

# BINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 7.30pm

**In attendance** – Cllrs R Cox, M Flaxman (Chairman) and T Lloyd – Clerk Karen Parnell  
One member of the public was present

1. Apologies  
Cllrs Alex Finch and Colin Taylor and County Councillor James Norris
2. Declarations of interest on items on the Agenda  
None
3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council of 13th May 2025  
The minutes were approved as a true record and duly signed as such by the chairman.
4. Public participation – to receive any questions from the public (15 minutes maximum).  
The following questions regarding traffic issues were received from a resident:

1. Using the traffic data:

The data shows alarming figures. Average speeds 33 to 34 mph. 85th percentile up to 41 mph and maximums of 70 mph in a 30 mph zone with 60 to 70%+ speed violations. How is the PC specifically using these figures to challenge the WCC's arguments that "few accidents" means no support?

*Response: Data is supplied to WCC and SDC local councilors. A question for WCC and the Police who have had the data in the past.*

2. Finding Effective Solutions for Binton:

Given our lack of streetlights and resident concerns about noisy humps, what specific physical traffic calming measures is the PC now actively proposing to WCC that are suitable for unlit rural roads and safely accommodate emergency vehicles, agricultural vehicles [tractors] and school buses? What steps can be taken to explore low noise road surfacing for Binton?

*Response: There are no steps the Parish Council can take as it has no power in this respect. A question for WCC to whom we have been making representations over a long time.*

3. Wider Traffic Impacts and Responsibility:

What specific commitments or next steps has WCC provided to the PC regarding Binton's traffic, based on the PC's long-standing lobbying?

*Response: The previous WCC councilor has supported the PC with grants to assist with the purchase and installation of speed warning signs and has funded the Village Gateway signs.*

Regarding the Bordon Hill Planning Appeal (starting 8 July) how will the PC specifically represent Binton's concerns about the increasing traffic impact from this development on our village to the Planning Inspector?

*Response: A question for WCC – The PC will not be consulted regarding Bordon Hill planning matters.*

How is the PC addressing the clear lack of police enforcement on dangerous driving? For example, I witnessed a motorcyclist doing a prolonged wheelie just after the 30mph sign - this highlights the extreme risk.

*Response: As per Question 1.*

4. How can residents help?

How can individual residents best support the Parish Council's ongoing efforts to get WCC to act effectively on Binton's traffic problems?

*Response: We have two vacancies on the parish council so they may consider joining as a councillor and joining the Speedwatch Group. Residents can also write to their local MP and local councillors. See item 13 below.*

5. Matters arising from the minutes:

Gateway signs to the village have been cleaned.

6. County Councillor's report – James Norris

Warwickshire County Council report June 2025, Cllr James Norris (Alcester and villages)

#### Leadership Changes

Councillor Rob Howard (Reform UK) has stepped down as Leader of Warwickshire County Council after 41 days in the role, citing health reasons. Cllr George Finch (also Reform), aged 18 and representing Bedworth Central, has stepped in as Interim Leader. Cllr Finch has not ruled out standing for the leadership role permanently. We expect a new leader of the Council to be elected at the next Full Council meeting on 22 July.

#### Current Portfolio Holders

The Council's cabinet was finalised on 10 June. Please let me know if you need any councillor's contact details. We do not know whether Cllr Howard's resignation will lead to any further changes to the makeup of the cabinet.

Cllr Rob Howard (Reform UK) – Cabinet Member for Economy

Cllr George Finch (Reform UK) - Cabinet Member for Children & Families

Cllr Anne-Marie Sonko (Reform UK) - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health

Cllr Stephen Shaw (Reform UK) - Cabinet Member for Finance and Property

Cllr Wayne Briggs (Reform UK) – Cabinet Member for Education

Cllr Nigel Golby (Reform UK) – Cabinet Member for Transport and Planning

Cllr Michael Bannister (Reform UK) – Cabinet Member for Customer and Transformation

Cllr Dale Bridgewater (Reform UK) – Cabinet Member for Fire and Rescue and Community Safety

Cllr Darren Cheshire (Reform UK) - Cabinet Member for Environment, Heritage and Culture

#### Committee Appointments

I've been appointed to the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This committee oversees services including education, youth support, child protection, and social care. I'll be working to ensure these vital services meet the

needs of children, young people, and families across the county.  
At my first committee hearing of 24 June, I questioned officers and cabinet members about SEND provision in the County and delays in providing support to young people. The story was picked up in the local press. You can read the article at <https://tinyurl.com/5n3zyzms>

I've also joined the Corporate Parenting Panel, which focuses on supporting children and young people in care, as well as care leavers. The panel brings councillors and partner organisations together to help improve the services and support available to them.

#### Attending the Alcester Schools Traffic Summit

On Friday 13th June, I attended the Alcester Schools Traffic Summit at Alcester Academy, chaired by Manuela Perteghella MP. Representatives from local schools—including Alcester Grammar, St Nicholas' Primary, The Fortitude School, and Alcester Academy—shared the traffic and access challenges they face. We discussed common issues such as congestion, pedestrian safety, and school-run pressures, and explored practical solutions and opportunities for working together.

#### Councillors' Grant Fund Now Open – Apply by 20 July

Round 1 of Warwickshire County Council's Councillors' Grant Fund for 2025–26 is now open. I have £8,000 to support small local projects that make a difference in my area. Please let me know if there are any projects in the parish which might be suitable.

What the funding can support:

- Improving local spaces and community buildings
- Helping people access services
- Supporting mental and physical health
- Tackling loneliness and isolation
- Promoting equality and inclusion
- Boosting financial skills
- Protecting the local environment

I had a meeting with WCC Highways last week where we discussed the West of Shottery Relief Road. As you know, the project is managed by National Highways. WCC do not yet have a start date for the works, but we know that National Highways will only commence once the work to the Birmingham Road in Stratford has been completed. This is to avoid simultaneous disruption to that road and the Alcester Road.

#### 7. District Councillor's report – Cliff Brown

Not present – No report

#### 8. Village Hall matters

A strawberry cream tea with the church was well received.

#### 9. Planning

Application(s) reference: 25/01055/FUL

Proposed : Proposed first floor rear extension to form an additional bedroom.

At : Avon Hill, Binton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 9TZ

For : Mr & Mrs Player – No objection

10. Speed Watch Group

Cameras, batteries and solar panels are all working well. Data is monitored.

11. Finance

Payments

Clerks Salary and Expenses £ 490.00

Bank Charges £ 29.00

Ionos Internet £ 57.60

Insurance Refund £ 40.77

Finance is still available to facilitate a village project. Possibly repairs to our listed well.

12. Items for next meeting.

2026 PC Meeting Dates

13. Exchange of information

We really need the Shottery Western bypass completed by Bloor Homes to reduce traffic volumes through the village. Bloor Homes and Manuela, our MP, have been pressing both National Highways and WCC in getting road space to undertake the works. Bloor Homes have £3.25m tied up in a bond to complete this work. The Parish Council expects that this road completion will reduce traffic through Binton and this will be measured before and after completion.

14. Date of next meeting.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

(Items to be informed to the clerk by 27<sup>th</sup> August)

Meeting closed 8.05pm