



Minutes of the Meeting of Bishops Cannings Parish Council
Held at the Village Hall, Bishops Cannings at 7.30pm on Thursday 11th June 2026

Present: Cllr Bone (Chair), Cllrs Banks, Gunn-Taylor, Holden, Lamb-Hughes, Miller and Player.

The Chair acknowledged the recent passing of Cllr Robinson's wife and had sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Council. Information was shared on the funeral arrangements.

In attendance: Alison Kent (Clerk) and Cllr Philip Whitehead (Wiltshire Council).

1. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Laver and Cllr Robinson.

2. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Bone on item 10 (b).

3. Approval of Minutes: Cllr Banks had circulated a proposed amendment to the minutes of 14th May in clarification of the discussion around the potential change in the parish name. Cllr Banks' reasoning was that her statement justified and qualified her position. The Chair noted the minimum requirement for minutes was that resolutions were recorded. The Council opted instead to offer context and detail as appropriate but avoided a verbatim record of discussions. Several members had spoken during that discussion, with the key points captured in that manner. Cllr Banks proposed approval of the minutes, as amended, of the meeting held on 14th May as a true record, seconded Cllr Bone, all in favour and signed by the Chair.

4. Chair's Report: The Chair would update the meeting as it progressed. He advised that he had installed a replacement cabinet for the defibrillator at The Hourglass. The device was back online. The Chair had added Cllr Miller as a guardian for all the Parish Council's defibrillators, meaning that notifications as to defibrillator deployment would also be sent to him. Cllr Miller would be shown the locations of all five units within the parish.

5. Unitary Councillor's Update: Cllr Whitehead confirmed that Wiltshire Council had, in a close decision, voted on 19th May to withdraw the draft Local Plan. The process would need to begin again. In the interim, he judged that there would be little protection against speculative development. Cllr Holden asked whether the existing guidelines could still be used to make objections where necessary. Cllr Whitehead confirmed they could but that an application could still be refused. The biggest disadvantage facing Wiltshire Council in terms of housing was that while the focus of housing need was in the west (from Chippenham to Trowbridge and Warminster), developers made greater profits by building in the east. Further constraints were that objections now had to be made in full at the outset, as no additional comments would be allowed at appeal.

6. Co-option of Councillors: Two vacancies existed but no applications had been received.

7: Planning:

Decisions: PL/2026/01911 Householder Planning Permission **Approved** for demolition of existing conservatory and replacing with new single storey rear extension at Fourways, Horton.

PL/2026/02304 Notification of intention to carry out works to trees within a conservation area **Approved** for T1 Cherry – fell and grind at Bishops Cannings Primary School, The Street.

PL/2026/00081 Full Planning Permission **Approved** to convert existing 5 bedroom dwelling into 2 no. 3 bedroom dwellings and associated works at 22 Ferozeshah Road.

Applications:

PL/2026/02930 Outline Planning Permission: all matters reserved for the residential development for up to 40 dwellings, associated works, infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space and landscaping. Construction of a new vehicular access off Windsor Drive at Land south of Coate Road.

Bishops Cannings Parish Council objects to this application.

The housing development requirements for the Devizes Community Area are already satisfied through the existing Neighbourhood Development Plan and replacement. The proposed application represents additional, unallocated development beyond what the neighbourhood plans require. The development site also falls outside the Settlement Framework Boundary / outside the defined limits of development (as referenced in Core Policy 2 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy).

The traffic assessment has also failed to consider the impact of the additional traffic generated on the villages of Coate, Bishops Cannings and Horton. The cumulative impact of this development plus others being considered would be considerable. There has already been a detrimental impact on local villages as a result of increased traffic avoiding London Road and these areas cannot support any further increase.

Proposed Cllr Player, seconded Cllr Holden, all in favour.

8. Projects:

a) Community Governance Review: Members had seen the Electoral Review Committee's paper, setting out its draft recommendations for the Community Governance Review. This was now subject to public consultation and an online survey until 22nd June. The Chair had written to residents of properties on the western side of London Road, which the Committee proposed be transferred from the town of Devizes to the parish of Bishops Cannings. There was nothing to stop members submitting a response to the survey as residents and as Councillors. The Chair encouraged members to complete the survey.

The Chair proposed to speak with Democratic Services on the matter, with a view that the Council would submit a formal written response to the draft recommendations. This would take into account the additional outline planning applications which had since emerged, east of Windsor Drive.

Action – The Chair to speak to Electoral Services, draft a letter and circulate.

The first community event had been held in the function room of The Hourglass on 9th June. Cllr Banks offered some feedback from the first public event, which would be fed into the later events. These would be held on 18th and 19th June at the Village Hall and Skittle Alley, New Inn respectively. Posters would be placed on parish noticeboards, along with pieces for the website and social media.

b) Road Safety (including Coate Road): The Chair reported that he had attended LHFIG that day. The changes approved for West End were in the programme of works and would be undertaken in the summer. Separately, posts had been installed for the new village signage and preparations made for the five sets of white gates.

Coate Road was now open following the works to the new junction onto Windsor Drive. The point would be made at the Area Board on 22nd June about the lack of police presence during the road closure. Cllr Whitehead thanked Cllr Banks for all her hard work. Many communities across Wiltshire were in a similar situation to Coate. The difference is that at Coate there was now a consistent body of evidence. Cllr Whitehead would put forward a motion to purchase two cameras.

c) Village Car Park: The Chair confirmed that Dolman's would manage the project. The Parish Council was in discussion with The Crown Estate, via Savills, and was proceeding in line with advice given. The Chair was waiting for an updated BNG metric report, designed to be delivered within a red line. Discussions would then take place with planning officers. The Council was looking to include a 2.8m height barrier to stop heavy vehicles accessing the site.

Cllr Bone proposed to accept the tender from E D & W Bodman as per the specification and timelines, seconded Cllr Lamb-Hughes, all in favour.

Three quotations had been sought for the tree work required. All three contractors had excellent reputations and had previously undertaken work for the Parish Council. Cllr Bone proposed the quotation from Alasdair Naughton be accepted, seconded Cllr Player, all in favour.

d) Devizes Area Neighbourhood Development Plan (DANDP): The Chair advised that he had prompted a review of the delivery timeline, in light of the fact that the draft plan no longer contained any town centre policies. This observation had later been backed up by Wiltshire Council's strategic planners. A workshop had since been arranged for 16th June at the Town Hall with all members of Devizes Town Council and members of the Steering Group invited to discuss town centre policies. Cllr Banks mentioned the need to agree the consultant's fees.

e) Naughton Avenue Park: The Chair reported that the oak tree had not survived and that he had informed the Woodlands Officer. She had been impressed with the Parish Council's care and success in planting the second fruit orchard and had agreed to fund another oak tree; this time potted. It would be planted in early November. The only outstanding item for the orchard grant was the new sign. This is funded, but procurement will await a decision on the new parish name and logo. The Clerk reported no further progress on quotations for the concrete pad required for the CCTV installation.

Le Marchant Park: The Walk, Wheel and Cycle Trust had completed their initial design plan and report for the creation of a wider, shared user path the length of the park, and with a link up to Hillier Road. The design was a gold standard, costing c.£172,000 without lighting provision. The Chair had discussed this with the relevant Wiltshire Council officer, who agreed that efficiencies could be made. A number of financing options for the project were also discussed.

A bat survey would take place from May until the end of October. This would determine which lighting solution would be suitable. Cllr Gunn-Taylor mentioned the horrible access from the canal to the park which would be investigated. There were no instant solutions, although the Chair would consider this in his discussions with the National Grid project team.

f) National Grid update: The Chair reported that the installation and testing of new buried cables had all been completed successfully. The switchover had been delayed until September / October due solely to the need to commission a new shunt near Taunton. This would manage variations in the voltages passing through the system. The pylons could then be removed, likely over the winter. Reconstitution of the farmland had begun, with footpaths at the western end likely to be opened first. The Parish Council's request to utilise scalplings for BCAN43 remained.

9. Ordinary Business:

a) Website and communications: Cllr Lamb-Hughes had no update as the new logo and name was required. The development of the website could then proceed.

b) Staffing Committee: The Chair advised that a meeting had been held on 2nd June at which the draft Appraisal Policy was considered. This required minor adjustment. The Chair plus two members of the Staffing Committee would oversee the Appraisal process.

10. Finance and administration

a) Bank reconciliations: The reconciliations up to 31st May 2026 were reviewed, found to be in order and signed by the Chair.

Total balances at 31st May 2026 amounted to £253,741.74 (earmarked reserves £185,885.35) leaving a general fund of £67,856.39 (= 77% of 2026/27 Precept of £88,655).

b) Approval of payments: Cllr Lamb-Hughes proposed the approval of all payments as shown in Appendix 1, totalling £8,895.03, seconded by Cllr Banks, all in favour.

Cllr Lamb-Hughes left the meeting at 9.20pm.

c) Annual Accounts 2025/26: The Annual Accounts, which included the Asset Register, had been circulated to members by the RFO. The RFO was asked to review a number of items and present the register at the July meeting for approval.

d) Risk Assessment 2025/26: The Risk Assessment had been circulated to members by the RFO. Cllr Player felt the document needed to be redesigned as she did not recognise it as a normal risk assessment. It needed to show how the risk was managed by the Council. This would be presented at the July meeting for approval.

e) Internal Audit Report 2025/26: The Internal Audit Report had been circulated to all members by the RFO. Quarterly checks on reconciliations needed to be made by another councillor. Cllrs Holden, Laver and Player would rotate this requirement as part of their role on the Staffing Committee.

f) Annual Governance Statement 2025/26: The Chair read out each statement in turn and proposed approval, seconded Cllr Holden, all in favour.

Action: The RFO to submit the necessary documentation to the external auditor in accordance with the statutory regulations.

g) Accounting Statements 2025/26: The Chair proposed approval of the Accounting Statements, seconded Cllr Banks, all in favour.

h) Appointment of Internal Auditor for 2026/27: The Chair proposed that Charlton Baker be appointed for the Internal Audit process for 2026/27, seconded Cllr Miller, all in favour.

11. Public Session: Cllr Gunn-Taylor asked about lighting at the Wessex Water sub-station. The Chair would raise it at the LHFIG.

Meeting closed at 9.42pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Next meeting scheduled: Thursday 9th July 2026.

**Appendix 1
Payments for Approval
June 2026**

Payee	Ref	Description	Invoice amount £
S Peachey	1028-1029	Regular mtce, bus shelters, play areas	1,357.60
CW Countryside	693703	Grounds maintenance, June	717.49
Wiltshire IT	4571	Office 365/email maintenance	107.28
SSE	IV04456637	CCTV, electricity	89.62
Smart Integrated	AM 12565	CCTV, annual maintenance charge	1,190.83
WALC	WALC-1223	Planning course x 4	192.00
The Crown Estate	61948069	Annual car park rent	15.00
S J Aplin	4744/4748	Cygnets and Hillier play area repairs	1,213.20
Mr D. Bone	-	Hedging and spray paint	68.48
NBB Recycled Furniture	4833352	2 x benches and fixings	1,641.60
Medisave (UK) Ltd	4880351	Defibrillator battery	329.99
Defib Store Ltd	66338	Defibrillator pads	82.80
Dolman	17157	Car park costs - tenders, discharges	978.00
Ms A. Kent	-	Salary, June and lanyards	682.49
HMRC	-	PAYE, June	228.65
			8,895.03