Wiltshire Council rep, meet as many people as possible.

- Following the elections in May 2025, Wiltshire Council has moved to a position of 'No Overall Control'. A new administration has been voted in and the Council is now run by the Liberal Democrats with support from Independents and occasionally Labour
- This has been a challenging year with the administration bringing forward its budget, alongside a 3-year forecast. There are serious concerns about the following items:
 - Plans for a 3-weekly bin collections
 - The re-build of St Stephen's car Park in Trowbridge
 - Significant increases in car parking charges
 - Ceasing funding for Community Transport, including the Link schemes
 - £20 million of new borrowing, contributing to more than £76 million in long term costs
- The Cabinet voted to close both Household Re-Cycling Centres in the north of the County. However after a U-turn there has been a stay of execution on these closures, whilst an alternative site is found. Also it was agreed that the decision to cut community transport was a mistake and funds have been found to continue this.
- AB and her colleagues have been pointing out the flaws in the various proposals and they remain concerned that that the approved budget will lead to service reductions and harm to the local economy.
- There is an ongoing concern about the state of the roads and the number of potholes and all should continue to report on the MyWilts web site. If problems persist, all are asked to escalate through the Parish Clerk, with whom she is in contact. Having said that a degree of progress has been made on minor roads and the re-surfacing of the Winterbourne Bassett road is an example of this. Glad to say that the sorting of the 50 mph changes requested by this Council will take place shortly.
- AB is concerned about the rejection of the Wiltshire Draft Local Plan by the Government Inspectors following nationally imposed changes that have increased the County's target by 81%. This has created a degree of uncertainty and increases the risk of speculative planning applications. The Council faces restarting a very complex and costly plan making process which is likely to take a number of years.
- The Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett Neighbourhood Plan has gone extremely well and has enormous increased importance when taking into account the state of the Local plan. At the opposite end of the scale is Lyneham which is under siege with large scale developments taking place and several new applications will yet to be determined. Whilst new development is to be welcomed it has to come without putting extra stress on local councils and things like medical provision.
- AB will keep the Council updated over the coming months on this important issue.
- Thanks to all Parish Councils and Community Groups who continue to work tirelessly to keep the villages vibrant and ensure they remain wonderful place to live in.
- Very many thanks to all of you.

7. Reports from Community Groups

The Chair thanked AB very much for her informative and frank presentation. He stated that the Meeting would now move into a different area with short presentations being given by a number of Community Groups who were active in our villages. The following gave presentations:

Broad Hinton Church Building Trust	Chris Wilson
Broad Hinton Community Speed Watch	Adam Gilmore
Broad Hinton Farmer's Market Association	Claire Le Gresley
Broad Hinton Village Hall	Nick Moakes
Broad Hinton Primary School and Friends	Elizabeth Floyd
Broad Hinton Youth Club	Jeannie McLeod
Local News	Liz Moakes
Phil's Shed	Simon Harris
Ridgeway Ladies and Tuesday Coffee Morning	Marilyn Martin, Geoff Martin
St Katherine's and St Peter Ad Vincula Churches	Claire Stiles
The Crown	Erin Williams
White Horse Cricket Club	Chris Ladd

The Chair thanked each of the Groups and noted that there were two themes which seemed present in almost every group. These were:

- Most groups were looking at ways to increase and augment their finances
- There was a desire to bring younger people into these groups. Too often they were kept going by those well into old age.

The following Groups also had stands at the Meeting but did not present:

Selkley Shutters Photographic Club
Winterbourne Bassett Community Pub
Allotment Society
Broad Hinton Amateur Dramatics Society

8. Questions from the Floor

The Chair stated that we had now reached the point where questions could be asked. He suggested the questions could be asked of any who had presented or residents. In the event there was just one:

A resident asked if any thought had been given to reducing the speed limit through the villages to 20mph as had happened in many other villages in Oxfordshire.

This question was answered by both AB and AG. They both stated that the starting point for implementing this change would require a traffic survey. A number of criteria had to be met if this change was to be made and it was uncertain whether BH in particular would meet the limits set. AG said that the Council had recently requested traffic surveys in Winterbourne Bassett High Street and Broad Hinton High Street.

9. Open Floor and Refreshments

The Chair thanked all for their participation and suggested all now partake of the refreshments that were had been set up in the kitchen. He also asked that if any had ideas of how this new format of the meeting could be improved, they make contact with the Parish Clerk. With some

50 people attending the Meeting, there was a great deal of discussion as people met the Community Groups. The Meeting closed at 9.40pm.

10. Date of next Annual Parish Meeting

No date was agreed for the Annual Parish Meeting in 2027, but for planning purposes it was suggested that Monday 17 May 2027 be considered.