
Parish Council Meeting

5th May 2026

Padworth Village Hall

Councillors: Rob Jones (Chair), Andy Williams, Andrew Griffin, Emily Robinson, and Johnathan Johnson

Members of the public: 0

1. To elect Chairman and Vice Chairman

Rob Jones was duly voted in as Chair, and Jonathan Johnson was voted in as Vice Chair.

2. Co-option of Councillor

The meeting discussed the current vacancy for a Councillor following the retirement of John Miller, who was thanked for his contribution and work during his time on the council.

Jacky Jones was proposed as a suitable candidate for co-option to the council. The proposal was made by Rob Jones and seconded by Emily Robinson. The vote was carried unanimously.

3. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

There were none

4. To approve minutes of the last meeting of the council

Minutes were signed and dated for records

5. To approve annual accounts, risk assessments and Annual Governance and Return Forms

As part of the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) 2025/26 process, the meeting reviewed the documentation prepared by the Clerk in their capacity as Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

5.1 Internal Auditor Report

The Internal Auditor's report was discussed. Several minor matters were raised for attention and future action following the auditor's recommendations.

5.2 Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The points within the Annual Governance Statement were read out and agreed by members. The statement was duly signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

5.3 Accounting Statements 2025/26

The accounting statements and associated financial information for 2025/26 were discussed and approved. The statements were signed by the Chair.

PADWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

C/o Juniper House, Aldermaston, RG7 LJ
Email: clerk@padworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07877 122127

6. To approve updated Standing orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure

The meeting discussed the updated Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Complaints Procedure. It was agreed that the Standing Orders and Risk Assessment would be adopted and updated at a later date.

7. To receive the District Councillors report

The report will be posted to the parish council website.

8. To receive the Clerks report

PADWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - CLERKS FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Reconcilliation for Meeting 05/05/26

	<u>Payments</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Balance as at 1st March 2026			
Treasurers Account			£ 398.71
Project Account			£ 48,817.78
			£ 49,216.49

Bank Interest received (March)	£ 18.62
Bank Interest received (April)	£ 20.31
Precept received (April)	£ 10,000.00

Payments

Ellie Brewer (Feb)	£	406.19		
Service Charge (March)	£	4.25		
Ellie Brewer (March)	£	406.19		
Returned S/O Charge	£	7.00		
Oliver Rogers (Tree cutting)	£	220.00		
Ellie Brewer (April)	£	406.19		
Service Charge (April)	£	4.25		
	£	1,454.07	£	10,038.93
			£	57,801.35

Treasurers Account	£ 944.64
Project Account	£ 56,856.71
	£ 57,801.35

There was discussion amongst councillors regarding the currently low level of interest being received and whether there are any restrictions in place regarding alternative banking arrangements or investment options. Members considered the possibility of reviewing options both with Lloyds Bank and with alternative providers in order to secure improved interest rates and returns on council funds.

ACTION – Clerk to investigate alternative interest rates and banking options.

9. Village Hall matters

Field boundary issues

The meeting noted that there has been no further formal progress regarding the field boundary matter. However, the landowner was recently seen onsite and a conversation subsequently took place. It was reported that he still believes there to be an issue and continues to hold concerns regarding the boundary position.

Reference was made to a photograph dating from the 1960s, which appears to support the Parish Council and Village Hall Trustees' understanding of the boundary line. Mark Lemm has received a request for a meeting from the landowner, although no further arrangements have yet been confirmed.

It was further noted that the landowner has now raised questions regarding an additional boundary area. The Parish Council and Village Hall Trustees remain keen to seek a reasonable compromise and would look to formalise any agreed position through the Land Registry should productive discussions take place. Members expressed the view that the landowner does not currently appear motivated by any specific objective.

The possibility of altering the direction of the football pitch was also discussed; however, concerns were raised that this could create additional difficulties for other users of the hall and recreation ground.

Charity Commission report

The Charity Commission report was discussed by the meeting and approved. The report was signed by the Chair on behalf of the Councillors in their capacity as trustees of the Village Hall.

10. To review Planning Matters

10.1 Decisions

- **25/02842/FUL** – Exolum Silver Lane Padworth Reading RG7 4QR. Installation of slops facility, sampling stations, kiosk, pump, connecting above ground pipelines and associated works. **APPROVED**

10.2 Awaiting Decisions

- **25/02133/FUL** – Exolum PSD Rectory Road. The installation of a 1.5MW ground-mounted solar PV array. The system consists of 2,000 high-efficiency monocrystalline panels arranged in a ground-mount configuration

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- **25/00933/FUL** - Proposed 4No. terraced houses with ancillary parking and amenity space following demolition of existing bungalow and outbuildings. - Norbrek, Bath Road, Padworth, Reading RG7 5HR - **PC Objected**
 - **26/00155/CERTE** - Former Aldermaston Quarry Site Padworth Lane Lower Padworth Reading. Land is naturally regenerating and being managed by Berkshire Ornithological Club as a nature reserve without compliance with conditions 40, 41, 42 and 43 of planning permission 08/01023/MINMAJ - **PC Objected**
 - **25/01915/FULMAJ** - Padworth Saw Mills Rag Hill Aldermaston Reading RG7 4NU. Part retrospective: Retention of storage shed, entrance gates, hard surfacing and boundary treatments (including gabion walls, security railings, and mesh fencing), as well as the marginal extension of boundary treatments and additional hard surfacing.

The meeting discussed correspondence received from Sophie Crawford of Aldermaston regarding the matter. It was noted that while the issue has a greater direct impact on Aldermaston, there are likely to be wider implications for surrounding roads and neighbouring parishes, including Padworth.

ACTION – Clerk to prepare and submit an objection on the planning portal

- **26/00550/PASOL** - Padworth IWMF, Padworth Lane, Lower Padworth. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a West Berks to install rooftop solar energy generation panels on selected buildings within the footprint of the Council's Padworth Integrated Waste Management Facility.

Mill Lane House

The meeting discussed ongoing matters relating to previous application 24/02625/HOUSE. It was noted that parishioners have been requesting an update regarding the current position, they want reassurance that West Berkshire Council is also seeking to bring the matter to a conclusion. Members agreed that further clarification and updates would be welcomed as the situation progresses.

11. To receive updates from Councillors

Speed Limit Review on A4 Bath Road

The meeting discussed the latest findings relating to the speed limit review on the A4 Bath Road. It was noted that the data does not currently indicate excessive speeding in the area. However, concerns remain regarding vehicles continuing to drive through the chevron markings. The situation is further complicated by the existing “No Right Turn” signage arrangement.

Padworth Lane Speeding

Members discussed ongoing concerns regarding speeding and traffic movements along Padworth Lane. District Cllr Boeck was asked to provide any updates relating to the proposed passing places. It was also noted that there is an existing pavement in the area which is currently being affected.

Bus shelters

The meeting discussed the possibility of improving local bus shelter provision and noted that West Berkshire Council currently has grants available which may support such projects. Potential locations were considered, including near the Holiday Inn, subject to sufficient available space.

Reference was made to a bus shelter on the A4 towards Theale which has recently been vandalised. However, members agreed that the greater concern relates to pedestrian access to the bus stop, with reports of individuals walking alongside the dual carriageway due to the lack of a safe pathway. The possibility of installing a tarmac walkway or pathway to improve safety was discussed and members considered whether such a scheme may be achievable.

ACTION – Cllr Griffin to review the existing bus shelters and feedback.

Playground at the Fallows

The meeting discussed the possibility of providing additional play equipment aimed at children within the 5+ age range. Cllr Griffin reported that initial research has been undertaken with local suppliers. While the costs involved are significant, the equipment generally includes warranties of 10 years or more and would represent a substantial improvement for families within the area.

Potential funding opportunities were discussed, including applications to organisations such as Greenham Trust, Englefield and Veolia, all of whom have previously supported local projects. Members agreed that this is currently at an initial investigation stage to establish what may be possible.

It was noted that wooden equipment may provide a lower initial cost, although it would likely require additional maintenance or replacement works within a shorter timeframe. The possibility of installing sensory boards onto existing equipment was also considered. Members noted that the Village Hall play area is already widely used by older children and agreed that any future improvements at The Fallows should seek to provide similar opportunities. It was further suggested that Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding could represent an appropriate source of funding for the project. A number of budget options are currently being explored.

ACTION – Clerk to circulate further details and quotations to members.

- Cllr Jones to speak with Jackie regarding ROSPA at The Fallows play area.
- Cllr Griffin to arrange for a company to inspect and advise on maintenance and repair works required at the Village Hall following the previous ROSPA.

12. Next meeting

13th July 2026

13. To record the time meeting closed

20.23