



Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the Full Parish Council held on Monday 5th January 2026 at 7.00pm at The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

Signed – S D Grierson-Hill

01.26.0 INTRODUCTION:

- a) Meeting attendees: *Cllrs. Reading (CR), White (SW), Ellis (TE), Smith (SS), and Inns (AI).*
- b) Apologies for absence: *Cllrs. Bevan & Webb.*
- c) Absentees: *None.*

01.26.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: *None.*

01.26.2 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- a) Approval of full Parish Council minutes for December 2025: *Approved and signed by Cllr. Ellis.*
- b) Approval of Sports & Recreation Committee minutes for December 2025: *Approved and signed by Cllr. Inns.*
- c) Approval of Cemetery Committee minutes for December 2025: *Approved and signed by Cllr. Inns.*
- d) Approval of Finance Committee for December 2025: *Approved and signed by Cllr. White.*

01.26.3 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.

One member of the public present. NS thanked the Parish Council for the supply of LED light wands for the children at the Carols on The Green and also the Co-op for supplying the mince pies. A profit of £53.00 was raised from the sale of mulled wine and mince pies which will be donated to Appledown dog rescue.

01.26.4 PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS:

a) CBC Councillor Mark Versallion (MV) report: *Cllr. Versallion was unable to attend but emailed Clerk stating, there was nothing new to report and that he is still chasing Gary Powell (CBC) regarding traffic calming. MV expects to attend the February meeting.*

b) Clerks report: *Emailed to all PC members prior to meeting.*

01.26.5 MATTERS ARISING (for info only):

a) Speed watch update:

Cllr. Bevan emailed report through to Clerk prior to meeting. Speed watch currently has 5 volunteers. A call-out was posted on Facebook for more volunteers, no enquiries received to date. 3 sessions were held during December:

4th December 8-9 am Leighton Road near Clock Tower 424 vehicles registered, 2 in excess of 35mph highest 37mph.

11th December 8.30–9.30 am Leighton Road by Church Hall. 405 vehicles registered, 4 in excess of 35mph highest 45mph (Roadworks near brow of the hill).

12th December 9.30-10.30 am- Woburn Road, 343 vehicles registered, 3 in excess of 35mph highest 38mph.

Confirmation received regarding permanent signs to negate need for temporary signs (currently waiting for permission from CBC to mount signs on their posts).

Speed watch are looking to identify 3 possible new locations. These are, entering village



from Old Linslade Road, exiting village on Leighton Road, and entering village opposite Kingswood Vets.

b) Extension of lease agreement on Bryants Lane car park & pavilion:

There was a brief delay due to AWE issuing the incorrect execution form, requiring PC to resign. This was resolved before Christmas, and the Clerk is now waiting to receive the signed copies.

01.26.6 Planning & Environment:

a) CB/TRE/25/00584 – Leighton Buzzard Golf Club: Works to tree protected by TPO. Sectionally fell close to ground level Poplar trees for general maintenance - *NO COMMENT.*

b) CB/25/03628/FULL – 15 The Stile: Single storey side & front extension – *NO COMMENT.*

c) CB/25/03770/FULL – 3 Evans Yard: Replacement PVC windows – *NO COMMENT.*

01.26.7 MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION (where possible)

a) Community Governance Review: *Mistakenly on agenda – no action required.*

b) Planning decisions update & policy:

Motion – to consider whether PC planning decisions should be updated. It has previously been asked why the PC do not support planning applications.

The PC typically responds to planning applications with 'no comment' or 'object'. After discussion, it was decided that the PC should maintain this approach, only offering support in rare cases where an application benefits the village, with reasons provided - IT WAS AGREED.

c) To approve budget and precept for 2026/27:

The draft budget approved at the Finance committee meeting in December was presented to the PC. The precept has been increased for 2026/27 by 2.2% per household in line with rising costs of expenses within the budget (Band D contribution 25/26 £53.70 per annum, 26/27 £54.89 per annum). PC accept this and the budget was approved - IT WAS AGREED.

d) Response from CBC regarding a new zebra crossing on Woburn Road:

CR had written to CBC to consider a crossing on Woburn Road raising concerns about safety with regards to increased traffic volume and speed of vehicles. A crossing on Woburn Road would be an advantage to families needing to cross the road for school access. CBC have responded informing the PC they would have to commission their contractor to carry out feasibility designs, suggesting type and location for a crossing point. The type and location of a crossing normally depends on the level of pedestrian use, versus the number of car movements, and the physical constraints of the environment, such as visibility to the proposed crossing, the location of services etc. The PC would be required to fund the initial feasibility design work, without commitment that a crossing is guaranteed to proceed at a maximum cost of £20,000.

PC discussed this and it was felt that this should form part of the public consultation regarding the money held for traffic calming and will therefore be included within the next agenda item – IT WAS AGREED.

e) Traffic calming money held in reserve: To consider opening a public consultation for how best to utilise the funds given that CBC opposes traffic calming.

PC to draw up an information sheet to inform residents of the work conducted over the last 15+ years for their request to install traffic calming. This will include information on item

