

Inkpen Parish Council



Minutes of the meeting of Inkpen Parish Council, held on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7:30pm in Inkpen Village Hall

Present: Councillor John Corne (Chairman), Mark Bates, James Fisher and Steven Whittaker.
In attendance: Angela Boyce (Parish Clerk)

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor's Clare MacInnes, Brian Cox, David Thomas, and District Councillors Tony Vickers, Dennis Benneyworth and Denise Gaines.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Councillor Attendance – Section 85 Local Government Act 1972

The Council reviewed the attendance record of Cllr Brian Cox and discussed the implications of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Clerk to write to Cllr Cox.

4. Planning

4.1 Applications

25/02724/FULMAJ Oak Dene Inkpen Hungerford RG17 9DJ, Section 73: Vary condition 2 'Approved Plans' of approved application 24/01418/FULMAJ: Erection of replacement dwelling and garage, following removal of existing; with associated parking, turning, landscaping, access, ecological enhancements and extension to residential curtilage. There was a discussion, there were no objections. The Council requested that the construction method statement and access restrictions previously applied are reinstated, including no construction access via Weaver's Lane and reinstatement of the lane following works.

25/02676/HOUSE Hornhill Sanham Green Hungerford RG17 0RR. Installation of 4 no. rooflights to existing house. There was a discussion, there were no objections.

25/02575/HOUSE Highfield House Folly Road Inkpen Hungerford RG17 9QB. Retrospective Erection of a single-storey outside shed and workshop, building itself is <2.5m tall, however including the base structure it is 2.65m tall. There was a discussion, there were no objections.

4.2 Decisions

25/02565/HOUSE – Orchard Cottage, Craven Road: Approved.

4.3 Applications Received After Publication of Agenda. None.

5. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2025.

RESOLVED: The minutes of 10 November 2025 confirmed and signed as a true and accurate record.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th November 2025

The clerk noted the members bids had been awarded for the bench at the pond and tables at the pavilion. Cllr Bates noted there had been a £50 donation received towards the bench.

7. Open Forum There was nothing to report.

8. Reports

8.1 Chair's Reports The Chair reported that the footpath between the doctor's surgery and his property had been cleared, though the work was of poor quality. Road gritting was discussed, with concerns raised about inconsistent treatment of secondary routes and the impact on the bus service. The Council agreed to raise the matter with District Councillors and request that the bus route be prioritised for gritting.

8.2 Clerk's Report. The Clerk noted that the Planning minutes from the 24th November 2025, had been omitted in error and will be included for approval at the next meeting.

8.3 District Councillor's Reports There was nothing to report.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Bus Service in Inkpen There was an enquiry received regarding the number of times the bus service has been cancelled. The Council agreed to raise the issue with West Berkshire Council and request improved coordination of road closures and reinstatement of gritting on the bus route.

9.2 Correspondence received after the agenda has been published. There was none.

Signed _____ Date _____

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10. Website Councillors discussed ongoing confusion caused by multiple Inkpen-related websites, some privately maintained and containing outdated parish council information. It was agreed that the Clerk will write formally to request that all parish council content be removed from privately run sites to avoid misinformation. The official parish council website remains inkpenparishcouncil.org.uk. The Clerk will continue updating the official site and add links to other useful resources.

11. To review and agree the Budget for 2026/27 financial year.

The Council reviewed the draft budget in detail. Historic ring-fenced items will be removed as they are not linked to S106 or CIL funds. General reserves will be simplified into a contingency reserve and a donation and grants reserve. Councillors agreed that some of the Council's £28,000 balance should be used proactively for community benefit. Potential future projects include playground improvements, grit bin replacement, and support for village assets such as the playing fields or village hall. Specific project allocations will be agreed separately once proposals are developed. The Budget for 2026/27 was approved.

12. To review and agree the precept for 2026/27 financial year. Councillors agreed unanimously to maintain the precept at £15,000. The Clerk will submit the precept request to West Berkshire Council.

There being no other business. The chair closed the meeting at 21:40pm

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 10th March 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

Signed _____ Date _____

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