

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Juniper House, Aldermaston, RG7 4LJ
Email: clerk@midghamparish.co.uk
Tel: 07877 122 127

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

11th May 2026 at Midgham Village Hall

This meeting was conducted strictly in accordance with Standing Orders as adopted by Council in May 2021. All Councillors are reminded to acquaint themselves with these Standing Orders.

District Councillor: Chris Read

Councillors: Anthony Fenn (Chair), Francis Long (Vice Chair), Nigel Bassford, Tracy

Leadbeater

Members of Public: 2

1. To receive apologies

Dawn Adams, Ben Holden-Crowther

2. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Anthony Fenn was proposed as Chair by Cllr Long, seconded by Cllrs Bassford and Leadbeater, and duly elected.

Cllr Francis Long was proposed as Vice Chair by Cllr Fenn, seconded by Cllr Leadbeater and duly elected.

3. To receive any declarations of interest

There were none

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

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed

5. To adopt latest revisions of Standing orders, Financial Regulations, Complaints Procedure and Code of Conduct

Deferred to a later date

6. 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).

6.1 Certification of Exemption

The Certification of Exemption was duly signed by the Chair and the Clerk

6.2 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.

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6.3 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.

6.4 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.

7. To receive the District Councillors Report

The report will be added to the Parish Council website.

It was reported that District Cllr Read will write to Lord Benyon to seek assistance in relation to the £18,000 funding shortfall. It was also noted that support will be sought from Heather in asking the Greenham Trust to reconsider its decision.

8. To receive the Clerks report

	Payments	Receipts	Balance
Balance as at 1st March 2026			£ 26,612.62
Income			
Interest received (Mar)		£ 9.91	
Interest received (Apr)		£ 10.97	
Precept		£5,500.00	
Payments			
Service Charge (Mar)	£ 4.25		
Salary (Mar)	£ 238.10		
West Berks Printing	£ 16.25		
Service Charge (Apr)	£ 4.25		
Salary (Apr)	£ 238.10		
CCB Membership	£ 189.00		
	£ 689.95	£5,520.88	
Balance as at 11/05/26			£ 31,443.55

9. To receive/review any Planning Applications

9.1 Decisions

- **25/02947/HOUSE** - Hunters Moon, New Road Hill, Midgham, Reading RG7 5RY.
The application includes converting the garage into habitable space, adding front, side, and rear extensions, and linking the garage to the house at first-floor level. Works also include roof alterations, new dormers, porches, and associated changes.
No objections - APPROVED

10. Village Hall Matters

It was noted that Jeremy will be taking over responsibility for Village Hall matters.

11. Village Plan

An update was received regarding progress on the Village Plan / Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is hoped the plan will be completed by summer next year. The steering group currently comprises seven members and it is hoped this will increase to eight. The recent questionnaire produced a response rate of 29%, which was considered positive. The results indicated that many residents shared similar views, particularly in relation to preserving the rural nature of the village and avoiding disruption to its character. Residents were also asked how they would prioritise the use of £100,000.

It was noted that the project is now moving into Stage 3. Councillors were advised that, if the Neighbourhood Development Plan is completed before development commences, the Parish may be entitled to the higher level of Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

Reference was made to the guidance and expertise offered by Alison Eardley, consultant. It was noted that, with her assistance, the process could potentially be completed within eight months. Her experience and successful track record were considered likely to save the Council considerable time and improve the Parish Council's prospects of securing available CIL funding.

The Chair proposed that Alison Eardley be appointed as consultant to support the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, with a budget of up to £10,000 allocated for this purpose. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Francis Long and approved.

It was noted that a list of projected expenditure has been prepared. Alison Eardley will undertake a tour of the parish and provide further support as the project progresses.

12. AOB

None

13. To determine dates for the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 6th July 2026.

14. To record the meeting closed

20:50