

TILEHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14 July 2026 in the Main Hall, Calcot

Present

Parish Councillors: Mr C Taylor (Chairman), Ms J Stewart, Mrs S Vickers, Mr R Loaring, Mr J Lally, Mr M Powers, Mrs C Basden

District Councillors: Mr C Taylor and Ms J Stewart

Public: None

In attendance: Miss J Major (Clerk), Miss S Williams (minutes)

Mr Taylor opened the meeting by welcoming those present and saying he was glad there was a quorum. He had been expecting some public who wanted to discuss the latest work at Calcot Park Golf Club, but they had obviously decided not to attend. The meeting would be recorded for minute-taking purposes.

26/077 Open Forum

- a) Members of the public – there were no comments or questions
- b) Councillors – residents of Calcot Park Golf Club had asked Mrs Vickers to seek the Parish Council's help in arranging a meeting with the Forestry Commission, West Berkshire Council and the golf club in order to clarify what was happening and what was and was not permitted. It was agreed that the matter would be looked into and would be brought to the next meeting to be formally agreed.

26/078 Apologies for absence: Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Mrs H Manghnani, Mr A Linden, Mr F Royal, Mrs P Furlong-King, Mrs R Braine, and District Councillors Mr R Somner and Mr B Oloko

26/079 Declarations of interest:

Mrs Basden's children attended Springfield School (item 26/082b)
Mr Taylor volunteered with Berkshire Youth (item 26/086-2)

26/080 Approval and adoption of minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 June 2026: The draft minutes had been circulated before the meeting and were taken as read and signed by the Chairman

26/081 Matters arising: There were no matters arising

26/082 Planning:

- a) Decisions – see Appendix A
- b) New applications – see Appendix B
- c) Eastern Area – the Clerk would advise if there was anything relevant on the agenda of the meeting on 5 August so that the parish could be represented.

Following discussions at the last meeting, Mr Taylor had written to the West Berkshire tree officer but had not yet heard back. He had also written to a planning manager who had explained that, when there was a five-day turnaround on applications for tree work, there was not time to consult the Parish Council.

26/083 District Councillors' report: Mr Taylor and Ms Stewart had submitted reports before the meeting – see Appendices C and D.

In response to a question from Mrs Vickers, there was discussion about the long-standing financial dispute between West Berkshire Council and Readibus.

26/084 Clerk's report: The report had been circulated before the meeting – see Appendix E.

The Clerk gave an update on the request for additional parking for Greenfield House Resource Centre. She also said there had been a fire on the recreation ground the previous week, and it was thought the fire brigade might need access, so she had to ask service users and West Berkshire buses not to block access to the field gate. She explained the gate was regularly blocked and was the only point of access. In response to queries, she explained that, in the past, there had been a second gate on Mayfield Avenue but bad parking had made it difficult to use. It had also been the point of access for travellers.

The Clerk was still chasing the overlooked Members' Bid for Tilehurst and Purley and she believed a meeting with Jeff Brooks was imminent.

26/085 Parish Council's Annual Report 2026-27: The report had been circulated before the meeting. Mr Taylor thanked the staff involved in putting the report together and the document was noted.

26/086 Resolutions

26/086-1 Football pitch allocation and charges: A report had been circulated before the meeting and the Clerk gave some additional background.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations of the report and allocate pitches as follows:

Cotswold recreation ground – two pitches: one adult (11 v 11) and one junior (7 v 7)		
Allocation:	Adult pitch (share)	Westwood Wanderers – Saturday afternoon
		Allied Community Elite FC – Saturday afternoon
	Junior pitch	Barton Rovers FC – Saturday and Sunday morning

Turnhams Farm recreation ground – one adult (11 v 11) pitch	
Allocation:	(pitch share) Barton Rovers adults, Sunday morning and afternoon

Calcot recreation ground – six pitches: one adult (11 v 11), two small adults (11 v 11), two 9 v 9; and one 7 v 7

Allocation: Pitch 2 (share) Calcot FC, Sunday morning
Jah Lions FC, Sunday morning
Pitch 3 (share) The Six Bells FC, Sunday morning
Hype Train FC, Sunday morning

Pitch fees would remain the same, so charges would be:

Adult pitch with use of changing rooms	£75.00 per match
Youth pitch with use of changing rooms	£40.00 per match
Small/junior pitch without use of changing rooms	£26.00 per match

Barton Rovers use of the pitch at Turnhams Farm	£55.00 per match
Barton Rovers use of changing rooms at Turnhams Farm	£50.00 per month

26/086-2 Berkshire Youth Partnership Agreement 2026-27: Drafts of the agreement and the Youth Development Action Plan 2026-27 had been circulated before the meeting. The Clerk explained that the documents could not be progressed further until Berkshire Youth provided additional information and updated costings. Berkshire Youth had, during the afternoon, agreed to run the two-hour youth club on Thursdays.

After discussion, it was agreed that, although the Youth Development Action Plan was updated to reflect progress and changes over the previous year, the whole document needed to be reviewed. A working group would be set up to do this, and Ms Stewart and Mr Taylor would both be involved.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the wording of the draft Partnership Agreement and to give the Clerk delegated authority to submit it to Berkshire Youth when it had been updated to include costings. Mrs Vickers, Ms Stewart and Mr Taylor would be kept informed of progress.

26/087 Review of financial position and payments for June 2026: The information had been circulated before the meeting and was noted.

26/088 Chairman's remarks: Mr Taylor said that he would not add any remarks. He thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

26/089 Exclusion of public and Press: it was unanimously resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, pursuant to the Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2), the public and Press should be excluded and asked to withdraw for the remaining item(s) on the agenda.

PART II

26/090 Cotswold Sports Centre recharge for 2025-26: Information provided by West Berkshire Council had been circulated before the meeting. The Clerk gave some additional background.

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk would write to West Berkshire Council to confirm that no further payment of the recharge would be made until full clarification had been provided so that the Parish Council could understand what was included and why.

The meeting finished at 8.30pm

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 11 August 2026

Chairman

Appendix A – Planning decisions

26/00645/HOUSE	<u>131 Langley Hill, Tilehurst</u> Erection of a single-storey rear extension and front porch, loft conversion including two front dormers and one rear dormer, replacement of existing roof, removal of chimney, and associated material alterations	Granted
26/00782/HOUSE	<u>Dangary Lodge, Calcot Park, Calcot</u> Proposed single storey rear and side extension and front porch	Granted
26/00844/HOUSE	<u>19 The Sadlers, Tilehurst</u> Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of part single, part two storey rear extension with projection of balcony together with single storey side extension and loft conversion. Erection of dormer to the rear and roof lights to the front roof	Granted
26/00544/HOUSE	<u>94 Warborough Avenue, Tilehurst</u> Change existing canopy design from flat roof to a hipped canopy. Extend existing dropped kerb by 2.6m	Granted
26/00301/HOUSE	<u>241 Overdown Road, Tilehurst</u> An air source heat pump to be installed at the property. Planning permission is being sought as the noise level of the heat pump does not meet MCS planning standards	Granted
26/00757/HOUSE	<u>66 Devonshire Gardens, Tilehurst</u> Two storey side and single storey rear extensions including dropped kerb and extra parking	Granted
26/00957/HOUSE	<u>26 Blewbury Drive, Tilehurst</u> Two store side, single storey rear extension and alterations to parking to include dropped kerb	Refused
26/01170/CERTP	<u>Denefield Nursery, Denefield School, Tilehurst</u> New proposed timber outbuilding to act as a supplementary space for existing students and staff at Welly Boot Lodge Day Nursery, Denefield School, Long Lane RG31 6XY. No increase in numbers. To be constructed on a raft foundation, to replace existing outbuildings. See plans for dimensions. Building to be erected ready for September start to the academic year	Lawful

26/00896/CERTP	<u>Westwood Farm Infant School, Tilehurst</u> To create a “proper” reception area for visitors and deliveries. This will enable our current receptionists to remain at their desks when a visitor comes to the school rather than them having to leave the reception area to meet them in the corridor. The reception will be in use within all school hours, 8.00am to 4.00pm. Likely to install a new electronic sign-in system. To remove current outdoor handrail area and build an enclosed reception area and meeting room space	Lawful
26/00877/HOUSE	<u>25 Kirkfell Close, Tilehurst</u> Single store side and rear extension	Granted
25/02440/HOUSE	<u>265 Overdown Road, Tilehurst</u> A householder’s planning application for a garage conversion and single storey rear extension including pitched roof and “Velux” style roof lights	Granted
26/01039/FUL	<u>16 Somerset Walk, Tilehurst</u> Would like to create hard landscape parking	Granted
26/01134/HOUSE	<u>3 Childrey Way, Tilehurst</u> Proposed single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory	Granted

Appendix B – New Planning applications

26/01211/HOUSE 127 Fairford Road, Tilehurst
Construction of a single storey rear extension to provide a garden office/studio space attached to the rear of the existing semi-detached dwelling house

This Council has no objections to the proposal

26/01169/REG4 Springfield Primary School, Tilehurst
Canopy installation for the purpose of outside education and play in all weather conditions

This Council has no objections to the proposal

26/01475/PASSHE 24 Longworth Avenue, Tilehurst
Proposed single storey rear extension of up to 5m depth with a gable roof and roof lights. Measurements: Extend beyond the rear wall – 5m, height – 3.80m and height at the eaves 2.30m

This Council has no objections to the proposal

26/01378/HOUSE 26 Blewbury Drive, Tilehurst
Two storey side and rear, single storey rear extensions

This Council objects to the proposal and supports the comments made by Highways. Additionally, the proposed parking arrangements look very tight and there are concerns about the safety of occupants of the house and other road users, particularly at school drop off and pick up times

For information

Tilehurst Parish Council was not invited to comment on the following applications for tree work at Calcot Park Golf Club, but they were discussed and noted:

26/01298/5DAY Calcot Park Golf Club, Calcot
Removal of dead pine tree

26/01385/TPW Calcot Park Golf Club, Calcot
4 x Copper Beech: 2-3m reduction on the lateral limbs overhanging the garden of 26A Bath Road. Crown lift to 5m

Appendix C – Mr C Taylor’s District Councillor’s report

During the past month I attended the following meetings:

- Corporate Parenting Panel – reviewed various reports with particular focus on the low take up of new foster and adoption parents coming forward and then proceeding to approval. I was advised that this was a national problem affecting many authorities.
- Annual Licensing Training and a meeting of the full Licensing Committee. I raised concerns previously expressed that change in the way consultations would take place with the taxi trade would remove any Minority Group involvement from these discussions (only Lib Dem and Conservatives would be represented). I abstained on the vote which adopted the changes along with the other Minority group councillor sitting on this committee.
- Eastern Area Planning – two applications were approved. The first unanimously agreed was a change to the opening hours of a vehicle maintenance depot at the Padworth refuse centre. The second, an application to build two 4-bed houses at Upper Basildon, had attracted 18 public objections. I felt the objectors, parish council and local councillor had put their case well with concerns over premature tree felling, changes to a settlement boundary and other concerns. The application was however approved with only me and one other councillor voting against.
- Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE) – the main point to emerge from was that Religious Education is, to become part of the National Curriculum. As this will take some time to implement the recently agreed curriculum for Berkshire authorities will come into effect first. In West Berks the intention is to send the curriculum to all affected schools during the summer for implementation in the autumn term.
- A review of maths teaching at Calcot Schools involving discussions with teaching staff and students. Very impressive.
- I made representations to lead councillors and Berkshire Youth asking for events being held to support the setting up of a Youth Council for West Berks to be held across the district rather than being Newbury focussed. I have since been advised of plans to hold an event at Little Heath School.
- I continue to work almost daily with the Garston Park Residents’ Association, further parking restrictions in City Road (have just received a new proposal from WBC to install more bollards but now need to determine where the £8,000 cost will come from). Also involved in much discussion with Calcot School Governors and Olivia Bailey’s office and others about the A4 crossing near the rear entrance to the school. A consensus seems to be forming amongst those concerned around speed reductions to 30mph on the A4 in Calcot.
- I have been advised that the financial dispute with Readibus should be resolved very soon. Not sure I entirely believe this, but I have continued to press for a resolution to this longstanding matter which affects many of our elderly residents who find themselves unable to use the regular bus service due to mobility issues
- I have also been advised by other councillors that a decision on local government reorganisation and the potential creation of the Ridgeway Council is expected within days.
- The members’ bid submitted by me and Cllr Stewart for replacing older play equipment at Calcot play area was approved. Many thanks to Jacky and Parish Council staff for ensuring the bid was complete and submitted on time.

Appendix D – Ms J Stewart’s District Councillor’s report

Council – there was no June meeting. The next meeting will be held on 16 July.

Executive – met on 11 June to discuss: award of Highways Term Maintenance Contract; West Berks Local Plan timetable and commencement; Planning Enforcement Plan; new Procurement Strategy and "Think Local" Social Value Strategy; All Age Autism Strategy 2026-2029; and Asset Optimisation Plan. The next meeting is on 2 July.

Public Protection

Heatwave – NHS advice is to keep curtains closed in sunny rooms, drink plenty of water, avoid alcohol, limit time in direct sunlight, seek shade when outside, wear sunscreen and a hat. Air quality can be affected. There are [free cool spaces](#) around the district. Care should be taken near open water, and safe swimming at Northcroft Lido can be booked on the Leisure Centre website.

Bin collections – will be earlier so bins should be put out the night before collection day.

Highways – ongoing high temperatures can soften roads, so WBC and Volker Highways are monitoring roads and spreading sand or dust where necessary. Advice when travelling in hot weather is to slow down, avoid sharp braking/steering, and leave extra space.

Dogs – should not be walked at hottest times and should not be left in cars. They need access to fresh water, shade and a cool place to rest. If a dog shows signs of heatstroke (eg excessive panting, drooling or lethargy), veterinary advice should be sought immediately.

Environment

Switch Together – is a [trusted scheme](#) helping explore greener home upgrades while keeping costs down. Registration is free and closes on 24 July.

Health and wellbeing

Togetherness – offers NHS-backed online learning to families, professionals and carers. Sessions provide practical ideas and expert insight to help understand feelings, behaviour and development, and build confidence in everyday life. For free access use the code BWFAMILIES

Culture – summer fair at Shaw House, Newbury, 11.00am to 4.00pm on Sunday 19 July.

World Cup

Domestic abuse – can increase during the World Cup, and Berkshire Women’s Aid can be contacted on its free, confidential helpline, 0808 801 0882, or by email to helpdesk@bwaid.org.uk

Gambling – also surges and WBC supports the “Odds Are They Win” campaign. Support is also available through GamCare, Citizens Advice, National Gambling Helpline (free confidential support 24/7 on 0808 8020 133), and NHS (111 option 2, or 999).

Parish matters

Litter pick – at Turnhams Farm was led by two ex parish councillors and had five children and parents. Residents and landowners have requested another at Oliver’s Copse.

Appendix E – Clerk’s report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This report provides information about activities undertaken by the Clerk and other officers and gives updates on matters relevant to the Council.

2.0 Activity updates

- 2.1 The Clerk and Chairman met with West Berkshire Council via Microsoft Teams on Friday 26 June to discuss the proposed changes to car parking at Calcot.

Before the meeting, the Clerk had discussed the proposed changes with the grounds maintenance and grass-cutting contractors who were concerned that there would not be enough space for them to access and exit the recreation ground safely, particularly when they needed to use a trailer.

At the meeting, the Clerk advised that she would arrange to mark out the proposed parking bays to assess their potential impact. The proposal would then be discussed again with the contractors, and the outcome reported to West Berkshire Council.

- 2.2 The Clerk received confirmation that the Members’ Bid Application submitted to West Berkshire Council for £8,000.00 to replace the old wooden train at Calcot recreation ground and a rocker at Turnhams Farm recreation ground was successful.
- 2.3 The District Councillors for Tilehurst and Purley Ward were not notified as to whether their Members’ Bid application had been successful, so the Clerk followed up with West Berkshire Council. Although receipt of the application had been confirmed by automated message, it seemed the document had gone missing so had not been considered at the panel meeting. The matter is being investigated and has been referred to Cllr Brooks.

3.0 Other matters

- 3.1 The Parish Council’s 2025-26 Annual Report was finalised and circulated at the beginning of July. The next newsletter is due to be sent out over the summer.
- 3.2 The internet connections serving the CCTV systems at Turnhams Farm Hall and the Cornwell Centre have been upgraded to full fibre to ensure continuity of service when the copper telephone network (PSTN/ISDN) is switched off on 31 January 2027. It is hoped that the increased speeds provided by the upgrade will enable reliable remote access to the CCTV systems from the office.

3.3 The Clerk has been in discussion with the parish's internet providers and has agreed to the installation of a Wi-Fi network to provide coverage in the Jubilee Annexe and Calcot Centre. The new network will operate independently from the system currently serving the parish office. A site survey has been carried out, and it is anticipated that installation will be carried out in the next few months.

3.4 The energy contract for the Council's streetlights was due for renewal. Following a review of comparative quotes, the contract has been renewed with the existing supplier for a further two years.

3.5 The Clerk attended an SLCC Branch Training Event on 8 July 2026.

4.0 **Audit and financial**

4.1 The External Audit for 2025-26 was submitted to PKF Littlejohn LLP ahead of the deadline of Wednesday 1 July 2026.

5.0 **Priorities for August 2026** – this item gives information on priorities for the Clerk and officers over the coming month(s).

5.1 Cotswold Sports Centre

- Reviewing leases for the sports centre, overflow car park and tennis courts
- Reviewing the supplemental agreement which forms the basis of the Parish's contribution towards the running and maintenance of the sports centre
- The Clerk and an Officer to meet with Everyone Active and West Berkshire Council to discuss how to improve the Energy Performance rating.

5.2 Obtaining quotations and conducting a full review of the Council's insurance cover

6.0 **Further reports**

6.1 The Clerk will provide further updates at the meeting as necessary.

6.2 Members are asked to note this report.