

Notes from Beenham Parish Council meeting Monday Dec 1st.

Public Forum

- There were no Parishioners attending,so no comments

Councillors

- Library facilities.

A further discussion was held about the options put forward by WBC. It was felt that in view of very few parishioners using the previous mobile service, and the two options of a pop-up library or Community Bookshelf being less than ideal, a recommendation should be made to use WBC's own e-book service for a period of time. All feedback from Parishioners on the effectiveness of this service would be welcome.

- Council Meeting dates for 2026

Dates were agreed: 5th Jan...2nd Feb...2nd Mar...Wed 8th Apr (Annual Parish Assembly)...13th Apr...11th May...1st Jun...6th Jul...3rd Aug...7th Sept...5th Oct...2nd Nov...7th Dec.

- Bus Service

Last month it was reported that the Community Connect service has been extended to go to Royal Berkshire Hospital. This was incorrect. It has been extended to Thatcham Community Hospital and Theale.

- Aldermaston Wharf parking

There have been numerous objections to the WBC proposals to alleviate parking problems on Mallards Way.

Planning Matters

- 25/0219/HOUSE: 27 Mallard Way, Aldermaston Wharf. Application approved.

Parish Councillors

- School Security

- There has been no response from WBC to the PC request to advise on security matters for schools after the vandalism incident in October.

-School car parking bay painting - This matter has been passed to WBC.

- Bird Survey

- A bird survey was carried out at Field Barn Farm which identified 33 different species of birds. The detailed summary will be put onto the Beenham Online website for parishioners who are interested.

- Analogue landline telephone switchover

-BT will be switching over from the old analogue landlines to Digital Voice using broadband routers to deliver the phone service by 2027. Some Parishioners will have received letters outlining how and when this will be done... others have not. This was discussed in relation to some issues that some people may have. Not all parishioners have access to internet and broadband services and they should be provided with plug in boxes to maintain their phone services. However, in the case of power cuts equipment will not work. In case of a power cut, BT says that a mobile phone should be used, but Beenham is notorious for poor mobile signal coverage. This could be a problem especially in the case of emergency calls being necessary, and our MP, Olivia Bailey, is aware of these issues.

The Digital Poverty Alliance has a good pamphlet for people seeking further information.

https://digitalpovertyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Digital-Switchover-Factsheet_Individuals-and-Families.pdf

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th January 2026 at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

Full details of the Councillors (including email addresses) are on the website at beenham-pc.gov.uk/councillors/ .

Your Parish Councillors are:

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Graham Bragg Tel: 0118 9713688

Alex Cother Tel: 07764 637190

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District Councillor: Dominic Boeck... Dominic.Boeck@westberks.gov.uk

All correspondence to the council should be addressed to the Parish Clerk.

Parish Clerk: Lauren West Tel: 07919 916125 Email: clerk@beenham-pc.gov.uk

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Parish Council website: www.beenham-pc.gov.uk

Beenham Community Website: <https://www.beenhamonline.org/>