

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at Englefield Village Hall on Thursday 22nd May 2025

Present:

Cllr E. Crookes (Chairman)
Cllr R. Smith
Cllr L. Dennison
Cllr P. Myles
Cllr J. Goodwin

In attendance:

N. Rands (Clerk)

Also present: Thirteen members of the public

1. Welcome by Chairman of Englefield Parish Council

2. Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14th May 2024 were approved as a true record

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Crookes gave a report summarising key activities of the Parish Council during 2024/25

4. Clerk's Report

Nia Rands gave a report on the activities and business of the Parish Clerk during 2024/25

5. Englefield Village Hall

Lynn Dennison provided an update on the previous year, covering the main points:

- The hall has seen another busy year – children's parties; christenings; baby classes; yoga; pilates; bridge club
- Bingo night – hoping to host another one
- New hedging plants planted
- Thank you to The Englefield Estate gardens team for cutting the grass during the summer months
- Repaint of the hall planned for later this year

6. Englefield Estate Update

Head of Rural Property and Land, James Meade, provided an update on the activities of the Englefield Estate during 2024/25, covering the following main points:

- Sustainability continues to be a big focus for the Estate
- The Estate continue to support the West Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- The new Estate office at The Estate Yard opened in October 2024
- Private water supply is impacted by prolonged period of dry weather – ask residents to be conscious of water usage, particularly outside
- River Pang restoration project to improve natural flood management and store more flood water, improve water quality and wetland habitat – planning application submitted

- Tree planting – working on proposals to plant more in and around the village
- VE Day anniversary beacon lighting well attended
- Former Estate office – to be converted to secondary school for up to 20 children with additional needs (~8 will be resident)
- Wickcroft Farm – to be refurbished and re-let from October 2025
- Schools Days – 18-19th June
- Concerts – 17th-20th July

7. District Councillor

Apologies were received from Cllr Ross MacKinnon, Councillor for the Ward of Bradfield, who was unable to attend due to illness

8. Thames Valley Police

Nia Rands gave a summary of the crime statistics provided by Thame Valley Police for the previous year

9. Englefield Primary School

Apologies were received from Englefield Primary School

10. St. Mark's Church

An update of the past year was provided by Reverend Julia Myles

11. Open Public Forum

Chairman: Date:

DRAFT - NOT YET APPROVED