



25
Years
2000-2025

Holybrook Parish Council

Proudly serving the residents of Holybrook Parish since 2000

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Clerk's Written Report:

Monday 9th March 2026

Beansheaf Centre/Parish Office:

General:

- 14/01/2026 Water leak detection survey was completed with no identifiable leaks found in the Beansheaf Centre (copy of report enclosed). However, the water meter did have a + symbol which does, reportedly, mean some water flow. More information and next steps will be on the Council's April agenda for discussion.
- 28/01/2026 Complaints received stating that the Centre alarm had been sounding in the evenings. On investigation no obvious cause was determined and an engineer was called. An over-the-phone investigation was completed. Update expected but no further reports from residents.
- 02/02/2026 Dead-leg in ladies' toilet removed and secondary pump replaced. Both items were highlighted in the recent legionella Risk Assessment.
- 09/02/2026: Fire Risk Assessment completed. Several items of low-level, medium level and high risk were identified. Quick actions have been undertaken, whilst others remain outstanding. This work remains ongoing with some items on the March agenda for approval.
- 23/01/2026 The Police have identified all persons involved in the destruction of the outside toilets in Linear Park.
- 30/01/2026: Legionella Risk Assessment was completed with several actions points raised. Many have been completed and some require full council approval.
- 26/02/2026 Emergency light testing completed. Several lights failed the drain down test and must be replaced. Cost £700.00 +VAT.
- 03/02/2026 The Council received several compliments following the February edition of the newsletter. Particular praise was for it being 'informative'.
- 27/02/2026: Defibrillator appears cold. Electrician coming to assess.

Maintenance:

Centre:

- 17/02/2026 New Heat detector was required in the Centre kitchen. Replacement cost £204.36 inc VAT
- 25/02/2026: Linear Hall, left-hand, front shutter curtain replaced (cost £1,240 + VAT) following shutting fault. This shutter has now had a new motor and new curtain so is, essentially, a new shutter.
- 05/03/2026 Lower Keep wall is being repainted. Mirrors in ladies' and Men's toilets being replaced along with the sink sealant.

Office:

- 28/01/2026 All office staff completed and passed the Emergency 1st Aid at Work course. We were accompanied by three Holybrook residents. Everyone found the course interesting and informative. One resident has produced a newsletter article.
- 03/03/2026 The originally selected company for IOSH training is no longer providing the course. The next best price, for an on-line course is £549 + VAT. This is within the Council's budget and has, therefore, been booked.
- 24/03/2026 Clerk attending an Emergency Planning training session at Shaw House.

Parish:

Playgrounds:

- 19/01/2026: Rope replaced on the jungle climber in the Dave Prior 'diddy' Park (cost: £545.75 ex VAT).
- 29/01/2026: Multi-play unit, that had been subjected to arson, on the Holymead playground was replaced.
- 12/02/2026: WW1 Memorial bench was installed on the Holymead Playground.
- 24/02/2026: Parish contractor attended David Prior 'diddy' Park to address to outstanding grounds maintenance works which the Clerk highlighted in November 2025.

General:

- 08/01/2026: Fly-tipping reported to and removed by West Berkshire Council (found by the Community Payback team).
- 28/01/2026 Following a request from Friends of Linear Park (Via Cllr Veerati) West Berkshire Council's Countryside Department was contacted for clarification on what work and exact location its contractor was responsible for on the Fairfields estate. A response was immediately forthcoming.
- 03/02/2026 West Berkshire Council has approved a location for the requested bench in Linear Park:



- 17/02/2026 Moving forward, the Community Payback Team will be working in the Parish one Tuesday per month. Their next visit, scheduled for 3rd March, has been postponed to 24th March.
- 18/02/2026 Several bins through the Parish were not emptied during a week in February due to staff illness. The work was caught up with on 18th February 2026.

20/02/2026 Two residents (separately) attended the Parish Office to raise issues for Council consideration. Resident 1 raised the following:

- 1) inconsiderate car parking issues on Latimer Drive during the school run periods of the day.
- 2) The amount of litter on Latimer Drive
- 3) lack of clubs/activities for older people in the Parish.

Resident 2 raise the following:

- 1) Lack of clubs/activities for older people in the Parish.

26/02/2026 Pothole on Pollards Way - due for repair on 4th March 2026.

Finance:

- The Valuation Office Agency has confirmed the revaluation of the Beansheaf Centre, making The Garage a separate entity. Previous rating of £11,750 has been revised to £11,000 for the Beansheaf Centre and £4,600 for The Garage. Likewise, Non-Domestic Rates Demands for 1st April to 4th August 2025 is £0.00 and from 5th August 2025 to 31st March 2026 is £0 (with the small business relief applied).
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has advised of an increase in the Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England for the 2026/27 financial year. The new limit is £11.60 per elector, up from £11.10 in 2025/26. The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2024 and September 2025, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 137 of the Act allows parish and town councils to incur expenditures for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.
- Unity is reducing the Council's interest rate from 2.10% gross to 1.95% gross.
- Nationwide is reducing the Council's interest rate from 1.55% gross to 1.50% gross.;
- The Council's electricity provider has given a £100.00 credit to the Council due to misinformation being provided on the re-selling of the power generated by the solar panels. Due to this, the Council is not currently selling back any excess power generation.

West Berkshire Council Planning Decisions:

Application Number	Location	Application Proposal	Decision
25/02825/CERTP	Woodstock Mill Lane Calcot Reading	Double garage and carport.	Refused
25/02398/FUL	101 Underwood Road, Calcot, Reading, RG30 3PA	Change of Use from Residential (C3) to Children's Home (C2)	Refused