



Holybrook Parish Council

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

Clerk's Written Report:

Monday 21st July 2025

Beansheaf Centre/Parish Office/Kiosk:

Maintenance:

- 26/06/2025 Fire equipment service completed with some new equipment required which included 3 x new extinguishers.
- 09/07/2025 Small maintenance tasks completed including fixing Office toilet door handle and kitchen door handle.
- 10/07/2025 Fire alarm service completed with no reported issues.

Solar panels are due to be installed during week commencing 18th August 2025.

Office:

- 25/06/2025 Clerk, with Cllr Croal, attended a meeting with a representative from the Local Heritage Forum.
- 02/07/2025 Clerk attended a training course: The Clerk and an Employee and HR Advisor.
- 08/07/2025 A new sign for the outside of the office has been ordered which updates the Council's logo and email contact.
- 10/07/2025 New staff laptops have been delivered but are not currently in use. Need to migrate Rialtas to a web version first (cost £395 +VAT) and arrange for NET 2 to be transferred (cost unknown).

Kiosk:

- Heads of Terms have been signed.
- Deposit received.
- Equipment ordered (waiting on two final deliveries)
- Give-away cups ordered
- Sign ordered – due for installation on Friday 1st August
- Fire equipment installed
- Vacant wasps' nest removed
- Soft opening date Monday 4th August – please support your new local resource.

Parish:

- 03/07/2025 Resident attended the Parish Office to advise of an issue with dog fouling in Linear Park (which has been reported to the dog wardens) and anti-social behaviour concerning e-bikes (which has been reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team). The Clerk has received no responses.
- 03/07/2025 Fly-tipping reported to West Berkshire Council (WBC) (near Aldi). This was a follow up response to an issue already raise by Cllr Croal directly to WBC.
- 08/07/2025 Fly-tipping removed (toilet).
- 10/07/2025 Clerk attended a Community Speed Watch session on Charrington Road (near Dorking Way). In the 50-minute session 158 vehicles passed with 13 of these vehicles in excess of the speed limit.
- 14/07/2025 Construction of the new footpath in Linear Park commenced today.

Finance:

Grant thank yous have been received from Kennet Valley Community Association that is extremely grateful to the Council and from West Berkshire Therapy Centre (attached).

Local Government Pay Update

In regard to the pay claim for 2025/6 effective from the anniversary date of 1 April, SLCC has advised that UNISON members have “overwhelmingly rejected” this year’s local government pay offer for staff in England and Wales. This result follows similar outcomes in consultative ballots of the members of GMB and Unite, in relation to the offer from the employers’ side of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC).

In its response, Unison highlighted that the 3.2% offered is below the rate of inflation in the year to May 2025 (3.4%), according to the government’s preferred consumer prices index (CPI), as well as pay settlements or offers for most other public sector staff. However, the employers have said that the offer is “full and final”, given the pressure they say it will put on council finances. UNISON, along with UNITE and GMB have written to the employers to come back with a fairer and better offer.

West Berkshire Council Planning Decisions:

Application Number	Location	Application Proposal	Decision
25/00184/CERTP	34 Rushmoor Gardens, Calcot RG31 7AJ	The proposed Use Class C2. Residential Family Assessment Centre - The centre will accommodate up to two mothers/parents and two children, with care provided by two staff members. The purpose of the scheme is to offer families an environment that closely resembles a traditional family home, with standard everyday facilities, while providing an element of care and supervision. Two staff members will be on-site at all times, sharing the communal facilities with the families. Shift patterns will be from 8:00am to 8:00pm and from 8:00pm to 8:00am. The existing property has the layout, facilities and services typical of a standard residential dwelling. The proposed use will not alter the nature of the property, and the external appearance of the	Refused

		building will remain unchanged. This proposed use will bring a long-vacant property back into effective use and provide a valuable service to the community.	
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West Berkshire Council Planning – Other

Following the Council raising several enforcement enquiries, West Berkshire Council's Enforcement Department has confirmed that the matter is now closed and that they are satisfied that all required works are completed. With this in mind, the Clerk has contacted West Berkshire Council's Countryside Department for clarification on when the land will be formally transferred over. Response awaited.