

Bishop's Itchington

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2026

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 27 April 2026 at 7.30pm

The Community Centre, Ladbrooke Road, Bishop's Itchington, CV47 2RN

Present:

Cllr Kettle (Chairman)
Cllr N Thomas (Vice Chairman)
Cllr J. Thomas
Cllr Lamont

In Attendance:

Jill Green - Clerk to the Council
Cllr Natalie Gist – District Councillor
19 Members of the Public

Absent

Cllr Dugmore
Cllr Tressler
Cllr Burns
Cllr Horsman
Pam Reason

- Welcome:**
The meeting was chaired by Cllr Kettle who welcomed all to the meeting and made introductions.
- Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies were received from Cllr Dugmore, Cllr Tressler, Cllr Burns and Cllr Horsman.
- Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 28 April 2025:**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Village meeting held on 28 April 2025 as a true and complete record of that meeting. Proposed Cllr N. Thomas, Seconded Mr R. Cox, All in Favour.
- Matters Arising from the Minutes:**
None.
- Report from the Chairman of Bishop's Itchington Parish Council:**
The Chair highlighted his report that had been provided in advance of the meeting along with reports from all other areas. All had been included in a printed and electronic publication and copies provided to all present.

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6. **Reports from Portfolio Holders of Bishop's Itchington Parish Council:**
Reports had been provided by all councillors; however, the following additional items were highlighted:

6.1 Biodiversity – Cllr Matthew Burns - Not present – Report provided in advance.

6.2 Community Centre – Cllr Norman Thomas

- Updates to the doors and windows have been completed by Orbit, thanks given for the replacement items.
- As the village has over 2000 residents, the facility is important and the Committee is running well.

6.3 Playground/Playing Field – Cllr Norman Thomas

- The Play Area was replaced 3 years ago and is a good community asset visited by residents from other villages.
- Graffiti has recently appeared on some of the equipment and CCTV will be introduced which may act as a deterrent.
- Following a RoSPA inspection, some maintenance will be performed in the next few weeks.
- A Playground Inspector has been employed.
- A new fence on left hand side when facing the entrance) has been installed.
- There have been issues with lost balls, going into the neighbouring farmers field and options are being considered.
- A new Cricket Wicket will be installed, mid-May 2026.

6.4 Churchyard, Cemetery & Allotments – Cllr Alistair Lamont

- The Rules & Regulations for Burials and Cemetery Management and the Memorial Safety Policy have been updated.
- A Memorial Safety inspection took place in January 2026 by a qualified third party and we are in the process of contacting relatives of the 5 affected memorials.

6.5 Finance – Cllr Christopher Kettle

- The un-audited accounts were made available for all to view at the meeting.
- Cllr Kettle advised that the income figure of £140K included a £7K transfer of a contribution of funds towards the new Cricket Wicket.
- Each expenditure item goes through an approval process and relates to village related activities.
- Reserves were explained and Cllr Kettle confirmed that the Precept, remained the same as the prior year at £112,500.

6.6 Planning – Cllr Adam Dugmore - Not present – Report provided in advance.

- Cllr Kettle outlined the planning process and gave context with regards to the 5 Year Housing Land Supply.
- Current applications were highlighted and a member of the public raised Southam and Gaydon, as having a clear line of defence against planning applications. The clerk to place this on a Parish Council Meeting for discussion.
- Councillors commented that responses were made on each application and Cllr Gist advised that analysis of likely sites was awaited from SDC.

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6.7 HR – Cllr Orlaith Horsman - Not present – Report provided in advance.

- Cllr J. Thomas advised that a General Maintenance Person (Tony Green) and Playground Inspector (Edward Frape) had recently been employed.

6.8 Police liaison – Cllr Orlaith Horsman - Not present – Report provided in advance.

- Cllr Horsman and Cllr Gist are working on improving the liaison with the Police.
- Although Community meetings have been held, there has been little interest or interaction.
- Cllr Gist encouraged reporting of incidents – process detailed within the report.

6.9 Bishop's Itchington Primary School Liaison – Cllr Orlaith Horsman - Not present – Report provided in advance.

7. Reports from Village Organisations:

Reports had been provided by all Village Organisations; however, the following additional items were highlighted:

7.1 Crafty Cuppa

- The attendance numbers are slightly higher than mentioned within the report.
- A donation of £2,500 has been made to the Air Ambulance and Richard Cox explained that it costs £2,400 each time the helicopter responds to an incident.

7.2 Bishop's Itchington Senior Residents Association

- Events have included a very successful skittle afternoon, steam train event and a variety of meals out.
- 30-60 residents are catered for.
- The club brings people together and numbers are growing.

7.3 Bishop's Itchington Football Club (BIFC)

- 100 years of the club was celebrated last year.
- Achievements have been 3 trophies and there is an upcoming cup final.

7.4 Bishop's Itchington Sports Association (BISA)

- BISA are hiring out the courts and pitches
- Cricket is growing and other activities include walking netball, tennis, 5 aside football and badminton.
- All monies made are donated to the scouts and the school to provide sports equipment.

7.5 Friends of Bishop's Itchington Primary School - Not present – Report provided in advance.

7.6 Bishop's Itchington WI

- 14 Flower boxes are maintained in the village by the group and Moya organises the replanting.

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- The group are grateful for the ongoing support from the Parish Council.

7.7 St Michael's Church

- The demand for the Food Bank (serving the village and surrounding areas) is growing, and stock has been increased to support this. This activity is run out of the church meeting room.
- A lot of donations are made by the village and there is a donation box in the Co-op.

7.8 Friends of the Yellow Land & Bishop's Itchington Nature Group (BING) - Not present – Report provided in advance.

7.9 Bishop's Itchington Footpath Group

- This is a new group to the village.
- All parish footpaths have been walked and an audit completed. Replacement arrows are due shortly and an approach to landowners will be made.
- The aim is to create complete walks, starting with guided walks to enable people to walk with confidence.

7.10 Men's Shed - Not present – Report provided in advance.

7.11 Memorial Hall

- There have been several fundraising events which have progressed well.
- A new floor is required, and news is awaited on a Grant Application with SDC.

7.12 Hidden Green Community Growing Space - Old Road - Not present – Report provided in advance.

Cllr Kettle asked for any further comments and the following areas were raised:

- Historically, additional footpaths were to be placed over the nature reserve, however these are still not in place. Cllr Kettle will speak with the resident in greater detail regarding this outside of this forum and raise with the Footpaths Officer at WCC.
- The question was raised about funding from the HS2 project, and a discussion took place regarding the types of community groups that could apply. Subsequently funding request details were provided by Haidee Williams - Engagement Manager G2S.

The first link has **further information** on the HS2 Funds available.
[Community and Environment Fund – HS2 Community and Business Funds](#)

The second link is a helpful **eligibility tracker**, which indicate if the project you are thinking about is applicable for funding.
[Community Environment Fund Eligibility Checker – HS2 Community and Business Funds](#)

8. **County & District Councillors' Reports and Questions:**

Reports had been provided in advance of the meeting; however, the following additional items were highlighted:

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8.1 Councillor Christopher Kettle – Warwickshire County Council

- There is a prospect of major change with the approaching proposals for either one unitary council for the whole of the area of Warwickshire or 2 unitary councils North and South Warwickshire.
- Many calls have been received regarding potholes on Warwickshire roads which cover over 2000 miles. The funds available for the road network across the district are limited, and Cllr Kettle explained the budget allocations detailed within the report. The overall annual budget for the Council, agreed on 17th February 26, was for expenditure of £702m for the year 2026/27, of that £17.8m is allocated to highways.

One resident raised the issue of some contractors (used for road works), not returning the road to its original state/condition on project completion. Cllr Kettle advised that it was very important that residents report issues to WCC of poor workmanship immediately.

8.2 District Councillor Natalie Gist

- The Publication Version of the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) will be considered at the Joint Cabinet Committee on 28th May 2026.
- Officers from both Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwick District Council will be holding two initial briefing sessions for town and parish councillors at 6pm on 19th May and 11am on 20th May.
- Period of Representations, expected 12th June with a deadline for submission of representations of Monday 27th July 2026.
- Local Government reorganisation announcement will be made the day before Parliament rises for the summer (15 July 2026).
- The success of the Health Screening events was highlighted.

9. Parish Council Attendance Record May 2025 – April 2026:

Reports had been provided in advance of the meeting, and an overview was provided by Cllr Kettle.

10. Questions and Answers Session

There were no further questions.

11. Close of Meeting

Cllr Kettle thanked residents for attending the meeting and all contributors for their reports. The meeting closed at 21:00

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