

Minutes of the Fyfield Parish Council Meeting held on the 28th of July 2026 in the Fyfield Church at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr P Boyes – Chairman
Cllr M Hinds – Vice Chairman
Cllr R Gimlette
Cllr F Jefferies
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr C Donnelly
Members of the Public – 18

Apologies: Cllr V Phillips and Borough Councillor Mr P Lashbrook.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

The Chairman signed the May 2026 Minutes as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

FLOODING UNDER THE BRIDGES – Cllr Mr C Donnelly had no up-date from Highways regarding the flooding under the bridges.

'GOV.UK' EMAIL ADDRESS - The Clerk reported that he will forward the costings to the Parish Councillors. If this is agreed the email addresses and Website should be in place by the September Meeting.

20MPH SPEED LIMIT – The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had not yet been able to establish the proposed sub-committee. Cllr F Jeffries agreed to take the matter forward with Cllr V Phillips, with the Chairman to follow up and confirm Cllr V Phillips' involvement. The sub-committee would meet separately to investigate the process and report back formally to the Parish Council.

County Councillor Mr C Donnelly offered to help as he has been working with neighbouring Parishes and is aware of the process and the information required by Hampshire Highways.

PLANNING.

The Chairman gave a report on planning issues:

- *Update on potential development submission for dwellings at The Waynes, by Cambium Developments Ltd.*
 - *Held a drop in style event 9th July.*
 - *General feedback received from residents largely referenced to TVBC and Highways responsibility to assess the application rather than recognising the limitations.*

- *Highways advisor mentioned 250 vehicle movements per day- further details will be in highways assessment as part of application.*
- *Current status: Pending release/publication of the planning application*
- Members of TVBC planning visited Fyfield week before last to see firsthand the limitations and issues we experience.
- The Parish Council declined a meeting with the developer along with Borough Cllr, to discuss the railway flooding- HCC Highways would need to be present, as the drains are within their jurisdiction we weren't sure what could be gained from such a meeting.
- Whilst the Parish Council recognises the importance of addressing flooding within the village, we do not feel it would be appropriate to hold a meeting with the developer in advance of any formal planning application, particularly in the absence of the highway authority.
- The Parish Council considers that any discussions relating to potential mitigation measures should take place through the established planning process, where all relevant authorities and stakeholders are able to participate transparently.
- ***Planning: Thruxton planning for 60 Dwellings***
Previous approval for a development, same developer expanding.
 The application reference is 26/01455/OUTN.
 Plans for up to 60 new homes, including public open space, and ecology zones have been submitted on farmland east of Stanbury Close in Thruxton.
 Plankbridge (Holdings) Ltd application is in outline form, with access to be agreed now and detailed layout, scale, and appearance to follow at a later stage.
 Planning documents prepared by Mission Town Planning on behalf of the applicant say the land "comprises 3.489 hectares of agricultural land" to the north of the village, just outside the settlement boundary but within a draft allocation in the emerging local plan.

Worth noting: The planning statement stresses Test Valley's housing land shortfall, citing the 'tilted balance' in favour of sustainable development in paragraph 11 of the NPPF. If accurate, this directly undermines the Thruxton |Neighbourhood Development Plan's limit of 10 homes per site.

TDPS.

The Chairman reported:

- For clarity, this is not a Parish Council aspect, The Chairman attends the meetings and provides an update as it relates to concerns raised:
- *Chair met with Circuit to discuss various issues experienced of late 13th June as part of his position on the committee.*
- *TDPS recognises the wider villages may not know or understand who TDPS are and what they do.*

An information notice has been drafted and distributed on Social Media explaining the history of TDPS, their remit and engagement with the circuit. It also covers some of the recent issues and the legal aspects.

TDPS are looking at further distribution to reach the wider audiences with a new email address created for residents to contact with any concerns. TDPS.concerns@gmail.com which is also on the information note.

- It was agreed there would be no additional testing day (occurring during school time) going forward due to recent noise issues.
A letter was released from Thruxton Circuit to all local residents 23rd June apologising for the recent issues.
- **Thruxton airshow**, considerable concern from residents. Event does not have CAA approval to take place.
 - Extensive discussions with the event organiser and circuit owner, championed somewhat by Greg, Cllr from Kimpton. Meeting convened at TVBC (non-Public), chaired by Phil Lashbrook (postponed due to heat) but took place 24th July.
 - Had representation from Kimpton, Amport, Appleshaw and Penton, apologies have been sent from Fyfield and I've received various reports back.
 - Chair wrote on behalf of the PC 10th July clarifying multiple aspects.
 - A community-facing document has been prepared and shared with the Parishes of Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield- in the form of a mailshot.
 - Highlights changes in road closures.
 - An application was made in March, however, it was not duly made to the Licensing Authority which led to the application being re - submitted on the 3rd July and is in the 28-day consultation window.
 - A local resident Mr McPartlan is liaising with Cllr Greg Kimpton on the Premises Licence application following their objection to the Rude Giant event application. Chair is liaising with Cllr Greg to understand more.
 - Another public meeting solely focused on the event is being arranged for 17th August at Thruxton Mem. Hall
 - Initiated by Kimpton, intention combine with TDPS, not a duplicate meeting to ensure all topics are covered.

RESILIENCE.

Cllr R Gimlette will up-date the Parish Council on progress of the Resilience Plan at the September Meeting. Access to both the Fairground, Weyhill and Thruxton Memorial Hall would be ideal and progress has been made.

A342 WORKING GROUP – Cllr M Hinds.

Cllr M Hinds gave a report from the June A342 Working Group Meeting.

- Hampshire County Council is considering setting up a study of the A342.
- HCC plan to improve the cycleway and pedestrian access from Weyhill roundabout to the Penton Lane junction.
- The results of the recent survey have been received and will be distributed in due course and will be published on the Parish Council Website.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

1st of April 2026 – 28th of July 2026

INCOME.

TVBC ½ Precept £6,000.00

Expenditure

	£
R Waterman – Administration	1,200.00
Electric Workz – Def Electrics	105.32
C Wilkins - Bus Shelter Cleaning	56.00
PGPC – Hire of Office for 2025/26	120.00
Wel Medical - Defibrillator Battery	220.00
Michael Bailey - Grass Cutting	560.00
TVBC – Dog Bin Emptying	291.08
Fyfield PCC – Grant	500.00
P Reynolds – Audit Fee	235.00
SBPC - Storage	20.00
Sally Leech QPC Chairman – Plaque	22.00
Bank Charges	32.76
Hire Thruxton Hall – May Meeting	50.00
Defibrillator Electricity for 2026	600.00
	<u>£4,012.16</u>

Opening Balance 1/4/2026 = £ 8,041.72

Plus Income TVBC ½ Precept = £ 6,000.00

= £ 14,041.72

Less Expenditure = £ 4,012.16

Money in Bank **= £10,029.56**

Bank Account Balances.

HSBC = £ 9,081.16

LLOYDS = £ 948.40

= £10,029.56

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR C DONNELLY.

Cllr Mr C Donnelly reported:

- There is no further news on Devolution to report.
- Hampshire County Council are again providing Summer Activities for Children. Details can be found on the TVBC and HCC Websites.
- The A342 Working Group are to be invited to County Hall for a meeting with the new Head of Hampshire Highways. An invite to the Parish Councils involved will be sent out in September.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chairman reported correspondence from a resident regarding the Parish Council's responsiveness to emails and wider concerns about communication and community engagement.

It was noted that a 5 June email had been inadvertently overlooked after being sent to both the Clerk's and Chair's email addresses. The Chair apologised for the oversight and advised that the move to dedicated Parish Council email accounts should reduce the likelihood of similar issues in future. A reference to an email dated 15 July was clarified as not relating to the Parish Council.

The Council noted that the resident's original email included suggestions to recognise and support local volunteer litter pickers and to establish a community litter-picking initiative. It was confirmed that the volunteer litter picker present at the meeting advised they had the equipment required in conjunction with TVBC provided items. The volunteer also asked whether advance notice could be given of grass cutting in the village, to enable a litter pick to take place beforehand and reduce the risk of rubbish being shredded.

The Chair confirmed that a response had been sent explaining the volunteer nature and statutory role of the Parish Council, confirming there had been no deliberate failure to respond, and clarifying that planning matters would only be commented on once formal applications had been submitted.

Members discussed a proposed correspondence standard, with an aim to acknowledge correspondence within 5 working days where possible and provide a substantive response within 20 working days, recognising that some matters may require longer where investigation or consideration at a Council meeting is necessary. This was agreed and will be adopted.

The Council also noted the resident's further comments regarding:

- publication of draft minutes, which are published within one month in accordance with the Transparency Code and made available on the Council website and village noticeboards;
- progress on the 20mph/speeding sub-committee, which has been delayed due to other Council priorities;
- support for community litter-picking initiatives, which the Council supports in principle but cannot organise directly due to insurance and related considerations;
- clarification of village boundaries and rights of way, with the Clerk to confirm the information available on the website;
- a request relating to photography at the Church Fete, which is outside the Parish Council's remit, although the Chair agreed to pass the enquiry to the organisers; and
- the future administration of the unofficial village social media page, with Members noting that this remains a community matter rather than a Parish Council responsibility.

It was noted that an expectation of a response to correspondence sent over a weekend was not considered reasonable, although the proposed correspondence standard would provide clearer expectations for future communications.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CLLR MRS R GIMLETTE – reported on the Local Plan to Gateway Plan.

TVBC held a meeting last week on 22nd July regarding its local plan. The Local Plan is the document that sets out where future development should take place and the planning policies used to guide decisions across the borough. It is intended to provide certainty for residents, developers and decision-makers through a plan-led system.

Test Valley Borough Council has now voted to abandon work on the current Local Plan and instead prepare a new ****Gateway Plan**** under the Government's new planning system. The Council says this is because national planning reforms, significantly higher housing targets, the loss of its five-year housing land supply and local government reorganisation have overtaken the existing plan. Quite a few councillors spoke against stopping the current Local Plan and on their own record compared to other councils for example Winchester, but then abstained. The councillors backed the recommendation on 22nd July by 22 votes to nil with 15 abstentions. There was a lot of blaming going on between the Conservative and Lib Dem why we were in this mess and of Labour suddenly introducing an added 78% increase on what building was needed to be achieved in Test Valley. We were even apologised to by councillor ROhit Kohli who said he had not heard an apology for our residents who welcome the right development but now faced more speculative schemes.

However, this leaves an important question for our communities. Until a new plan is adopted, what real protection remains for policies such as settlement boundaries, the Spatial Strategy, COM2 and other planning policies that residents have relied upon for years?

These policies were intended to guide where development should take place and to give communities certainty. If they are increasingly outweighed by national policy and speculative planning applications, then local people are entitled to ask what influence local planning policy still has.

During the TVBC meeting... members of the community and Fyfield PC were represented in person by Sean Hosteley stating that there needed to be more leadership which is entrusted to the councillors by the villagers, Brian Fraser said that planners must ensure drainage and services keep pace with growth, Deborah Dix argued that democratic consultation was not happening before planning was given and Frankie Jeffries asked what policies councillors could realistically rely on if the plan-led system had been watered down and protections were unclear.

We came away feeling very frustrated as we felt the majority of the councillors were very negative about planning and they felt it was a risk turning down a development as the developer will then take it central government where about 95% are overturned by the government and the taxpayers has to pay for it. This is putting the power into the developers hands and development going ahead in unsuitable areas rather than a focussed sustainable plan going forward for the next few years.

As a Parish Council, we will continue to scrutinise planning applications carefully, represent our community's interests and press for a genuinely plan-led planning system that gives proper weight to local policies and local voices.

Cllr R Gimlette reported that she had met with Nathen Glasgow and Jason Owen from the TVBC Planning Department and they had walked around the Village. Cllr R Gimlette felt that after the walk around the Planning Officers went away with some understanding of the problems Fyfield faced now and in the future, with the lack of infrastructure to cope with possible housing developments.

CLLR P BOYES.

- TVBC have invited Parish Councils to a Planning Enforcement Training/Workshop Events.
- Noting the recent announcement that the Fyfield farm buildings/estate are for sale, ask the Clerk to write to the estate manager, confirm the agreement/lease remains extant.
- *The parish Council engage in correspondence with adjacent parishes re: Thruxton Community Engagement Forum (CEF), with a view to expand to be multi parish, similar to A342 but to cohere responses to broader planning, especially important in light of TVBC direction change on the Local Plan.*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

The following issues were raised:

- It was felt that the cost being charged for the electricity to power the Defibrillator Cabinets was excessive at £300 for each site.
- Steve Counsell (Thruxton Neighbourhood Plan) spoke about setting up a Community Engagement Forum. Each Parish would have a representative and issues raised could be taken to TVBC, Steve Counsell felt it is time for the neighbouring parishes to come together to present a united front.
- The strength of having a Neighbourhood Development Plan to provide data for a profile of the parish was discussed.
- It was noted that Parish Councillors do a good job and volunteer their time, it was felt that with the current uncertainty on development etc, residents also need to step up to assist.
- Mr Peter Lane reported that the Village Email List has space to expand and is a good way of keeping people informed.
- It was pointed out that not everyone has internet access. It may be prudent to go back to the old days of producing a newsletter or offering to post/deliver paper copies of the minutes those who would like a copy. This was noted and thought a good idea.
- It was suggested that the Church is altered to make it more suitable for Community use.

Mr Peter Lane (Church Warden) reported that making the Church more suitable for Community use is a wonderful idea. However, the Church belongs to the diocese, and permission would need to be obtained. Funding such alterations would also need be obtained and unlikely to come from the diocese.

Mr Peter Lane reported that the sale of Manor Farm could have serious implications for the Church/village. Manor Farm has supported the Church for many years, providing the land for the Village Fete, use of Barns for events, maintaining the track to the Church which they own and many other items enabling the Church to function.

Mr Peter Lane reported that he has written to the Manor Farm Trustees requesting if this will continue.

Tania stated that having been a Fyfield Parish Councillor in the past she would like to publicly thank the current Parish Council for all the hard work they do for the village. This was echoed by those present.

CLOSE OF THE JULY MEETING

The Chairman closed the July Parish Council Meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

29th of September 2026 in the Fyfield Church at 6.30

WEB SITE.

www.fyfieldparishcouncil.org.uk.

ATTACHMENTS FOR INFORMATION.

1. Local Plan v Gateway Plan.
2. The circular reference TDPS.
3. The Airshow leaflet produced by the event organisers.