

Minutes of the East Hagbourne Annual Parish Meeting duly convened and held on Thursday 30th April 2026 at Hagbourne Village Hall

Present were:

Cllr I. Duff (Chairman)
Cllrs P. Dixon, C. Gover, R. Jaboor, N. Milner, D. Rikeard and C. Shaikh
Laura Lloyd (Clerk)
Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith (Oxfordshire County Council)
Cllr Crispin Topping (District Councillor, attending as a member of the public)
Ric Avery (Flood Warden)
Abigail Brown (SODC Arts Development Officer)
Linda Benton (Artist)
Julie Grose (Artist)

Members of the public: 34

1. Welcome and Introduction

I. Duff welcomed attendees and noted the strong turnout. He explained the revised, less formal format of the meeting and advised that written reports are available (Chairman's Report, Finance Report, District and County Councillor Reports, and CIL Projects Overview), which are attached to these minutes. He introduced Parish Councillors, the County Councillor, the District Councillor (attending as a member of the public), and the Clerk.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 3rd April 2025 were approved and signed. It was noted that the draft version has been available on the website and will now be updated to the final version.

3. Parish Council Update

I. Duff referred attendees to the written reports and invited questions on parish matters.

A question was raised regarding provision for tree planting and biodiversity. It was confirmed that while the annual budget covers regular expenditure, a Climate and Biodiversity reserve of £2,500 is held and would be suitable for this purpose.

4. Current and Future Projects – overview and questions

I. Duff outlined ongoing works in the parish, largely relating to the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds, and noting the spending deadline of 2028/29. The Clerk confirmed that interest accrued on CIL funds is not subject to the same spending restrictions and is therefore not included in the CIL Fund reserve balance.

Display boards were available covering:

- Recreation Ground project ideas
- Footpath Improvements
- Village Sparkle projects

Comments and questions included:

- Positive feedback on recent footpath improvements
- Footpath 10 (Shovel Spring) identified as requiring attention, the stretch in question is in West Hagbourne Parish and liaison is needed with West Hagbourne Parish Council
- Concerns regarding the condition of the Causeway (Footpath 13); it was confirmed that this is a significant project and will involve Oxfordshire County Council
- Queries regarding the path crossroads in the centre of the Millennium Wood stone circle. The Millennium Woods are in East Hagbourne Parish but are managed by Didcot Town Council, not the Parish Council. However, it was confirmed that this was an accessibility-driven decision and it had proven impractical to create a loop around the stone circle due to tree locations.

5. Public Art Projects

Abigail Brown presented an update on the Public Art Projects funded through S106 contributions from the Deanfield development. These projects aim to enhance local spaces and reflect community identity.

Three projects are in development:

- Bus shelter artwork
- Recreation ground gates
- Sculpture project

Bus Shelter Artwork

Linda Benton presented her artwork for the bus shelter frieze, which is well underway. The final design will be enlarged and reproduced on aluminium panels. The artwork reflects the village and surrounds, including buildings, flora and fauna. Feedback from attendees was very positive. It was confirmed that the subject matter had been agreed by the steering group and focused largely on historic and community buildings.

Linda confirmed she hopes to have completed the artwork by mid-summer, and would like to have an opening event when the panels are fitted. Fixing methods and anti-vandalism measures are under consideration.

Recreation Ground Gates

Julie Grose presented photographs and an example of the sheet metal leaf designs she is working on in her workshop. She explained the fabrication, including materials and construction methods and confirmed that the gates will be galvanised and hand painted once complete. Feedback was very positive, with some practical questions relating to longevity and security. Julie confirmed the gates should be completed by the end of May and a dry run will take place prior to galvanising to ensure a perfect fit.

Sculpture Project

The third project is for Sculpture at the front of St Andrews Crescent. Alex Wenham, a local stone carver, has been selected to complete the work. Following delays with landowner permission, the Parish Council has now received the funding letter. Community engagement will be important to inform the brief which is anticipated and Abi encouraged new steering group members to get involved in the discussions for this important artwork.

6. Flood Warden Update

Ric Avery introduced his role as an OCC Flood Warden, which is independent of the Parish Council. Having suffered flooding of his home in January 2024 (one of several events in recent years that has affected properties in the parish), he is keen to be proactive where possible to lower the risks of flooding.

His work includes monitoring watercourses, identifying risk areas, and liaising with Oxfordshire County Council.

Residents were encouraged to report issues via FixMyStreet or directly to Ric as the Flood Warden.

Queries raised: how is the drainage system on the new development managed/monitored, consideration of sandbag provision and storage arrangements, and an interest in strategic planting to mitigate flood risk. Ric volunteered to raise all points with OCC.

7. County Matters Update

Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith provided an update on highways and county matters.

Potholes were attributed to a combination of weather conditions, increased traffic, and increased funding constraints.

Residents were encouraged to report issues via FixMyStreet. He outlined the distinction between resurfacing and repair, noting that repair is more appropriate in certain situations.

Discussion points included:

- Concerns regarding the quality of recent roadworks and contractor performance particularly in relation to Coscote Road
- Responsibility for unadopted roads on St Andrews Crescent remaining with the Deanfield/Eaves Property Management until resolved
- Pavement conditions and accessibility issues, particularly on footways with a camber or vegetation encroachment
- Potential introduction of double yellow lines along Main Road to maintain access for larger vehicles including scheduled buses – J. Hope-Smith confirmed this would be subject to an OCC consultation. I. Duff reported that the County Officer had included the yellow lines in the OCC work plan.
- Rural prioritisation challenges in highway maintenance programmes and the importance of reporting issues particularly via FixMyStreet to climb the priority ladder

8. Close of Meeting

I. Duff thanked speakers, contributors and attendees for their participation.

The meeting was formally closed and attendees were invited to continue discussions informally with councillors and presenters.

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

Attachments

1. Chairman's Report
2. Finance Statement
3. CIL Projects Overview
4. District Councillor Report
5. County Councillor Report

Attachment 1: Chairman's Report

I am pleased to present a report on the activities of East Hagbourne Parish Council since the last Annual Parish Meeting on the 3rd April 2025.

There has been no change in the composition of the Council since the last APM so I should mention that the activities on which I will now report have only been achieved because of the efforts of all the councillors. These are the Vice-Chairman and councillor Paul Dixon and councillors: Cordelia Gover, Robin Jaboor, Natalie Milner, David Rickeard, and Carolyn Shaikh. The Parish Clerk is Laura Lloyd, who is also our RFO, Responsible Financial Officer. She continues to be highly effective and efficient and shows a remarkable ability to find documents and discussions from within a deluge of past emails and attachments, a skill which I singularly lack and for which I am particularly grateful. Laura is also clerk for the Cemetery Committee.

Because Laura is an employee of the council, we have an Employment Committee, and I very much appreciate the good work of councillors Cordelia Gover and Carolyn Shaikh on that committee.

Since the last APM, we have held 12 regular and one Extraordinary Parish Council meetings. However, much of the actual work is done in both online and in-person working groups, by circulation of planning applications of which we had 22 since the last APM, and with regular correspondence by email and phone with officers and councillors from SODC and OCC. The Cemetery Committee has had three meetings. This is a joint committee with West Hagbourne PC and has councillors Paul Dixon and Robin Jaboor as the East Hagbourne PC members, with Robin having recently been chosen to chair this committee. As mentioned earlier, our clerk Laura is also the clerk for this committee.

There is a separate report from our RFO on finances. I won't discuss this here but note that we have £249,200 in our CIL kitty to be spent on infrastructure projects within the village by the 2028-2029 timeframe. Thus, as at previous annual meetings, this is an item on tonight's agenda and information on some potential projects will be on display.

The Public Art Project, financed through the S106 agreement between SODC and the developers of the new estate, has progressed well. We will have presentations at this meeting by the artists: Linda Benton who is decorating our bus shelter with a frieze depicting the village, Julie Grose who is designing and making ornamental gates for the Recreation Ground, and by Abi Brown, who is the Districts Arts Development Officer and has overseen this project for SODC. For the third project, we are just completing the paperwork which is necessary because the stone sculptures by the artist Alex Wenham will be on the Deanfield housing land that is not owned by the Parish Council. The bus shelter has just been renovated using CIL money so is in perfect condition for Linda's artwork.

We have a long term lease on Butts Piece from the Hagbourne Parochial Charities and the Clerk and Paul Dixon manage the allotments there. We pay a biannual rent to the Charities and levy an annual fee from the allotment holders. This year we had a grant from SODC for clearance of an old dumping site within the allotment compound.

We own the Pavilion and Recreation Ground that is managed by the independent East Hagbourne Sport and Recreation Committee chaired by David Rickeard. There is a memorandum of understanding (MoU) now established between the Parish Council and the Management Committee to replace the original 10 year lease that expired last year. CIL funds were used to improve the lighting and acoustics in the community room in the pavilion and car park lighting has been improved. We are now hopefully in the final stages of awarding a contract for a major resurfacing of the pavilion car park. We will shortly be installing two picnic benches in the recreation ground near the children's playground thanks to a grant from our county councillor.

We also own the car park by the village hall sometimes mistakenly thought to belong to the village hall. This has now been clarified by new signage supported by the CIL Project on Village Sparkle that has been diligently managed by Councillor Cordelia Gover. We also improved the provision for disabled parking by changing the layout of the bays. This in turn created space for cycle racks that were funded and installed by the Hagbourne Village Fund.

The new estate, opposite the school, now referred to as Saint Andrews after its main road (St Andrews Crescent), has had full occupancy for about a year and its occupants are getting very involved in village activities. Deanfield still retains some responsibility for the site although day to day management is in the hands of EAVES Property Management Services. The playground was completed last summer and is widely used and appreciated not only by the residents but also by many other village schoolchildren, being so well placed near to the school. There has been some landscaping and tree planting during the last year that improves the appearance of the site.

Our interaction with both local councils has been very good over the last year. We were pleased to welcome Crispin Topping, a long term village resident, as a new district councillor in a by-election this year. He has joined Anne-Marie Simpson in this role. We also have a new County Councillor in Johnny Hope-Smith who was elected in May 2025. Johnny has been very sensitive to the dramatically bad pothole situation earlier this year and will be addressing us tonight on this and other issues relating to footways and highways.

Other good interactions that we had with our local councils were to get the stone steps by Bakers Lane reinstated, the removal of a fence at Butts Piece through OCC enforcement, and an upgrade to the beacons for the zebra crossing outside the school.

On the more political aspects of local government, we await the imminent decision of the UK Government on the format for the new unitary council for our area. As a council we supported the 2-council option that would place us in a unitary council with SODC, VWHDC, and West Berkshire unitary council. While it is not clear what the government will decide, it will have a significant impact on our future engagement with local councils. The adoption of a new Joint Local Plan for SODC and VWHDC was delayed by the inspector, but hopefully it will be adopted soon.

We have continued to take the lead on improving footpaths in the village using our CIL money, in consultation with OCC but avoiding the bureaucracy and time restraints of asking them to do the work. The continuation of FP 12 from the top of the causeway (Parsonage Lane) to Church Lane has proved very popular, and we are planning to extend this to Church Close soon. The small tarmac connection from FP 12 to the causeway was done at the same time and now enables a mud free link from Fieldside to Main Road. Work on FP 9 (Shoe lane) and FP 30 (Harwood Road to Main Road past the Village Hall) will shortly be done. The footpaths group of the Parish Council headed by Councillor Carolyn Shaikh is working on further plans mentioned in our sheets for potential CIL projects. We now have a Path Warden team in place, coordinated by Stuart Grant.

We have had a very exciting development on the improvement of footways in the village during this year. After several years of discussions with the County Council, we reached the top of their lists for the refurbishment of the footway (aka pavement) on Main Road which was resurfaced by a slurry seal at the end of last year giving a very much safer surface. There then followed very significant resurfacing work on the footways on Blewbury Road with some slurry seal work scheduled soon for the War Memorial end of the road.

In spite of our 20mph limits throughout the village, speeding is still of concern to many residents and is particularly bad in Blewbury Road. We had speed surveys conducted in the village during the year that have resulted in plans to install several vehicle activated signs. These will hopefully be installed this coming summer. We hope to get the Speedwatch Team back in action in the near future although we seek a leader for this.

Joy Napper has been doing a great job as our Parish Transport representative and is currently engaging with the authorities to get more bus stops in the village.

Although dog waste bin collection is still a significant item of expenditure, we continue to benefit from the reduction in costs by moving to The Shield Group last year. The good management by them has led to a reduction of dog waste on our footways and footpaths.

The very bad flooding we had in the village last year has happily not been repeated at the same level, but its legacy has continued to energise us and the district and county councils into more action and better coordination.

In addition to the village flood group led by Jane Bell, we now have a flood warden, Ric Avery, who will present some comments on his role this evening. One area of great concern has been the flooding in the village cemetery and we have every sympathy for people affected by this. The permissions required to install a drainage system are proving challenging but funding and contractors are in place and hopefully we will be able to install something later this summer. The cemetery also benefited from the Village Sparkle CIL projects by the addition of a new cemetery bench and sign refurbishment.

Communications between the Parish Council and the village continues to be a concern to the council. I write a regular column in the Parish Magazine with comments on items of current importance supplement the excellent and official Parish Page produced by our Clerk and I continue to hold surgeries at the Fleur de Lys. We have of course an excellent website, managed by our clerk and Councillor Cordelia Gover. The clerk regularly posts notices on the Village Facebook pages and sends them to a secure mailing list to those who request it.

However, it is great to be able to announce an exciting and very new development in communication. We now have a Parish Council Facebook page, designed and recently launched by Councillor Natalie Milner. This will complement the Village page and keep you informed about council events and activities.

On this theme, it is appropriate to flag the new-look meeting tonight. We hope that you feel much more involved and that this is really your meeting. For this reason you are only getting this as a written document, similarly to the reports from county and district councillors. I very much look forward to our social gathering which will follow this meeting.

Iain Duff 28/4/26

Attachment 2: Financial Statement

The activities of the Parish Council are largely financed by the Precept, which is requested annually from the District Council to enable the management of Parish affairs. The Parish Council produces a budget each year with detailed projected income and expenditure which informs the Precept decision. The Precept is paid for out of your council tax.

The Precept for East Hagbourne parish for 2025-26 was £35,357. This has increased by 4.3% to £36,868 for 2026-27, but the new housing in the parish is factored into the calculation, so there is a 1.85% increase to the Parish Council portion of your council tax this year and the representative Band D figure is £63.40.

For comparison, the average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies in England (including parish and town councils) for 2026/27 is £99.79, an increase of £7.59 or 8.4% on 2025/26 figures.

Budgeted income is also received for Hop Field rent, allotment rentals and an S101 grass cutting agreement with Oxfordshire County Council, as well as interest earned on funds held in savings accounts.

The most significant items of budgeted expenditure for the year 2025-26 are as follows, with percentage of precept noted:

- The employment of the Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer – £13,167 (37.2%)
 - Loan repayment for the Pavilion Car Park construction (this will be fully repaid in December 2026) – £4923 (13.9%)
 - Village grass and hedge maintenance, including ad hoc works – £2,185 (6.2%)
 - Dog Bin Emptying – £2,075 (5.9%)
 - Allotments – £1,799 (5%)
 - Insurance – £1,643 (4.7%)
 - Car Park Disabled Bay reconfiguration £931 (2.6%)
 - Butts Piece Lease – £924 (2.6%)
 - Grants to local organisations - £900 (2.5%)
 - Internal and External Audit Costs – £735.00 (2.1%)
- Other expenses include subscriptions, training for the clerk and councillors, defibrillator consumable costs, meeting room hire, website costs and village car park lighting.

In addition to the budgeted income and expenditure listed above, the Parish Council has used its earmarked reserves to progress the following projects in the parish:

CIL Funds: CIL Monies are received from the Community Infrastructure Levy which enables local authorities to raise funds from new development to help deliver infrastructure. As East Hagbourne benefits from a made Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council is able to claim 25% of the total levy raised. CIL money must be carefully accounted for and spent within 5 years of receipt on improvements within the parish.

CIL Monies received: £8330.18

CIL Monies spent: £29,004.76

£7,679.18	Acoustics, Lighting and car park lighting upgrades at the pavilion
£19,298.00	Continuation of Footpath 12 resurfacing project and resurfacing the joining slope to the Causeway
£1077.58	New Cemetery bench, refurbishment of wooden cemetery sign and new Car Park signage
£950.00	OCC speed surveys to inform VAS decisions in the coming year

S106 Funds: S106 funds are developer contributions secured through planning agreements to support community benefits. For East Hagbourne, funds have been allocated to deliver public art projects that enhance local spaces and reflect community identity.

S106 Monies Received: £10,000 For the Recreation Ground Gates and Bus Shelter Artwork Projects

S106 Expenditure: £1,800 Recreation Ground Gates Artwork Development

Cemetery Fund: £5,500 Cemetery costs, including topography survey and preparation of drainage design

Community Projects and Asset Maintenance reserves: £8,400 on Pavilion car park consultation and surveys, £2,550 to replace the playground gates at the recreation ground.

General Reserves: This year a £3,000 grant was made to Friends of Hagbourne Pool towards major refurbishment of the school swimming pool using general reserve funds.

All expenditure is approved by the council and noted in financial reports which are included in the monthly minutes. The Parish Council also carries out quarterly budget reviews. The Approved Budget for 2026-27 can be found in the Financial Information folder on the easthagbourne.net website.

The Council holds Earmarked Funds allocated for specific expenditure as follows:

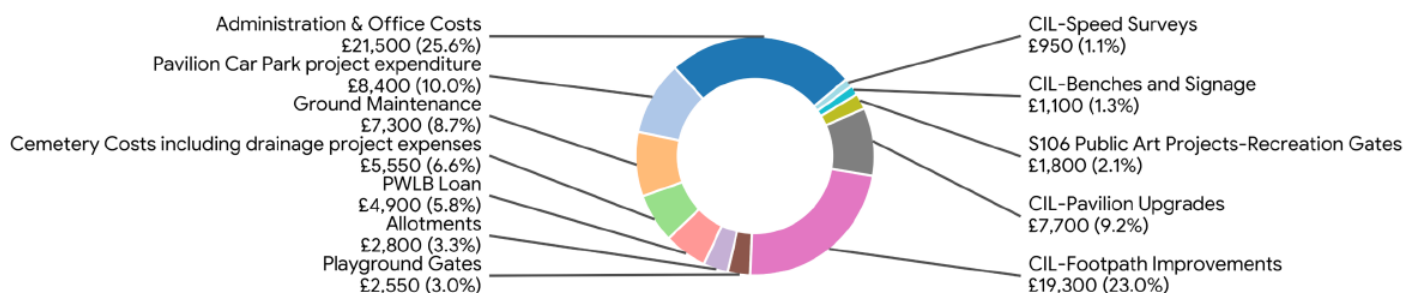
Cemetery Management Fund – £10,100
 Planned Development Support Fund – £5,300
 Climate and Biodiversity Fund £2,500
 Reactive Works and Emergency Response Reserve £4,000
 Asset Maintenance Reserve: £3,700
 Election Reserve: £1,000
 CIL Fund – £249,200
 S106 Funds: £8,200

The General Reserve Fund is also held – this consists of non-earmarked funds to enable EHPC to cover unexpected but necessary items of expenditure without having to resort to borrowing. Typically the recommendation is that these should equate to three to twelve months of gross budgeted expenditure. The general reserve fluctuates throughout the year but was just under £28,300 at year end.

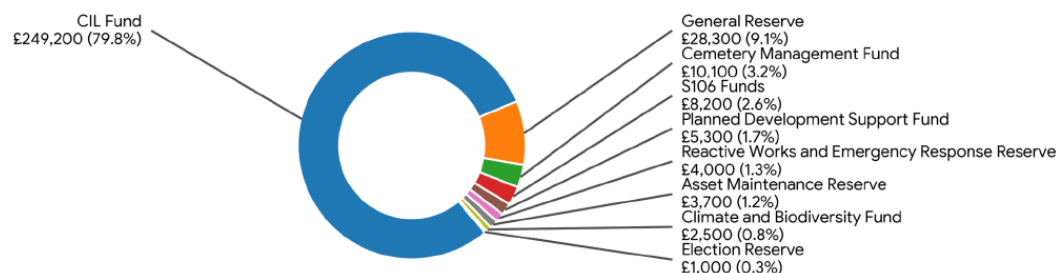
Laura Lloyd, RFO

28/04/2026

Parish Council Expenditure 2025-26



Parish Council Reserves at Year End (2025-26)



Attachment 3: CIL Projects Update

Potential CIL projects – April 2026

This document list has been prepared to facilitate prioritisation and selection of capital projects by EHPC, including the use of CIL money where appropriate. It is based on discussions with Councillors and extracts from the Community Project Strategy. It includes suggestions made by residents at the Annual Parish Meetings in 2024 and 2025 and contributions since then from residents and councillors.

While we believe that all items would be applicable for CIL funding as they are capital projects related to village infrastructure, we could support some of the more remedial projects using other Parish Council funds or from other funding sources from, for example, District or County Councils or TOE.

The categories and the principal councillors involved in each (updated from those confirmed in the Parish Council meeting on 24th June 2025) are:

Making Walking a Pleasure

£60+k

Footpaths - C. Shaikh carolyn.shaikh@eastthagbourne.net

The Parish Council has surveyed the footpath network and identified a number of areas where surface improvements are needed, including:

- FP8 surface at Bowls Club to Bakers Lane.
- FP12 continuation of footpath down Church Lane to entrance to church from Church Close.
- FP6 near the bend where it crosses the stream. The path edge next to the stream has fallen away and holes are appearing in the path.
- FP9 Resurfacing of Shoe Lane footpath
- FP13 Potentially significant work on Parsonage Lane (the iconic two-stream causeway).
- FP18 flood avoidance
- FP17 possible surface improvements
- FP30 resurface and drainage for footpath by village hall

Some of these can be handled by the Parish Council, others will require the assistance of OCC.

Make our Village Sparkle

C. Gover cordelia.gover@eastthagbourne.net

(a) Village map/interpretation

£10k

A proposal was made at an APM some years ago for a village map/information boards as a guide for visitors.

An additional proposal is for interpretation boards e.g. at Shovel Spring (in WH parish) and the field end of Parsonage Lane to highlight landscape and wildlife features, to encourage both pride in our village and enhance environmental awareness).

(b) Noticeboards

£10k

Renewal or renovation of noticeboards outside shop and by Crescent on New Road

Recreation Facilities

£80+k

R. Jaboor robin.jaboor@eastthagbourne.net

The children's playground is well used and appreciated, but caters for mainly younger children. The possibility of adding equipment for older children has been discussed in the past, but space at the Recreation Ground is limited. In addition, some communities have installed equipment to encourage adults to exercise.

Equipment can be expensive, but options could include the following:

1. A trim trail - exercise items placed around the village to encourage activities.
2. Outdoor table tennis table

3. Consider upgrades to existing play equipment. The slide is a good candidate for replacement and the remaining mound would provide opportunities for creative ideas.
4. More facilities for teens e.g. 'pods' - hard to damage seating/shelter area
5. Boule pit
6. Pétanque court
7. Basketball
8. Climbing wall
9. Skate Park
10. Paddle ball park

Other possibilities for equipment that might suit older children but would require a smaller footprint are:

1. Monkey bars
2. Standing spinner
3. Seesaw

Making Walking Safe and a Pleasure

Footways - I. Duff iain.duff@easthagbourne.net

(a) Village footways (pavements)

£20k

We have complained about the safety of our footway surfaces to OCC for many years and were on waiting lists for works.

As it happens OCC have recently done nearly all this work and at their expense!

(b) Cemetery Access

£40K

A new footway on the same side of the road as St Andrews Crescent going from the end of the estate past the school playfield to the cemetery. An earlier version was proposed that would have been above a culverted ditch but the Cemetery Committee have had problems there, so another option is a fenced footpath along the bottom of the playing field area but then we also have a complicated discussion with OCC and RET (Ridgeway Education Trust). Another option is maybe to use some of the roadway.

Road Safety

£10-15k

R. Jaboor robin.jaboor@easthagbourne.net and I. Duff iain.duff@easthagbourne.net

The Vehicle Activated Speed sign on New Road has been in place for a number of years. We are in the process of getting quotes from OCC for five poles for the devices, three on Blewbury Road, one on Main Road, and one on New Road.

Necessary remedial works

Pavilion Car Park

Resurfacing of Car Park

£50+k

Drainage in Cemetery

Stopping surface flooding near graves and memorials

£30k

Attachment 4: County Councillors Report

TITLE	COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
AUTHOR	CLLR JOHNNY HOPE-SMITH
PARISHES	ASTON TIRROLD/UPTHORPE, CHOLSEY, EAST HAGBOURNE, LITTLE WITTENHAM, LONG WITTENHAM, MOULSFORD, NORTH MORETON, SOUTH MORETON, WEST HAGBOURNE
DATE	APRIL 2026 THIS REPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN ATTACHMENT TO THE APRIL 16TH EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
CONTACT DETAILS	JOHNNY.HOPE-SMITH@OXFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

Here are some updates and news I have gathered for you. Please provide any feedback; or if its too much or not enough and of course any more information on a specific topic I can help with. I have put in **BOLD** the items which I think may be specifically appropriate for the Parish Councils to consider advertising or acting upon



Best wishes,

Johnny

Warm Homes Local Grant – Free Energy Improvements Available

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council is delivering the Warm Homes Local Grant, helping eligible households make homes warmer and cheaper to heat.
- Fully government funded improvements may include insulation, low carbon heating and solar panels, depending on eligibility and property type.
- The scheme supports residents on lower incomes and those living in less energy efficient homes.
- Residents do not pay for measures covered by the grant.
- The council will never cold call residents about this scheme.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the scheme with residents who may be struggling with heating costs.
 - Encourage residents to apply only through official channels:
<https://www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk>
- Signpost queries to the council's retrofit team: retrofit@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Flooding Grants – Next Step After Flood Wardens

Following the expansion of the Flood Warden scheme, Oxfordshire County Council is also offering grant funding to help communities take practical action to reduce flood risk.

Key Details

- Grants are available for small, local flood-mitigation projects.
- Funding can support measures such as drainage improvements, property-level resilience and community-led prevention work.
- Parish councils and community groups are eligible to apply

What Parishes Can Do

- Use local knowledge from flood wardens to identify priority problem areas.
- Work with community groups or landowners to develop simple, deliverable projects.
- Promote the grant scheme locally and encourage early engagement with OCC officers.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/more-grants-on-offer-to-help-communities-tackle-flooding/>

INFO - Wallingford Area LCWIP – Walking & Cycling Plan

Key Details

- Following a previously approved and adopted Didcot area LCWIP The Wallingford Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is scheduled to be approved by Oxfordshire County Council on 23 April 2026.
- The LCWIP sets out long-term priorities for improving walking and cycling routes in and around Wallingford and nearby villages.
- It helps identify where future investment should be focused, including links between villages, schools, employment areas and services

- Having an agreed LCWIP strengthens the case for external funding bids and developer contributions.
- Details of scheme
<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wallingford-lcwip-2>

INFO - Unauthorised Flags on Highway Land – Legal Notice Issued

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council has issued (30/3) a formal legal notice requiring the removal of unauthorised flags placed on public highway land.
- The action relates to highway safety, obstruction and legal compliance, not the content or message of any individual flag.
- Any signs, flags or structures placed on highway land require formal permission from the County Council.
- Where items are installed without consent, the Council has a legal duty to take enforcement action.
- The same rules are applied consistently across the county, regardless of the cause being promoted.
<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/unauthorised-flags/>

REMINDER - Flood Warden Scheme – Volunteers Needed

An appeal has been issued for volunteers to help their communities understand flood risks and responsibilities by becoming flood wardens.

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council has expanded its flood warden scheme countywide following successful pilots.
- Flood wardens are volunteers who act as local eyes and ears, reporting blocked drains, ditches and issues that could increase flood risk.
- Anyone can volunteer - residents, parish councillors, resilience volunteers or community groups and there is no minimum time commitment.
- The council provides training and support, including an initial one-hour briefing call.
- Flood wardens help raise awareness, work with local landowners, support emergency planning and improve community preparedness.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the opportunity locally and encourage volunteers, especially those in flood-prone areas.
- Direct interested residents to the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit to sign up.
<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/flood-wardens/>
- Promote reporting of blocked drains/ditches as part of wider flood resilience work.
- Consider linking parish emergency plans with local flood wardens for better coordination

REMINDER: Councillor Priority Fund – Supporting Local Projects – OVER HALF NOW ALLOCATED

The Councillor Priority Fund has reopened, offering each Oxfordshire County Councillor £10,000 to support community projects within their division. This funding is designed to help deliver local priorities and strengthen community initiatives.

Parish councils, community groups, and local organisations are encouraged to apply for funding to support projects that benefit residents. Examples might include:

- Improvements to community facilities
- Local environmental initiatives
- Activities that promote wellbeing or inclusion
- Smaller-scale projects are especially encouraged, as the fund is modest and intended to support a wide range of communities across Oxfordshire

Key details:

- Applications must be submitted by 30 November **2026**
- Grants are typically paid within 28 days of approval
- Applicants must register for an account to apply and track progress
- Monitoring and reporting are required for successful projects

To ensure your project meets the funding criteria, please read the guidance document before applying.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Identify local projects that could benefit from modest funding**
- **Collaborate with community groups to develop proposals**
- **Submit applications early to allow time for review and payment**

Keep records and be prepared to report on outcomes

For more information or to apply, visit the Councillor Priority Fund page.

<https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund>

Attachment 5: District Councillors Report

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	East Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	16 April 2026

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils

[South News](#) a monthly resident newsletter packed with the latest news, events, and consultations happening across South Oxfordshire.

Joint Local Plan latest

8 April 2026 – The following documents have been added to the Examination Library.

- Note on Maintaining Effective Cooperation ([LPA42](#))
- Habitats Regulations Assessment for the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan: Atmospheric Pollution Appropriate Assessment Addendum ([LPA43](#))
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Addendum ([LPA44](#))
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update ([LPA45](#))
- South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Water Cycle Study Detailed Report ([LPA46](#))
- Statement of Common Ground between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils and Natural England (Revised February 2026) ([LPA47](#))
- Councils' Response to Key Issues ([LPA48](#))
- AS1 AS13 Statement of Common Ground for Berinsfield ([LPA49](#))
- AS2 Statement of Common Ground for Land adjacent to Culham Campus ([LPA50](#))
- AS3 Statement of Common Ground for Land South of Grenoble Road ([LPA51](#))
- AS4 Statement of Common Ground for Land at Northfield ([LPA52](#))
- AS5 Statement of Common Ground for Land at Bayswater Brook ([LPA53](#))
- AS6 Statement of Common Ground for Rich's Sidings and Broadway ([LPA54](#))
- AS7 Statement of Common Ground for Land at Didcot Gateway ([LPA55](#))
- AS8 Statement of Common Ground for North West of Grove ([LPA56](#))
- AS9 Statement of Common Ground for North West of Valley Park (Milton Fields) ([LPA57](#))
- AS10 Statement of Common Ground for AS14 Dalton Barracks ([LPA58](#))
- AS11 Statement of Common Ground for Culham Campus ([LPA59](#))
- AS15 Statement of Common Ground for Harcourt Hill Campus – Westminster College Oxford Trust ([LPA60A](#))
- AS15 Statement of Common Ground for Harcourt Hill Campus – Oxford Brookes University ([LPA60B](#))
- AS16 Statement of Common Ground for Vauxhall Barracks ([LPA61](#))

Everyone Active Grant now open

The Everyone Active grant is now open for applications, to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents and the role we play in providing high quality active opportunities for our communities.

We have a budget of £50,000 - with a maximum of £1,000 for each application.

Please help us to spread the word, the scheme will close at midday on **the 22 May** or once the funding has been allocated, whichever comes first! For more information organisations can visit the [Everyone Active grant scheme webpage](#) or email grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Extra Garden Waste Collections

Residents who have purchased a 2026/27 permit can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal scheduled collection day only, between **20 April and 1 May 2026**.

Permit holders can put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

To be eligible for a collection, residents are asked to follow this guidance:

- Only present garden waste, such as cut grass, plants or small branches as set out in the garden waste service terms and conditions.
- Please use standard sized (60L) black refuse-style sacks or boxes / containers with a combined total no more than a standard bin when its full. Crews will only collect up to a maximum of four sacks per for each garden waste permit. Additional sacks will not be emptied.
- Please DO NOT use sacks larger than 60L (including one tonne builders' type waste bags) – our crews will not collect any garden waste from these, as they are too heavy to lift and empty into the vehicle.

- Sacks and containers must be left **open** so crews can easily empty them into the rear of the vehicle and be able to check there are not contaminants.
- All the garden waste collected will be taken to a facility near Wallingford where it is composted. The compost is then sold on to local farmers for use on their farmland as a soil conditioner.

More information on garden waste collections, including how you can purchase an annual permit, can be found on the [South Oxfordshire garden waste page](#) or the [Vale garden waste page](#).

New Biodiversity Report reveals South Oxfordshire's natural wealth

South Oxfordshire District Council has published a new biodiversity report. For the first time the council has created a report which brings together information about the district's natural environment with details of how the council is helping nature recovery.

Some highlights from the report

Sites in the district identified as being significant, locally, nationally and internationally:

- Four special areas of conservation – Aston Rowant, Chilterns Beechwoods, Hartslock Wood, Little Wittenham
- 38 SSSIs (sites of special scientific interest) covering 1,550 hectares
- A national nature reserve at Aston Rowant renowned for its flower-rich chalk grassland, beech woodland and juniper scrub
- Four local nature reserves - Cuttle Brook, Ewelme Watercress Beds, Mowbray Fields (pictured above), Watlington Chalk Pits.

The report includes details of how the council is working to prioritise biodiversity on its own land for example, the council is actively managing more than 40 per cent of its land for the benefit of nature. The report also details all the council's plans and policies that are designed to promote nature recovery and to protect our most important habitats and species from damage in the planning system.

The council plays an active role in helping to protect and restore its rich natural heritage by supporting several key partnerships, including the Local Nature Partnership, the National Landscapes, Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) and the Local Wildlife Sites Project.

The Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) oversees the council's biodiversity grant scheme. This scheme gives £50,000 per year using funds from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developer contributions. To date, £85,624 has been awarded in grants to 13 projects across South Oxfordshire.

South Oxfordshire's biodiversity duty report is a requirement of the Environment Act (2021) which requires all local authorities to consider their "biodiversity duty" - in other words - the measures they have taken and plan to take to protect nature over a five-year period.

The new [2026 South Oxfordshire biodiversity duty report can be downloaded here](#)

Additional information on council's nature recovery work

More information on the council's nature recovery work including meadow areas, countryside sites, tree planting, partnership work, nature reports, rivers and planning is available on the [nature recovery page](#) on our website.

The council's planning team, including several ecologists, considers how nature development interact and the council has pioneered 'Biodiversity Net Gain' - where the development of land will lead to losses of biodiversity, developers can pay to create habitat of equal or greater value to wildlife. Between 2013 and 2021 the council has raised more than £850,000 towards off-site biodiversity gains in addition to increased biodiversity achieved on development sites.

Biodiversity and planning at South Oxfordshire District Council is on [this page](#)

The council included nature recovery as one of its key priorities in its council plan and achieves much through partnership work with lots of wonderful local organisations and communities who share this goal. And to that end we are delighted to announce that we are launching our **new Climate Action Fund** later this year for projects which support climate action and nature recovery. This will add to our existing funding to help biodiversity in the district.

Social media links for South Oxfordshire District Council

South

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)
- [Threads](#)
- [Bluesky](#)
- [Nextdoor](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)

Joint with Vale [LinkedIn](#)