



KEEVIL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL of Monday 02 March 2026 in the village hall

Present: Cllrs Pat Tucker (chair), Rob Banfield, Rodney Meatyard, Graham Miller, and Caroline Munday.

In Attendance: Sarah Dow (Parish Clerk), 8 members of public including volunteer Flood Wardens John Tucker and Paul Lenaerts, plus FOKS Chair Caroline Noonan and Cllr Andrew Griffin who attended part of the meeting

Public Consultation notes: A resident discussed the 25% rise in parish precept and suggested an article with more details, this was echoed by another resident who found the budget confusing. Commenting that, for councils with small precepts, large percentages represented very small actual increases, the RFO referred to the explanatory budget narrative already published, and confirmed a further advisory note to be considered. The resident further commented on their correspondence with Wiltshire Council regarding increasingly unsafe potholes on upper parts of Main Street, to which a reply had been received accepting that work needed doing but there was no money available for major repairs, only patching. MP Brian Mathew had also been informed. Residents were encouraged to keep reporting issues on the [My Wilts app](#).

MINUTE ITEMS

25/26 - 72 Apologies for absence: were noted from Cllrs Simon Gough and Robert Morgan.

25/26 - 73 Declaration of Interest: There were none. Cllr Banfield confirmed he no longer had a declarable pecuniary interest in the property at 76A Main Street.

25/26 - 74 Minutes of previous meetings: proposed and seconded by Cllrs Banfield and Miller it was resolved the Chair sign as a correct record minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 5th January 2026.

25/26 - 75 Wiltshire Council (WC), Wiltshire Police (NPT), and Keevil School & Scarecrow Trail:

Wiltshire Council: Cllr Griffin commented on matters relating to Big Dog Farm, the Local Plan, continuing difficulties relating to access on KEEV7, and changes to WC support schemes as noted at 76-(v)(iv), 77.1, 80(i).

NPT: There was no monthly update available from the Neighbourhood Police Team. The Chair reported PC Fran Thornell had joined as the new Police Constable for Melksham and surrounding area; having discussed parking issues at Keevil School, PC Thornell was visiting them today to monitor parking and speak to parents.

Keevil School: On behalf of the school and FOKS, Caroline Noonan explained recruitment of a new Head Teacher was ongoing. **Thursday 26th March 9am** will be the school's Easter Service at St Leonards. Use of the Banfield Recreation Ground as part of the Scarecrow Trail 16-17 May was agreed. Caroline gave the school's thanks to all residents for their support, and encouraged people to get in touch if they'd like to be involved. The Chair reiterated residents' complaints about parking and littering directly related to the school.

25/26 – 76 Planning Matters

(i) Applications:

[PL/2026/00145](#) **76A Main Street** - Refurbishment of existing property to demolish existing double garage; single garage extension; the rebuild of existing dormer structures, incorporating vertical hanging tiles.

Public comments: The applicant present explained the proposed works and responded to questions.

Council discussion: Having reviewed the detailed Planning & Heritage Statement and other application documents, members noted the proposals appeared proportionate, sympathetic, in harmony with the current dwelling and surroundings, and accorded with Village Planning Policy to preserve and enhance the conservation area, protect open spaces and views to open countryside, and respect the built environment. Considering the applicants comments, members understood the need to address the 'sinking' garage area, and noted views across open farmland would actually improve with its removal.

Further assurances that structural interior changes would not change the outside appearance of the dormer windows, that window materials would be the same as the immediately adjacent property, that solar panels would be to the rear of the building, and the planned position for the gate would be adjusted to comply with requirements for a turning area were welcomed.

On this basis, proposed and seconded by Cllrs Meatyard and Munday it was duly **resolved to respond to the application with NO OBJECTION.**

(ii) Planning Appeal Against a Refusal (written representations)

Inspectorate Reference 6004625 **The Old Barn, Keevil** [PL/2025/05419](#) - Change of use and conversion to a self-build dwelling, construction of open fronted car port, EV charging point, log store and associated works.

Having reviewed the case again in some detail, including comments on the appeals portal, proposed and seconded by Cllrs Miller and Banfield, it was unanimously **resolved that the Parish Council respond to the Planning Inspectorate in REFUSAL of the applicant's appeal.** To be clear, this means the Parish Council maintains its objection to the application, and supports the LPA decision to refuse it, on the following grounds:

1. We agree with the LPA that the location of the proposal is unacceptable in principle: contrary to settlement, delivery and community area strategies and failing to meet Core Policies 1, 2 and 15 of Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.
The open landscape setting is of vital importance to Keevil's essential character, historic farming heritage and infrastructure capacity, and must be preserved.
2. We agree with the LPA that the distance to local services, facilities and amenities means occupants of a dwelling on the plot would be heavily reliant on the use of private motor transport for the majority of day to day activities, contrary to the principles of sustainable development and the aims of reducing the need to travel, contrary to Core Policies 60 and 61 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy, and the NPPF.
The proposed dwelling is in an extremely isolated position on the eastern edge of the parish, so far removed from any village settlement area, local amenities and footpaths that light pollution and the need for vehicular travel would far outweigh any possible benefit to the community.
3. We agree with the LPA that the proposal fails to comply with Core Policy 48 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy as the site does not have reasonable access to local services, contrary to criterion (iv), and that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the existing employment use is genuinely redundant and there are no more practical alternatives.
4. We agree with Highways concerns that the remote location of the site will lead to a reliance on the private car for the majority of journeys: trips associated with employment, leisure, education, shopping and medical appointments likely to be more frequent and regular compared to those of the B8 use and adding to the highway network. The nearest bus stops are at the A361 junction >1km away, involving a walk along the unlit road with no separate footways - unlikely to be an attractive alternative to the car.
However, we question Highways accepting visibility splays as proposed. The road is a rural lane with a 60mph speed limit (not 40mph as suggested): distance for visibility set-back by 2.4m at 60mph is 215ft, which may be available to the south but not the north, and noticeably not during summer months when leafy overgrowth further reduces visibility, especially for domestic cars - grass verges are usually above 0.6m on this stretch, except at the main junctions.
5. The Parish Council supports Ecology comments that, the site being within Bath & BOA Bats SAC, further assessment is needed. Activity of lesser horseshoe bats, common and soprano pipistrelles, and brown long-eared bats have been recorded, and although the Mitigation licence previously issued requires legal obligations are met till 2029, these are not evidenced on the new plans. Furthermore, there is no evidence of biodiversity net gain as required by NPPF and CP50.
6. The Parish Council receives regular reports from the Neighbourhood Police Team and have not been made aware of any incidents at the location – indeed, all crime in Keevil remains notably low.

(iii) Submission of PC Consultee responses: The following submissions since the last meeting were noted:

05 January NO OBJECTION subject to condition: rear extension and porch at 71 Martins Road [PL/2025/09004](#)

26 January NO OBJECTION works to trees at The Warren, 82 Main Street [PL/2026/00393](#);

09 February NO OBJECTION works to trees at Longleaze Farm 76A Main Street [PL/2026/00539](#)

(iv) Wiltshire Council Planning Decisions: the following LPA decisions were noted:

NO OBJECTION works to trees at Field Head, 20 Main Street [PL/2025/09238](#)

NO OBJECTION works to trees at 81A Main Street [PL/2025/09573](#)

NO OBJECTION works to trees at 3 Hobbs Hill [PL/2025/09687](#)

APPROVE w/conditions - erection of rear extension and porch at Wedgewood 71 Martins Rd [PL/2025/09004](#)

WITHDRAWN by applicant - roofing works at Baldham House, Baldham [PL/2025/09032](#) (LBC)

APPROVE w/conditions - replace windows & doors at 41A Main Street [PL/2025/08638](#)/[PL/2025/08846](#) (LBC)

NO OBJECTION works to trees at 82 Main Street [PL/2026/00393](#)

- (v) Ongoing matters at Big Dog Farm (ENF/2025/00598): The Chair reported the owner had been given one final calendar month [from 25th February] to submit applications. If this deadline is not met the LPA will commence the first stage of formal enforcement. Cllr Griffin confirmed he had followed this up and made it clear if the deadline is missed he will press for immediate enforcement action.
- (vi) Wiltshire Local Plan: It was announced late today the Planning Inspectorate has informed WC of the option to withdraw the Local Plan or request a final report (which would recommend non-adoption). Cllr Griffin explained WC are considering a response, concurring that development in Wiltshire may become more unpredictable. He advised more weight be given to the NPPF when considering planning matters.

25/26 - 77 MEMBER PORTFOLIO REPORTS AND UPDATES

25/26 – 77.1 Access & Public Rights of Way (PROW): Difficulties between the landowner and WC relating to access gates on KEEV7 remain ongoing; Cllr Gough forwarded correspondence to Cllr Griffin on 8th January; Cllr Griffin confirmed he would be in touch to arrange an informal meeting as requested.

25/26 – 77.2 Airfield: Military rotary wing usage continues, and a civilian drone company operates one day a week. Watchkeeper UAS will be returning **8 June – 31 July**, working on Salisbury Plain, but with some circuit flying which will be kept to a minimum. Military vehicles are advised to avoid traffic through the village.

25/26 – 77.3 Banfield Recreation Ground:

- (i) Cllr Munday reported application of a second moss treatment, and again thanked Paul Lenaerts and John Tucker for the excellent bike trail repairs which have saved the council and community a considerable sum and extended the life of the equipment. The Clerk will write a formal letter.
- (ii) Proposal for 3x6m pagoda: It was noted the residents group had disbanded. However, recognising this initiative may help broaden use of the recreation ground as a space for everyone not just as a playground, following a detailed discussion including the structure's permanency and materials, the following next steps were agreed:
 - a. The clerk to review the proposed supplier and ensure a detailed specification;
 - b. Permissions to be checked with the LPA;
 - c. An application for funds to the Area Board to be considered;
 - d. Proposal to be discussed with residents at the Annual Parish Community Meeting in May.
- (iii) A resident's request to hold a child's party on the recreation ground on the last weekend in May was agreed, with the proviso that the bouncy castle provider was adequately insured.

25/26 – 77.4 Community Resilience

The Flood Wardens updated Members on recent activity; the Clerk will chase Wessex Water for response to recent emails relating to sewage problems reported in February and installation of a depth monitor in Main Street near Manor Orchard. A visit from the Discretionary Gully Service has been requested. With permissions from Highways, repairs near the Pump House were undertaken.

Following Cllr Munday's report that rolls of emergency poop bags were still being taken, it was agreed to discuss with residents at the APCM whether the council should continue the scheme.

25/26 – 77.5 Highways and Parish Steward

The Parish Steward patched potholes, treated moss and cleared gullies and grips in several village locations. Cllr Tucker continues to push for repairs to potholes and more severe deterioration of the highway on parts of upper Main Street. Cllr Meatyard commented that patching and other works would last much longer if a layer of fine chippings was added at the time of the repair which, currently, are barely surviving a year.

Cllr Tucker reported a new 'stops both sides' bus flag was on the waiting list. Reports of speeding on Seend Farm Road, local police have visited and said there is nothing they can do to help.

25/26 – 77.6 Personnel Committee: It was noted the Clerk continues to work on CiLCA qualification, with 188 hours of personal study over the last 7 weeks.

25/26 – 78 Clerk’s Report: Repairs to the War Memorial are planned for the end of March – exact timing to be confirmed. SSE completed pruning of trees near powerlines on the recreation ground in January.

Annual Parish Community Meeting (APCM): on **29th May 2026** in the village hall; the Clerk will organise promotional material and invitations to village groups. Speakers and discussion items were considered including (in addition to pagoda proposal) future of the poop bag scheme, and a second defibrillator. Members with portfolios were reminded to submit notes for the Annual Report to the Clerk by 30th April.

25/26 – 79 Governance

- (i) Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Munday and Meatyard, **revisions to the following policies were resolved en-bloc:** Accessibility Statement, Health & Safety Policy, Asset Register, all as submitted.
- (ii) Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Miller and Meatyard, it was **resolved to adopt the Equality and Diversity Policy** as submitted.
- (iii) Proposed by Cllr Munday, seconded by Cllr Banfield, it was **resolved to adopt the IT Policy** as submitted.

25/26 – 80 Financial Matters

- (i) Schedule of Payments & Receipts: Members received the schedule as submitted. Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Meatyard and Miller it was **resolved to approve payments totalling £1,016.54 as presented.**
- (ii) Bank Reconciliation: Members received the bank reconciliation as submitted, noting the overall financial position of £1,979.52 (Treasurers Account) and £11,755.22 (Deposit Account) totalling **£13,734.74.**
- (iii) Current (2025-26) budget performance and forecast: Members received the current FY budget performance as submitted, noting the full balance/forecast including Reserves. Members noted WC changes to PEAS, Parish Steward schemes, road works, and by IDverde to bin collections may impact the Parish Council’s budget. Cllr Griffin confirmed changes to PEAS and Parish Steward would not be implemented FY2026-27 to give local councils time to adjust. He also commented that LHFIFG funds currently remained assured, but that the Area Board structure was being reviewed.
- (iv) Schedule of Regular Payments: Proposed by Cllr Banfield and seconded by Cllr Munday it was **resolved to approve the Schedule of Regular Payments FY 2026-27** as submitted, in accordance with FR6.6.
- (v) Grants and Donations:
 - a. Village Hall: Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Meatyard and Banfield it was **resolved to approve a contribution of £200 towards maintenance of the village hall.** (LGA1972 s133)
 - b. S137 donations: Members noted the S137 expenditure report as submitted. There were no new requests. Proposed and seconded by Cllrs Munday and Meatyard it was **resolved to approve donations of £100 to the Keevil Community Amenities Trust (KCAT) and £100 to the Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance (WBAA).** (LGA1972 s137).
- (vi) Precept 2026-27: Members noted the Precept was submitted on 7th Jan and confirmed as received, with the first payment expected by 21 April and the second by 30 September.

25/26 – 81 Forthcoming dates: The following dates were noted:

Wednesday 18 March	Melksham Area Board 7pm (Riverside Centre, Melksham) (then 27 May)
Thursday 19 March	Deadline for April Parish News
Friday 27 March	<i>Declaration of the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, 11am at St. Leonard’s Church</i>
Thursday 07 May	Next LHFIFG meeting 2pm via Teams
Monday 11 May	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by the Ordinary Meeting

The meeting closed at 21:37

Signed..... Dated.....

Appendix to 25/26-80(i) - (ii)

Schedule of Approvals, Payments & Receipts, and Bank Reconciliation				
Provided for meeting 02 March 2026				
FOR APPROVAL AT THIS MEETING (Agenda item 9.1)				
1. PAYMENT APPROVAL		Net	Vat	TOTAL
None not elsewhere on agenda				
	Total	£ -	£ -	£ -
2. RETROSPECTIVE APPROVAL (DELEGATED POWERS)	<i>Power used*</i>			
Lloyds account charges (Jan & Feb debits)	FR 6.6	£ 8.92	£ -	£ 8.92
Staff Salary - December (inc underpay of .88)	FR 6.6	£ 397.18	£ -	£ 397.18
Staff Salary - January	FR 6.6	£ 481.08	£ -	£ 481.08
HMRC PAYE/NIC Dec 2025	FR 6.6	£ 28.63	£ -	£ 28.63
HMRC PAYE/NIC Jan 2026	FR 6.6	£ 65.73		£ 65.73
Village Hall hire - meetings 01 & 16 Dec, 05 Jan	FR 6.6, 5.14	£ 35.00	£ -	£ 35.00
	Total	£ 1,016.54	£ -	£ 1,016.54
3. ITEMS APPROVED AT & PAID SINCE LAST MEETING	<i>Minute</i>	<i>Net</i>	<i>Vat</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>see section 1 previous schedule and any other minuted approvals from previous meet</i>				
<i>WBAA Community Emergency Awareness Training 16 December - invoice not yet received (£100)</i>				
	Total	£ -	£ -	£ -
BANK ACCOUNTS RECONCILIATION (as of 25 February) (Agenda Item 9.2)				
Treasurers a/c (cash book)				
Opening Balance (28 December 2025)		£ 996.06		
Paid Out (section 2 + 3)		£ 1,016.54		
Paid In		£ 2,000.00		
Closing Balance (25 February 2026)		£ 1,979.52		
Business a/c (Deposit/Reserves)				
Opening Balance (28 December 2025)		£ 13,742.03		
Interest		£ 13.19		
Other deposits		£ -		
Transfer to Treasurers a/c		£ 2,000.00		
Closing Balance (28 December 2025)		£ 11,755.22		
Bank Accounts combined total		£ 13,734.74		
		<i>Signed by Chair:</i>		
		<i>Date:</i>		