MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BINLEY WOODS PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MORRISON ROOM, VILLAGE HALL, RUGBY ROAD, BINLEY WOODS ON 18th NOVEMBER 2026

PRESENT: Councillors P Salisbury, G Dunn, K Brambill, S Roberts, N Brinton, Mrs E Johnson, Mrs A Bye, Mrs L Harbour and Mrs P Docker.

The Chairman had prepared a Statement which he read out verbatim and forms the penultimate page in these minutes. The Parish Council expressed their full support of the contents of the Statement.

Minute Number

26-27/98 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the Public present.

26-27/99 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF FINANCIAL INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs E French (family commitment)and Borough Councillor Heather Timms

No financial interests were declared

26-27/100 MINUTES OF LAST MEETINGS, DECISIONS TAKEN OUT OF MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2026 were agreed as a true record and were to be signed by the Chairman.

The following decision was taken out of meeting

TREE FELLING AT THE RECREATION GROUND – Surveys in respect of an Oak Tree at the Recreation Ground had been carried out which revealed that the roots of the tree were causing serious cracks in the floor and walls at the Pavilion. Two quotations had been received, one from Beechwood Nurseries in the sum of £3,400.00 and one from Chainsaw Carving in the sum of £1,950.00 from Chainsaw Carving. An Urgency Sub Committee consisting of the Chairman, Councillors Brinton, Docker, Harbour, Roberts and Dunn agreed that the quotation of £1,950.00 received from Chainsaw Carving be accepted.

26-27101 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MINUTES NOT ARISING ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising.

26-27/102 GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence had been circulated by the Clerk by email.

26-27/103 ACCOUNTS, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

Chairman's Honorarium

The Chairman declared an interest in this matter and left the room. Councillor Mrs Bye took the Chair IT WAS AGREED PROPOSED THAT the Chairman's honorarium remain at £500.00. There were no amendments to the Proposal which was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Accounts

The following accounts, which had been authorised by the Chairman and Councillor Roberts were paid out of meeting by the Clerk using electronic bank payments: -

Valda Energy – Pavilion - £70.28
Earth Anchors – Village Green Bench - £571.20
D Green – Wood Carving - £1,920.00
S Roberts – Planters £26.00

The following accounts were submitted for payment: -

J. Cook – Salary and Expenses – October - £584.03
HM Revenue and Customs – PAYE on Clerk's salary - £130.80
HMRC – Employers NI on Clerk's Salary - £35.97
BT – Parish Council - £48.69
P Salisbury – Postcrete £46.00, Tree Carving Plague, £29.99, Health and Safety Poster £5.49 and Wood Carving Exhibition £30.00 Total £80.48
Perennial – Grass Cutting - £,1212.00
VP Computers Ink Cartridges £45.60
Fleet – New Line Marker - £1,033.04
DRAX – Footway Lighting - £2,228.40SPA –
Water Plus –Pavilion - £85.75
P Salisbury - Honorarium - £500.00

The Clerk was authorised to pay the accounts by electronic bank payments

Financial Management - Councillor Roberts had produced a report on the financial position of the Parish Council and produced a statement for the month of October 2026 which was distributed at the meeting and duly noted.

26-27104 REPORTS
Police; Community Alert

Councillor Roberts reported on Pop In session which was held on 14th November 2026.

Borough Councillor's Report – Borough Councillor Timms reported on matters generally.

County Councillor's Report –County Councillor Sonko reported on matters generally.

Primary School – There were no matters to report.

Youth Club – There were no matters to report.

Football Clubs – There were no matters to report.

Village Hall – There were no matters to report.

Allotment Garden – Councillor Mrs Docker reported on matters generally.

Bus Services – Councillor Mrs Harbour reported on matters generally.

26-27/105 NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

No Planning Applications had been received

26-27/106 LOCAL PLAN/NEWSLETTER

Local Plan – There was nothing to report.

Newsletter – The Chairman agreed to chase progress on this matter.

26-27/107 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN THE VILLAGE

Recreation Ground/Village Green

Grass Cutting 2027-2029 – Three quotes had been received and IT WAS AGREED THAT the as the lowest quote was from Perennial, the existing contractor in the sum of £11,500.00 per annum be accepted.

Dog Bins – The Clerk informed the meeting that one of the new dog bins had been installed and one of the current damaged bins had been removed and disposed of.

Sports Pavilion – The tenant of the Café in the Park requested for family reasons that the Café be opened on Friday 1 January 2027 in lieu of Saturday and Sunday the 2nd and 3rd 2027. IT WAS AGREED THAT the request be approved.

Litter Pick – The next litter pick would take place in December 2026

Trees/Tree Planting – IT WAS AGREED THAT a replacement tree be planted close to the oak tree which was recently removed. It was agreed that that the Chairman an Councillor Brinton would assess all Parish Council trees in the village and prune/cur back as necessary.

26-27/108 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

Highway repair and maintenance –

No Parking signs on Rugby Road - The Chairman and Councillor Brambill agreed to review the purchase of No Parking signs Councillor Brambill will look at fitment to lampposts.

Pedestrian Rights of Way – There were no matters to report.

Street Lighting – The Clerk informed the meeting that an order for replacement of existing SOX/SON Bulbs with LED ones in the sum of £9,960.00 had been placed.

Hedge Maintenance – The Chairman reported that he had a site visit with Perennial and requested a quote for maintenance of all hedges under Parish Council ownership.

26-27/109 ABBEY GRANGE – There were no matters to report.

26-27/110 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST NOT ELSEWHERE CONSIDERED
The Action List was reviewed and a revised Action List is attached to these minutes.

26-27/111 NEXT MEETING – The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 16th December 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

CHAIRMAN

Statement from the Chairman.

Firstly, I offer my sincere apologies for my outburst at the October meeting. Being passionate about something you really care for, can sometimes get the better of people, and that is what overcame me. My reactions were most unprofessional. I do not, however, apologise for what I said, as I believe everything I said was true.

I would like to state that the last six to eight weeks have been some of the best, and worst, days of my life. It is fabulous to see the refubished Pavilion, and the tree carving, but these have been overshadowed by the actions of a small number of residents.

For almost 25 years I have worked tirelessly and dilligently to support residents in many ways, providing much needed community amenities. From the Pavilion to play equipment, from memorial benches to tree planting, I have been at the forefront of everything. I have also individually applied and been successful in raising more than £150,000 in grants to fund community assets.

This commitment has all changed since I have received a liabellous email along with slanderous comments, which are defamatory against me and all Councillor's character. Lies, deceit and false accusations have been made without foundation, and all done with the knowledge that only one side of the story has been told. This has led to many people challenging Councillors, from all around Binley Woods and beyond.

After years of commitment to the community, I now feel really let down by the residents I have listened to, and supported, throughout my term in office. As stated previously, this really hurts.

The statements and the email have not been withdrawn, and no written apology has been forthcoming. Something I will need further guidance on for clarity. This leaves me in the position that every decision taken will now be scrutinised as **'uninformed and misjudged'**. A burden we cannot work with, as we would always be looking over our shoulder.

I refuse to allow the Parish Council to be bullied or blackmailed by a small number of the community, who seem hell bent on manipulating the true story behind our decisions. Had we have allowed this five years ago, the Café would not be in existence today.

Councillors cannot function whilst the 'Sword of Damocles' is hanging over every decision made, therefore as chair, I will not open further discussion or make any decisions within meeting, on Café business, unless it is a serious safety issue.

Finally, I would ask all Councillors for their support on this matter.

	Action List		Name	Complete
1	Monitor street light repairs		PD/SR	
2	Order Replacement Bulbs from E.on		Clerk	
3	Cars parked on highway verges		All	
4	Monitor repairs to potholes		All	
5	Inspect Garage site at Elm Close		PD/SR	
6	Meet with residents regarding Cafe in the Park		PD/SR	
7	Order “No Vehicles” signs from Nuneaton Signs		PS/KB	
8	Preparation of Newsletter		PS	
9	Raise complaint with Stagecoach in respect of new Electric Buses		LH	
10	Order 2 Picnic Tables for outside the Sports Pavilion.		Clerk	
11	Write to the Allotments Association to confirm approval to improvements to the Trading Shed		Clerk	
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17				