

LECKHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at 6.45pm in Leckhampstead Village Hall

Councillors present:

Lesley Smith (Chair)

Tessa White (Vice Chair)

Simon Krelle

Kevin Sims

In attendance:

Joanna Taylor (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Osibogun

5 visitors

01/09. Public Forum

Cllr Smith welcomed all, confirmed this was the Annual Parish meeting and noted apologies had been received from Leckhampstead Village Hall Trust, Cllr Gurney and Cllr Schaeffer.

No comments from the public were made. Cllr Smith reminded all this was an opportunity for all local groups to request support from the Council for the 2026/7 financial year.

02/09. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting held on the 12th October 2022

Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022 was proposed by Cllr White and seconded by Cllr Krelle as a true record. The Minutes were signed by Cllr Smith.

03/09. Parish Council Chairperson's Report

Cllr Smith thanked all for their hard work and commitment. She welcomed Cllr Sims and thanked Cllr Gill who had stood down at the recent election. She noted the Clerk's hard work since her appointment 4 years ago and explained the role of the Council was expanding, increasing the workload for all members.

Cllr Smith highlighted the Council's activities since the last meeting which included:

- Sourcing funding for the village tapestry frame
- Responding to 12 planning applications, enforcements and appeals
- Supporting the installation of the defibrillator
- Arranging for the Village Green willows to be pollarded and trimmed
- Upgrading the Council's IT (both hardware and software)
- Reporting 30 Pot Holes, 7 Illegal Dumping, 2 Blocked Drains, 1 Abandoned Vehicle, 3 overhanging hedges/trees, 2 lines/signs and 1 broken water pipe
- Re-siting the old bench by Wicken Road/Church End T-Junction
- Refurbishing the notices boards and bench opposite church

- Supporting the Kings Coronation Celebrations
- Reporting 50 vehicles speeding through the Speedwatch initiative
- Working with the Parish Paths initiative/volunteers to keep routes clear for walkers and riders
- Lobbying Buckinghamshire Council to improve the road surface at A422/Leckhampstead junction
- Responding to several Buckinghamshire Council consultations
- Responding to National Association of Local Council's flooding survey

Cllr Smith explained this had been achieved through a huge team effort, with more work still to come, particularly around compliance and planning issues. Cllr Smith thanked all for attending and asked for representative from the village groups to make their requests.

04/09. Reports from local groups and organisations

Mrs King reported that the Church was still fund raising but did not require any assistance at this time.

Mrs King asked whether additional funds could be found to support the clearing of parish paths via the Parish Paths Initiative. Many landowners do not have the time, funds or equipment and Buckinghamshire Council are not responsive to requests for support. Mrs King confirmed there is still a large supply of footpaths maps and she hoped more residents and landowners will get involved in future with a further meeting happening at the end of month.

A statement written by Mr Gurney, Chair of the Leckhampstead Village Hall Trust, dated 23rd September 2025 was read out:

"The most significant capital investment this year has been the redecoration of the hall. I would like to pass on my thanks to the residents of The White House, in Middle End for their donation of much of the paint that was used.

In terms of hall hire, we continue to see hiring less than it was pre-pandemic in terms of private hire for family functions. This year we benefitted from the BCC Arts event for which the rental for 2 weeks was very helpful.

In terms of finances for 24/25 we made a small surplus following a significant deficit the previous year. We are reviewing the steps available to make the VH running financially more sustainable over the long term.

Finally, I announced to the committee at our last meeting that I will need to step down as chairman after 7 years. I am very pleased to say that Phil has agreed to take on the role, which I will hand over by the end of next month. Continued thanks to Mary and Richard who support the daily running of the village hall greatly."

A further statement, written by Richard Hughes of the Village Hall Trust dated 23rd September 2025, was read out:

“The hall committee will always welcome any help or support or ideas as to how we might make good use of the valuable community asset that the hall represents. It's been serving the community for many years but as times change there is a danger that the old adage of "use it or lose it" may apply. We're not there yet but any help we can get to get more people to use the hall and the equipment it contains will be greatly appreciated”

Cllr Smith thanked everyone for their up-dates, wished Richard Gurney well as he steps down and congratulated Phil Rosier on his new role. Cllr Smith confirmed the request for possible financial assistance towards to Parish Path clearance and support towards promotion of the village hall would be discussed at the next full meeting.

Cllr Smith thanked all for participating so enthusiastically and invited all to stay on for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.20pm

Clerk to the Parish Council

2th October 2025