

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting took place at St Leonards Parish Hall on
Tuesday, 31st March 2026 2026 at 6.30pm

**In Attendance: Cllrs Ingram, Morris, Neighbour, Baddon, Allen and Wellenreiter
Present: Mrs H Farrelly (Clerk) Ward Cllr Kneller and two members of the public.**

Apologies received from Cllr Hoare

- 5826) To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th February 2026 and deal with any Matters Arising
Minutes approved and signed by the Chairman
- 5827) To receive declarations of interest
Cllr Baddon declared an interest in one planning application.
- 5828) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Kneller reported ongoing concerns in Wycombe regarding the lack of a local Accident and Emergency (A&E) unit. There is growing pressure to reinstate this service, and a petition is currently being organised to support this objective. In response to wider concerns about emergency healthcare provision, it has been agreed that a rapid review of emergency care across Buckinghamshire will be undertaken. This review will involve intensive data gathering, with findings expected to be reported in the summer. It was also noted that approximately 1,000 stroke cases are considered preventable, often linked to untreated high blood pressure.

The rapid review aims to assess current emergency care capacity across the county, identify gaps in provision, and provide evidence-based recommendations for future service planning.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision continues to be a significant concern across Buckinghamshire. The current rating stands at 2 out of 3, indicating that improvements are required. A particular issue relates to delays in the processing of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), with only 6% of applications being completed within the statutory 20-week timeframe. In addition, there is insufficient provision to meet the needs of children requiring SEND support, resulting in a shortfall of appropriate placements. An application for a new SEND school was recently rejected by the Government, and although pressure is being applied for reconsideration, it was acknowledged that even this would not meet the overall level of demand across the county.

Work on the Buckinghamshire Local Plan is progressing. A consultation on housing and economic land availability was published in January, and stakeholders have been invited to submit feedback. It was noted that relatively little land within this parish has been put forward for potential development. Instead, sites are more likely to be located on the other side of Ashley Green and around Ley Hill, with one area identified for economic use.

The Government has written to Buckinghamshire Council to advise that if the Local Plan is not completed by 31 December, housing allocations may be determined centrally, as has occurred in Three Rivers District. This has raised considerable concern about the potential loss of local control over development decisions.

Questions were raised regarding whether sufficient infrastructure, such as schools and medical facilities, would be provided to support new housing developments. It was noted that developers do not always deliver adequate infrastructure, and there is a strong view that planning decisions should take into account the cumulative impact of multiple developments rather than considering each one in isolation.

Finally, Cllr Ingram reported that three locations within the parish had been identified during the assessment process. However, these sites are not being put forward as development areas due to their designation within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), now referred to as National Landscape. It was also observed that there is very little reference to the parish within the Local Plan documentation, suggesting that it is not currently a focus for development.

5829) To suspend standing orders and invite questions from members of the public

Two members of the public attended the meeting to discuss the current situation regarding the allotments. It was noted that there have been no significant updates since the last discussion, and there continues to be a lack of interest in taking on plots.

Reference was made to the November meeting, where concerns were raised about unused plots and the need to address their condition. It was agreed that action is now required. A proposal was discussed to organise a working party to trim overgrown areas and subsequently cover unused plots to improve their appearance and manage maintenance. Councillors agreed to source some heavy plastic to cover vacant plots.

The group also discussed ways to attract new allotment holders. One suggestion was to offer the first year free of charge, alongside providing plastic covering to make plots more manageable for new users.

It was agreed that Richard Baddon will arrange a meeting with current allotment holders to gather ideas and explore further ways to encourage greater use and participation.

5830) Chairman's Report and Questions

East Chiltern Community Board Update

Members Kneller and Ingram attended the East Chilterns Community Board meeting. It was reported that matters of relevance to smaller parishes are often absorbed into discussions focused on larger towns. Additionally, Community Boards have recently been merged, resulting in reduced budgets.

Given these changes, councillors expressed concern that opportunities for securing future funding may be limited, and expectations for grant support should be managed accordingly.

Review of Meeting Dates

The Council agreed to review its schedule of upcoming meeting dates.

This is due to several councillors being unavailable during school half-term periods, particularly as newer members have childcare commitments. A revised schedule will be considered to improve attendance and accessibility.

Financial Year-End Position

It was noted that the end-of-year financial figures are currently distorted due to a payment and subsequent refund involving Castle Water.

This anomaly has affected budget variances and the presentation of accounts. The matter will be discussed with the internal auditor to ensure clarity and appropriate reporting.

Tree Works

Tree works have been completed. The invoice was received and paid on the same day.

Black Horse Inn Site and Noticeboard

Significant work has taken place at the Black Horse site, including the removal of the Parish Council noticeboard from the pub.

The new owners have agreed that a replacement noticeboard will be purchased by them and will be carried on their books. The new board will be built to the Council's specifications and is expected to be similar in style to the noticeboard located at the cricket club, but with only two display panels as was the case with the previous one.

Proud of Bucks Awards

Cllr Neighbour reported on the Proud of Bucks Awards, which provides an opportunity to nominate individuals or charities for voluntary contributions.

Councillors are not eligible for nomination. To date, only one nomination has been received. Members were encouraged to suggest additional nominees. Deadline for submissions: 5th April.

Clerk's Report

The following policies were reviewed and approved:

- a. IT Policy
- b. Data Protection Policy
- c. Financial Regulations
- d. AGAR

The clerk notified the council that all councillors have been set up with dedicated email addresses. Login details will be circulated as soon as possible.

The VAT return was submitted requesting a refund.

- 5831) (i) To note the following regular orders of payments
i. Clerk's net salary for March 2026
ii. HMRC – £140.40
(ii) To approve orders for payment and any other arriving after this notice
i. P Matthews Agricultural - £1680.00
- 5832) (i) To note any responses to planning applications since the last meeting
None
(ii) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of this notice:
a. Consultation for case reference CM/0004/26 Land Adjacent To Jenkins Lane
Councillors discussed the consultation for the clay works and the impact on the local area.
Following a lengthy discussion, councillors agreed to draft a response to the planning department. Need to extract clay and sand from local area for brickworks.
b. PL/26/01198/FA - Rushdene Jenkins Ln St Leonards Bucks HP23 6NW – no comment
c. PL/26/00560/FA - 1 Braziers End House Rays Hill Braziers End Bucks HP5 2UJ – no comment
(iii) To receive decisions from Buckinghamshire Council
No decisions made on any outstanding planning applications
(iv) To receive notice of appeals
PL/25/5903/FA - 1 Horseshoe Cottages Parrotts Lane Buckland Common Bucks HP23 6NX
(v) To receive an update on enforcement matters – see schedule
None
- 5833) To consider matters relating to highways and ROW
Bill Ingram reported that he had heard the previous evening that the new Local Area Technician (LAT) and Councillor Kneller had already held an informal introductory meeting. During this discussion, it was noted that there have been a number of changes to roles and responsibilities within the department.

One of the key changes is the introduction of a dedicated Trees Officer role. This officer will be responsible for overseeing tree-related matters, including the recovery of costs where works are required on private land. This is intended to ensure that, where the authority incurs expenditure dealing with issues that are ultimately the responsibility of private landowners, appropriate efforts are made to reclaim those costs.

In addition, drainage responsibilities were discussed. It was noted that landowners are responsible for managing drainage issues arising on their own land. The Borough Council (BC) will seek to recover costs in cases where it has had to intervene or carry out works connected to drainage problems that fall under private landowner responsibility.

Councillors noted the updates and acknowledged the changes in departmental structure and enforcement approach.

5834) To consider matters relating to the Green at Buckland Common, Springall Hill Allotments and other maintenance matters
Nothing to report on the Green.

5835) Dates for the next meetings

- 12th May 2026 (APM)
- 23rd June 2026