

Westcott Parish Council

Amanda Ludlow – Clerk

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Meeting Minutes

13th January 2026 1930hrs at Westcott Cricket Club

Attendees

Parish Councillors

Cllr Sue Pusey	Chair	SP	Cllr Jo Hooper	JH
Cllr Sue Lacey		SL	Cllr Grahame Pusey	GP
Cllr James Sisk		JS		

Ward Councillor

Cllr Ashley Waite	AW
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Officer of the Council

Amanda Ludlow	AL
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Agenda Point		Person /s to action
	Part One Meeting opened at 1930hrs.	
102	Apologies for Absence None	
103	Open Forum SP welcomed the members of the public to the meeting and explained the procedures of the meeting to all present. 4 members of the public in attendance Stacy Kemp feedback regarding further flooding in Linnet drive / Raven Crescent. Recent rain and flooding show that the pipe underneath the road is blocked preventing any water to drain. AW is in communication with Stacy and with Bucks Council Highways department to try and resolve this situation. Both will update the council as things arise. Matthew Adams – asked AW regarding the Woodham railway yard which is full of waste that has been tipped there, now to the full height of the tall fencing surrounding it. AW explained that it is subject to enforcement notice and assured all that Bucks Council is supportive of this action and the actions to at least three other locations in bucks where waste is being stored without suitable permissions.	

107	Clerks Report 1. Action points tracker spreadsheet updated and shared and sent ahead of the meeting. See 25-26 tab for this Council Years actions inclusive of last year's outstanding actions. 2. Burial Ground Awaiting contact from CPJ Field for cremation memorial request. Memorial completed for Howell on plot B4 on the 8th December 3. Thames Valley Police Ongoing communications between Susan Goodway and myself continue. An issues or concerns that are non-urgent should be sent to: waddesdonNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk Reports received by TVP over the weekend of suspicious individuals looking at number plates on cars. All residents to ensure that any loss of number plates are reported to the Police immediately. Keep your car clear campaign posters on notice board and shared on Facebook. Matthew Barber – Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner, Thames Valley local update sent to all on receipt 4. Waddesdon, Westcott and Winchendon Newsletter. Copy submitted and published in January 2026 edition 5. Westcott Church The Carol service was well attended with 52 people. Thankyou to Cllr Jo Hooper and Cllr Ashley Waite for reading at the service and all from the village who helped in cleaning, decorating and providing food and drink for refreshments. Meeting to be co hosted by the Parish Council and Reverend Caroline to 'Love your Church' to be held at the Cricket Club on the 27th January at 7pm. Reverend Caroline spoke about Westcott Church at the Carol service and has written an article in the newsletter. A4 posters designed by Cllr Jo Hooper to be shared, printed and put up around the village. 6. Land at Lower Green No further contact currently. Council to decide if meeting with Paul Redstone to be arranged. Business plan draft circulated at last meeting. 7. Street Lighting LED cost benefits requested and will be circulated on receipt. Alternative energy provider being looked into. 8. Westcott School buildings Nothing to report. Tall construction removed that may have housed a camera on the boundary edge of the school. 9. Bucks Funding Search / Grants Reviewed weekly	AL AL
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	10. Litter Station Litter station currently being placed alongside the map board by the Parish Council Notice Board 11. Anti Vandal Sign for Village Green Final image sent to Impact signs and will be erected following receipt of the sign. 12. Local Area Technician / Highways Continued flooding in Linnet Drive / Raven crescent ongoing and local resident Stacy Kemp pumping water away from the properties and council is not attending for work. They did attend on the 9th January and put two flooding signs up and then promptly left. Cllr Ashley Waite is kept up to date and is taking this forward with highways. Concern that remedial work to the drains has not been undertaken by the building contractors of the new housing site as yet. 13. Donkey Field – planning breach. No feedback. Cllr Sue lacey to forward further photos. 14. Bucks Recycling Fire Stakeholders forum paused following demolition of the site and will convene again once further information is released regarding future plans. Complaints letters have been sent mid December to UKHSA, BFRS, Environment Agency, Environmental Health and Bucks Recycling regarding the statements given to the Parish Council in our FOI requests. Responses received from Bucks Recycling and Environment Agency and shared with all Councillors. Further clarification sought with Environment Agency regarding Bucks Recycling stating the version of the Fire protection Plan sent to us was an out of date one. 15. Santa collection 12.12.25 and 19.12.25 A sum up card reader was purchased and received by myself for the Parish Council on the 12th December for £29.99. This proved to be very useful as people do not necessarily have cash on their person. Total amount collected using this method for both collections was £159.30 The collection in the village was well supported by volunteers and raised £500 in cash and £59 in card donations. Collection at the Venture Park was well attended but very, very wet and many people had already left work for Xmas. £103 in card donations and £59.42 in cash. To attend earlier in December this year to catch more people, but definitely worth raising our profile. Village collection figures to be reported to Bucks Council as required in our collection permit. 16. Seniors' Christmas meal 11.12.25 Xmas meal at the Akeman was well attended and Ashley joined us to do the raffle. Everyone attending feedback that the food and venue was excellent	AL AL SL AL
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	and they would love to go there again. People attending said they would be keen to have more get togethers and Ashley will look at arranging trips to garden centres and venues locally with his minibuses. All wanted to express their thanks to the Parish Council for organising and funding this event as many live on their own and don't get out to see people, especially in the winter. Absolute Electrics gave a kind donation of £200 prior to the event to enable us to get some great and cost effective raffle prizes for all. An email of thanks has been sent to them. 17. Bucks Parish Liaison meeting 15.01.26 The next Parish Liaison meeting will be held via Teams on the 15th January at 1800hrs. SP and AL to attend. 18. Martyn's law briefing Recent update received from NALC with advice for the council to address. Email with briefing attached sent. For discussion at February meeting 19. Biodiversity Policy In recent information sharing from NALC the Council is required to have a Biodiversity policy in place. To be drafted and brought to the February meeting. 20. New bin required at the bus stop (the lid has gone missing) Ordered and paid and scheduled to be manufactured week ending 16th January 21. Precept 2026 / 2027 Document shared of the forecast budget actuals and 2026 / 2027 budget with Precept options. To be discussed and agreed at the January meeting and precept requires to be submitted by the 31st January 2026. 22. Complaint re dog waste Complaint made to Waddesdon Parish Council regarding the dog waste on the farm track to Waddesdon Manor near the Westcott Cricket Club. I am meeting with Melanie – Waddesdon Parish Council clerk and Cllr Ashley Waite on 13th January to look at a joint approach to highlight this problem. 23. ICO Model Publication Scheme Recently highlighted by Mel Woof at BMKALC we need to review our current publication scheme and update this. To be agreed at the February meeting. 24. BFRS consultation Online survey for this consultation to be entered by the 28th January 26 for anyone wishing to make a comment.	AL AL AL ALL
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	25. BFRS training centre planning request. Further information and response to our questions was shared on receipt and we need to provide a response by 14th January 26. To be discussed at this meeting. 26. Community Currents Workshop 20.01.26 at 6.30pm River Thame Conservation Trust are holding a workshop on Tuesday 20th January at 1830hrs at Waddesdon Hall. Email previously shared with all with details on how to register for the event. No volunteers for attendance.	
108	Reports RECEIVED I. <u>Burial Ground & Churchyard</u> Nil to report II. <u>Church and School</u> Love your church meetings to be held on the 27th January at 1900 at the Cricket Club. Pre meeting attended by SL. They want someone to go onto the PCC to represent Westcott Church. III. <u>Website / email</u> JH has spoken to Hut Six digital who have undertaken a quarterly review and have no concerns. She will ask them to give the report to AL for the records. IV. <u>Village Green</u> Mulch / old woodchip sourced for £60 + VAT per big bag. Sample to be obtained Village green revamp to be discussed at the February Meeting V. <u>Charities</u> Nil to report. To clarify if Tony Wilkinson was a stand alone trustee or representing Westcott PC. SP to check with Emma. VI. <u>Buckinghamshire Council</u> Highways – since the beginning of October 2025 the LAT has been absent for Westcott and surrounding area. AW met with Richard Barker the service lead and expressed his concerns, He will now meet the designated person for highways to discuss required actions. AW explained there is no need for a LAT to assess the issues as we do that appropriately on Fix My Street. What we need is remedial actions and agreed dates.	JH AL SP

	We are currently in the middle of overnight road closures on the new part of the road beyond Waddesdon on the A41 for erection of new signage. Due to complete 0530am Saturday morning. Fly tipping – Bucks Council is different to surrounding councils who now charge to dispose of waste by accessing tips. Bucks Council are still maintaining this as a free service. 70-80% increase of fly tipping on all borders of Bucks currently. Needs to reported as soon as identified on Fix My Street. Communicating road closures across social media has been repetitive and requiring the same responses across many groups. AW aims to set up a communities what's app group which will be parish centred and managed locally ensuring one single message and response to questions is undertaken. Freight strategy discussed in recent BC meeting looking at stakeholders, maps, red routes, camera equipment, diversion routes and signage. Next meeting February 26. Mile marker in Waddesdon currently being refurbished after being found and will be replaced back in its original position following its removal by HS2.	
VII.	<u>Speed Watch</u> Request for volunteers made at APM and in Waddesdon Newsletter. No interest received as yet	
VIII.	<u>Bucks Recycling</u> Responses received and shared from Environment agency and Bucks recycling. Still awaiting responses from UKHSA, Environmental Health and BFRS. To be shared on receipt and discussed at the February meeting. JH raised the need to challenge the pre fire email regarding the temporary building now being permanent. Equally a light is being left on it 24 hours a day. AW will speak with Olivia March Stakeholders group paused until planning requests arise. AL to email the Environment Agency regarding clarification of the current operating processes and limits on tonnage outside to be kept. Particularly what should be sorted outside and current permits and conditions. Also to understand the impact of the transportation of waste in and out of the venture park as BR are unable to process some waste.	AW AL

	IX. <u>Venture Park</u> Drone flying feedback – none received SP to contact Nigel Mckenzie to arrange a meeting on the venture park for herself and AW X. <u>Other</u> BFRS – fire authority current consultation to reduce pumps, close Stokenchurch and Missenden fire stations out for comment. Link to be placed on Facebook for the community to follow. https://bucksfire.gov.uk/public-plans/on-call-improvement-programme-consultation-2025/ Parish Council to review and submit the online survey. Consultation closes on the 28th January 2026	SP						
109	Finance Report NOTED Cllrs noted the financial report sent prior to the meeting. Bank accounts as at 10.01.26 <table><tr><td>Current Account</td><td>£6828.37</td></tr><tr><td><u>Savings Account</u></td><td><u>£21930.14</u></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£28758.51</td></tr></table> Payments to be made: £210.92 for AL Salary December 26 £218.64 N Power energy Direct debit £26.20 HMRC Direct debit due January 26 £783.70 expenses for AL made up of £29.99 sum up purchase, £652.70 Akeman Inn for senior residents Xmas meal and £101.01 raffle prizes and sweets for the Santa collection. £151.80 EON street light maintenance £432 Bucks Council annual dog waste invoice All present agreed these payments. AL to place payments on the system Budget status: Totals spend YTD £14971.20 excluding special project spend Total Budget £ 18148	Current Account	£6828.37	<u>Savings Account</u>	<u>£21930.14</u>	Total	£28758.51	AL
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110	To RECEIVE and update of Santa collection monies total £559 collected from the village £162.42 collected from Westcott Venture Park SP to give AL cash to pay into the bank	SP / AL						

111	TO ACCEPT the proposed budget for 2026 / 27 and AGREE precept requirements Draft budget shared prior to the meeting all accepted Precept option figures shared : Current precept 25/26 <table><tr><td>Annual precept of £15906.45</td><td>Budget of £17155.05</td></tr><tr><td>Tax Base of £176.42</td><td>Forecast Y End £18380.66</td></tr><tr><td>Band D Tax (estimates) £90.16</td><td></td></tr></table> Increase of 5% <table><tr><td>Annual precept of £16701.78</td><td>Budget of £22168.17</td></tr><tr><td>Tax Base of £176.42</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Band D Tax (estimates) £94.67</td><td></td></tr></table> Increase of 10% <table><tr><td>Annual precept of £17497.10</td><td>Budget of £22168.17</td></tr><tr><td>Tax Base of £176.42</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Band D Tax (estimates) £99.18</td><td></td></tr></table> Increase of 15% <table><tr><td>Annual precept of £18292.00</td><td>Budget of £22168.17</td></tr><tr><td>Tax Base of £176.42</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Band D Tax (estimates) £103.68</td><td></td></tr></table> Following further discussion to manage the increase of clerks hours and growing energy bills to look at options of 3 or 4 years of an 8or 10% uplift as once the clerks hours have increased they will not increase further. Equally once changed to LED lighting after the initial outlay the energy costs should reduce. <table><tr><td></td><td>8%</td><td>10%</td><td>Budget</td></tr><tr><td>Yr 1</td><td>£17178.96</td><td>£17497.10</td><td>£22168.17</td></tr><tr><td>Yr 2</td><td>£18553.28</td><td>£19246.80</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Yr 3</td><td>£20037.54</td><td>£20786.54</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Yr 4</td><td>£21640.54</td><td>£22865.20</td><td></td></tr></table> All Agreed to submit precept request of 10% and review this next year	Annual precept of £15906.45	Budget of £17155.05	Tax Base of £176.42	Forecast Y End £18380.66	Band D Tax (estimates) £90.16		Annual precept of £16701.78	Budget of £22168.17	Tax Base of £176.42		Band D Tax (estimates) £94.67		Annual precept of £17497.10	Budget of £22168.17	Tax Base of £176.42		Band D Tax (estimates) £99.18		Annual precept of £18292.00	Budget of £22168.17	Tax Base of £176.42		Band D Tax (estimates) £103.68			8%	10%	Budget	Yr 1	£17178.96	£17497.10	£22168.17	Yr 2	£18553.28	£19246.80		Yr 3	£20037.54	£20786.54		Yr 4	£21640.54	£22865.20		AL
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112	Planning Matters RESPONDED to Planning Register shared prior to the meeting. 25/02360/APP Westcott Venture Park, Fire and Rescue Training facility feedback and further consultation due 14th January 2026. Discussed and agreed by all present to remain objecting to the proposal despite new information received on the grounds of no filtering of smoke, errors in the																																													

	forms in the application process (particularly offering requirements for car parking). 600m – where is this situated – at the centre of the village or nearest edge? No technical solution employed for smoke reduction due to affordability. AL to thank planning department for the responses and clarification but the council remain in objection to this proposal and attached reasons why in the original document to enable fully tracking.	AL
113	To RECEIVE an update regarding the Land at Lower Green No further update	
114	To ACCEPT the resignation of Cllr Tony Wilkinson and NOTE Councillor Vacancies. SP accepted the resignation of Cllr Tony Wilkinson as he remains in hospital for the foreseeable future. SP to email Emma to seek confirmation of this request. Hence 2 vacancies of Councillors at this time.	SP
115	Urgent matters of note JS would like to attend the planning session previously circulated on the 27.02.26 – AL to follow up if still available AL to contact John Westwood regarding assessing the lighting in the Venture park – previously agreed prior to the Bucks recycling fire.	AL AL
116	Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 1930hrs at Westcott Cricket Club	
	Part 1 of the meeting closed at 2130hrs	

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor