

Latimer & Ley Hill Parish Council Meeting | MINUTES

19 Feb 2026 | 7.15pm | St Mary Magdalene Church Hall, Latimer

ATTENDEES

Cllr Anne Birkett (AB), Cllr Steve Thorp (ST), Cllr Mark Anderson (MA), Cllr Emily King (EK), Cllr Chris Gregory (CG), Cllr John Drewery (JD) and Claire Leek (Parish Clerk)

AGENDA TOPICS

| Agenda topic 1 | Apologies for Absence

None

| Agenda topic 2 | Register of Interests

CG is the agent for the application noted as agenda item 8b.

| Agenda topic 3 | Public Quarter Hour

Member of the public (MOP) joined to raise concerns on the planning application for Blackwell Farm, Latimer (agenda item 8b). MOP is concerned the application for Blackwell Farm it is not listed as a Heritage Building planning application. It appears only the full planning application was circulated by Buckinghamshire Council, there was no registered HB application although the PC were made aware that the HB application was registered and is documented in all submitted paperwork. The Heritage Building Officer has been on site and the application will be considered as a listed building application, with supporting historical report. The MOP is also worried about a modern balcony being attached to the building on the east elevation and believes this is out of character for AONB and against the ethos of the building. The PC highlighted the route for consultee comments via the Buckinghamshire Councils planning portal.

| Agenda topic 4 | Approval of January Meeting Minutes

Formally approved by all. Clerk to make change from reference to Flaunden Councillor to Chenies Councillor, and upload to website.

| Agenda topic 5 | Actions from Previous Minutes

Drainage works have completed but area is looking untidy and needs attention following the rain this year. Previous discussions suggests the team will be happy to return and make good. The area outside The Crown and Cricket Club need to be seeded in the coming weeks.

Clerk has submitted the precept request and accompanying paperwork to Buckinghamshire Council for 2026-2027.

Clerk followed up on reported breach at Spencers Farm. Subsequently there has been a retrospective planning application – discussed later in this meeting.

AB had requested a revised quote for the reduced number of posts – at the time of the meeting there hadn't been a response. Still awaiting second quote.

Broadband meetings are still being held and it has been determined that there are still 137 properties in Ley Hill that still cannot access fibre broadband. There is discussion about a potential installation of a mast. A community group are leading on this project.

Clerk reported potential planning breach of footpath that has been laid across common ground next to Ley Hill School. This has been allocated a reference number by Buckinghamshire Council who will attend to survey.

| Agenda topic 6 | Finance

- a. Approval of finance reports.** The finance report for January was approved and will be uploaded to the website. PC still concerned about the large energy cost for the 21 streetlights in Ley Hill, and will review the specification to determine how much we would expect to be paying.

Action: Clerk to located and forward specification of streetlights to JD for review.

b. Quotes for discussion.

- i. Remembrance area – The PC discussed a quote received for the redesign of the remembrance area at the last meeting, and although well received, the PC felt the costs were higher than what can be assigned to the project. This will be funded from money put aside for the project and anything additional will come from the reserve funds. The PC requested a slimmed down quotation, including the elements that were most appealing and cutting back where possible. The revised quote was received just prior to the meeting, so will be forward for review and consideration ahead of the next meeting. The overall cost was more in line with what is achievable and the PC discussed options that could be explored for funding to help contribute to the costs.

Action: Clerk to forward revised quote to councillors for consideration and explore funding opportunities. EK to look into option of funding through Restore Hope.

- c. Savings.** The PC has invested £20k of reserve funds over the last two years, in a higher interest savings account. This matured at the end of November, accruing interest of £530 over Nov 2024 to Nov 2025. The Clerk presented the options and PC decided to re-invest £20k for another year, leaving a small portion of the reserves for expected projects, in addition to any funds brought in via the Burial Ground.

Action: Clerk to research available savings account and move £20k.

| Agenda topic 7 | Burial Ground

- a. **Enquiries.** There has been one plot purchase for a member of the church, and the Deed of Exclusive Right of Burial for U115B was signed by Chair and Clerk at the meeting. This will now be sent to the deed owner. Information has been sent to another parishioner for the purchase of a full plot. When confirmed, the Clerk will prepare the paperwork.

One full burial took place on 10th Feb (Piggott) and ashes interments are scheduled for 20th Feb (Prosser), 9th April (Richards) and 10th April (Blythe). out on 22nd December. There has been an inquiry for an ashes interment for a non-parishioner, in a previously purchased plot. The cremation has taken place and interment of ashes is expected to take place soon.

Action: Clerk to send signed Deed of Exclusive Right of Burial to new plot owner.

| Agenda topic 8 | Planning

- a. **PL/25/6086/FA – Tamberlaine, Rushmere Lane.** No comment.
- b. **PL/25/6476/FA – Blackwell Farm, Latimer.** No comment.
- c. **PL/26/00144/FA – Cherry Tree Farm, Ley Hill.** No comment.
- d. **PL/25/6652/FA – Spencers Farm, Ley Hill.** PC had already written to Buckinghamshire Council to report a suspected breach of planning permissions at this site. Retrospective planning application has now been submitted however, the PC believe the application states inaccuracies and objects to the application. Draft response has been written and reviewed, and the Clerk will send in via required route to lodge the objection. The Clerk will also mention this application, and the PC's plans to object, in the next email newsletter.

Action: Clerk to send objection and make parishioners aware of application via the newsletter.

| Agenda topic 10 | Council Business

- a. **Buckinghamshire Councils Local Plan.** Following speculation via social media in recent weeks, Buckinghamshire Council launched the next stage of the local plan to deliver the required 95000 homes in Buckinghamshire. The information shared details how 1400 sites have been reviewed and assessed, and provides an interactive map and supporting documentation and information on sites that were deemed unsuitable, sites they will not be considering in the supply at this time, and 400 sites across the county that will now undergo further engagement and assessment. There were two sites of concern in the parish, a large area behind the far end of Botley Road and Lye Green Road, originally shared on social media as a larger area spanning to Jason's Hill, and a smaller parcel of land behind Botley Road and Birch Tree Road. The latter has been marked as an area requiring further assessment and engagement in the

latest documentation. The larger area has been deemed grey belt and, reassuringly, not included in the potential housing supply.

Whilst this is reassuring news, the scaremongering on social media means the parishioners need to be updated with the latest information, and the PC agreed it best to share an update on the developments on the local plan by email newsletter, including a link to the interactive map and documentation from Buckinghamshire Council, and encourage anybody who has concerns, particularly of the are marked in blue behind Birch Tree Grove and Botley Road, to comment via the survey.

Action: Clerk to include update on the local plan developments and a link to the information and survey by email newsletter.

- b. Trees to be planted.** The trees have been planted at the agreed sites in the village, and the PC thanks EK for arranging the planting. The Community Board provided a large proportion of the costs for the tree planting and the PC thank them for their contribution. The Clerk has provided the required evidence and the Community Board have confirmed everything is in order and will arrange for funds (£855) to be transferred in the coming weeks.
- c. Annual Parish Meeting 2026.** The meeting will be held on April 23rd at 7pm (subject to confirmation) and it was agreed this would ideally be at the Ley Hill Memorial Hall this year. The date may have to change depending on venue availability. The PC agreed that the ward councillors would be invited to attend and talk to their first year in post since the elections in May 2025, as well as an overview of what the PC have maintained and delivered. Further details to be determined at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to arrange venue for Annual Parish Meeting and contact ward councillors to find the best date for the meeting.

- d. Roughwood Lane Permits.** The Clerk followed up with Cllr A Bacon regarding the permits for Latimer residents for Roughwood Lane who in turn reached out to the project lead. It was confirmed that the project had since passed over to the Corporate Business Support Team. The Clerk was advised just prior to the meeting that the project was due for review at the end of February and the LLHPC concerns had been fed back. Buckinghamshire Council have asked how many residents would be likely to want a permit. The Clerk will respond to advice of number of households but confirm there has not been a survey of interested residents at this time.
- e. Litter Blitz.** The dates for the Spring litter blitz in both Latimer and Ley Hill will be confirmed in the coming weeks. ST to propose date for Ley Hill, and advise AB, who will arrange for the waste team to collect the rubbish.

Action: ST and CG to confirm dates for Litter Blitz and these then to be advertised in the newsletter and website.

- f. Sign Cleaning.** The road signs throughout the villages are looking very dirty and in need of a clean. The PC think this may need to be outsourced but would welcome volunteers! The first step is to mark on a

map, the routes that are worst affected and in most need of attention. This will then be used to get a quote. In the meantime, Clerk will identify local companies offering this service.

Meeting Closed at | 9.05pm |

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Councillor Anne Birkett (Chairman)

Latimer and Ley Hill Parish Council

Next PC Meeting | March 17 | 7.15pm | Ley Hill