Kings Walden
Parish Council

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Monday 19th October 2026 starting at 7.30pm

Breachwood Green Village Hall, Chapel Rd, Breachwood Green, SG4 8NX

To Cllrs: Jon Chamberlin, Ash Gordon, Amanda King, Vickie Peck-Cooper (Chair), Niki Tait, Leigh Ward

Councillors are respectively summoned to attend this meeting for the transaction of business in the agenda below. The meeting is open to members of the public and press.

Lisa Lathane, Clerk to the Council, 14th October 2026

MEETING OF KINGS WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL - AGENDA

1. **To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

2. **Chairman's remarks.**

3. **Public participation: To receive presentations from the public (10 minutes allowed, † pre-registration requested)**
   a. **To receive a presentation from District Councillors (5 minutes allowed).**
   b. **To receive a presentation from the County Councillor (5 minutes allowed).**

4. **To adopt the minutes of the last parish council meeting.**

5. **Matters arising from minutes of the last meeting not covered elsewhere.**

6. **To receive the clerk's report including an update on ongoing projects.**

7. **To review quotes for hedge and tree work following the completed tree surveys:**
   a. **Breachwood Green Recreation Ground**
   b. **Ley Green Recreation Ground**

Quotes to be presented on the evening.

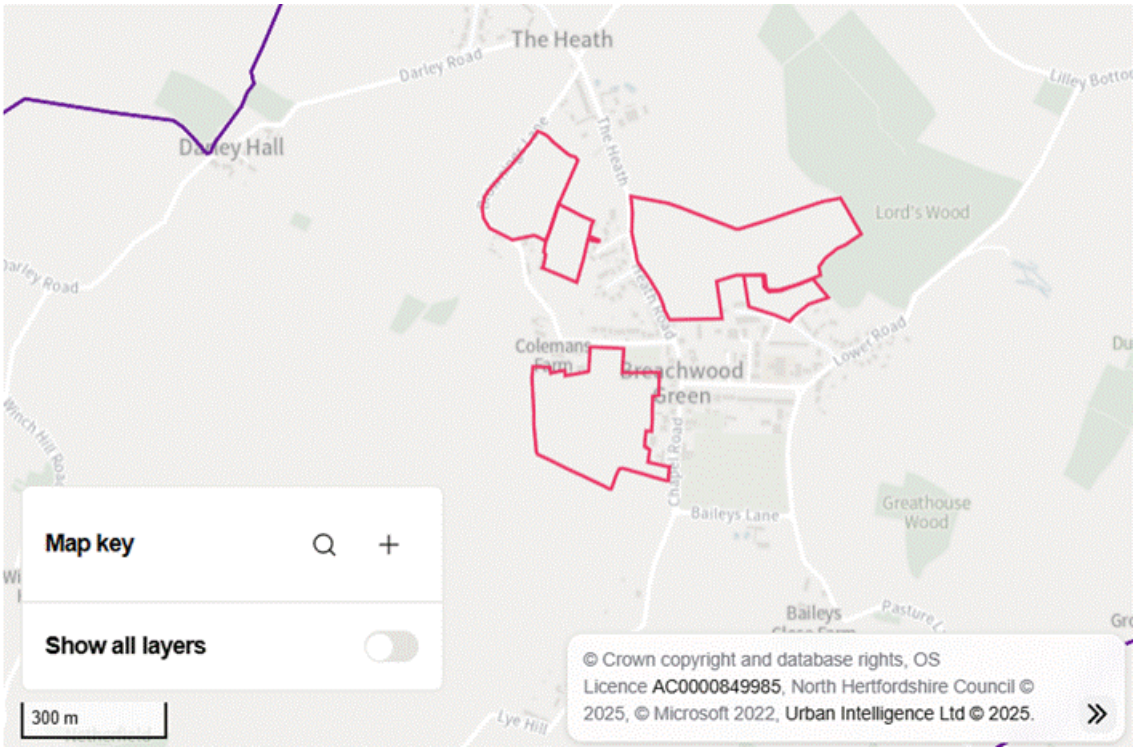
8. **To review racking options in container and agree costs**
   Suggest we agree a maximum cost at this meeting so that this can be ordered and installed ASAP.

9. **Airport Update**

10. NHDC meeting update

a. Local Plan Consultation & Call for Sites

- The clerk and Cllr King attended a meeting at the 5th October at NHDC to be updated on the Local Plan Review.
- A presentation shown to attendees at this meeting has been shared with Cllrs
- The following sites have been put forward in the parish of Kings Walden:



- Residents may wish to comment on nearby sites in other parishes as well as their own due to the impact the sites may have.
- Some sites in the review have been suggested for housing, some for employment and others for biodiversity.
- Sites that have been put forward are not confirmed development sites, each on will be assessed for suitability. Some will be removed due to being unsuitable.
- Other sites may be put forward before the review is completed.
- The council should encourage residents to comment on the sites with their comments before the 24th November so that they can be considered in the review.
- Drop in sessions with NHDC are being held, residents are welcome to go and find out more.
- Comments on the sites can be made at: https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/call-sites

b. **National Scheme of Delegation for planning applications**

- This will change in that District Cllrs / County Cllrs will no longer be able to call in applications to committee as they have done previously.
- For us as a parish council nothing will change, we will still be Consultees on all planning applications.
- This is discussed in detail on slides 3, 4, 5 & 6 on the presentation sent to all Cllrs

c. **Parish Priorities**

- Neighbourhood Plans (which KW doesn't have) are not being encouraged any more. They are time consuming to put together and incredibly costly. Preston Parish Council spent over £10k on theirs, which was mostly funded by Neighbourhood Plan grants which no longer exist. NHDC now recommend possibly putting together a Parish Priorities document.
- This would still take an estimated 6 months to put together but would work alongside the Local Plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework, to protect what is most important to residents of the parish.
- This is a relatively new initiative and the clerk is looking into what putting one together would entail.
- This is discussed on slides 13 & 14 of the presentation with an example to one carried out already in Cornwall.

11. To review installation of Christmas Tree

Quote to be shared at the meeting.

12. To review bins at the Village Hall and agree any costs

Review of sign to put up re CCTV.

Quote to build bin store to be shared at the meeting.

13. To discuss and agree preferred contractors

14. To discuss benches at Breachwood Green Recreation Ground and agree costs

15. Finance and Risk:

a. **To authorise non-contractual payments and note payments to date.**
b. **To authorise the signing of the Bank Reconciliation**
c. **To review the 2026/27 Budget to date**

Sent separately as 05 Financial Report

Before the next meeting please consider what projects we may need to budget for so that they can be built into the 2027/28 budget.

16. Planning:

a) To receive and consider responses to planning applications.

i. 26/02122/FP - 25 Lower Road, Breachwood Green, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG4 8NS

Current public comments on the planning portal:

1. It would be preferable due the small size of the plot to only have two detached houses located move centrally.
   This would then provide the residents with sufficient space for garages by their properties as opposed to the proposed remote parking and would provide space for larger gardens.
   This would provide more privacy (existing trees and hedges in the farmer's field to the rear of plot currently provides a level of privacy and is currently occupied by birds and Muntjac deer) and light for existing residents.
   This would also allow the entrance/exit to be relocated to a more central location avoiding a blind spot for traffic coming up Lower Road from Lilley Bottom Road. It would also deter the possibility for car to be parked opposite the junction with Orchard Way.
   This would alleviate noise and exhaust pollution from the proposed parking area against existing house boundaries.
   There is also a concern about the ongoing hum/noise from heat pumps. Could these be relocated or sound proofed.

2. If constructed, please could North Hertfordshire Council ensure that at least four British Standard BS42021:2022 integrated swift bricks are conditioned and correctly installed on this development.

   Swift bricks are cheap, easy to install, fit neatly into the building looking aesthetically pleasing and are barely visible if properly installed
   https://www.actionforswifts.com/s/Integral-Nest-Brick-Guidance-ns83.pdf The bricks last the lifetime of the building, require no maintenance and do not pose a potential falling hazard to residents being integrated into the building's walls unlike externally-mounted bird boxes.
   Integrated Swift bricks are 'universal' providing homes for Swifts (70% UK decline) and other red-listed hole nesting species including but not limited to: Starlings (61% UK decline), House Martins (40% UK decline) and House Sparrows (32% decline in England) see:
   https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/bto-jncc-rspb-breeding-bird-survey-report-2025.pdf for full statistics.
   The newly published Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy also expects one Swift brick per dwelling on average
   https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/doc/about/partner/lnrs/local-nature-recovery-strategy-pdf-17.6mb.pdf (Page 62) including new developments.
   This development could support and help grow local populations hole-nesting species including Swifts, provide resilience to local colonies.

3. This comment is made on behalf of Hertfordshire Swift conservation groups

This development is suitable for Swift bricks to be integrated into the walls of the new buildings, as set out in the recent updates to the NPPF and NPPG as well as the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Strategy.
At the time of this comment, no ecology report has been published on the planning portal, but Swift bricks are shown on the site plan
Swift bricks are universal nest bricks as they conform to the British Standard for integral nest boxes, BS42021:2022, meaning they provide nest cavities for a variety of small birds.
Policy N2 (1) of the Natural Environment part of the NPPF is a National Decision-Making Policy and as such is a material planning consideration of critical importance. Policy N2 states:
"To contribute positively to the natural environment, and support nature's recovery, development proposals should:
f. Minimise any adverse impacts on biodiversity and include features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs. Development proposals should incorporate integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) into their construction unless there are compelling technical reasons which prevent their use, or would make them ineffective"
Paragraph 17 of the Natural Environment section of the NPPG states the following:
"The National Planning Policy Framework expects development proposals to bolster wildlife by incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs.
The use of swift bricks is particularly important in this context because swifts rely on urban cavities for nesting, and the national loss of suitable nesting sites through building renovation has been part of the reason for the species' decline.
Developments should include integrated nest boxes (commonly known as swift bricks) where possible, with the general aim across a development of a minimum of one nest box per unit. Nest boxes can provide important habitat for other species as well as swifts, such as starlings and sparrows"
The Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy also contains policy actions in relation to Swift bricks
The unmapped urban priorities section includes action 5, for making new developments more nature-friendly: "Swift bricks, bat bricks/tiles and hedgehog highways installed as standard on new development"
Please consider securing Swift bricks by way of a condition, the suggested wording being:
"No development shall take place until written details are approved by the LPA of the model and location of 4 integrated Swift bricks, to be fully installed prior to completion of the external walls of each building and retained thereafter", in accordance with Local Plan policy NE4

b) To note decisions and appeals.

c) To consider any other planning matters pertinent to the Parish Council.

17. Matters for future consideration.

Next scheduled meetings:

- Parish Council meeting: Monday 15th November 2026 19:30