

## EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DULY CONVENED AND HELD ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026

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

Present were Vice Chairman P. Dixon (who presided the meeting), Cllrs C. Gover, R. Jaboor, N. Milner, D. Rickeard and C. Shaikh.

Apologies were received from Chairman I. Duff, County Councillor J. Hope-Smith and District Councillor A-M Simpson.

In attendance was L. Lloyd (Clerk)

P. Dixon indicated there is 1 vacancy for a parish councillor.

#### 2. PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS: None

#### 3. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: P. Dixon confirmed receipt of the County Councillor report (Attachment 4) and District Councillors' report (Attachment 5).

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026 were approved by Council and signed by P. Dixon.

#### 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a) **Annual Parish Meeting – To discuss plans for a more informal and engaging community event, including agenda, advertising for the meeting, possible external contributions, refreshments and display material:** Councillors discussed arrangements for a more informal and engaging format for the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed that written updates from the Chair and Finance would be printed and available at the meeting instead of formally presented. The meeting will open with a brief introduction including the formal opening, introduction of councillors and speakers, and an explanation of the revised meeting format.

- A. Brown from SODC will speak on Public Art Projects
- Artwork for the Bus Shelter (Linda Benton) and Recreation Ground Gates (Julie Grose) will be presented by the artists
- J. Hope-Smith to provide an update on potholes
- Ric Avery to explain his role as an OCC Flood Warden
- Councillors will host display stations on CIL project categories to encourage informal discussion with residents.
- Additional information about the pavilion and the new Facebook page will be on display.
- Attendees will be encouraged to stay after the formal meeting closes for refreshments including wine (in moderation) and to chat further on topics of interest.

N. Milner will circulate draft plans and prepare a poster for the event. The agenda will be finalised ahead of posting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

#### 6. ITEMS FOR DECISION

- a) **To consider and approve expenditure for the Annual Parish Meeting following discussion under item 5.a):** Councillors approved expenditure of up to £250.00 to cover printing costs for displays, and refreshments (including a moderate amount of alcohol); the amount to be covered by a virement from the grass cutting budget to the administration budget.
- b) **ONPA Membership - to consider renewal for 2026-27 at a cost of £50.00:** Councillors approved the renewal and £50 expenditure.
- c) **To review and approve the updated IT Policy:** Councillors approved the updated IT Policy and it was duly signed by P. Dixon as Chair of the meeting.
- d) **To confirm EHSRC's contribution towards the Parish Council's insurance premium for 2026-27:** Councillors resolved to maintain the £500 contribution towards the insurance premium for 2026-27; the Clerk will send an invoice to EHSRC to maintain accurate records for audit purposes.
- e) **To consider quotes received for Footpath 9 (Shoe Lane) and Footpath 30 (Village Hall) surfacing works:** C. Shaikh confirmed that a report including contractor quotations had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. Four contractors were invited to quote based on the project specifications. Three quotes were received for Footpath 9, with one significantly higher than the other two. Two quotes were received for Footpath 30, with a price variance of over £9,000. The Village Hall committee have been informed of the proposal for Footpath 30 including the possibility that the land drain may encroach slightly onto Village Hall land; no concerns have been raised. Oxfordshire County Council has also been notified of both proposals.

Following consideration, councillors resolved to award the contracts for both Footpath 9 at (£3,752 +VAT) and Footpath 30 (£2564.00 +VAT) to SCS Oxon Ltd, as an OCC approved supplier with the most competitive pricing across both projects.

- f) **OCC Flood Project Funding - to confirm submission of expression of interest to fund removal of a fallen tree and channel clearance along FP19:** C. Shaikh confirmed that she met with A. Whittington from ODS on 14<sup>th</sup> April to discuss the proposed works. He was involved in the previous clearance works and confirmed he would quote for the tree removal and channel vegetation clearance to support the submission to OCC ahead of the 4<sup>th</sup> May deadline.
- g) **Replacement Noticeboards**
- i) **To consider options for replacing the noticeboards outside the Community Shop and on New Road (by The Crescent), and to select the preferred models:** C. Gover confirmed that a report detailing options for replacement noticeboards was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. Following consideration, councillors agreed to purchase boards for both locations from The Parish Noticeboard Company; the Community Shop board will be lockable with a magnetised board at a cost of £940.00 (+VAT) and the New Road board will have double doors and a pinboard, with thumb locks for public access at a cost of £1105.00 (+VAT). It was agreed that replacement posts for the New Road board should also be purchased at a reasonable cost for longevity (price TBC). There is an additional delivery charge of £75.00 which covers both boards. See Attachment 1 for mock ups.
- ii) **To confirm the text headings for both noticeboards:** Councillors agreed to retain the existing heading text for the Community Shop: East Hagbourne (adding Parish Council / Village Notices for each door) and to match the New Road board to this with East Hagbourne on the header.
- iii) **To appoint a contractor to install the noticeboards:** Councillors agreed to instruct Noel Carter to install the noticeboards, at a cost of up to £460.00 (allowing for the possibility that the New Road board may require concreting in for replacement posts).
- h) **To consider planning applications received since the last meeting:**
- P26/S0709/LDP East Hagbourne Pavilion - Resurfacing of the existing car park with new tarmacadam surface with land drains:** As this application has been submitted by the Parish Council, a conflict of interest was declared and no response shall be submitted for this application. The target decision date for the LDP application relating to the car park is 18<sup>th</sup> May.

*\*Planning applications received after the posting of the agenda may also be considered at the meeting\**

## 7. ITEMS FOR REPORT

- a) **Recreation Ground and Pavilion:** D. Rickeard confirmed the following:  
The EHSRC APM was held on 13<sup>th</sup> April and the committee membership remains the same.  
There is an issue with protruding metal in the pavilion car park; this is currently covered with a cone for safety and is being reviewed.  
D. Rickeard has posted a notice in the far-right corner of the recreation ground to maintain the nettles as a wild area.
- b) **Cemetery Committee:** P. Dixon confirmed that the cemetery drainage has now been flagged as possibly needing planning permission; this is currently being investigated.
- c) **Employment Committee:** Nothing to report.
- d) **Butts Piece Allotments:** P. Dixon confirmed there are two half plots vacant at present. The final JKW treatment is due to be completed this summer.
- e) **Community Speedwatch and Traffic Monitoring:** R. Jaboor confirmed that J. Beale from OCC has confirmed the 5 locations for the new speed signs and is in a position to get a quote for the posts. A brief discussion on sign options led to an agreement that types of speed signage should be reviewed ahead of the next meeting, as the types of sign selected may affect OCC's quote for posts. All signs are to be solar powered.
- f) **Public Art Projects:** The Clerk confirmed receipt of SODC's S106 fund release letter this week, and noted that acceptance of the conditions for the Sculpture project will be included on the May agenda.
- g) **Website Accessibility Review:** C. Gover confirmed that the Website Accessibility Report had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. The report confirmed that the website is in a very strong position from an accessibility perspective and the Accessibility Statement has been updated accordingly. There are some recommendations for continued improvement that will be implemented by C. Gover and the Clerk moving forward.
- h) **Matters raised at the Chairman's Surgery and OALC Councillor's Forum:** P. Dixon confirmed receipt of written reports from I. Duff regarding 2 recent surgeries and the OALC councillors' forum, which were circulated in advance of the meeting (Attachment 2). There was a brief discussion on how to formalise matters raised at the Chairman's surgery and it was agreed this should be moved to a discussion item on the next agenda.

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE

PO Closure update: The Community Shop petition has over 500 signatures. Olly Glover MP's team is organising a parliamentary petition regarding the PO Closure and will speak on the issue in the House of Commons.

I. Duff met with a Great Mead resident to discuss parking issues, with a request for OCC/the Parish Council to renew Bridleway signage and install a No Parking sign in line with the eastern boundary of the Recreation Ground.  
I. Duff attended the Didcot Garden Town Connectivity and Infrastructure Event on 18<sup>th</sup> March and circulated a brief report in advance of the meeting (Attachment 3).

Report received from Joy Napper; following recent discussions with the bus company, she is optimistic that there might be a formal bus stop added near The Crescent on New Road.

## 9. FINANCE

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

1) Payments since last meeting: **NB: Payments pending are shown in yellow and are not included in the account balances shown in 4-6**

Payee	Item	Auth	Amount	VAT	Total	Date
Nest	Pension Contributions February 2026	DD	£66.55	£0.00	£66.55	16/03/2026
Grundon Waste Management Ltd	PSI-1458388 Cemetery Bin Collections February 2026	DD	£59.77	£11.95	£71.72	20/03/2026
SODC	P26/S0709/LDP Planning Fee	Auth: DR / RJ	£74.50	£0.00	£74.50	23/03/2026
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV9969 Dog Bin and General Waste Bin collections February 2026	Auth: DR / RJ	£201.49	£40.30	£241.79	23/03/2026
Dark White Digital	INV002126 Web Hosting March 2026	Auth: DR / RJ	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	23/03/2026
Dark White Digital	INV002145 Web Accessibility Review (Completed 7 March 2026)	Auth: DR / RJ	£168.00	£0.00	£168.00	23/03/2026
EHSRC	INV109-25 Community Room Hire 12/02/2026	Auth: DR / RJ	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	23/03/2026
Hagbourne Village Hall	INV1824 Hall and Meeting room hire Q2 Dec 2025 - Feb 2026	Auth: DR / RJ	£26.00	£0.00	£26.00	23/03/2026
Glanville Consultants	INV51460 Topographical Survey, Underground mapping and Phase 2 of the tender process	Auth: DR / RJ	£4,800.00	£960.00	£5,760.00	24/03/2026
OALC	INV 6313 Parish Pros training course	Auth: DR / RJ	£60.00	£12.00	£72.00	27/03/2026
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV 10085 Dog Bin and General Waste Bin collections March 2026	Auth: CG / RJ	£201.49	£40.30	£241.79	30/03/2026
EHSRC	INV117-25 Meeting room hire 12th March 2026	Auth: CG / RJ	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	30/03/2026
OALC	INV 6007 Breakthrough Data Protection Training	Auth: CG / RJ	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	30/03/2026
Laura Lloyd	March Salary + WFH Allowance	Auth: DR / RJ	£978.44	£0.00	£978.44	31/03/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charges March 2026	Automatic Payment	£9.10	£0.00	£9.10	31/03/2026
Clear Councils	LCO02825 2026/27 Insurance Premium	Auth: DR / RJ	£1,684.11	£0.00	£1,684.11	01/04/2026
OALC	INV 6113 2026/27 Membership	Auth: DR / RJ	£267.45	£53.49	£320.94	01/04/2026
SLCC	MEM258046-1 2026/27 Membership	Auth: DR / RJ	£200.00	£0.00	£200.00	01/04/2026
CFO	2026/27 Membership	Auth: CG / RJ	£70.00	£0.00	£70.00	01/04/2026
Scribe Accounts	INV 17153 Accounting Software fee April 2026	DD	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	01/04/2026
Nest	Pension Contributions March 2026	DD	£66.55	£0.00	£66.55	10/04/2026
OALC	INV 6322 3 x Breakthrough Communications training sessions	Auth: DR / RJ	£105.00	£21.00	£126.00	15/04/2026
Dark White Digital	Web Hosting April 2026		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	
Fenton Timber	Invoice SI-287589 2 x 4 seater benches		£389.90	£77.98	£467.88	
HMRC	Q4 NI Contributions		£249.06	£0.00	£249.06	
SE Environmental	Invoice SN-4381 Final treatment for JKW at the Butts Piece Allotments		£600.00	£120.00	£720.00	
Laura Lloyd	April Salary & WFH Allowance		£978.44	£0.00	£978.44	

### 2) Receipts since last meeting:

Minutes March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026

PAGE 3 OF 12

From	Item	Amount	Date
Nationwide	Interest March 2026	£102.22	31/03/2026
Natwest Bank	Interest March 2026	£210.60	31/03/2026
Redwood Bank	Interest March 2026	£260.95	31/03/2026
Unity Trust Instant Access Savings	Q4 Interest	£129.03	31/03/2026
SODC	Precept 1st Installment	£18,434.00	08/04/2026
HMRC	VAT Refund 2025-26	£11,089.88	10/04/2026
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£30,226.68</b>	

### 3) Transfers since the last meeting:

From	To	Amount	Date
Unity Trust Instant Access Savings	Unity Trust T1 account (minute reference 12032026 8.b)	£7,000.00	22/03/2026

### 4) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled online 15/04/2026)

Unity Trust Bank - T1 current account	£30,671.40
Unity Trust Bank - Instant access account	£17,059.23
Redwood Bank - 35 Day Notice Savings Account	£120,000.00
Nationwide - Instant Access Business Savings Account	£83,104.22
Natwest - Liquidity Manager 95 Day Notice Account	£88,525.52
Total	<u>£339,360.37</u>

### 5) The Special Project Balances (as of 15/04/2026) are:

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Received 28/04/23 so requires spending by 27/04/28	£14,728.78
	Received 27/10/23 so requires spending by 26/10/28	£106,843.63
	Received 26/04/24 so requires spending by 25/04/29	£4,165.09
	Received 24/10/24 so requires spending by 25/10/29	£115,173.81
	Received 25/04/25 so requires spending by 24/04/30	£8,330.18
	Total CIL money	£249,241.49
Community Projects Reserve Fund		£0.00
Planned Development Support Fund		£5,303.15
Cemetery Fund		£10,128.57
Climate and Biodiversity Reserve		£2,500.00
Reactive Works and Emergency Response Reserve		£4,000.00
Asset Maintenance Reserve		£3,687.14
Election Reserve		£1,000.00
S106 Funds		£8,200.00
	Total	<u>£284,060.35</u>

### 6) General Reserve (as of 15/04/2026)

£55,300.02

- b) Review and approval of pending payments:** The Council reviewed the pending payments and approved those without minuted/regular payment approval.
- c) Bank reconciliations for January, February and March 2026:** P. Dixon reported that he has completed the Internal Controls for Q4 with no issues raised, and confirmed he has signed the bank reconciliations and bank statements.
- d) Q4 Budget Review:** P. Dixon confirmed that the budget review with notes covering variations on anticipated income and expenditure was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. No additional comments were made or questions raised.
- e) Investment Activity Report:** Councillors reviewed the report, noting the £8,033.25 interest accrued. It was agreed that anticipation of significant CIL expenditure may require transfer of funds from the Redwood or Nat-West notice accounts this financial year.

## 10. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND INCLUSION ON THE MAY AGENDA

Speed Signage

Public Art Projects - acceptance of S106 conditions for the Sculpture project

Chairman's Surgery - consideration of a formal approach to recording comments/feedback

Items for consideration for the May agenda must be received by the Clerk no later than Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026. The next Parish Council meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting, which will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at the Pavilion, Great Mead.

**The Annual Parish Meeting (Annual Village Meeting) will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> April at Hagbourne Village Hall**

**Meeting closed at 21.31pm**

### APPENDIX 1: ACTION LIST (FOR INFORMATION ONLY: ITEMS WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING UNLESS FEATURED ON THE MAIN AGENDA)

Action No	What	Who	Status
2023-03-01	Deanfield Homes Car Park Land Transfer	LL	19/06/2025 Transfer complete. Restriction removal still requires action. <b>05/03/2026 Clerk to follow up with OCC Legal team on Land Registry progress</b>
2023-06-02	Parking and Traffic Management on Main Road	NM	13/11/2025 Two surveys to be drafted
2023-06-03	Footway repairs in the parish	ID/PD/RJ	4-5/12/2025 Slurry seal repairs completed along Main Road and Higgs Close. 11/12/2025 Follow up with OCC on damage/missed stretch of slurry seal Parts of Blewbury Road footways and the stretch outside Green Shutters completed in March 2026. Snagging (damage repairs) will be completed on the Main Road slurry seal this Spring.
2023-10-03	Weed management on Main Road	LL/ID	01/07/2025 Referred to Johnny Hope-Smith for assistance
VARIOUS	Footpath accessibility: 2023-12-02 FP10 MFL to West Hagbourne 2023-12-03 FP12 Church Lane to Fieldside (FP25 towards Church last remaining stretch) 2023-12-04 FP13 Parsonage Lane 2024-01-01 FP1 West Hagbourne to Didcot 2024-03-02 FP15 Grange Footpath 2024-03-03 FP8 Bakers Lane to The Croft 2024-04-01 FP30 Village Hall 2025-11-01 FP9 Shoe Lane 2025-11-02 FP4 Wilcher Close	LL/CS/PD/ ID	05/12/2024 FP15 surface between Fieldside and the bridge would be better finished in tarmac to withstand flooding. This is under consideration. 17/07/2025 Volunteer labour available if required for FP8 10/10/2025 Surfacing options for FP12 stretch from FP25 towards Church need consideration. Rest of path and tarmac FP13 connecting slope now complete. 13/11/2025 Push for OCC review of FP9 Shoe Lane, speak to SCS Oxon about possible resurfacing works. 15/01/2026 Advice being sought from SCS Oxon Ltd on FP4 access, FP8, FP9, FP12, FP13, FP30 12/02/2026 Agreement to move forward with FP13, FP9 and FP30 subject to permissions and quotes. <b>16/04/2026 FP9 and FP30 approved for resurfacing</b>
2023-12-09	Community Speedwatch	RJ/ID	New coordinator and team members needed. <b>12/02/2026 New volunteer, needs to undertake training</b>
2024-02-04	Flood Management in the Parish	CS/DR/PD	15/01/2026 Ric Avery confirmed as an OCC Flood Warden 15/01/2026 Concern about debris in the drainage channel following recent footpath works – C. Shaikh to follow up with L. Travers at SODC <b>15/04/2026 ODC visit to review and supply quotes for tree removal and channel clearance FP19 (OCC Flood Project Funding)</b>

2024-03-06	From APM 2024: Main Road to Coscote road surface	OCC	An OCC matter as no agreement was made with the developer during the planning process. 03/12/2025 Further request for assistance sent to OCC Highways Engagement and C. Stallwood. The road has been reviewed recently but its condition will be reviewed again during the winter in poor conditions. 15/01/2026 A number of potholes have been marked up for repairs, red ones (urgent) have been filled today, white markings should be completed within 28 days. 12/03/2026 Further pothole repairs completed – monitor for longevity
2024-04-01	CIL Projects Shortlist	ALL	09/10/2025 Progress being made with Footpaths and Village Sparkle, recreation ground needs consideration as has the potential to use a lot of CIL funds.
2024-10-01	Blewbury Road Drainage	CS/LL	Initial communications being followed up

## ATTACHMENT 1: NOTICEBOARD SELECTION



## ATTACHMENT 2:

### Chairman's Surgeries

#### 13<sup>th</sup> March

- A relatively quiet surgery; main discussion centred on Post Office situation with support for engagement with MP, BBC and local media
- Suggestions made regarding potential postmaster candidates (New Road area)
- Enquiry about Millennium Wood opening; clarified responsibility lies with Didcot Town Council
- Contractor presence at Shoe Lane noted

#### 10<sup>th</sup> April

- A very quiet surgery
- Comment received regarding hedge encroachment on Bakers Lane
- Positive feedback on councillor photographs on noticeboard
- Enquiries regarding Post Office situation and potholes
- Annual Village Meeting promoted to attendees

### OALC Councillors' Forum - 18<sup>th</sup> March

Minutes March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026

- Presentation from TOE (Rachel Sanderson)
- TOE funding mainly from Grondon Waste Management and SODC CIL
- Supports c.50 projects/year (c.£250k total funding)
- Large grants available up to £25k (quarterly rounds)
- Matching funding not required but may strengthen applications

**Eligible project types include:**

- Tree and hedge planting
- Community orchards
- Pond creation/restoration
- Replacement of stiles with gates (metal preferred)
- Boardwalks and bridges on permissive paths
- Playgrounds generally not eligible for funding

**Other points raised:**

- Similar issues with Post Office reported by other councils
- Advice given to contact CFOA (Chief Fire Officers Association) for further guidance
- Discussion on Grampian conditions and infrastructure delivery challenges with utilities involvement
- Recommendation to consider Breakthrough Communications for FOI-related issues
- Development pressures in Brize Norton (8,000 new homes proposed)

**ATTACHMENT 3:**

**Didcot Garden Town Connectivity and Infrastructure Event – 18<sup>th</sup> March**

I. Duff attended the above event organised by Didcot Garden Town. The event included a series of information stands covering the following topics:

- Update on Didcot Garden Town activity, including recognition of the need for increased engagement with local parishes
- Major road infrastructure projects, including HIF1, with visual presentations of planned works
- Transport improvements
- Public art strategy
- Wayfinding and signage scheme
- Community grant opportunities
- Business and organisational support initiatives
- New development proposals at Broadway, including social housing and community space provision
- Local government reorganisation proposals, including a two-council model
- Valley Park infrastructure proposals in the context of wider Science Vale development

The event was largely information-led, with limited structured opportunity for feedback, and was well attended.

Due to time constraints, attendance was limited to approximately 30 minutes. During this time, brief discussions were held with representatives including Ian Snowdon and Anne-Marie Simpson. It was noted that, should similar events be held in future, wider Councillor attendance may be beneficial to enable fuller engagement with the range of topics presented.

**ATTACHMENT 4:**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>CLLR JOHNNY HOPE-SMITH</b>
<b>PARISHES</b>	<b>ASTON TIRROLD/UPTHORPE, CHOLSEY, EAST HAGBOURNE, LITTLE WITTENHAM, LONG WITTENHAM, MOULSFORD, NORTH MORETON, SOUTH MORETON, WEST HAGBOURNE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>APRIL 2026</b>
<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>	<a href="mailto:JOHNNY.HOPE-SMITH@OXFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK">JOHNNY.HOPE-SMITH@OXFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK</a>

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

Minutes March 12<sup>th</sup> 2026

**PAGE 7 OF 12**

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](mailto: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.oxfordshire-floodtoolkit.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:

<b>Title</b>	District Councillors' Report
<b>Councillors</b>	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
<b>Parish</b>	East Hagbourne Parish Council
<b>Date</b>	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](mailto: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](#)

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