



**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
held on 8 September 2025
at 7.00pm in the Village Hall**

Those Present:

L Heren (Chair), S Wise, P Chilton, S Longo, A Bone, C Trought, J Durrant and M Bowsher. Also present were Peter Wragg and five members of the public.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Sonya McMillan, P Shaw, J Parsons and J Bolden.

2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

A resident from Bowden Hill asked if there were any plans to slow down the traffic on Bowden Hill from the Abbey bridge to The Bell and beyond. There is no pavement for pedestrians to use and school children waiting for the bus are put in danger as they have to wait on the corner of Bewley Lane/Bowden Hill, especially with the winter months approaching when the mornings are dark. The Chair explained about the interventions which have been installed and there are more speed humps in the pipeline for Bowden Hill; enforcement could be an option. It was suggested that the school children be asked to make "Slow Down" signs and 'Twenty is Plenty' was discussed. Enforcement from police was discussed. LH agreed to contact police to request presence. **LH ACTION 9/25-1**

A parishioner spoke about the speed of traffic through Reybridge especially during the morning and afternoon rush hours. The parish council has asked Melksham Without Parish Council to provide traffic figures, and where the traffic is coming from the new housing estates in Melksham and using Lacock as a short cut. The parishioner was assured that the matter will be taken up by the **Highways Task Team ACTION 9/25-2**

3 CARPENTERS ARMS – UPDATE:

The owner of the Carpenters Arms spoke to the meeting about his vision for the building and the pushback he has received from Wiltshire Council. The wooden building abutting Watlings has no historic value in the wooden structure and he would like to rebuild it. It is still his intention to renovate and refurbish the building. Peter Wragg agreed to get together with the owner to discuss way forward with Alex Marsh, Senior Conservation Officer at Wiltshire Council.

PETER WRAGG ACTION 9/25-3

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Wragg", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS:

There were none.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed (CT/JD) that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2025 be signed as a true record.

6 UPDATE FROM MINUTES:

ACTIONS 1 2 4 6 7 – outstanding as PS was on holiday.

ACTIONS 5 & 9 - ????

ACTIONS 3 8 10 11 – discharged.

7 PETER WRAGG – UPDATE:

PW advised that finance in Wiltshire Council is a big issue at the moment and issues are being looked into by the auditors.

PW was involved with the planters outside school and the village shop issue at the beginning of June and the matter was all sorted in 10 weeks.

8 NATIONAL TRUST UPDATE:

The NT update was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and the content was noted; and the following was raised:

- i) What plans are there for Cantax House?
- ii) The dog bin at the bottom of path across Nethercote/Wicket Gate cottage – needs to be emptied regularly. Also the bin needs a repair.
- iii) The general rubbish bin between the Red Lion Car Park/playing field by the public convenience – a bin liner has been placed over the bin and people are leaving rubbish at the side of the bin.
- iv) Have you any plans for the play equipment to be upgraded? So that items can be reused at Corsham Road play park as agreed in the past? **LH – ACTION 9/25-4**

LH to write to SM.

9 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

M Bowsher –

MB reported that Wise Owls were not re-opening. The two staff members have been notified. There is to be a meeting on Wednesday 10 September to formally close the Wise Owls.

MB has met with Aaron Laws and will be meeting again re parking issues etc.

S Longo –

Will ask Falcon Landscapes to cut the grass on the lefthand side of the chapel. Will keep an eye on the chapel to check for leaks etc. **SL – ACTION 9/24**

P Chilton –

Parish Steward – PC notified members that the Parish Steward will next be in the village 15/16 September and to advise of any works that need to be undertaken.

Has issued log ins and passwords for use by individuals only and no-one else.

Help available (from PC) if difficulty encountered when setting up the digital signature.

Request for the drainage ‘gulper’ to attend at Corsham Road layby **LS – ACTION 9/25-6**

Closed footpath across Nethercote was discussed; it was agreed to wait until 17 Sept when works are scheduled for completion before contacting contractor to replace notices **LH – ACTION 9/25-7**

S Wise –

Community Orchard – everything is lovely – memorial tree planted and fruit trees producing bumper crops. Next working group will be on Saturday 13 September.

Footpaths – we have 5 PRW with TPO and one safety issue – SW has chased but no response. 23 open cases on MyWilts.

Flooding paper – SW had submitted a Revised Option Paper which was discussed. It was agreed that Option I – Do Nothing be adopted. However, it was agreed that advisory notifications be posted on the Parish Council website and Facebook. The question was raised: What about electric vehicles? Exact wording for the advisory information to be produced and agreed

SW – ACTION 9/25-8

L Heren –

LH explained about the need for a digital diary which would enable the council to better plan for upcoming events such as insurance, contracts and lease renewals. The diary would be held in Dropbox

LS – ACTION 9/25-9

Planters have been installed outside the school and village shop after a year-long effort to return us to where we were August 2024.

J Durrant –

Village Hall – curtain pulleys have been repaired.

VH meeting on 22 September

Cilands – 1st tranche of 3 received re Land at Showell Nurseries = £32,007.19. Tranches 2 and 3 will be paid in April and December 2026. What projects to spend the money on? It was agreed that £20k be transferred from the Cambridge & Counties Bank notice account and that together with £30k from the 1st tranche a total of £50k be deposited in a United Trust 6 month Bond paying an interest rate of 4.20% (JD/CT) **LS - ACTION 9/25-10**

JD reminded members that a 30% payment from the Wick Farm Solar Farm is due shortly . The Clerk was instructed to find out when the PC can expect the payment and what restrictions there are on what it can be spent on. **LS – ACTION 9/25-11**

C Trought –

CT advised that the cricket pavilion is in need of some repair – doors, etc. He was invited to prepare a “statement of work”, required to make the Pavilion weather-proof for the winter, which could then be passed to the Clerk to obtain quotes. **CT – ACTION 9/25 - 12**

CT has received a flyer for community-support funds for new play equipment and will look into this further.

A Bone –

AB attended the Allotment Committee meeting – there is concern about the school plot not being worked during the school holiday.

The Annual Flower Show took place 6/7 September – entries were up this year and the event was a success.

10 VOLUME AND SPEED OF TRAFFIC AT REYBRIDGE:

See under Public Question Time.

11 FIRE RISK ON NT LAND ON BOWDEN HILL:

Now that it has rained the issue is no longer an imminent risk. However, it was agreed that LH would raise this with NT to request a plan for Spring/Summer 2026 should we experience another 'drought' year. Also discussed was a plan for social media notices and boards erected on the common if these conditions re-appear to warn pedestrians/drivers not to drop litter or residents to have bonfires.

12 BYE LAW – BONFIRES ON BOWDEN HILL:

In view of the recent fire on Bowden Hill when a thatched cottage was caused by a bonfire in the garden of the property AB was of the opinion that a bye-law banning domestic bonfires was prevent a similar occurrence. There are several thatched properties on Bowden Hill and the bye-law could just be applicable to Bowden Hill. Clerk offered guidance that PC is not able to enact bye laws which was supported by PW and JD. It was left to AB to make the necessary inquiries as to how to proceed with an application if indeed a bye-law can be introduced by LPC. **AB – ACTION -9/25-13**

13 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1 From Kath Copping re Blocked drain, Corsham Road – giving details around the blocked rain that floods Corsham Road in the layby. **Contact gully cleaning LS – ACTION 9/25-14**
- 2 From Bewley Lane resident – gravely concerned about the speed of cars passing by – see under Public Question Time above.
- 3 From Severnside Defibrillator Training Ltd – they offer a real time demonstration and familiarisation session lasting 1.5 hours and if a full practical demo. It is not a hands-session and nor is it certificated training. Cost £325 + VAT per session with no minimum or maximum numbers.
- 4 Fire on Bowden Hill – Fire hydrant problems – email from Paul Burkinshaw 26/7 refers - LH to contact Wessex Water **LH - ACTION 9/25/15**
Highways Task Team to analyse the figures and report to LPC in October
PS/PC/AB – ACTION 9/25-16
- 5 From Melksham Without Parish Council – latest updates on the potential A350 Melksham Bypass
- 6 Several updates re Lime Down application to the Planning Inspectorate in late September

7 From parishioner in Notton – “Is it possible for your Council to consider a proposal to make Corsham Road down to the hamlet of Notton a “Twenty is Plenty” speed limit? Highways Task Team to investigate possibility on this narrow residential lane **PS/PC/AB – ACTION 9/25-17**

8 Parishioner estimates that 90% of traffic in both directions (from Whitehall lights to Village Shop) exceeds the 30mph restriction. Perhaps PC will consider asking the police to undertake speed checks on the 30mph restriction – **contact Mike Tripp Wiltshire Police to ask for enforcement LH – ACTION 9/25-18**

9 Wessex Water Community Drop-In – Chippenham on 16 September and 18 November 10-12 and 1-2 at Chippenham Library

10 Email from Jane Durrant re Wise Owls

11 Email from resident at Cantax Hill re dead fallen tree at Lovers Walk
To be reported to Parish Steward PC – ACTION 9/25-19

12 FINANCE:

- i) It was resolved (JD/AB) to pay the invoices on the Payable Invoice Detail as circulated to members prior to the meeting
- ii) It was resolved (JD/AB) to approve the Bank Statement showing a closing balance of £16709.24 £16709 as at 4 September 2025 in the Co-operative Bank current account and £66846.31 in the Cambridge & Counties deposit account.
- iii) The Clerk had obtained three prices for a refurbished iPhone. It was resolved (JD/LH) that the PC purchase a mobile phone for LPC calls at a cost of £75.

13 PLANNING:

PL/2025/05899 LBC

Replacement of window – 19 Notton, Lacock SN15 2JU

NO OBJECTION

PL/2025/06202

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area – 15 Leylandii trees crown reduce by one third – 8 Bowden Hill, Lacock SN15 2PW

NO COMMENT

PL/2025/03847

Variation of Conditions 3, 9 and removal of condition 10 20/02325/REM – Land at Rowden Park (Phase 5), Patterdown, Chippenham SN15 2NU – NO ACTION REQUIRED

PL/2025/06231

Single storey side extension and porch – Monks Way, Corsham Road, Lacock SN15 2LZ

NO OBJECTION

PL/2025/06320

Change of Use from steel frame agricultural barn into 1 x 2 storey dwelling – Wick Farm, Wick Lane, Lacock SN15 2LU – **query whether it is appropriate to allow a residential use to be created within what is essentially a commercial/cultural setting.**

PL/2025/06292

Change of Use from steel frame agricultural barn into 2 x 2 storey dwellings – Wick Farm, Wick Lane, Lacock SN15 2LU - **query whether it is appropriate to allow a residential use to be created within what is essentially a commercial/cultural setting.**

PL/2025/06674 LBC

Alterations to internal first floor structure. Replacement of decayed timber beam, addition of steel floor beams and timber joists for strengthening. Raise floor level in part of first floor by c.150mm with associated internal alteration to door heads, architraves – Carpenters Arms, Church Street, Lacock SN15 2LB

NO OBJECTION

PL/2025/06919

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area – Bowden Park House, Bowden Hill, Lacock SN15 2PP

NO COMMENT

PL/2025/07115

Bowden Park House, Bowden Hill, Lacock SN15 2PP – Crimson King Maple tree – fell; 4 x Scots Pine trees – fell; Thuja tree – fell; Holly tree – fell; 2 x Cherry trees – fell

NO COMMENT

PL/2025/06981

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area – Cherry tree – remove second leader and reduce large branches by 3m – 3 Nethercote Hill, Lacock SN15 2LD

NO COMMENT

14 ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR INFO/DISCUSSION:

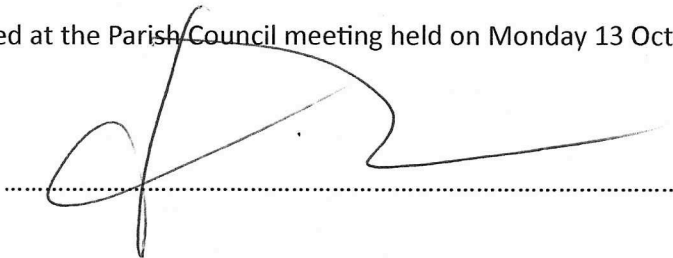
- i) Dog bin at the bottom of Reybridge by Wicket Gate cottage – report to NT

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 13 October 2025

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:22

Approved at the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13 October 2025



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