

BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1088th Meeting of the
Broad Chalke Parish Council
held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on
Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 7.00pm

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings (Chairman)
Mr T Kimber (Clerk)
Mr M Altham
Mr M Pickford
Mr J Fry
Mr S Carter
Mrs E Richter
Cllr Nabil Najjar (remote)

AG E N D A

- 1 **To receive apologies for absence.** Wiltshire Police
- 2 **To record declarations of interest from Members regarding items on the agenda.** None
- 3 **Chairman's Announcements and any updates from Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police.** Including any petitions and or representations from members of the Public which the Chairman agrees to hear. **The Chair** is pursuing funding opportunities with the Ramblers Association and Cranborne Chase National Landscape to replace the two stiles on Right of Way BROA28 (between Longbridge and Knighton Mill) to improve accessibility to this important footpath. **Police** could not attend but reported "15/01 03:31am unknown suspects have used angle grinder to attempt to remove a catalytic converter from a van". **Cllr Nabil Najjar** provided an update on the flooding situation which has created some bigger questions on what might need to change in future. For instance, the culvert under Knapp Hill is not coping with the volume of water coming down the Ebbles in winter, and needs urgent corrective action for the Cress Beds. Area Board funding is pushed out to the July meeting, so any capital grant requests should be submitted by May (the Village Hall roof/ceiling could be an 'upgrade' request). Lack of proper road/drain maintenance is a big issue, which will be decided at the end of the month WCC budget meeting. **Action:** Clerk has informed the Village Hall and Sports Centre teams of the revised grant timings.
- 4 **Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2026 as a true and accurate record.** Approved
- 5 **Matters Arising from the Minutes.** None
- 6 **To receive an update from Paul Cleary from Wessex Internet on project Gigabit full fibre broadband.** Wessex Internet has the Govt contract for full fibre infrastructure in our area. They are fully independent, not utilising Open Reach cabinets at all. The build will take place during the summer, with household connections planned to start in the Autumn '26 (Broad Chalke school will be the first). The FTTP (fibre to the premises) installation will be free of charge, with a £49 activation fee, and internet service via Wessex Internet contracts. Speeds and costs can be found here: <https://www.wessexinternet.com/for-home/>. Voice over internet is also available and existing landline numbers can be kept (with battery backup if required, for instance in areas with no mobile signal). Broad Sheet and other awareness marketing will start soon.
- 7 **To consider Planning applications:**

7.1.1 [PL/2026/00609](#) – tree works at Maud’s Cottage, Knapp Hill (Apple tree and Ash tree - Fell). No objection

- 8 **Playground update.** Monthly inspection checklist confirms that everything is in order, with nothing outstanding.
- 9 **To discuss replacement of 4 benches (3 by war memorial, 1 in playground).** The ground and weather are still too wet for installation. Villager’s generous donations have covered the cost of the benches (once the VAT is reclaimed). Demand is such that further benches are likely to be required.
- 10 **To receive update on Councillor email addresses.** Mr Altham has researched this to provide the Clerk with information on moving to a .gov.uk or .org email address. Due to the relatively high costs, with very limited benefits, the Council has decided not to proceed further at this time.
- 11 **To discuss Councillor vacancy and co-option.** The Chair has received notices of resignation for personal reasons from Cllrs. Simon Dawes and Justin Allison, resulting in a total of three vacancies. All to have conversations with possible recruits.
- 12 **To update on data protection online training.** The Parish Council is now fully compliant.
- 13 **To discuss Sustainable AND a Resilient Broad Chalke.** Despite the recent rainfall, there currently appears to be very little evidence of a serious flooding problem in Broad Chalke specifically. Future review.
- 14 **To receive update on Affordable Housing planning application.** No update
- 15 **To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan and Wiltshire Council’s Local Plan.** A meeting was held with Place Studio in Bristol to progress our neighbourhood plan. However, it turns out that the Wiltshire plan is out of date regarding housing requirements and timings. Ratification of the Wiltshire plan is expected by July, to be published in September. The updated Wiltshire plan would then come in Spring 2027. Mr Carter will provide an update for the next Broad Sheet and present at the Parish Meeting in May.
- 16 **To discuss the creation of a safe cycle path between Bishopstone and Broad Chalke.** Peter Lamb owns the Broad Chalke end the Lady Cobham owns the Bishopstone end, so getting their permission to upgrade the footpath to a cycle path would be the first task. Thereafter, capital grants would be needed to fund this project. Clerk has provided this update to Bishopstone Parish Council.
- 17 **To discuss Village Hall and Village Maintenance morning on Saturday 28th March 09:15-11:15.** Noted
- 18 **To receive Clerk’s update and Finance report.** Clerk has successfully completed the SLCC’s ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) training. The Finance budget monitoring spreadsheet was discussed, with yearend reporting about to start. The balance at the bank is £32,954.28.
- 19 **To discuss the date and arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting (13th May, same format as last year).** Potential presenters include Wessex Internet, the Police, an affordable housing representative, and the Parish Council.
- 20 **Standing item: Highways and related matters to refer to Wiltshire Council**
 - **South Street road surface:** Due to start on 20th February 2026
 - **Causeway bridge railings:** No update, ongoing

Any other business.

Date of Next Meeting. 11 March 2026

Clerk to the Council: Mr T Kimber Dated 18 February 2026 Meeting closed at 8:50pm