



# Enborne Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2026

**Venue:** The Barn at St Michael and All Angels Church, Church Lane, Enborne RG20 0HD

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### In Attendance:

Cllr. Giles Whitefield (Chair)  
Cllr. Peter Tompkins (Vice Chair)  
Cllr. Val Bolan  
Cllr. Chris Garrett  
Cllr. Sam Dibas, until 8.30pm, Item 8.1

### Also Present:

District Councillor: Cllr. Dennis Benneyworth  
Parish Clerk: Kim Lloyd  
Jane Grindey -Calleva Community Energy  
Members of the Public: 4

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## 1. Apologies for Absence

Ward Members Cllr. Tony Vicker and Cllr. Denise Gaines sent apologies.

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## 2. Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items

- Cllr. Garrett is a Trustee of the Enborne Charity Field Trust for the Solar Farm planning application (26/00069/FULMAJ).
- Cllr. Whitefield is also a trustee, along with Cllr. Dibas, who is also a Councillor for Wash Common.
- Cllr. Tompkins declared an interest in all Planning Applications, and will abstain, and raised a declaration of interest in Item 6 regarding planning application 23/02596/FULMAJ.

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### 3. Public Participation

Nothing raised.

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### 4. Co-option of New Member

Susan Van Dijk was proposed by Cllr. Garrett and seconded by Cllr. Whitefield.

**Resolved:** All in favour.

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### 5. Conclusion of the RSA29 Legal Challenge (Cllr. Peter Tompkins)

Last summer, Enborne Parish Council (EPC) took the difficult decision to challenge West Berkshire Council's adoption of policy RSA29 (Long Copse Farm, Enborne). Supported financially by over 150 residents, EPC made an application to the High Court for permission to bring a statutory planning review.

EPC have now been informed that the application has been refused by the High Court. This means that policy RSA29 will be allowed to stand. The judgment does not consider the planning merits of the site allocation itself but concludes that West Berkshire Council made no discernible error of law in adopting policy RSA29.

Residents and objectors will now likely shift their focus and raise concerns before the planning application (23/02596/FULMAJ) is determined by West Berkshire Council.

Cllr. Tompkins reported that documents disclosed by WBC indicate that essential evidence to justify the policy may have been missing at the time it was presented to the Planning Inspector. Correspondence from the Council to the site promoter stated that further survey information was required regarding who would be living on the site and to obtain evidence of the need to increase the plots. Concerns were raised that this absence of information may not have been communicated to the Inspector.

Members discussed whether to write to West Berkshire councillors and relevant executives to place on record their awareness that the essential evidence had not been available prior to the policy's consideration. It was also suggested that the Parish Council submit comments regarding the Long Copse Farm proposal, so its concerns are formally recorded in relation to any future planning application.

**Resolved:** All agreed. Cllr. Tompkins will draft a response.

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### 6. Planning Application 23/02596/FULMAJ – Long Copse Farm

**Proposal:** Use of land for the siting of up to 24 travelling showpersons plots.

A planning officer will prepare a report and recommendation in due course. Once this has been completed, the application will be referred to the Planning Committee, where elected Members will consider the officer's recommendation, hear representations from the public and consultees, and then make the final decision.

It was stated that the application may contain several fundamental deficiencies, including potential legislative compliance issues, the site's proximity to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) without consultation with Natural England, and the absence of a nesting bird survey for skylarks.

Members noted that information highlighting these deficiencies has already been submitted to WBC. It was suggested that planning officers should be allowed to address these issues during the committee process, and that the committee may require the applicant to submit a revised and fully compliant application.

Caution was also expressed about directly lobbying District Councillors prior to the Planning Committee meeting, as this could require councillors to declare lobbying and potentially affect their participation in the decision-making process.

**Resolved:** It was agreed for Cllr. Tompkins to represent EPC at the committee meeting once the date is confirmed. A representation to be read out will be prepared by Cllr. Tompkins and circulated to other councillors in advance of the meeting for approval. **Resolved:** All agreed.

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## 7. Connecting Communities in Berkshire (Cllr. Peter Tompkins)

**Proposal:** Invite the rural housing enabler to speak at a community meeting and to conduct a housing needs survey. Consider collaborating with Hamstead Marshall Parish Council on this issue.

**Resolved:** All agreed.

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## 8. New Planning Applications for Consideration

### [26/00069/FULMAJ](#)

Land North of Spring Gardens, Andover Drove, Wash Water, Newbury.  
Installation and operation of a solar farm with associated infrastructure.

**EPC was unable to comment as it was not quorate, due to the presence of three trustees of the Charity Field where the solar farm is proposed.**

### [26/00277/HOUSE](#)

Oakdene, Andover Drove, Wash Water, Newbury RG20 0LZ.  
Proposed two-storey side and rear extension, render to existing house, new detached garage, and

new access.

**Resolved:** No objections.

### **26/00205/HOUSE**

9 Knoll Gardens, Newbury, RG20 0NZ.

Proposed single storey front extension.

**Resolved:** No objections.

Cllr. Sam Dibas left the meeting

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## **8.1 Planning Decisions (For Information Only)**

**Appeal Ref:** APP/W0340/W/25/3376040

75 Fifth Road, The Oaks, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 6DT.

Permission in Principle for self-build dwellinghouse.

**Outcome:** Appeal allowed and permission granted.

### **25/02960/HOUSE**

The Stables, Grange Gardens, Enborne, Newbury RG14 6RP.

Erection of detached ancillary home office.

**Outcome:** WBC granted permission. EPC had no objection.

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## **9. Land East of the Thames Water Pumping Station in Enborne**

A letter was sent to the Environment Agency noting concerns regarding flooding:

- The land is in Flood Zones 2 and 3.
- Rubble has been dumped on the field.
- No raising of land should occur within the floodplain or Zones 2 and 3.
- The Enborne is classified as a main river, making it the Environment Agency's responsibility.

EPC sent letters to the Environment Agency, Hampshire flood authorities, and West Berkshire Council, but has received no response beyond acknowledgements. Cllr. Garrett was thanked for drafting the letters.

Cllr. Tompkins raised the idea of a policy for "Referring Matters to Planning Enforcement" and the Environment Agency, to ensure consistency and avoid appearing arbitrary. A policy would protect all parties and allow EPC to consult residents before escalating minor issues.

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## **10. Proposals for Government Reorganisation (Oxfordshire / West Berkshire)**

A proposal exists for West Berkshire to join Oxfordshire and South Oxfordshire District Council.

- Feedback deadline: 26 March
- Potential implementation: 2028
- West Berkshire was invited to join Oxfordshire
- Oxfordshire has expressed strong interest

Residents are encouraged to complete the consultation survey. For more information, see the [link](#).

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## **11. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2026 were approved by all Councillors.

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## **12. Payments**

Payments made since the last full Council meeting were approved as shown in Appendix 1.

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## **13. Bank Reconciliation**

The Bank Reconciliation to 28 February 2026 was approved as shown in Appendix 2.

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## **14. Clerk's Correspondence (For Information Only)**

### **The Paddocks – Enforcement Concerns**

- A resident raised concerns prior to the meeting regarding enforcement following refusal of a retrospective planning application.
  - Activity continues on site, including tree removal.
  - Concern that after seven years without enforcement, the development may become permanent.
  - Suggestion to consult District Cllr. Gaines regarding stop notices, particularly relating to environmental and quality of life impacts.
  - Another resident has also written to WBC (copying EPC).
  - Reports of constant smoke from the site.
  - Hedge line unnecessarily cut down.
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## **15. Reports from Ward Members**

Cllr. Dennis Benneyworth had circulated February and March 2026 reports (available on the website using this [link](#))

## **Ward Members Bid**

- Scheme reopening in the new financial year.
  - £4,000 per member (can be combined).
  - Potential total: £12,000.
  - Previous success cited (playgrounds, resurfacing, leisure centre regeneration).
  - Community-driven funding approach.
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## **16. Reports from Parish Councillors**

### **Chairman's Survey Report**

- 37 responses received.
- Five categories: transport and connectivity; housing and planning; infrastructure and services; local economy and business; community and well-being.

### **Key findings:**

- Potholes a major concern.
- Strong support for protecting green spaces.
- Healthcare access a high priority.
- Moderate support for local businesses.
- Strong support for environmental care and community safety.

### **Additional insights:**

- 13% use notice boards; 50% use WhatsApp, community groups, or word of mouth.
  - Strong interest in collaborative projects (tree planting, newsletters).
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## **17. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19 May 2026 at Falklands Cricket Club:

- Annual Parish Meeting – 7:30pm
  - Annual Parish Council Meeting – 8:00pm
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**Meeting Closed**

## Appendix 1

### Payments made since last meeting:

Amount	Payee	Invoice no	Date	VAT		
	Kim Lloyd	January	31.01.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 63.94	HMRC	January	31.01.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 221.53	Berkshire Pension	January	31.01.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 12.00	SME Accounting Services	2577	26.01.2026	£ 2.00		<i>paid</i>
£ 4,650.00	WBC Income Clearance	waiting				<i>paid</i>
£ 5,350.00	Government Legal Challe	waiting				<i>paid</i>
	Kim Lloyd	February	28.02.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 63.94	HMRC	February	28.02.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 221.53	Berkshire Pension	February	28.02.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 12.00	SME Accounting Services	2591	25.02.2026			<i>paid</i>
£ 6.00	UTB	February	30.11.2025			<i>paid</i>
£ 64.00	Newbury Storgage	February	30.11.2025	£ 12.80		<i>paid</i>
<b>Donations to pay</b>						
£ 250.00	WBC Library	From Budget 2025-26				<i>not paid</i> waiting
<b>INCOME</b>						
	£	-				

## Appendix 2

### Bank Reconciliation

Local Council Name: Enborne Parish Council

Period ending **28 February 2026**

Prepared by: KL

#### Balances per bank statements as at

Unity Trust Bank Current Account	9,074.07	
Newbury Building Society Saving Account	59,357.81	
<b>Total bank &amp; cash balance</b>		<b>68,431.88</b>

LESS: outstanding cheques (current account) at

Payee	Chq No.	Amount	
			<b>68,431.88</b>

#### Balance per Cash Books at

		incl VAT
Cash Book Unity Trust Bank Current Account		9,074.07
Newbury Building Society Saving Account		59,357.81
<b>Balance inc</b>		<b>68,431.88</b>

Check 0.00 (Should be zero)

ALLOCATED RESERVES			
By-Election Fund	£1,500.00		
Bequest	£53,000.00		
Legal Fees	£143.00		
CIL Fund	£3,427.38	allocated	
Total Allocated Reserves	£58,070.38		
<b>Unallocated Funds</b>	<b>£10,361.50</b>	(Balance of bank recon minus - allocated reserves)	£ -