



Enborne Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2026

Time: 7.30pm

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

Present

- Cllr Giles Whitefield
- Cllr Peter Tompkins
- Cllr Chris Garrett
- Cllr Suzan Van Dijk

In attendance: Clerk

District Councillors Denise Gaines and Dennis Bennyworth

4 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Sam Dibas
- Cllr Val Bolan
- Cllr Tony Vickers, District Cllr.

The apologies were noted and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Chris Garrett and Cllr Giles Whitefield declared an interest in relation to the solar farm planning matter, which was for information only and not for decision.

Cllr Peter Tompkins declared his standing local interests in relation to planning applications and the RSA 29 matter.

3. Public Participation

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Road narrowing – Enborne Street

A resident raised concerns that drivers may not be sufficiently aware that the road narrows around the bends near the thatched cottage in Enborne Street.

It was agreed that the matter should be reported to West Berkshire Council through its road-sign reporting facility. The precise location should be identified on the online map, using the postcode or map reference where appropriate.

Action: Report the road-sign issue to West Berkshire Council and provide the precise location to Clerk at Enborne for follow-up. A member of the public offered to assist with identifying the exact location.

Noise and bonfire concerns

The Council received an update concerning a noise abatement notice issued in relation to dog barking at night. An appeal is understood to be due in September.

Concerns were also raised regarding a large bonfire which had taken place at approximately 10–11pm. The fire brigade had attended but advised that it could not intervene unless the fire was out of control or presented a threat to property.

The Council noted concerns regarding alleged burning of imported material or trade waste, although it was also noted that this allegation had been denied.

The Council was advised that evidence of prolonged dog barking had previously been provided to Environmental Health, including recordings made over a number of hours.

It was agreed to await the outcome of the appeal process and monitor the situation.

4. Planning

4.1 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications for consideration.

4.2 Planning Decisions

The following West Berkshire Council decisions were noted:

- **26/00069/FULMAJ – Land North of Spring Gardens, Andover Drove, Wash Water:** Application for the installation and operation of a solar farm with associated infrastructure. **Approved.**
- **26/00806/LBC – South Barn, Enborne, Newbury, RG20 0HD:** Installation of an external electric socket. **Approved.**
- **26/00205/HOUSE – 9 Knoll Gardens, Newbury, RG20 0NZ:** Proposed single-storey front extension. **Approved.** Enborne Parish Council had raised no objection.

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- **26/00810/HOUSE – Fairlawns, Enborne Row, Wash Water, Newbury, RG20 0LX:**
Proposed first-floor rear extension to master bedroom, new rear dormer window and demolition of conservatory. **Approved.**

Solar Farm

The Council noted that planning permission for the solar farm had been granted and that the necessary funding had been raised. Site marking was expected to take place during the week, with construction expected to commence the following week.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on **19 May 2026** were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Chris Garrett

Seconded: Cllr Peter Tompkins

All in favour

6. Finance

6.1 Payments

The following payments (appendix 1) made since the previous Full Council meeting were noted:

- Payroll
- Newbury Storage
- Data protection annual fee – **£47**, increased from £35
- Winter salting invoice – **£605.88**

The winter salting expenditure was discussed. The additional road by the school is not included in West Berkshire Council's normal salting route. The Council considered the expenditure necessary in the interests of highway safety, there being no other viable arrangement for the service.

6.2 Bank Reconciliation

The bank reconciliation (appendix 2) to **30 June 2026** was received.

The total balance was reported as approximately **£75,366**, of which approximately **£17,296** was allocated to specific purposes, including the by-election request, legal fees and CIL money.

The Council noted the current financial position.

7. Long Copse Farm

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Cllrs Peter Tompkins and Chris Garrett reported on concerns raised by parishioners regarding activity at Long Copse Farm and adjoining land.

Reports had included the alleged installation of a log cabin, the formation of a trackway through woodland and other development activity.

A site inspection from the periphery and along the footpath had not identified an obvious log cabin. A large tent or temporary structure had been erected in the rear field and was reported by a parishioner as a possible site office or building.

No definite new track leading north towards the land was identified, although photographs had been taken of an area which could potentially have been a track. Some trees had also been lopped on the northern edge of the site.

Concern was also raised regarding activity on adjoining land recently sold to the landowner, extending towards Church Lane. Members reported observing clearance, an apparent track through the land, trees marked with paint and a temporary wooden cabin which subsequently disappeared.

The Council discussed the wider history of planning and enforcement matters associated with the area and the difficulties caused where reports received from parishioners cannot readily be verified.

It was considered that a more constructive liaison arrangement with West Berkshire Council's planning and enforcement teams could assist the Parish Council in collating information and ensuring that concerns were properly recorded and investigated.

The Council agreed that Cllr Tompkins should prepare a draft letter to West Berkshire Council proposing such a liaison arrangement. The draft would be circulated to councillors before being sent.

Action: Cllr Peter Tompkins to draft and circulate a letter to West Berkshire Council regarding liaison on planning and enforcement matters at Long Copse Farm and the surrounding area.

8. Local Government Reorganisation – Ridgeway Council

The Council discussed the proposed Local Government Reorganisation and the creation of the new Ridgeway Council.

Members noted the expected changes to the structure of local government and the implications for elections and representation from 2027 onwards.

Concern was expressed that the new arrangements could place local government further from parish communities. Members also recognised that parish and town councils may consequently have an increasingly important role in maintaining direct contact with residents and representing local concerns.

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It was noted that there would be no immediate change to the Parish Council's functions. The Council would need to consider how best to maintain effective communication with the new, larger principal authority.

The Council also discussed the importance of economies of scale in relation to services such as highways and social care.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should liaise with neighbouring parishes, including Hampstead Marshall, regarding how best to structure future communications with the new authority.

9. Affordable Housing Needs Survey

Cllr Tompkins reported on a meeting with Connecting Communities Berkshire (CCB).

CCB is proposing to undertake a new housing needs survey for Enborne, with a leaflet delivered to households and an online response facility. The survey is intended to establish evidence of local housing and affordable housing need.

Members noted that the previous similar survey was approximately ten years ago.

The Council discussed the existing supply of affordable housing in Enborne and the challenges associated with maintaining and upgrading older rural housing stock, particularly where energy efficiency improvements are expensive.

The meeting also considered:

- the difficulties faced by housing associations in managing small rural sites;
- the importance of local connection criteria in retaining local families within the community;
- the difficulty for older residents wishing to downsize while remaining in the parish;
- the potential for smaller housing associations to consider sites which are unsuitable for larger providers;
- the potential availability of grants for heat-source installations; and
- the need for affordable accommodation for key workers.

CCB suggested that Enborne and Hampstead Marshall could potentially consider the housing needs issue jointly, given their geographical and planning relationship.

Members were encouraged to promote participation in the survey, including asking residents to consider the needs of extended family members who may wish to live locally.

Volunteers will be required to assist with distribution and encouraging residents to complete the survey.

The survey is provisionally expected to take place during September or October.

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Action: Recruit volunteers to assist with distributing survey information and encouraging responses. Some members of the public present offered to assist with leaflet distribution.

10. New West Berkshire Local Plan

The Council discussed the new West Berkshire Local Plan and the current Scoping Consultation, which runs from 24 July to 4 September 2026.

Cllr Tompkins reported on the consultation and the draft response previously circulated to members.

Particular discussion centred on the evidence required to support housing allocations, including the need for up-to-date evidence of household and housing need rather than reliance on historic data.

The Council also discussed the scale of the housing requirement and the implications for West Berkshire and neighbouring areas.

The importance of identifying the housing needs of travellers in accordance with national planning policy was also discussed.

The Council agreed that a response should be submitted to the consultation and approved Cllr Tompkins' response, subject to any final amendments considered necessary before submission.

Action: Cllr Peter Tompkins to submit the Parish Council's response to the West Berkshire Local Plan Scoping Consultation before the 4 September 2026 deadline.

11. Bee Monitoring Device

No substantive update was recorded under this item. The item was deferred.

12. Speed Limit Request – 20mph

The Council considered the request for a 20mph speed limit following concerns raised by a member of the public at the previous meeting.

Members discussed persistent speeding concerns within the parish and noted that enforcement of the existing 30mph limit would itself be beneficial.

Concerns were also raised about road signs being obscured by vegetation, including a 30mph sign near the Craven Arms and a school warning sign.

The Council discussed the potential use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Members noted that SIDs are not enforcement devices but can influence driver behaviour. Solar-powered units were considered preferable because of the maintenance and battery issues associated with older battery-operated units.

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The possibility of obtaining a SID through a councillor/member bid was discussed, together with the need for appropriate Highways permission and ongoing maintenance.

The Council agreed that the possibility of a SID should be investigated further.

Action: Investigate where a SID would be placed in the parish, and its funding and maintenance requirements.

Action: Report obscured road signs and other highway issues to West Berkshire Council.

13. Parish Website and Email Provider

The Council discussed concerns regarding the existing Vision ICT parish website and associated email service.

Members reported difficulties with administration, email management, uploading and formatting information and problems following a recent system upgrade.

Parish Online was discussed as a possible alternative provider.

The Council agreed that alternative website and email providers should be investigated.

Cllr Sam Dibas had previously undertaken to research alternatives and will be asked to provide an update at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Sam Dibas to report on alternative website and email providers at the next meeting.

14. Clerk's Correspondence

Enborne Row welcome gate

The Council noted that the welcome gate is currently unstable following deterioration of its supporting posts. The matter has previously been reported and waiting on a response.

Action: Follow up on the repair.

Environment Agency matter – Land east of Thames Water Pumping Station

The Council discussed the outstanding matter concerning waste dumping on land east of the Thames Water Pumping Station, reference **ENQ 2026/11701**.

The Environment Agency has acknowledged the matter but indicated that action should be taken by the district council. The matter remains unresolved.

Action: Follow up the enquiry with the relevant authority. Cllr. Tony Vickers to remain copied into correspondence.

Litter picking – Wash Water

Concern was raised about litter in the Wash Water area.

The Council discussed the responsibilities of the authorities and the possibility of local residents undertaking litter picking. It was noted that West Berkshire Council can collect litter once it has been gathered.

The possibility of employing an individual to undertake regular litter picking was discussed, including the implications for insurance and whether the cost could be considered as part of a future budget.

The Council also noted that community litter-picking events take place annually, with equipment provided and collected waste removed.

The matter of potentially funding regular litter picking will be considered as part of the next budget process.

15. Reports for Information

15.1 Ward Members

The May and June 2026 reports from Cllr Bennysworth were noted.

15.2 Parish Councillors

Footpath ENB 0/9/3

Cllr Garrett provided an update regarding footpath ENB 0/9/3.

The Council remains concerned that the footpath does not currently follow its mapped route, particularly at the eastern end where the route has been moved southwards and the exit onto Bell Hill appears to be further east than shown on the definitive route.

Cllr Garrett reported that he had contacted the relevant West Berkshire Council footpath officer on 4 June. The matter had been passed to the officer responsible for enforcement, but no substantive further response had been received.

Members discussed recent activity on the site, including the use of heavy plant and the installation of compacted hardcore. Concern was expressed about the need to resolve the footpath issue before further development takes place.

The Council considered the matter urgent, particularly in view of the potential for future development activity to obstruct or compromise the route.

Action: Cllr Garrett to forward the previous correspondence regarding ENB 0/9/3 to Cllr Denise Gaines and continue to pursue the matter with West Berkshire Council.

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16. Future Agenda Items

The Council agreed that the following matter should be included on a future agenda:

- Review of Parish Council storage, documentation and assets held at Newbury Storage.

The Clerk will visit the storage facility to assess the documentation and assets held there.

The matter of the bee monitor update was deferred to a future meeting pending information from Cllr Dibas.

The Council also noted an information evening with MP Lee Dillon at Hampstead Marshall Village Hall on **11 August 2026, 6.30pm–8.30pm**, to which Enborne residents are invited.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Enborne Parish Council will be held on:

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

7.30pm

The Barn, St Michael and All Angels Church, Enborne

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Signed: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

APPENDIX 1 – Payments

Clerk to the Council: Kim Lloyd, The Barn, St Michael and All Angels Church, Church Lane, Enborne, RG20 0HD

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Amount	Payee	Invoice no	Date	VAT
	Kim Lloyd	June	30.06.2026	
£ 63.94	HMRC	June	30.06.2026	
£ 214.65	Berkshire Pension	June	30.06.2026	
£ 12.00	SME Accounting Services	2687	30.06.2026	£ 2.00
	Kim Lloyd	May	30.04.2026	
£ 63.94	HMRC	May	30.04.2026	
£ 207.46	Berkshire Pension	May	30.04.2026	
£ 12.00	SME Accounting Services	2663	30.04.2026	
£ 7.00	UTB	May	31.03.2026	
£ 64.00	Newbury Storgage	May	29.05.2026	£ 12.80
£ 7.00	UTB	June	30.06.2026	
£ 64.00	Newbury Storgage	June	30.06.2026	£ 12.80
£ 47.00	ICO, Data Protection Registration	2026-2027	04.06.2026	£ -
£ 605.88	Salting of additional roads in the paris	660928	19.06.2026	£ 100.98
INCOME				
£ -				
To note, Newbury Storage is increasing to £65 p/m from 01 August 2026				

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APPENDIX 2 – Bank Reconciliation

Local Council Name: Enborne Parish Council

Period ending **30th June 2026**

Prepared by: KL

Balances per bank statements as at

Unity Trust Bank Current Account	13,964.38	
Newbury Building Society Saving Account	61,402.56	
Total bank & cash balance		75,366.94

LESS: outstanding cheques (current account) at

Payee	Chq No.	Amount	
			75,366.94

Balance per Cash Books at

Cash Book Unity Trust Bank Current Account	incl VAT	13,964.38
Newbury Building Society Saving Account		61,402.56
	Balance inc	75,366.94

Check 0.00

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
Unallocated Funds	£17,296.56 (Balance of bank recon minus - allocated reserves)

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