

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on: Monday 11th May 2026

Time: 7:30pm

Location: The Pavilion, Flamstead

Members of the press and public were invited to attend.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

Flamstead School/Westenders – Cllr Ford, Cllr Behr, Cllr Wild and Cllr Russell

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm were approved as a correct record, Proposed by Cllr Williams, Seconded by Cllr Humbert.

4. Public and Press Participation

No matters were raised.

5. Update from Jane Timmis

Jane Timmis updated the Council on several matters:

- Priory Orchard, road signage was confirmed as being on the list for works, although funding is restricted.
- Hollybush Lane, Priory Orchard and Pietley Hill signage also discussed, Old Watling Street signs require cleaning; the Parish Warden will be contacted.
- Concerns were raised regarding green bin collections at Gods Acre. The location is not classed as a residential address. Dacorum Borough Council will investigate responsibility for payments and collection arrangements.
- The entrance to Gods Acre was confirmed as a highways matter.
- Chad Lane had experienced significant fly tipping; the rubbish has now been collected.
- Concerns were raised that registration requirements for recycling centres may increase fly tipping incidents.
- Central Bedfordshire planning matters in nearby areas were discussed.
- Correspondence had been sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding Friendless Lane.
- Concerns were raised regarding the lack of police attendance at Parish Council meetings and local crime figures.

Action: Clerk to request monthly crime statistics for both this year and last year.

6. Update from Caroline Smith-Wright

- Queries remain ongoing regarding ownership and widening of the path and hedge area at Gods Acre due to speeding traffic concerns.
- Flamstead road markings have been requested.
- Fly tipping penalties have increased to £1,000.
- A reporting link for fly tipping will be sent to the Clerk.
- CCTV monitoring options were discussed.
- The HertsLynx service expansion and proposed bus stop locations received positive resident feedback.
- Residents were encouraged to report highways issues online and retain reference numbers.
- Significant pothole repairs were completed over winter, with additional works planned.
- A new square-cut repair method is now being used to reduce water ingress.
- Delmerend Lane requires attention (Potholes).
- Road lines near Beechwood Park School and Gaddesden Row require replacement.

7. Friendless Lane Update

Council are awaiting the outcome of the court hearing held on 7th May 2026 involving Dacorum Borough Council.

Further Friendless Lane Discussion

- Dacorum Borough Council had presented a strong argument at the hearing.
- The issue involves human rights considerations relating to families on site prior to the injunction.
- Evidence had been submitted regarding caravan numbers present on 5th April.
- A decision is expected within approximately two weeks.
- Councillors should report any further movement onto the site, particularly mobile homes, as possible breaches of injunctions or stop notices.
- An update for Grapevine is to be discussed by Cllr Ford and Cllr Pither.
- Environmental concerns regarding destruction of trees along Friendless Lane have been reported to Dacorum.

9. Planning

i) New Applications

Application Ref	Address	Proposal	Decision
26/01006/FHA	Timbers, Hollybush Lane, Flamstead	Two-storey front and rear extension including new porch	No Objection
26/01014/FHA	Watling Cottage, London Road, Flamstead	Removal of existing entrance walls, new boundary walls and widened entrance	No Objection

ii) Planning Decisions by Dacorum Borough Council

Application Ref	Address	Proposal	Decision
26/00604/FHA	8 Shepherds Yard, Flamstead	Single-storey contemporary garden building for home office	Granted
25/00159/FUL	Land Northeast of Delmer End Lane, Flamstead	Demolition of outbuildings and construction of detached dwelling and garage	Granted

10. Westenders and Cricket Contracts/Invoices

The Clerk advised that the 2025 invoice has now been issued and paid.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Westenders contracts for 2026/27.
- Cricket Club contracts for 2026.
- Possible increases to Cricket Club payments.
- Reviewing payments made over the last ten years.
- Costs of line marking by Dacorum.
- Responsibility for re-marking pitches.

Jane Timmis will approach Dacorum regarding possible village leisure support projects including paddle/pickle courts and young adult sports provision.

Action: Clerk to review historical Cricket Club payments and line marking costs.

11. Parking on Trowley Hill Road

Caroline Smith-Wright continues to investigate parking concerns near Shepherds Yard.

Action: Clerk to forward resident correspondence and evidence.

12. Pre-School Contract and Repayment Schedule

The Council noted that Flamstead Pre-School is progressing well and has offered to repay outstanding amounts in full by the end of July 2026.

13. Bank Update

Bank issues have been resolved at present. The decision to moving across to another bank is to be discussed further.

14. HAPTC Policies

The Clerk updated councillors regarding:

- Powers to spend
- Section 137 funding
- Conflict of interest considerations involving schools and churches.

15. Clerk Training

HAPTC training opportunities for the Clerk were discussed and approved, proposed by Cllr Wild, Seconded by Cllr Humphreys.

16. Nature-Based Outdoor Classroom

The Clerk advised:

- Any donation would need to come from Section 137 funds.
- As the school is council funded, concerns exist regarding powers to spend.
- Health and safety responsibilities were discussed.

17. Cutting Back Trees and Strimming Alleyways

Possible involvement of the Parish Warden was discussed in relation to Hollybush and other areas.

Action: Clerk to contact Dacorum Borough Council regarding procedures.

18. London Luton Airport Public Surgery Event

Members noted the public surgery event taking place on Monday 18th May between 4pm and 7pm at the airport offices on Percival Way.

19. Street Name Signs and Road Markings

There will be continued focus on signage and road markings throughout the village.

20. Bridgewater Tree Works 2026

A list of trees was produced showing a list of planned works in Flamstead.

21. Clerk's Working Hours

It was agreed that the village would be updated regarding the Clerk's working hours.

Updates from 27th April 2026

22. Nature-Based Outdoor Classroom

Council noted that agreement had previously been made to match school fundraising up to £4,500.

23. Pavilion Security

The Pavilion has been identified as remote and vulnerable.

A Pavilion Committee has been established comprising:

- Cllr Humphreys
- Cllr Williams
- Cllr Russell

The committee will investigate improvements to Pavilion security.

24. FoSL Ramp Path

Flamstead Parish Council agreed to contribute £5,000 towards the path project from the ramp at FoSL.

25. Old Watling Street Litter

The Clerk confirmed discussions with Highways and the Parish Warden regarding litter collection responsibilities along Old Watling Street. The Parish Warden has agreed to collect visible rubbish during weekly passes through the area.

27. Finance for 1st April – 30th April 2026.

It was RESOLVED to approve payments by BACS as presented.

The Clerk, Cllr Pither and Cllr Crowie have completed the required sign-off procedures.

Signed: _____
Chairman Billy Pither

Date: _____