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Unapproved Minutes of the Greenham Parish Council Meeting held at St Mary's Church Hall, New Road, Greenham on Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 19:30 for the purpose of transacting the business items below.

In attendance:
Cllr Abbs, Cllr Austin (Vice Chairman), Cllr Barnett, Cllr Blackborow, Cllr Drummond, Cllr Farrant, Cllr Gopi (arr 7:35), Cllr Hay, Cllr Neal, Cllr Sanderson (arr 7:40), Cllr Swift-Hook (Chairman), Cllr Wakelyn-Green, Jon Davey (Clerk) and 2 members of the public - 1 online via Zoom.

AGENDA

26NOV-1 HEALTH AND SAFETY OF MEETING LOCATION
The Chair made Cllrs and public aware of the fire exits

26NOV-2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies were received from Cllr Allan, Cllr Puffett

26NOV-3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members are reminded that they should declare any personal or pecuniary interests on agenda items to be discussed at the meeting, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.
The Chair declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items 6.5 and the first application under 8.1, as a director of Greenham Control Tower Ltd, the council's tenant. He said he

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was not relying on the dispensation recorded in the October minutes, as only four members were present when it was granted, below the quorum of five. The Clerk has sought the Monitoring Officer's advice, and the council will consider the request again in December. He would take no part in those items, and Cllr Austin would take the chair for them.

He said he would abstain on items 9.1 and 9.4, each of which includes a line relating to the Control Tower roof project and asked for his abstentions to be recorded. He also recorded that at item 10.3 in October (a contribution of up to £175 towards refreshments for Beating the Bounds) he had not declared his interest and was likely to have voted, which he should not have done.

Cllr Drummons is a director of the Greenham Business Park so would not take part in 8.1 26/02234/RESMAJ. Cllrs Abbs, Barnett, Drummond being District Councillors who sit on planning declared their position and they wouldn't vote on the items. Cllr Hay 8.1 Blue Plaque application so would address the room and leave for the discussion. Cllr Wakelyn-Green was involved with PALS so would not vote on 10.1

26NOV-4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are welcome at Greenham Parish Council meetings but can only speak during this part of the meeting which is limited to 15 minutes. Individual speakers may be limited to 5 minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should please advise the Clerk at least 48 hours before the meeting. No decisions can be made during this public participation time. After this period, the meeting will be resumed, and members of the public may only speak if/when invited to do so. You are welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting.

The resident chose not to speak.

26NOV-5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14th October 2026

PROPOSED: Cllr Austin

SECONDED: Cllr Neal

RESOLVED: The minutes to be a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Cllr Abbs abstained.

26NOV-6 ACTIONS FROM LAST MINUTES

1. *6.1 Fusion advised to move ahead with Racecourse Marketing Suite Survey*
2. *6.2 WBC given permission to install electric signage*

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3. *6.3 Conversation with WBC regarding latest version of Diamond Devolution*
4. *6.4 Promoted need for bus stop decorator on Facebook*
5. *6.5 Pulling together notice for Control Tower Tender*

The Chair passed to Cllr Austin for this item. The Clerk explained he had uploaded the relevant information relating to the Control Tower tender to the Find a Tender website inline with legislation. The Chair passed back to Cllr Swift-Hook.

26NOV-7 POLICE UPDATE

To update council on relevant information

On duty, not able to attend

26NOV-8 PLANNING

8.1 To consider the following planning applications:

26/02239/LBC

The proposal is for the installation of a commemorative blue plaque to the exterior of the Grade II listed Greenham Common Control Tower

Greenham Common Control Tower Burys Bank Road Greenham Thatcham RG19 8BZ

The Chair passed to Cllr Austin and Cllr Swift-Hook left the room.

Cllr Hay expressed her disappointment at the Greenham Control Tower Limited's (GCTL), the charity that manages the building, recent email objecting to her request for a Blue Plaque commemorating the Ugandan Asian refugees which wasn't inline with her understanding. It had been indicated the charity was happy to accommodate a plaque based on conditions but somehow those conditions hadn't been communicated to Cllr Hay. She quoted from an email from a member of the original board, who shared her concerns that the decision wasn't in keeping with the "Vision of Greenham" which had committed to developing the Tower as a heritage and community resource. Cllr Hay would like to address the conditions and hopes to agree a location with the continued support of Greenham Parish Council. Cllr Hay left the room.

Cllr Barnett was very concerned about the poor response from the GCTL Chair and strongly objected to their blocking of the Blue Plaque.

Cllr Wakelyn-Green agreed the tone was very poor and not a fitting response.

Cllr Austin said the refugees were not based at the Control Tower but many of the buildings that accommodate them had been demolished and industrial units replaced them, so the Tower was a fitting place for a Blue Plaque.

Cllr Farrant found the email rejection embarrassing and totally inappropriate, and challenged their ability to make such a decision when Greenham Parish Council owns the building.

Cllr Abbs asked the Clerk to check the details and if the heritage people had agreed.

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Cllr Neal thought the Blue Plaque would attract more visitors to the Control Tower.
The Clerk explained that he advised Cllr Hay the first step would be a formal letter from the relevant authority giving permission for the Blue Plaque and its content. It would then be about building bridges with the trustees and looking for an agreeable solution.
PROPOSED: Cllr Farrant
SECONDED: Cllr Wakelyn-Green
RESOLVED: The Council reaffirms its support for the idea of a blue plaque at the Control Tower commemorating the events of 1972-73 when the Ugandan Asians arrived here as refugees. It is an important part of the history of Greenham Parish, and indeed of West Berkshire, and we seek to find a way of moving forward.

26/02234/RESMAJ
Reserved matters application pursuant to outline planning permission 23/01732/OUTMAJ for the development of 31 dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, open space (including LEAP), infrastructure and associated works, seeking approval of layout, landscape, appearance and scale. Not EIA development
Land North Of Just Learning Nursery Monks Lane Newbury

Cllr Swift-Hook retook the Chair. He advised this item was for reserve matters as planning permission had already been granted.
PROPOSED: Cllr Neal
SECONDED: Cllr Sanderson
RESOLVED: No Objection to the reserve matters

26NOV-9 FINANCE

1. *9.1 To approve payments made / to be made*

PROPOSED: Cllr Blackborow
SECONDED: Cllr Austin
RESOLVED: The past and future payments were agreed and approved by council.
The Chair abstained.

2. *9.2 To approve Bank Reconciliation for OCT 2026*

PROPOSED: Cllr Drummond
SECONDED: Cllr Austin
RESOLVED: The bank reconciliation was agreed and approved by council.
Cllr Sanderson abstained as he'd not read the document.

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3. *9.3 Asset Register - removing CCTV*

PROPOSED: Cllr Abbs
SECONDED: Cllr Blackborow
RESOLVED: The removal of the CCTV asset from the register as it had been replaced. The Chair abstained.

4. *9.4 Budget virements*

PROPOSED: Cllr Abbs
SECONDED: Cllr Wakelyn-Green
RESOLVED: To approve the virements set out in the paper. It includes moving £4,000 out of the Control Tower Contingency Fund. The Chair abstained.

5. *9.5 CIL*

Noted that the Clerk had submitted the document to WBC CIL Department

26NOV-10 GRANTS

1. *10.1 PALS (West Berkshire)*

PROPOSED: Cllr Austin
SECONDED: Cllr Abbs
RESOLVED: The lack of specific details relating to numbers of beneficiaries from Greenham Parish made it difficult to make a clear decision. £50 was awarded. The Clerk would request more data and we may be minded to increase the grant.
Cllr Wakelyn-Green abstained.

2. *10.2 BookTastic Newbury CIC*

PROPOSED: Chair
SECONDED: Cllr Farrant
RESOLVED: It was proposed to donate £1,000 and ask Greenham Trust to match fund with their GT Match Funding pot to make it £2,000.

3. *10.3 West Berkshire Volunteer Centre*

PROPOSED: Cllr Farrant
SECONDED: Cllr Blackborow
RESOLVED: It was proposed to donate £500 and ask Greenham Trust to match fund with their GT Match Funding pot to make it £1,000.

26NOV-11 RACECOURSE SURVEY

Update on survey

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Week 1 report shows 7 votes, evenly balanced for and against. Concerns over lack of information being shared, if Cllrs are unaware, the public will be too. The action plan closes the survey at the end of November, possibly too soon. Cllrs felt more awareness was needed. Cllr Abbs suggested we'd need 200 votes to make it statistically significant. It was felt the Clerk was better placed to progress the relationship as Cllr Allan has a new full time job. Cllr Abbs to approach Fusion directly to gee things along.

26NOV-12 PRE-CONSULTATION NEW BASE STATION
Proposed changes to telecom mast at the Retail Park
PROPOSED: Cllr Drummond
SECONDED: Cllr Austin
RESOLVED: No objection

26NOV-13 DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
9th December 2026

Meeting closed at 9:10pm

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