

LECKHAMPSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st July 2025 at 7.00pm
in Leckhampstead Village Hall

Councillors present:

Lesley Smith (Chair)

Simon Krelle

Kevin Sims

Caroline Gurney

In attendance:

Joanna Taylor (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Mordue (on behalf of Cllr Osibogun)

6 visitors

01/07. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr White and Cllr Schaefer.

02/07. Declarations of Interest relating to items on this agenda

No interests were declared.

03/07. Approval of Minutes of meetings held on the 24th June 2025 and 2nd July 2025

Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 was proposed by Cllr Krelle and seconded by Cllr Sims. Cllr Smith then signed the minutes. The Clerk explained the minutes from the extraordinary meeting on 2nd July have yet to be issued and will be approved at the next meeting.

04/07. Action from Minutes of Annual meeting held on the 24th June 2025

09/02/21 Long Row Paddock – Enforcements and planning applications

The Clerk confirmed there had been no further developments on retrospective Summer House application (24/00072/APP.) However a new appeal (25/00037/REF) had been received regarding the decision under application 25/00002/COUAR. Following extraordinary meetings on 2nd & 23rd July, the Council had submitted a rejection to the Planning Inspectorate on 28th July 2025. The Clerk also shared a copy of Buckinghamshire Council's response to this appeal, which had been issued today, requesting the appeal be dismissed.

10/02/21 Flooding (Section 19 Report)

Cllr Krelle noted FRAG were looking to self-fund a further survey and he will be contacting other local Actions Groups shortly. Discussions took place regarding the final Section 19 flood report which had still not been issued. Last correspondence on the draft was in March 2024. Cllr Krelle will chase Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Krelle confirmed he had responded to NALC's flood resilience survey on the Council's behalf.

The Clerk explained the Local Drainage Board had responded to the Leck clearance request by referring us back to Buckinghamshire Council “who can enforce riparian owners to carry out maintenance.” The Clerk will find the appropriate contact within BC to try and progress the matter.

08/09/18 Speedwatch

The Clerk noted the July session could not take place due to holidays. The next session will now happen in September with the date to be agreed. Cllr Sims will complete his training as soon as possible.

10/09/20 Village Green

Cllr Smith confirmed passing the correspondence and solicitor details to the Clerk for action before the next meeting.

07/06/23 Village Paths

The Clerk confirmed overgrown footpaths 2, 7 and 19 had been reported via the Rights of Way system but they have lengthy timescales to respond.

The moved Wicken Road entrance to footpath 19 had been raised with Cllr Osibogun.

It was agreed a further meeting will take place between Cllr Smith, the Clerk and Beth King to review the list of broken assets.

Cllr Smith and Cllr Gurney discussed the stile with barbed wire across. Cllr Gurney will speak to the landowner.

There was no update on the moving on footpath 4 due to Cllr White’s absence.

13/10/23 Trees on Village Green

The Clerk will ask Cllr White to obtain an up-dated quote for works to the other trees around the village where the Parish Council has a responsibility.

A request was made to trim the willows on the village green again. The Clerk will speak to Richard Gurney, at the neighbouring School House. The Council is aware of treeworks being completed nearby and the contractor may be able to trim willows at the same time for an additional cost.

07/01/24 Wicken Road Enforcement & Appeals

The Clerk advised Planning Inspectorate delays for enforcements are still around 78 weeks and there had been no developments. She will raise with Cllr Osibogun.

11/05/25 Tree Swing near Church End Bridge

The Clerk confirmed a resident had made contact stating the swing would be re-instated with a warning sign.

06/10/24 Review and adoption of 2025 Standing Orders

The Clerk noted the new draft standing orders had been issued but only three members had reviewed the document. Cllr Smith agreed this was sufficient for adoption. The three members then signed the document with the remaining Councillors to sign once they have read the details in full.

09/05/25 Damage to verges

The Clerk confirmed an email had been sent to Radclive Parish Council requesting further information on their experiences with vehicle restrictions but no response had been received. Cllr Smith suggested a site visit with our Local Area Technician to investigate further options. The Clerk will arrange.

06/06/25 Contribution towards Church grassing cutting

Cllr Smith explained further information was awaited from the Church. Several residents raised concerns about the quality and frequency of the new service. Discussions took place about alternative options. Cllr Smith agreed to find out more details about the contract terms. It was noted the next Church meeting will take place in early September.

Public Forum on new items added to the agenda.

No comments were made.

05/07. Financial Accounts

The Clerk confirmed the balances as at 31.07.25 were broadly similar to those at the previous meeting as there had been no major payments - £2,677.32 (Community Account previously known as Treasurers Account) and £1,541.99 (Commercial Instant Access Account previously known as Business Account.) Total current cash in bank of £4,219.31.

The only payment made was the monthly bank charge (£4.25) but further payments were due in August for the Election re-charge (£62), ICO renewal (£52), ink and the Clerks wages for June and July.

A copy of the latest budget was provided to all. The election re-charge was below budget. The next precept payment will be due at the end of September.

06/07. Solar Farm, Thornton – Planning Application 25/02132/APP

Cllr Smith noted the Council were being consulted along with other local parishes due to the scale of the proposals (approx. 88 hectares) and the potential impacts on several communities. Concerns were raised at the 50 year request, but there was an appreciation of the need to diversify and for cleaner forms of energy. The Clerk will contact the other local Councils, ask for their opinions and report back. Cllr Smith urged those residents present to comment on the application directly with Buckinghamshire Council and copy the Clerk in. The deadline for comments is 21st August 2025.

07/07. Clerk's Business

Biodiversity & other policies

The Clerk explained new policies need to be issued – particularly for IT as the Council will not be able to complete the AGAR next year without one. She has a template and will email a draft for review.

New Community Board – Community Conversations

The Clerk confirmed the Board were now seeking input from different types of community group (not just parish councils) to set their priorities. The Board can no longer help with anything highways related. Cllr Smith noted the Annual Parish meeting planned for September will give residents/local groups the opportunity to raise issues which could of interest.

08/07. AOB

1. Concern was expressed at the delay in responses from Buckinghamshire Council to many issues, particularly Rights of Way. The resident will write directly to Ward Councillors and the Ramblers Association.
2. A query was raised about the type of glass in the tapestry frame and whether it was UV rated to protect against sun damage. Cllr Smith explained this query should be directed to Deb Boyce who commissioned the frame as the Parish Council only helped with the funding.

09/07. Items for inclusion at next meeting

09/02/21 Long Row Paddock – Enforcement and Planning Applications

10/02/21 Flooding (Section 19 Report)

08/09/18 Speedwatch

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13/10/23 Trees on Village Green

07/01/24 Wicken Road Enforcement & Appeals

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10/07. Date of next meeting

The next meetings will take place on Tuesday 23rd September 2025. This will be the Annual Parish meeting at 6.45pm followed immediately by a full Council meeting at 7.15pm. Cllr Smith asked everyone to attend from 6.30pm for drinks and nibbles.

The Clerk will notify absent members and issue the approved Annual Parish meeting agenda.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

Clerk to the Parish Council

4th August 2025