

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Juniper House, Aldermaston, RG7 4LJ

Email: woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com

Tel: 07877 122 127

Extraordinary Meeting Minutes

11th February 2026

7.45pm, Hosted virtually via Zoom meeting

This meeting will be conducted strictly in accordance with Standing Orders as adopted by Council in July 2017. All Councillors are reminded to acquaint themselves with these Standing Orders.

Councillors: Sean Garden, Ben Holden-Crowther, Laurence Harwood, Cheryl Springer

Members of Public: 0

1. To receive apologies

Malcolm Large

Jack Lovell

2. To receive declarations of interest

It was noted that Cllr Harwood is a church warden and that Cllr Holden-Crowther's children are at the school.

3. Discussion of Precept budget for 2026/2027

The precept and draft budget were considered in detail, with councillors reviewing the document line by line. Each income and expenditure heading was examined, and clarification sought where required. Members discussed the rationale behind individual allocations, including anticipated costs for ongoing commitments and projected works, and considered the overall impact on the parish precept.

Discussion took place regarding the Wasing Field. It was noted that the field remains a valued community asset and continues to be of benefit to the parish, including use for the annual duck race and for parking in support of the Rotary Club event. Members agreed that its ongoing availability for community use is important.

Councillors were advised of a leak at the Village Hall which had resulted in significant billing issues, including the receipt of an invoice in the region of £14,000. It was confirmed that the matter has now been properly investigated and the leak rectified. In light of this, it was suggested and agreed that the existing budgeted amount for allotment water payments to the Village Hall should remain unchanged.

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The budget line relating to bus shelters was queried. Whilst it is understood that maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council, there is currently some uncertainty as to who holds the existing contract and who is undertaking the work.

ACTION – Clerk to follow up with the previous Clerk to clarify arrangements.

Donation amounts were reviewed and, in the main, left unchanged. It was proposed that the donation to the school be increased to bring it in line with the other regular donations; this was put to a vote and carried, with Cllr Holden-Crowther abstaining.

Gritting expenditure was also discussed, noting that there had been an overspend against the allocated budget for FY25/26. Members agreed to retain the current budget provision, acknowledging that, should it be necessary, any shortfall could be met from other available Council funds.

Resolved that the parish council approve the 2026–27 budget and set the precept at £26,000.

4. To record meeting closed

20:25