

## EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DULY CONVENED AND HELD ON THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

#### 1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Present were Chairman I. Duff, Councillors C. Gover, R. Jaboor, N. Milner, D. Rickeard and C. Shaikh. Apologies were received from Vice Chairman P. Dixon and District Councillors B. Manning and A-M Simpson. In attendance was L. Lloyd (Clerk) and one member of the public. I. Duff indicated there is 1 vacancy for a parish councillor.

2. **PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS:** The MOP present confirmed their interest in item 5.a) but had no questions.

3. **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024:** The minutes of the meetings on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 were approved by Council and signed by I. Duff.

#### 4. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

I. Duff confirmed receipt of the District Councillors' Report, including the consultations on the Joint Local Plan and their "Way Ahead". Please see attachment 3 for the full report.

#### 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a) **OCC Flood Risk Management funding for 2024/25:** C. Shaikh reported that she met with L. Travers from SODC on 16<sup>th</sup> April as he was conducting additional measurements downstream of Blewbury Road. There are areas which are very silted up with only around 4" clearance, and he has confirmed that both the channel and the bridge removal are required. L. Travers is now getting a quote for the works and has confirmed that submitting the expression of interest form for funding will support the process. C. Shaikh confirmed that the S19 consultations are being dealt with separately to the flood management funding process. All applications for the funding will feed into the same pot, with priority being given to those projects that can be completed before October this year. D. Rickeard requested an update on the road drains as there have been some works outside 36 Blewbury Road recently – C. Shaikh confirmed that the drain has been repaired but the suggestion of changing the camber of the adjacent footway needs clarification. It was agreed that the clerk will submit an expression of interest noting that L. Travers is working with councillors and supportive of the works.

#### 6. ITEMS FOR DECISION:

- a) **To ratify the council's decision to include a contribution of £2,000 CIL money on the TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment) grant application form, as part funding for the FP4 resurfacing project at Butts Piece:** Councillors ratified the decision and approved the £2,000 expenditure.
- b) **To confirm the council's acceptance of a formal grant offer from TOE of up to £7,515 for the FP4 resurfacing project at Butts Piece:** I. Duff confirmed that the grant offer was received in mid-March and has been accepted. OCC will instruct the contractor to carry out the works, which will hopefully be completed within the next couple of months.
- c) **To review quotes and agree in principle the contractor for resurfacing works on the following footpaths (subject to OCC approval):**
- i) FP12 Fieldside to the Causeway (Contractor A: £7,812, Contractor B: £17,990 Contractor C: £9,750)
  - ii) FP15 Grange footpath (Contractor A: £5,976, Contractor B: £7,950, Contractor C: £10,200)

I. Duff confirmed that three initial quotes for both paths have now been obtained by C. Shaikh. However, further progress will be subject to OCC approval and there are current issues with communications at the moment. The three quotes for FP12 were discussed and the path width considered as Contractor A and B's quotes are for a 1.2m path width and Contractor C has quoted for 1.5m wide. The surface treatments versus costs are slightly tricky to compare and there are further considerations that require clarification concerning spoil treatment, path level and edging. It was agreed that the intention is to provide a durable footpath surface without intruding upon the natural appearance of the location. FP15 was discussed more briefly. It was agreed that the discussion would continue offline to confirm the specification and get back to the three contractors for updated comparative quotes. It was further agreed that OCC will be informed of progress and asked to confirm the agreed specification is acceptable to proceed.

- d) **To confirm the Parish Council's ONPA membership for 2024/25 at a cost of £50.00:** I. Duff confirmed that ONPA has been very useful to the neighbourhood plan steering group. Councillors confirmed the membership.

- e) **To note training courses booked with OALC: Essentials of Employing People – C. Gover and C. Shaikh at a total cost of £60.00:** Councillors noted the training and expenditure.
- f) **To confirm the Parish Council's ICO fee payment of £40.00:** Councillors confirmed the ICO fee payment.

## 7. ITEMS FOR REPORT:

- a) **Planning Applications:** I. Duff confirmed the current applications: P24/S0884/HH 1 Windsor Crescent who have applied for a side extension, and P24/S1241/LB Appletree Cottage, 32 Main Road for listed building consent for two replacement windows. D. Rickeard noted that it is not clear on this application whether the replacement windows will be single or double glazed – I. Duff will clarify this when he speaks with the applicant.
- b) **East Hagbourne Sport and Recreation Committee:** D. Rickeard reported the following:  
The EHS&RC AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April and will include confirmation of committee members for the coming year.  
The first grass cut of the season has been completed. The grass left on site will be removed as agreed with BGG and a further cut is required before the pitch can be marked up for football matches.  
Further investigation of the renewal of the Pavilion lease is underway, D. Rickeard and L. Lloyd will meet to discuss ahead of the next Parish Council meeting.
- c) **Cemetery Committee:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Employment Committee:** C. Gover confirmed that the clerks Annual Appraisal has been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> May.
- e) **Butts Piece Allotments:** L. Lloyd confirmed there has been some fencing replaced by a landlord in the Wilcher Close maisonettes adjacent to the allotments in the last 2 weeks, but unfortunately some additional panels on the allotment boundary have now fallen down. SOHA have been informed and will be chased to repair the fence. There is no evidence of Japanese Knotweed so far this Spring so the initial treatment is still pending.
- f) **Future Oxfordshire Partnership:** Nothing to report.
- g) **Emergency Plan:** R. Jaboor confirmed that he has updated the Emergency Plan and has had input from OCC's Resilience Team. There is still a need for additional contacts/volunteers who can help in an emergency situation, but this can be an ongoing process if need be.
- h) **Flood Management:** C. Shaikh reported that a well-attended meeting concerning management of the 2 stream channels that run through the parish has taken place, with plans to 'walk the stream'. A Whatsapp group has been created to allow proactive clearance in flood situations.
- i) **Community Speedwatch:** R. Jaboor confirmed that he has sent out details for online training to the 8 interested volunteers, and he is able to monitor who has logged onto the portal to complete the training. Consideration of suitable locations and Risk Assessments for chosen speedwatch locations will be done in conjunction with the police.
- j) **Neighbourhood Plan:** D. Rickeard reported that he has completed a final update of the made plan to correct some minor formatting issues and the documents have been returned to SODC today.
- k) **Housing development adjacent to the village hall:** I. Duff confirmed that he met with Craig Hodge on 17<sup>th</sup> April and circulated an update to councillors ahead of the meeting, please see attachment 2. It has also been confirmed that the village gateway work is going ahead. C. Gover reported that the noticeboard at the village hall has been slightly repositioned as agreed by email during the S278 works. C. Gover confirmed that she would be keen to join any meeting that is arranged with J. Murphy to discuss the surfacing of Main Road to Coscote.
- l) **Matters raised at the Chairman's Surgery and OALC Chairman's meeting:** I. Duff confirmed that the main item for discussion at his recent surgery was the improvement of footpaths and footways in the parish. The OALC meeting included discussion about the Oxfordshire Councils Charter which should be finalised by the beginning of July. Also noted was the 6-month rule for councillors attending Parish Council meetings, although it was noted that this has not been an issue for East Hagbourne.

## 9. Correspondence:

L. Lloyd confirmed the following items of correspondence:

Concerns about FP10 footpath surface through the Churchyard and accessibility via the western gate – L. Lloyd has reported both issues on the countryside access website and will chase the OCC footpaths team to clarify their statutory obligations for both issues. C. Gover reported that she has also alerted Friends of St Andrews to the issues, who have confirmed that the adjacent landowner would need to be involved in any discussion about the gate.

A report of evidence of fires being set in the Butts Piece wooded area – on investigation, the fire remnants look like a prepared fire rather than arson. Further investigation led to the discovery of a tent in the central wooded area. This needs to be checked for occupancy and notice given to clear the site.

Youths on small motorcycles have been reported riding along Harwood Road and on Butts Piece – a Harwood Road resident has reported this to the police as antisocial behaviour. Unfortunately, their antics have left tyre tracks on the grassy area of Butts Piece adjacent to the picnic benches.

C. Gover reported that she has spoken with the owner of 6/7 Church Close who are planning for their dormer windows to be replaced ahead of submitting a planning application. The large outbuilding at 9 Church Close alongside the footpath was queried as this was raised as an enforcement enquiry in January. The enforcement team do not provide updates but L. Lloyd agreed to contact planning and check the status of the enquiry.

I. Duff reported that he has received email correspondence to discuss a potential new build at a site in the village – it was noted that previous builds at this location have all been objected to by the Parish Council but it was suggested that the applicant could attend the Chairman's Surgery if they wished to discuss the matter ahead of submitting the planning application to the District Council.

## 10. Finance:

### a) Expenditure and receipts since the last meeting and account balances:

#### a) Payments

since last meeting:

NB: Payments pending are shown in yellow and are not included in the account balance shown in c)

Payee	Item	Online Payment/Cheque No	Amount	VAT	Total	Date
Dark White Digital	INV 001475 web hosting March 2024	C Gover / C Shaikh	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	12/03/2024
EHSRC	INV 240204 Meeting room hire 08/02/2024	C Gover / C Shaikh	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	12/03/2024
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV 7398 February bin emptying Butts Piece	C Gover / C Shaikh	£13.00	£2.60	£15.60	12/03/2024
Hagbourne Village Hall	INV 1726 2ND QUARTER 2023-24 meeting room hire 16/01/2024 (OCC meeting)	C Gover / C Shaikh	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00	12/03/2024
Grundon Waste Management	PSI-1027745 Cemetery bin February 2024	DD	£54.37	£10.87	£65.24	20/03/2024
Hobs Reprographics	INV S2013PRF24030013 NP 2024 Printing	C Shaikh / C Gover	£46.20	£9.24	£55.44	25/03/2024
L. Lloyd	Expenses Nov 2023 - Mar 2024	C Shaikh / C Gover	£66.79	£12.52	£79.31	25/03/2024
Tetbury Accounting Ltd	INV3443 Payroll 2023-24	C Shaikh / C Gover	£250.00	£50.00	£300.00	25/03/2024
SODC	INV10356644 Dog Waste Collection October 2023 - March 2024	C Gover / C Shaikh	£2,577.60	£515.52	£3,093.12	27/03/2024
EHSRC	INV240304 Meeting room hire 07/03	C Gover / D Rickeard	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	28/03/2024
Doug Amos	Grant to Hagbourne Action Group for Clubfest Brochures (S142)	C Gover / D Rickeard	£194.10	£0.00	£194.10	28/03/2024
L. Lloyd	March Salary	C Gover / C Shaikh	£784.69	£0.00	£784.69	28/03/2024
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge Q4	Automatic Payment	£18.00	£0.00	£18.00	31/03/2024
Clear Councils	LCO02825 Insurance 2024/25	C Gover / C Shaikh	£1,356.42	£0.00	£1,356.42	02/04/2024
CFO	2024/25 Membership	C Gover / C Shaikh	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00	02/04/2024
SLCC	2024/25 Membership	C Gover / C Shaikh	£148.00	£0.00	£148.00	02/04/2024
OALC	2024/25 Membership	C Gover / C Shaikh	£221.81	£44.36	£266.17	02/04/2024
Oxfordshire County Council	INV 3920709995 Granite Sets installed on Main Road		£1,666.67	£333.33	£2,000.00	
Dark White Digital	INV 001502 web hosting April 2024		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV 7494 March bin emptying Butts Piece		£13.00	£2.60	£15.60	
OALC	W-3245 Essentials of Employing People (C. Gover)		£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	

OALC	W-3246 Essentials of Employing People (C. Shaikh)		£30.00	£6.00	£36.00	
I. Duff	Expenses - BT roaming charges		£5.48	£0.00	£5.48	
L. Lloyd	April Salary		£784.69	£0.00	£784.69	

**b) Receipts since last meeting:**

From	Item	Amount	Date
DL Hancock Ltd	Memorial O'Neill A040	£175.00	20/03/2024
Unity Trust	Q4 Interest on Instant Access Savings account	£443.51	31/03/2024
Redwood Bank	Interest on 35 day notice account March 2024	£231.20	31/03/2024
Nationwide	Interest on Instant Access Savings account March 2024	£91.62	31/03/2024
Plot 2A	Allotment Rent	£15.00	02/04/2024
Plots 26 and 28A	Allotment Rent	£45.55	02/04/2024
Plot 9	Allotment Rent	£26.05	02/04/2024
Plot 23B	Allotment Rent	£31.70	02/04/2024
Plot 6	Allotment Rent	£29.10	02/04/2024
Plot 17B	Allotment Rent	£14.35	02/04/2024
Plot 22B	Allotment Rent	£12.05	02/04/2024
Plot 21	Allotment Rent	£36.30	02/04/2024
Plot 18	Allotment Rent	£27.15	02/04/2024
Plot 2A	Allotment Rent	£11.30	02/04/2024
Plot 7	Allotment Rent	£28.95	03/04/2024
Plot 4B	Allotment Rent	£14.40	03/04/2024
Plot 5	Allotment Rent	£29.55	03/04/2024
Plot 25	Allotment Rent	£28.45	04/04/2024
Plot 20	Allotment Rent	£23.90	05/04/2024
SODC	First Half of Precept	£16,419.00	05/04/2024
Plot 17A	Allotment Rent	£10.65	08/04/2024
Plots 8A and 29A	Allotment Rent	£27.95	08/05/2024
Plot 29B	Allotment Rent	£15.65	10/04/2024
Plot 14	Allotment Rent	£27.60	15/04/2024
Plot 27	Allotment Rent	£25.20	16/04/2024
	<b>Total</b>	£17,841.18	

**c) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled online 17/04/2024)**

Unity Trust Bank - T1 current account	£17,918.45
Unity Trust Bank - Instant access account	£57,098.56
Redwood Bank - 35 Day Notice Savings Account	£85,000.00
Nationwide - Instant Access Business Savings Account	£80,091.62
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£240,108.63</u></b>

**d) The Special Project Balances (as of 17/04/2024) are:**

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Received 24/04/19 so requires spending by 23/04/24	£1,788.07
	Received 30/04/21 so requires spending by 29/04/26	£1,517.73

	Received 27/10/21 so requires spending by 26/10/26	£3,307.90
	Received 27/04/22 so requires spending by 26/04/27	£3,035.45
	Received 28/10/22 so requires spending by 27/10/27	£2,127.82
	Received 28/04/23 so requires spending by 27/04/28	£55,413.82
	Received 27/10/23 so requires spending by 26/10/28	<u>£106,843.63</u>
	Total CIL money	£174,034.42
Community Projects Reserve Fund		£4,712.91
Planned Development Support Fund		£5,303.15
Cemetery		<u>£15,611.31</u>
	Total	<u><u>£199,661.79</u></u>
<b>e) General Reserve (as of 17/04/2024)</b>		<u><u>£40,446.84</u></u>

- b) Review and approval of pending payments:** The Council reviewed the pending payments and approved those without prior minuted/regular payment approval.
- c) Bank Reconciliations for January, February and March 2024:** L. Lloyd confirmed that P. Dixon has completed the internal control checks for Q4 with no issues raised.
- d) Q4 Budget Review:** I. Duff confirmed the Q4 budget had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting. No queries were raised.
- e) Internal Audit Progress:** L. Lloyd confirmed that the documentation will be sent to the Internal Auditor tomorrow for review ahead of their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May.
- f) Progress with Unity Bank change of signatory:** L. Lloyd confirmed that a second form of ID is still pending. N. Milner needs to request an up-to-date utility statement.

**11. Items for report and inclusion on the May agenda:**

Annual Checklist

The meeting closed at 9.02pm.

Items for consideration for the May agenda must be received by the clerk no later than Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Pavilion, Great Mead, East Hagbourne.

Signed.....Dated.....

**ATTACHMENT 1: ACTION LIST**

Action No	What	Who	Status
2023-03-01	Deanfield Homes Car Park Land Transfer	LL	Transfer documentation signed at Extraordinary meeting on 26 <sup>th</sup> March. Awaiting confirmation of transfer from solicitors.
2023-06-02	Parking and Traffic Management on Main Road	NM	On hold
2023-06-03	Footway repairs in the parish	ID/PD/RJ	Prioritise potential repairs for OCC to review
2023-10-01	Disabled Parking spaces in the village car park	LL	Research options and costs
2023-10-03	Weed management on Main Road	LL/ID	SODC/OCC to progress – chased
2023-12-01	Footpath 4 surface improvements	LL	TOE Grant confirmed in mid-March, OCC to arrange works with contractor ASAP
VARIOUS	<p>Footpath accessibility:</p> <p>2023-12-02 FP10 MFL to West Hagbourne</p> <p>2023-12-03 FP12 Church Lane to Fieldside</p> <p>2023-12-04 FP13 Parsonage Lane</p> <p>2024-01-01 FP1 West Hagbourne to Didcot</p> <p>2024-03-01 FP12 Fieldside to the Causeway</p> <p>2024-03-02 FP15 Grange Footpath</p> <p>2024-03-03 FP8 Bakers Lane to The Croft</p> <p>2024-04-01 FP30 Village Hall</p>	LL/CS/ID	<p>Chasing OCC for a meeting between OCC/EHPC and WHPC to assess FP10 and FP1 and for approval for potential works to FP12, FP15 and FP8</p> <p>Volunteer labour is available for FP8 aggregate laying subject to OCC approval</p> <p>Agreement in principle to spend CIL money on FP12, FP15 and FP8 improvements</p> <p>3 quotes for potential works for FP12 and FP15 – spec to be clarified and quotes resubmitted</p> <p>Field owner reviewing options for FP12 between the Causeway and the Church Chase quote for FP13 from OCC Highways, investigate obtaining comparison quote</p> <p>FP30 – initial review of possible surface improvements needed</p>
2023-12-09	Community Speedwatch	RJ	<p>Harwell Speedwatch session attendance to be arranged</p> <p>Online training details sent to volunteers to complete</p> <p>Reviewing speedwatch locations</p>
2024-01-02	Emergency Plan / Flooding documentation Review	RJ/LL	Draft circulated to councillors for review, also liaising with OCC's Resilience Team for review and advice
2024-01-04	Car Park Drainage	LL	OPC Drains instructed to carry out CCTV survey – this has been scheduled for 24 <sup>th</sup> April
2024-02-01	Pavilion Lease Renewal	DR/LL	Further investigation required – DR and LL to meet and discuss
2024-02-03	Cycle Parking at the village car park	LL	Liaise with VH Committee ref signage/alternative solutions
2024-02-04	Flood Management in the Parish	CS/DR/PD	<p>Meetings with OCC, SODC and EA complete. Expression of interest for funding from OCC's Flood Risk Management funding for 2024/25 to be submitted by end April.</p> <p>L. Travers obtaining quote for works</p>
2024-03-04	Main Road 20mph limit	OCC	Proposal currently with OCC ahead of public consultation.
2024-03-05	From APM: Step reinstatement on Main Road/Bakers Lane footpath	OCC/LL	No progress made since originally reported in November 2023. L. Lloyd chasing SGN for action (NB: this is an OCC Highways matter)

2024-03-06	From APM: Main Road to Coscote road surface	OCC	An OCC matter as no agreement was made with the developer during the planning process and the S278 agreement to maintain and repair the main agreed access route to the site. The Parish Council has full support from our County Councillor, Jane Murphy, to lobby for repairs and reinstatement
2024-04-01	CIL Projects Shortlist	ALL	Councillors reviewing and updating project proposals following discussion at the APM

**ATTACHMENT 2: DEANFIELD MEETING REPORT – WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL I. DUFF AND C. HODGE**

1. Deanfield have finished all the S278 work although they will repair anything for a period of 12 months. Apparently, there are already some problems with yellow lines.

Note that they are only doing Main Road from Manor Farm Lane to the entrance to the car park as this is all that was demanded by OCC in the S278 agreement.

For repairs to Main Road to Coscote I have already contacted Jane Murphy and will follow up with her when she is back in Oxfordshire.

2. The re-planting by the access points to the embankment and the style of the safety barriers has been determined by Lydia of Sustrans. In fact the builders were proposing more trees and shrubs than she wants since Sustrans are the custodians of the embankment and have responsibility for long term upkeep.

3. On time scales.

The timing for the removal of the marketing suite buildings is a bit dependent on when the last few (7) Deanfield market houses are sold. However, this is likely to happen by mid-July when the children's play area will be built in that place.

The workers car park and office buildings will be replaced by seeded soil from the mound near the drainage system in the August-September timeframe.

Maintenance of the site after September/October with support from Deanfield for any defects will be done by LEAP with engagement of residents of site.

## ATTACHMENT 3:

<b>Title</b>	<b>District Councillors' Report</b>
<b>Councillors</b>	<b>Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson &amp; Cllr Ben Manning</b>
<b>Parish</b>	<b>East Hagbourne Parish Council</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>18 April 2024</b>

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils  
**Corporate Plan Performance Report – [Third Quarter](#)**  
**Climate Action Plan Performance Report – [Third Quarter](#)**

### Extra garden waste weeks

Residents who are subscribed to our brown bin service can put out extra garden waste on their normal brown bin collection day between 15 and 26 April.  
Households can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste per brown bin subscription.  
The extra waste must go in standard sized (60 litre) sacks and should only contain natural garden waste such as cut grass, plants or branches. It can also go in boxes or containers totalling no more than a standard bin full.  
Residents are reminded not to leave out builders' waste bags as these won't be collected.

### New Approach To Joint Local Plan Consultation A Success

South Oxfordshire & Vale District Councils tried a number of new approaches to try increase engagement with the recent Joint Local Plan consultation which has proved to have been highly successful. Of the more than 1200 individuals and groups that responded, a survey revealed over half of the people said they had never responded to a consultation before.

Almost 600 people also attended 10 drop-in events held across the districts in a mix of traditional community venues and social café-bar lounges, where people could find out more about the plans and draft policies, get their questions answered by planning experts, and have their say.

Council officers also held interactive workshops with some groups of young people at local colleges to give them the chance to give their views on topics that will affect them during the lifetime of the Joint Local Plan, like housing availability and affordability, and the climate emergency.

The councils are now reviewing all the comments and responses and will summarise them in a consultation statement in due course. The comments will help shape the full draft Joint Local Plan that will be published later in the year for the community to review and comment on before the plan is then submitted to be examined by a Planning Inspector. Should the inspector find the plan to be sound, the councils will then look to adopt it as part of their Development Plan where it will help determine planning decisions in the two districts.

### 'The Way Ahead' – conversation coming soon!

Next week (Tuesday 16 April) we'll be launching a four-week public discussion on the council's proposals for a new strategic plan for the next four years.

Cabinet has set out initial ideas and the aim is now to open up a two-way conversation and find out what residents, businesses, community groups and organisations think.

Look out for all our communications on the consultation and please help us share and encourage as many people as possible to take part. We will also provide all South members with a consultation pack with all the information you need to help spread the word.

The consultation will be featured here on the [Join the Conversation website](#).

### Save the date!

There will be a drop-in event residents can come along to find out more on Thursday 18 April at Didcot Civic Hall between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

On the same day at this location there will be an invite only community group event from 1pm to 3pm.



Information will also be available at a number of other locations, including at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot and at the council offices in Abbey House, Abingdon.

### **Disability activity event in Henley**

The Better Leisure Team at Henley Leisure Centre have organised a free open day with a range of disability friendly activities for residents to try.

The event takes place on Sunday 21 April from 10am to 2pm and is in partnership with the Regatta for the Disabled, with special offers on continued activity at the leisure centre available on the day.

More information can be found on the Better Henley Facebook page and by emailing [henley@gll.org](mailto:henley@gll.org)

### **A sunny outlook for leisure centres in Didcot and Wheatley**

Users of Didcot Wave Leisure Centre and Park Sports Centre in Wheatley can be assured they have bright, sustainable futures thanks to £3m investment in cleaner, greener technologies.

South Oxfordshire District Council has been successful in its bid for government funding to the tune of £1,490,475 towards installing energy efficiency measures including solar panels and air source heat pumps to replace end of life gas-fired boilers at the council-owned leisure centres at Didcot and Wheatley.

Both South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council – which has a joint use agreement at Parks Sports Centre – will put in the additional £1,582,570 to complete the required works by spring 2026.

When all the new renewable energy measures are added it will save over 200 tonnes in carbon emissions each year as so much of the energy needed to run the leisure centres will be soon be renewable rather than from fossil fuels. This will reduce South Oxfordshire District Council's overall emissions by 6.9 per cent.

The funding has been provided from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3c (PSDS3c) which is delivered by Salix Finance on behalf of the government. PSDS3c, run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, aims to tackle emissions from heating public sector buildings, aid a green recovery and support the UK's 2050 net zero target and clean growth goals.

### **Bubbles, Banters and Bard – Summer at Cornerstone Arts Centre**

Cornerstone Arts Centre is bringing entertainment for all ages as the weather heats up during its summer season.

Starting off with Six Chick Flicks on Sat 4 May, a hilarious parody of six beloved chick flicks in a fast-paced comedy show fresh from Edinburgh Fringe.

No summer season would be complete without a nod to the classics. Experience a fresh and innovative new adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet on Thursday 30 May.

For family audiences, don't miss The Bubble Show on Friday 31 May, a mesmerizing blend of magic, storytelling, and science with extraordinary soap bubbles.

To book tickets and learn more, [please visit the website](#).

### **Find out who you vote for in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections**

Voters can now find out about the people standing to be the Thames Valley's next Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

As the 16 April voter registration deadline approaches, the candidates' manifestos have gone live on the [Choose My PCC website – choosemypcc.org.uk/area/thames-valley](https://www.choosemypcc.org.uk/area/thames-valley)

Nigel Lynn, Police Area Returning Officer (PARO), said: "This election is your opportunity to influence how your police service works. The Police and Crime Commissioner's job is to make sure that crime in our area is tackled effectively and according to our local priorities. They're elected by you, to be your voice and to hold the police force to account. "The deadline to register to vote is almost here, so please take time to find out more about the PCC candidates so that you can have your say in who takes on this important role."

Anyone registered to vote will be eligible to have their say in the PCC election on Thursday 2 May. For people choosing to vote via post, the first batches of postal votes will soon be sent out across the Thames Valley area.

The result of the PCC election will be announced on Saturday 4 May at Newbury Racecourse.  
You may find [this short video about the role of the PCC](#) useful

To read the candidates' manifestos, visit [choosemypcc.org.uk](https://choosemypcc.org.uk)

Registering to vote takes just five minutes at [gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://gov.uk/register-to-vote)

Residents in South Oxfordshire can find out more about this election by visiting [southoxon.gov.uk/PCCElection2024](https://southoxon.gov.uk/PCCElection2024)