

WOOLHAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Juniper House, Aldermaston, RG7 4LJ
Email: woolhamptonclerk@gmail.com
Tel: 07877 122 127

Minutes 20th July 2026 7.45pm, Woolhampton Village Hall

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.

District Councillor: Chris Read

Councillors: Malcolm Large, Cheryl Springer, Jack Lovell

Members of Public: 2

1. To receive apologies

Ben Holden-Crowther
Laurence Harwood
Brian Chick
Sean Garden

2. To receive declarations of interest

There were none

3. Confirmation of the accuracy of the minutes of the last meeting of the Council

The minutes were agreed and signed for records

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

Five Acres/Lear Site

It was noted that the letter regarding the site is believed to have been sent on 6th June and that no response has been received after more than a month. Members discussed whether the letter should be resent, with copies provided to District Cllr Read and Democratic Services, who may be able to assist in obtaining a response.

ACTION – District Cllr Read to follow up with West Berkshire Council.

Lorry parking at Cods Hill

Cllr Lovell reported that he had spoken with a Crown Court Judge, who had confirmed that there is no legislation preventing the use of drone footage. Members questioned whether West Berkshire Council could clarify the legislation or guidance it is relying upon in advising that drone footage should not be used.

Members considered that drone imagery could be useful in providing evidence of potential issues, particularly given the limited enforcement resources available. It was noted that imagery taken from an appropriate height would not allow individuals to be identified.

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Footpaths

Members noted that this matter requires further discussion.

ACTION – Cllrs Large and Lovell to discuss the matter separately and report back.

Standing orders

The Council's Standing Orders were formally adopted.

Allotments

It was reported that all allotment plots are now occupied, following work undertaken by Cllr Chick.

Members discussed the condition of the area outside the allotment fencing. Malcolm has been in contact with a contractor regarding strimming the weeds at a reasonable cost. A request had also been received from a member of the public regarding the strimming of the area outside the allotment fence.

ACTION – Cllr Garden to follow up with Brabazons to establish whether this work can be included within their contract.

SID/VAS Devices

Licence has been granted. Emma has recommended one with Westco tech. Around It was reported that the required licence has now been granted.

Members discussed the recommended SID device from Westco. The cost is approximately £3,200 plus VAT, although the total cost is expected to be approximately £5,000 once installation and associated costs are included. Assistance will be required with the procurement process and arrangements for making the funding available.

It was agreed that Cllr Springer would assist two members of the public who have volunteered to manage the unit and move it between locations.

Members discussed the proposed locations for the device and the limitations on suitable sites due to traffic lights, existing speed cameras, visibility and other considerations. Duncan has already had two locations approved and is looking at identifying additional sites. Potential locations discussed included one on the route out of the village and another approximately 100 yards beyond the Angel, past Watermill Court.

Members were invited to suggest any further suitable locations. It was noted that the data collected could be useful in understanding vehicle speeds, including the impact of heavy goods vehicles travelling only slightly above the speed limit.

Members discussed the installation arrangements and whether the device would need to be covered under the Parish Council's insurance or West Berkshire Council's

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arrangements. District Cllr Read advised that the unit should be taken inside overnight or have its battery removed.

It was noted that West Berkshire Council would charge for installation. Members discussed whether a similar arrangement to Bucklebury could be used, with a stand being constructed and secured by a chain. A fixed installation may be preferable but would restrict the ability to move the device between locations.

Members also discussed whether the device measures actual vehicle speed or speedometer speed.

ACTION – Clerk to assist with procurement of the SID device.

5. To receive/review and Planning Applications

5.1 26/01148/CERTP

No further update was provided.

6. District Councillor's Report

District Cllr Read gave his report, which will be uploaded to the Parish Council website.

It was also noted that a petition relating to Station Road has been raised. District Cllr Read offered to assist with gathering further support, including knocking on doors and using a clipboard at the Rowbarge.

7. Bank Reconciliation

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Woolhampton Clerk's Report - 20/07/2026		
Balance on 15 June 2026	£103,001.32	
	Payments	Receipts
Income		
Allotments		£45.00
Payments		
Service Charges	£4.75	
E Brewer (June)	£336.48	
Bridget Knight	£160.00	
Brabazons (June)	£727.99	
E Brewer (July)	£336.48	
Bibby (Bins)	£47.94	
Village Hall	£36.00	
West Berks (Salting)	£873.11	
	£2,522.75	£45.00
Balance on 20 July 2026	£100,523.57	

Members discussed the cost of salting and queried whether the amount charged was higher than expected.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate the salting costs.

It was also noted that follow-up was required with Brabazons.

ACTION – Clerk to check with Cllr Garden regarding his follow-up with Brabazons.

Members discussed online banking arrangements and agreed that this should be set up with Cllr Large.

It was agreed that a breakdown of the Council's CIL funds should be prepared. Cllrs Large and Harwood will meet again as a sub-committee to consider the position.

8. Any Other Business

Parking Outside the Village Shop

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No significant update was available. Correspondence from Dorothy had been circulated and Cllr Lovell will provide a further update.

Train crossing

The Clerk shared an email from a resident to Cllr Harwood and his response to West Berkshire Council, which was read to the meeting. Cllr Harwood had been contacted by a member of the public regarding concerns that the alarm was not sounding at the pedestrian railway crossing at the end of the track running alongside their land.

Members briefly discussed the matter and noted that the surface of the crossing has improved, it was noted that Cllr Harwood's correspondence addressed the issues raised.

Wasing paths

Members were advised that Wasing has rescinded the permissive footpaths around the lakes and that a member of the public had been advised that they should no longer use these paths.

It was also noted that the permissive path cannot currently be walked due to fallen trees. The issue has previously been reported via the West Berkshire Council website, although there was concern that it may not be addressed quickly.

Members noted that the route has apparently not been a formal footpath for some time but is used by a number of villagers as part of a circular walk.

The presence of private "no access" signs was also discussed, although it was unclear who the signs were intended to apply to.

Cllr Lovell reported that the Environment Agency/River Thames had taped off benches in the area due to safety concerns.

ACTION – District Cllr Read to review the map and establish the current status of the paths. The matter may then be followed up with a letter to the relevant countryside team and/or landowner.

9. To record meeting closed

20:40