



## MINUTES

Confirmed minutes of Full Council Meeting of Binsted Parish Council (BPC)  
on Tuesday 10 Feb 2026

26/012	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Ibbotson, District Cllr Davies, <b>Present:</b> Cllr Hearne (Chair), Cllr Lock, Cllr White, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Melvin, Cllr Jones, District Cllr Ashcroft, Mike Mordecai (Clerk)</p>
26/013	<p><b>Declarations of Interests:</b> Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation is granted, they may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on, any matter in which they have a pecuniary interest. They must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter. <b>None stated.</b></p>
26/014	<p><b>Approval of Minutes from 10 Jan 2026 Full Council Meeting:</b> Proposed Cllr Melvin, Seconded Cllr Lock, unanimously approved.</p>
26/015	<p><b>Chair's Announcements:</b> None</p>
26/016	<p><b>District Councillor Report: District Cllr Ashcroft:</b></p> <p>Food waste collection service will be rolled out in the Autumn.</p> <p>EHDC Local Plan is moving towards Regulation 19 Stage, with a final submission by the end of the year. In the meantime, the "tilted balance" policy towards approving new developments still in place. The latest round of central government National Planning Guidelines has been issued. There is a push towards development near train stations. EHDC has recently passed a motion to safeguard the District's chalk streams and rivers.</p> <p>Cllr Melvin questioned why EHDC had taken the decision not to re-run Regulation 18 given that the housing numbers had risen so significantly since the public consultation.</p> <p>Devolution- All relevant councils in Hampshire have submitted their recommendations towards the split in Unitary Authorities in the county.</p>
26/017	<p><b>Finance and Governance</b></p> <p>Income, Expenditure and Bank Reconciliations for Jan 2026- Proposed Cllr Hearne, Seconded Cllr Lock, Unanimously Approved.</p>
26/018	<p><b>Working Group Updates (including written submissions in advance of meeting)</b></p> <p><b>Blacknest Fields - Cllr Melvin</b></p> <p>2025 Annual Report published and distributed to partners and supporters.</p> <p>Management Agreement between BNF/HPO Trustees and BPC signed.</p> <p>Web page has been updated.</p>

  
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	<p>A meeting has been arranged on site with Chloe Davanna (Sport &amp; Leisure Lead- EHDC), ECB representatives from Surrey and Hampshire and the FA to discuss possible sources of funding for this project. This will take place in mid – Feb.</p> <p><b>Recreation Ground- Clerk</b></p> <p>Bike shed repairs – completed by Cllr Jones.</p> <p>Quotes obtained to repair rotten wooden posts, and in process of of obtaining quotes for veranda repair.</p> <p>Vacant allotment plots cleared in order that they can be re-let.</p> <p>Minor plumbing repairs completed.</p> <p>Clerk met Binsted Football Club to go through their comments on new contract. No major issues, and Clerk will issue a new version for signature after completing final internal review with Cllr Clarke.</p> <p>Cllr White has made some informal approaches to landowners to understand if there is any possibility of obtaining some additional land to increase the size of the Rec.</p>
25/019	<p><b>Planning Applications</b></p> <p>SDNP/25/05098/HOUS- Applicants in attendance and presented their plans. Decision: Support.</p> <p>SDNP/25/05003/HOUS- No objections</p> <p>SDNP/26/00311/HOUS- No objections</p> <p>EHDC-25-1426-HSE- No objections</p>
25/020	<p><b>Clerk's Notices, Matters Arising, Actions from Previous Meeting:</b></p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting date booked 20<sup>th</sup> May at Wickham Institute. Enquiries made re guest speakers. "Save the Date" message submitted to parish magazine.</p> <p>A31 Alliance public meeting booked for Tues 3 March at Wickam Institute. A start time of 7pm was agreed, and Cllrs Jones and Melvin agreed to help set up the hall. <b>Action:</b> Clerk to organise publicising the event, and finalising a Binsted specific presentation with A31A speakers as agreed at last FCM.</p> <p>Parishioner correspondence: Issues raised this month included- complaints about ongoing road closure at Barn Owl crossroads, dogs off leads not being controlled adequately by owners, speeding traffic in Kington, and a new parishioner in Blacknest having difficulty obtaining information about the garden waste collection service.</p> <p>IT and IT Policy Project: .gov.uk domain bought, and quotes for migration to domain received. Also requested quotes for website updates direct from our website supplier, and security and accessibility compliance statements from web and IT suppliers. Sourcing new telephony suppliers. Revised IT and associated policies being reviewed and will be submitted for approval to FCM.</p>
25/021	<p><b>AOB, Chair's Closing Remarks, Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Cllr Hearne welcomed Alex Ehrmann and Dominic Martin (respectively the Lib Dem Party candidates at the next HCC and parliamentary elections to the meeting, who requested they attend the meeting to understand the key issues within the parish.</p>

#### Road conditions

- Cllr Melvin reported 7 issues to Highways on 27 January
- New volunteer(s) required to take over from Cllr Melvin on reporting & tracking of Highway reports
- Potholes continue to be a massive issue across our parish.

#### Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

- Highways' work to extend the height of speed repeater signs at the 5 new SID locations - target date is 7 March (this may slip).
- Additional Elan City SID unit will be installed by BPC SID volunteers when Highways have extended post. It will be permanently installed with solar power in BHO, to avoid volunteers needing to change SID batteries fortnightly at this dangerous location.
- We have recruited additional TWG volunteers to change SID batteries (previously all changeovers were being done by Alan Melvin.) An updated rota will be agreed at 24 February TWG meeting.

Recent collisions and need for police speed checks- No police feedback could be obtained about the Autumn collisions on Blacknest Road bend and A325 BHO opposite garage. Also no progress getting previously promised police speed enforcement sessions.

Average Speed Cameras- Information received suggesting Hants Constabulary may start acting on average speed data. To follow up.

School safety- No update on seeking Surrey Roads' permission to deploy BPC's existing SIDs in School Road Rowledge (no useable post on Hampshire side of road). When approved, BPC will need to pay to raise post height.

#### Police Liaison- Cllr White

Cllr White has been in touch with PCSO Jess Hornsby. She reported they are very short staffed at the moment and that PC Alex Routt not replaced yet but it's imminent. She maintains that as they are all speed gun trained they can do some days in our parish, and she's been in touch with a colleague re-our requests for action. Poaching and rural theft are the issues of the day and as always they encourage reporting no matter how inconsequential it may seem.

#### Schools Liaison and Bentley Station- Cllr Ibbotson

See Apologies

#### Holt Pound Oval Working Group- Cllr Clarke

Following the meeting held in early January with the Regional Property Manager for GK to explore the options regarding the land to the south of the pub, they report they are continuing the high-level discussion with internal stakeholders to determine a response and way forward. It is hoped that a positive reply will be received soon. Access to the land, by whichever route or arrangement is critical to the shape and scope of this project. Further supporting information has been supplied for consideration at higher levels in GK. A local sports club continue to interested in the site- they met a couple of contractors and discussed the possible groundworks with them and asked for costs. Further information is awaited.

  
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Article has been submitted to March Parish magazine, highlighting events and opportunities to join cohort of wildlife recording volunteers:

- Conservation work parties: 29<sup>th</sup> February, 6<sup>th</sup> March, and 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- Social events: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 10:00-13:00 (Good Friday), 'Easter Social';
- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May, 10:00-12:00, May Day Social (option to join Barn Owl pub lunch afterwards); and
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> May, 06:00 start, Dawn Chorus Day Walk & Breakfast at The Fields.

Cllr Melvin will give presentation about impact of 2025 £330 HBIC grant to the annual meeting of Hampshire wildlife recorders in Winchester on 7 March.

#### Site work

- Work to move gates and improve wetland margins for the SDNPA-funded 'Beelines II' project was successfully completed by Poulsons contractors in January.
- Felling of dead trees and large dead branches alongside bridleway 41 was carried out by Forestry Commission in January. BNF's bridleway stockfence (installed in Spring 2025) was damaged in 2 places by Forestry's work. We have asked if FC can supply a roll of stockfencing so that volunteers can repair.
- Ben Abbott (arboricultural consultant) will undertake a full survey of BNF trees on 16 March. This will inform any tree safety work to be carried out by Callum Kilby (tree surgeon) later in 2026.

SDNPA Planning has advised BNF's ineligibility for designation as Local Greenspace designation (LGS25-029).

Funding applications- BNF submitted its Charity constitution to EHDC and has been approved as a 'good cause' for EHDC Community Lottery. An application for EHDC Cllr grant for site interpretation signage in development.

#### Transport Working Group

TWG meeting postponed - now 24 February, 7pm, Barn Owl pub

10 Feb update received from Highways about Frith End and Blacknest Speed Calming Scheme (£106 funded)

- For TRO (i.e. legal change of speed limit to 30mph in Frith End), works order to be submitted in 2-3 weeks (when Highways' schedule of costs is updated). Implementation is normally 3-6 months from date when works orders are approved.
- Improving HGV signage and the lining and signage works associated with the traffic calming scheme are separate strands of work that will follow when TRO implementation date becomes clearer. Signage & Lining works do not require legal approvals or any further statutory consultations.
- Blacknest & Frith End verge repairs: Despite strenuous efforts, Cllr Melvin has been unsuccessful in securing a commitment from Highways to restore verges (degraded by 2024 B3004 diversions). TWG would still like to plan a 'neighbourhood pride' project to encourage residents to restore their verges when the traffic calming works are implemented. The application for a councillor grant to fund Village Gateway flower tubs/etc has been deferred because of the delays to implementation of Speed Calming Scheme (see above).
- Operation Resilience resurfacing: County Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee's November letter to 'Operation Resilience' generated no confirmation that the road section from Barn Owl north into Blacknest made it onto Highways' 2026 OpRes programme. Cllr Melvin has emailed Highways to clarify its position on this.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

*Oliver*  
10/3/26