



Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Parish Council held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 7.00pm at The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

Signed – S D Grierson-Hill

12.25.0: INTRODUCTION:

a) Meeting attendees: *Cllrs. Bevan (JB), Inns (AI), Ellis (TE), White (SW) & Smith (SS).*

b) Apologies for absence: *Cllrs. Reading & Webb.*

c) Absentees: *None.*

Cllr. Bevan noted that Cllr. Milne has resigned from the Parish Council due to personal reasons. PC wish to thank her for her time on the Parish Council.

12.25.1: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: *None.*

12.25.2: APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

a) Approval of full Parish Council minutes for November 2025: *Approved and signed by Cllr. Bevan.*

12.25.3: PUBLIC FORUM – members of the public have a cumulative 15 minutes to address the Parish Council. No resolutions other than those on the agenda can be resolved from items raised in the public forum. *No members of the public present.*

JB proposed to bring item 12.25.7 forward: it was agreed.

a) Grand Union Canal transfer scheme: *Affinity Water representative attended the meeting.*

The scheme is a joint water transfer project between two water companies, Affinity Water and Severn Trent, and the Canal & River Trust (the Trust) charity, who are the owner and navigation authority of the canals in England and Wales. This scheme is crucial to securing a sustainable and reliable water supply for the future, which is currently under increasing pressure from population growth, climate change and the need to protect the fragile environment. The scheme will transfer highly treated recycled water from the Midlands to the Southeast to ensure future drinking water supplies for the region, and to strengthen the UK's water infrastructure. The proposal is to start the scheme at the existing Minworth Wastewater Recycling Centre (WwRC) near Birmingham, where water is planned to be transferred via a new underground pipeline to Atherstone in Warwickshire. It will then begin its 131km journey along the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union canals. Once it has been transferred through the canal network, the highly treated recycled water will be piped from the canal, stored and treated again at a proposed new water treatment works near Great Brickhill, southeast of Milton Keynes. It will then be transferred via a new underground pipeline as clean drinking water into Affinity Water's supply network for customers, from an existing covered reservoir near Luton. The project launched its Phase 1 consultation back in September 2024 and has managed to engage with a good number of communities along the route and received some valuable feedback which has helped to shape their plans. Phase 2 consultation will begin in February 2026, and Heath and Reach is key for the scheme as the proposed southern pipeline route will come through the parish.

TE asked; 1. Will the water travel within the canal or alongside it. Answer; yes it will travel in the canal, it will help to keep the canal topped up with no effect to users. 2. Where will the local water treatment works be? Answer: Galley Lane, Great Brickhill. The last lock will be Fenny Stratford, where pipework across to the A5, following the road towards Luton. More detailed information will be available with detailed maps to view at the consultation. The road work will be carried out by tunnelling, hence no need for road closures. Affinity Water representative invited the PC to inform her of any request for a local project that would benefit the environment.



12.25.4: PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS:

a) CBC Councillor Mark Versallion report: *Cllr. MV was unable to attend but informed Clerk that he was against the 3,400 houses proposed by AWQ due to traffic implications. He told AWQ this in January and feels they have made no attempt to address the issue.*

b) Clerks report: *Reviewed at meeting and accepted.*

12.25.5: MATTERS ARISING (for info only):

a) Traffic Calming update: *No update received from Cllr.MV. TE informed the PC that Cllr. Reading has emailed Lorna Carver, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Place and Communities at CBC to express a need for public safety on the roads in the village, in particular, a crossing on Woburn Road.*

b) Speed watch update: *JB confirmed that Speed watch is down to 5 volunteers which affected the 5 planned sessions hoped for in November, only 3 were able to go ahead. Leighton Road (by Church) 8.30am 392 vehicles, 17 in excess of 35mph with the highest speed being 40 mph. Old Linslade Road 2.30pm, 140 vehicles, none speeding. Leighton Road 9am, 288 vehicles, none speeding. PC to consider purchasing permanent signs informing visitors village is a speed watch area, thus reducing the need for temporary signs during sessions. Clerk will add to finance committee agenda for approval.*

c) Extension of lease agreement on Bryants Lane car park & pavilion: *Clerk confirmed that all lease agreements have now been signed and invoices received for payment. Only item outstanding is a signage permission letter from AWE. Solicitor continues to chase.*

d) Community asset application: *Clerk confirms the application has been submitted and accepted by CBC for consideration. If the application matches the criteria a decision will be made by 21st January 2026.*

12.25.6: Planning & Environment:

a) CB/25/03280/FULL: *Land adjacent to St Leonards Church. Proposed self-build two storey detached dwelling. PC discussed this application. Although the previous application for a single storey dwelling was granted, PC voted to unanimously object as their stance has not changed.*

b) AWQ Checkley Wood/Eastern Way presentation. *Members of the PC attended all 3 sessions of the presentation. PC raised several concerns, including a list that was provided on behalf of residents in Miletree Road. These included traffic impact on A5 and the village, routes into Leighton Buzzard, lack of infrastructure (this is subject to contract negotiations and demand at time of building), flooding and harm to Greenbelt. AWQ are aiming to submit an outline planning application Spring 2026 on the understanding a public presentation will take place in Leighton Buzzard prior to the submission. Attendees were invited to put forward to AWQ any benefits or recommendations they wish to be considered. Cllr. Reading requested a meeting takes place in Heath and Reach as well.*

c) Government plans for approval of large scale (150+ homes) developments.

TE reported that under the new Government proposal Council (CBC) will need to inform the Government if it intends to block any application for 150+ homes which will then be called in and a planning inspector will then examine the scheme and make a recommendation. The minister will have the final say.

12.25.7: MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION (where possible)

a) Grand Union Canal transfer scheme: *Affinity Water representative to attend meeting regarding the Grand Union Canal Transfer - a vital new scheme to bring water from the Midlands to the Southeast. Please see item under public forum above.*



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b) Minutes book: The current book for recording the minutes is complete.

Cost to replace like for like (Shaw & Sons) £173.00.

Motion – to consider different options to store minutes and agree cost. *PC discussed the possible options and felt that the secure book as listed above was the best option. Clerk to order – IT WAS AGREED.*

c) Monitor for Clerk’s laptop:

Motion – to consider the benefit of a monitor and agree cost.

PC discussed the need for a monitor for a 2nd screen for PC laptop – IT WAS AGREED.

d) Planning decisions update & policy:

Motion – to consider whether PC planning decisions should be updated.

Due to Cllr. Readings absent it was decided that this item should be held back and added to January’s agenda.

e) Response to P3 group following attendance at November meeting:

P3 group requested a member of the PC to join their committee. PC do not feel it is necessary to have a member on the committee. However, should the P3 group have any specific requests in how the PC could assist, this should be brought to their attention – IT WAS AGREED.

f) Leisure Parish schedule (see email 12/11) CBC request a response to the Leisure Parish Schedules regarding site information and advise on projects planned for recreational open space, outdoor and indoor sports facilities in the parish.

Clerk to update CBC change with the use of Bryants Lane Sports Field from Woburn & Wavendon Football Club to Heath FC and to request help with drainage on the sports field.

g) Community Governance review: Response required to 1st stage comments. Stage 2 closes 26th January 2026. *The CGR identified that the parish name of Heath and Reach should remain unchanged and that the number of councillors should be reduced from 9 to 7 – IT WAS AGREED.*

h) New Councillor training: Cllr. White & Cllr. Webb would like to attend the remote training.

Motion: to agree to attendance and cost of £35.00 per candidate – *IT WAS AGREED.*

i) BHECCS (Beds & Herts Emergency Critical Care Scheme): A request has been received for funding.

Motion: to consider whether a donation would be of full benefit to the village.

The request is for general funding to cover Beds & Herts. TE has reviewed PC grants policy and believe this request is outside the remit. PC will be unable to donate – IT WAS AGREED.

12.25.8: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

Community account: £ 15,133.18

Savings: £ 383.57

32 - day notice account: £67,614.49

Unity Bank: £ 47,977.11

Payments:

Markland Gardens	£ 475.00
Reynold Landscapes (Monthly grass cutting, awaiting invoice, authorised to pay when received)	£ TBC
Sue Grierson-Hill	£ 1,073.56
Sue Grierson-Hill expenses (map, postage & monitor)	£ 109.59
Mazars (external audit)	£ 504.00
One Group (monthly toilet block clean)	£ 72.00
Smiths of Derby (repairs to clocktower)	£ 1,074.00
Wellers Law Group (renewal of leases @ Bryants Lane)	£ 3,862.20



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**Direct debits/Standing orders:**

Bri Gas (Bryants Lane)	£ 90.72
Bri Gas (Clock tower)	£ 39.03
Litter picker (Bryants Lane)	£ 61.05
Anglian Water	£ 45.00
NEST Pension	£ 17.90
Waste Managed	£ 117.75

12.25.9: AOB/ Items to go on next agenda:

1. *PC wishes to acknowledge the passing of Ian McCoulough. Ian served as Deputy Chair on the Parish Council many years ago and was also an allotment trustee. PC send their condolences to his family at this sad time.*

2. *Rushmere jumps – JB has contacted Rushmere and requested a meeting, this will hopefully take place January 2026.*

3. *Crime statistics and van crime – many vans have been broken into in the village. TE noted that at the recent priority setting meeting he attended the police reported being very successful in cutting van crime within Eaton Bray. Clerk to ask the relevant police officer to attend a meeting.*

12.25.10: Date of next meeting: 5th January 2026.

Meeting closed at: 8.11pm

In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 all attendees of the meeting are hereby notified that the meeting will be recorded as an aide memoire for the clerk when compiling the minutes. The recordings are held securely and are deleted after the resolution that the minutes are a true and correct record.