



MINUTES

Confirmed minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Binsted Parish Council (BPC)
on Tuesday 9 June 2026

26/062	Apologies: Cllr Hearne, Cllr Jones, District Councillors Ashcroft and Davies Present: Cllr Lock (Dep Chair acting as Chair in absence of Cllr Hearne) Cllr Melvin, Cllr White, Cllr Ibbotson, Cllr Clarke, HCC Cllr Cox, Mike Mordecai (Clerk).
26/063	Declarations of Interests: 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. None stated.
26/064	Approval of Minutes of 12 May FCM: Proposed Cllr White, Seconded Cllr Lock, unanimously approved. Approval of Minutes of 26 May AGM: Proposed Cllr White, Seconded Cllr Ibbotson, unanimously approved.
26/065	Chair's Announcements- BPC congratulated Cllr Cox on being elected as County Councillor, and thanked her for attending the meeting.
26/066	District Councillor Report: None
26/067	Finance and Governance Income, Expenditure and Bank Reconciliations for Apr and May 2026- Proposed Cllr Ibbotson, Seconded Cllr Melvin, unanimously approved. Councillors unable to attend the AGM confirmed that they had no conflicts of interest with the external auditors, BDO.
26/068	Blacknest Fields- Cllr Melvin 1. School and Youth Club visits All pupils of Binsted School visited Blacknest Fields for 'Outdoor Classroom Day' on 21 May. Hive Helpers Youth Club carried out an impressive range of volunteer tasks on 27 May, despite the heatwave. A further visit by Binsted School is planned on 24 June. 2. Recent site work Help was given by SDNP volunteers and rangers to mulch the site's hedges and mow the meadows. Forestry England has repaired damage from its Winter dead tree felling on bridleway 41. Ben Abbatt's (arboricultural consultant) March survey of BNF trees recommended 8 items need attention, all of which are considered a 'low' priority, Ben's recommendation being to complete the work by March 2027. The most significant items are for a mature oak which requires a crown reduction

to 12m, and various trees that need dead-wooding. Clerk will be organising the tender for this safety work to be carried out in mid-winter (December to February).

We are alarmed to discover that ivy has been cut from at least 5 of the site's old oak trees and are trying to determine who has done this.

3. Upcoming Events at Blacknest Fields

Regular butterfly and bumblebee recording sessions (weather dependent)

22 August – Alton Naturalist Society moth and bat recording evening

August (date to be confirmed) – 2nd release of glow worm larvae

22 September – Spider survey

4. Participation in Parish Pollinators network meeting

Clr Melvin will attend 20 June Parish Pollinators' network meeting at Hatch Warren nature reserve.

Transport Working Group- Clr Melvin

1. Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Clr Melvin has compiled a 'SID Operations Guide' summarising the equipment, locations, operating instructions and Risk Assessment protocols.

Article for July-August parish magazine has been written to highlight that, from June 2026, BPC can achieve greater SID coverage across the parish, due to now having four SID units and being able to use them at 14 locations (after Hampshire Highways extended the posts in May).

Rotating SIDs across different locations is recommended to achieve the greatest reductions in driver speeds. Best practice guidance is to keep a SID in one location for 2-4 weeks, followed by an absence of at least 4 weeks.

Volunteers organise all aspects of SID deployment: they change (and charge) SID batteries; collect and analyse the data; and move SIDs to new locations as needed. Extending BPC's SID coverage will rely on recruiting and training additional volunteers. To date, Alan Melvin and Pete Day have managed SID operations, with help from Clr Jones, Clr Melvin and Julian Thomson. Additional SID volunteers have been recruited and will be trained during Summer 2026. Further volunteers would be welcome. Volunteers are covered by BPC's insurance and public liability policies but must follow the Risk Assessment protocols.

A proposed rota for June– December 2026, was presented- primary objectives will be:

Collecting baseline data (speed and traffic volumes) from the 5 new SID locations;

Demonstrating to parishioners that BPC's long-awaited new SIDs are now active; and

Raising awareness of Frith End's new 30mph speed limit as/when signage for this is installed.

2. Isington traffic speed concerns

Cllr Melvin has replied to Jackie Raine's request for support and guidance regarding their wish for a lower speed limit throughout Isington. BPC's imminent deployment of a SID in the 40mph section of road will enable collection of traffic volume data, to provide baseline data. We have invited an Isington representative to attend our July Transport Working Group meeting and have asked for a progress update on Dennis Waby's campaign for a lower speed limit.

Cllr Melvin has also written to Damian Hinds, to ask if he will add his name to the Early Day Motion to introduce a 40mph default speed limit on country lanes, that was tabled to Parliament in September 2025 (<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64234>). So far, this motion has been signed by 11 MPs.

Recently published Department of Transport figures state that the number of people killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads increased by 4% in 2025 (compared to 2024). On average four people lose their lives on the roads each day. Collisions on rural roads are around four times more likely to result in a fatality than collisions in urban areas.

3. Meeting with County Cllr Antonia Cox- Cllr Melvin has written to ask for an informal transport meeting with Antonia Cox, to make sure that our transport concerns are clearly on her radar.
4. Operation Resilience resurfacing of Blacknest Road- Cllr Melvin has asked Highways (reference # 21896321) for details of the work planned during the closure of Blacknest Road on 12 October, shown as item # FF110EH938-03 on Highways' online map of scheduled maintenance. Having lobbied hard for Blacknest Road's inclusion in Highways' 2026-27 'Operation Resilience' resurfacing programme, we are hoping that the road will be properly repaired.
5. The postponed TWG meeting will take place in July. (Date is being finalised).

School and Police Liaison, & Bentley Station- Cllrs White and Ibbotson

Cllr Ibbotson has secured a grant for a station history display from Community Rail Network's Small Grants Fund.

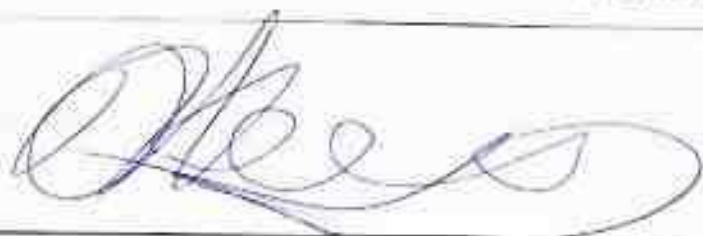
Holt Pound Oval Working Group- Cllr Clarke

Cllr Clarke has finally managed to discuss with the Regional Property Manager for GK the message she sent some time ago to understand their intentions. We have also had a further discussion with BAePS about their intentions. The two parties have quite different approaches and objectives; we are now trying to navigate a path through them.

To summarise, GK want to surrender the lease for the Area of Interest, a small area to the south of the HPO and currently unused scrub and woodland and have BAePS grant us a lease. On the other hand, the Pension Fund want GK to grant us the lease.

GK have also added a further obstacle, they are not willing to grant access to the AOI through their car park, citing Health and Safety objections. This means we would have to access the AOI via the small lane to the south of the HPO. Research is underway to try and find out who actually owns the road. We do not want to find ourselves in the position of having spent large sums of money on the project only to find we are denied access to the site by GK or the road owner.

Jalsa Liaison Group- Cllr Lock appraised Cllr Cox regarding some of the previous issues surrounding traffic management and local concerns, and our wish to see the progress last year continue.



25/069	Planning Applications SDNP/26/01809/HOUS- No Comment. SDNP/26/01797/FUL- Decision: Object The Clerk has received numerous written representations from local residents objecting to this application, and two local residents read a statement at the meeting on behalf of 20 local residents (10 of whom were in attendance at the meeting) setting out their reasons for objecting to the application. These included: the proposed development's impact on the setting of designated heritage assets within a conservation zone inappropriate setting and height, visual impact and residential amenity of many surrounding homes impact of safety of road users and pedestrians in close proximity to the Primary School. plans for amended access points that are not within the gift of the applicant to change.
25/070	Clerk's Notices, Matters Arising, Actions from Previous Meeting: - As requested by councillors and some local residents, the Clerk is researching the Assets of Community Value process, and will report progress at a future FCM - The Clerk recommended that there was little value in further commenting on the SDNP Local Plan Reg 19 Stage. The SDNP Reg 19 documents accurately described matters relating to the parish, some of the comments BPC made at the Reg 18 consultation Stage were mirrored by other consultees and some policies have been amended as a consequence, and BPC has successfully registered the Recreation Ground as a registered "Green Space" which will afford it greater protection in future. - The Clerk is continuing to get complaints about a potential planning enforcement issue on the Straights and is seeking a meeting with EHDC on the subject. - The Clerk provided updates on pavilion repairs and replacement equipment. - The Clerk distributed a report re EHDC planning committee effectiveness.
25/071	AOB, Chair's Closing Remarks, Date of Next Meeting HCC Cllr Cox introduced herself, explained some of the immediate issues she had been dealing with across her area, listened to BPC councillors setting out our key priorities and further detail/history of key projects, set out how BPC could raise issues with her and how she could track and chase progress via the HCC Elected Members Portal, and agreed to setting a date for a "guided tour" of the Parish. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 14 July