

MIDGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Juniper House, Aldermaston, RG7 4LJ
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Tel: 07877 122 127

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

8th September 2025 at 7pm in 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, Dawn Adams
Members of Public: 4

Public Session

Tree Works

A parishioner conveyed that a tree surgeon had attended following concerns about a fallen branch. Cllr Long confirmed that the branch was cleared on the initial visit and Sayers Tree Services have since provided a quote for crown reduction and branch reduction near the property by. No timeline for works has yet been agreed.

Children's Play Area

A separate on-site meeting was held on land at Bird's Lane, with discussion on whether the land could be used for a children's play area. District Cllr Read highlighted successful local examples, including one in Chapel Row that could be referenced for ideas. It was noted that previous councils had discounted the idea due to cost. Councillors agreed further investigation was required.

ACTION - Clerk to establish land ownership and check for any covenants relating to the Bird's Lane site.

1. To receive apologies

Cllr Holden Crowther, Cllr Leadbeater

2. To receive any declarations of interest

There were none

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

Minutes were signed and dated for records.

4. To receive the District Councillors Report

Septic tank

Councillors discussed ongoing correspondence regarding use of the septic tank at the neighbouring property. The Midgham village hall trustees stated that they sought advice from a solicitor and they may not legally agree to pay any expenditure that they are not legally obliged to pay. With reference to the septic tank the trustees specified they need legally binding evidence to prove that they have to pay, before they consider it. Any evidence must come from the governing document which is in the title deeds of the neighbouring property. Deeds relating to water supply obligations have been located.

It was further noted that the parish council has already issued a response to the correspondence via the minutes of the previous meeting, and that the matter remains one for the Village Hall trustees to address at this stage. Councillors expressed concern regarding the persistent and inappropriate tone of the email correspondence, noting that similar communications have also been directed towards other organisations and interested parties.

Roof Repairs

The Village Hall trustees reported on progress regarding the planned roof repairs. Five quotes had been sought, with the preferred contractor identified as Leon Hill. John Stacey & Sons Ltd has been engaged to carry out the asbestos removal, after which the roof works will commence. The project is expected to take approximately three weeks, with a possible start date at the end of September/October, subject to confirmation of funding.

The trustees advised that current funding includes £20,000 from the National Lottery and £8,700 from the Jubilee Fund. With the additional £10,000 pledged from the parish council, together with the matched funding from the village hall, this will enable the project to proceed. Councillors agreed that this contribution should be made, in line with previous discussions. The proposal to transfer £10,000 to the Village Hall trustees in support of the roof works was put forward by Cllr Fenn, seconded by Cllr Long, and unanimously agreed, subject to the conditions laid down by Midgham parish council on 8th July 2024.

8. Village Plan

Chair Fenn reiterated the importance of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan in order to allow the parish council to outline its priorities for safeguarding Midgham's rural character and guiding future development. The plan would help safeguard green spaces and key community assets, such as the Village Hall. A member of the public has suggested several interested residents to Cllr Read for potential involvement.

ACTION - Clerk to post on village noticeboards to seek volunteers for forming a Neighbourhood Plan Committee, to report back to the Midgham parish council.

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9. AOB

Tree on Church Road/Hill

Report of a fallen tree overhanging the road. Councillors agreed the land was not parish-owned and therefore not the parish council's responsibility.

Potholes on Bird's Hill

Raised by residents; to be followed up by highways.

10. To determine dates for the next meeting

3rd November at 7pm*

*Next meeting since changed to 10th November at 7pm

11. To record the meeting closed

19.54