

An ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on
Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.30pm in the Pavilion, Englefield Road, and was attended by the following:

Chair: Cllr. Clifford

Councillors Present: Cllr. Paul, Cllr. H.Hopkinson, Cllr. A.Hopkinson, Cllr. Church, Cllr. Pert, Cllr. Coker & Cllr. Ferguson

Others In Attendance: Blaire Brodie - Assitant Clerk, District Councillor Macro & three members of public.

Minutes: Di Hughes – Operations Manager/Clerk

MINUTES

Agenda Item	Minute	Action Agreed	Vote (If required)
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Cllr. Hopcroft & Cllr. Seto.	-	-
2.	<u>Declaration Of Interest & Dispensations</u> None	-	-
3.	<u>Minutes Of The Previous Meeting</u> This item was deferred until the next meeting.	-	-
4.	<u>Open Meeting & Public Forum</u> Members of the public (local residents) spoke in relation to Agenda Item 6, Planning Matters. They asked the Council to support their objections to planning application 26/00597/FUL. The Chair thanked them for attending and welcomed them to stay and listen while the Council discussed the matter as part of the Planning agenda item.		-
5.	<u>Monthly Reports</u> a. District Cllr. Macro sent a written report in advance of the meeting. Cllr Macro also reminded Council of the Members Bid application and closing date in May. SF – asked Cllr Macro about the WBC grass cutting schedule. PC – asked Cllr Macor about the location of the new bus stop on The Green. b. Cllr Clifford gave a verbal report. c. The Clerk gave a verbal report. d. Cllr Ferguson advised the community litter pick had been a success.	-	-

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Planning Matters</u> All planning matters were attached as an appendix and sent to the members in advance of the meeting. These are also available for members of the public to view on the TPC website.</p> <p><u>Planning Applications:</u> 26/00456/FUL - John Lewis, Arrowhead Road - Objection</p> <p>Theale Parish Council object to this application for the following reasons: Due to the likely increase in traffic and the absence of sufficient consideration for the parking and management of associated vans.</p> <p>26/00597/FUL - 20 High Street – Objection</p> <p>Theale Parish Council object to this application for the following reasons: Design and Visual Impact The inclusion of third-floor dormer windows on the front elevation would have a visible and potentially harmful impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area.</p> <p>Materials The proposed materials are not considered to be in keeping with the established character of the conservation area, which may detract from its visual coherence and heritage value. Based on the submitted details, the materials appear unsympathetic to the prevailing palette and finish of neighbouring properties.</p> <p>Parking, Servicing and Transport Impacts The application proposes a car-free development; however, insufficient evidence has been provided to demonstrate how the scheme would operate effectively in practice. There is a lack of clarity regarding provision for visitor parking, taxi drop-off/pick-up, and routine servicing requirements, including deliveries and refuse collection. Furthermore, no robust mechanism has been outlined to prevent future occupants from owning vehicles and displacing parking demand onto surrounding streets. This raises significant concerns regarding overspill parking, increased pressure on existing on-street parking capacity, and associated highway safety implications. In the absence of a comprehensive and enforceable parking management strategy, the proposal is considered contrary to sustainable transport and residential amenity objectives.</p> <p>Impact on Neighbouring Amenity (Fletcher Court) The proposed access arrangements raise concerns regarding the impact on the living conditions of existing residents at Fletcher Court. Increased activity associated with construction, servicing, and general use is likely to</p>	<p>Clerk to submit to responses WBC.</p>	<p>Proposed: MP Seconded: AH All in favour</p>
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	<p>result in additional noise, disturbance, and potential safety risks.</p> <p>The proposal does not adequately demonstrate how these impacts would be mitigated, and therefore fails to safeguard neighbouring residential amenity.</p> <p>Drainage and Foul Water Infrastructure</p> <p>The application does not provide sufficient information to demonstrate that existing foul water and sewage infrastructure has the capacity to accommodate the proposed development.</p> <p>In the absence of a detailed drainage strategy and confirmation from the relevant statutory undertaker, there is a risk of overloading the existing system, which could result in service failure or environmental harm. This represents a significant deficiency in the submission.</p> <p>Theale Parish Council also supports and endorses the objections raised by residents of the parish.</p>		
7.	<p><u>Finance & Accounts</u></p> <p>All finance matters were attached as an appendix and sent to the members in advance of the meeting. These are also available for members of the public to view on the TPC website.</p> <p>a. None.</p> <p>b. Noted.</p> <p>c. Council approved all the invoices for payment.</p> <p>d. Noted.</p>	<p>Cllr Clifford & Cllr Paul to authorise payments.</p>	<p>Proposed: BP Seconded: MP All in favour</p>
8.	<p><u>Correspondence Received</u></p> <p>Correspondence where relevant is being sent to members via email.</p>		
9.	<p><u>Financial Year End 2025/2026</u></p> <p>a. The internal auditor interim report was received.</p> <p>b. Year-end financial reports were received, with the Clerk providing an overview of expenditure by cost code.</p> <p>c. A Finance Committee update was given.</p> <p>d. The Council received the updated Asset Register, which includes new landscaping equipment and operational spend in March 2026. Some items were not delivered until after 31 March, which is why the Register could not be presented at the April meeting.</p> <p>e. This item has been deferred.</p>	<p>Clerk to advise Payroll provider of change in LGPS contributions from April 2026 as per recent correspondence.</p>	-

10.	<p><u>Community Grant</u></p> <p>a. Reports were received from all 2025 recipients except Theale Brownies.</p> <p>b. Under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 Theale Parish Council can spend money for the direct benefit of its area, or part of its area, or all or some of its residents.</p> <p>Theale Parish Council reviewed and discussed all the applications received and the following grants were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £450.00 – Berkshire Vision £500.00 – Our Story & Co £500.00 – Theale Tigers £500.00 – Care Bus Community Transport £500.00 – Can Do It Club £500.00 – Theale Age Concern (Theale Tea Club) £500.00 – Standby Volunteer Group <p>An application was received from Holy Trinity Church, Theale. On this occasion the application was unsuccessful. The main reason for this decision was that the proposed sessions at Arlington Business Park were not considered to directly benefit a sufficient number of Parish residents, and it was felt that those living within the Parish would be unlikely to travel there to attend.</p> <p>The formal presentations will be made at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 27th April 2026.</p>	Clerk to advise all applications if their applications were successful or not	Proposed: HH Seconded: SF Seven in favour One abstained
11.	<p><u>Accident Investigation</u></p> <p>a. The Clerk updated members in relation to the on the 9th March accident investigation.</p> <p>b. Proludic – Council agreed that, in future, purchases would be made directly from suppliers rather than through Proludic, following ongoing issues, lack of support and the significant mark-up on the parts.</p>	New trampoline beds to be purchased after the RoSPA inspection as there may be other items that need repairing or replacing.	Proposed: PC Seconded: MP All in favour.
12.	<p><u>North Street Playing Field Gate</u></p> <p>Having received further complaints and issues regarding the self-closing mechanism at the bottom of the North Street Playing Fields path, the supplier has visited the site for a third time and confirmed that the mechanism cannot be adjusted any further. They have therefore suggested removing it to avoid further complaints and operational issues.</p> <p>The Council agreed to remove the mechanism and to install a sign requesting that users ensure the gate is properly closed.</p> <p>The mechanism will be retained for spare parts.</p>	Clerk to remove the mechanism ASAP and to order signs.	Proposed: MC Seconded: AH All in favour.

13.	<u>Councillor Resignation</u> Council received the formal resignation from Cllr Watson. The Council is keen to ensure all seats are filled. It was agreed to notify West Berkshire Council of the resignation and resulting vacancy. If an election is not called, the vacancy will be advertised on the Council's website.		Proposed: MP Seconded: SC All in favour.
14.	<u>Dates For Your Diary</u> Monday 27 th April – Annual Community Meeting Monday 4 th May – Community Event, Sports Day	-	-
15.	<u>Date Of Next Meeting</u> Monday 11 th May @ 7.30pm – Annual Council Meeting	-	-

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Chair: Paul Wood Date: 11/5/26

