

EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DULY CONVENED AND HELD ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY 2026

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

P. Dixon nominated I. Duff to continue as Chair. D. Rickeard seconded this proposal. I. Duff accepted this nomination and was unanimously elected as Chair of East Hagbourne Parish Council until the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) in May 2027. I. Duff signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the clerk.

I. Duff nominated P. Dixon for Vice Chair. D. Rickeard seconded this proposal. P. Dixon confirmed that he would be happy to stand aside if anyone else wished to be considered. C. Gover then nominated N. Milner for Vice Chair. R. Jaboor seconded this proposal. N. Milner accepted the nomination and was unanimously elected as Vice Chair of East Hagbourne Parish Council until the APCM in May 2027. N. Milner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the clerk.

2. TO CONSIDER THE CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR TO FILL THE VACANCY:

N. Milner proposed Richard Avery for co-option to the council to fill the vacancy. C. Shaikh seconded this proposal. Following brief discussion, councillors unanimously agreed to the co-option. Richard Avery signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was witnessed by the clerk, and joined the councillors' table.

3. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Present were Chair I. Duff, Vice Chair N. Milner, Cllrs R. Avery, P. Dixon, C. Gover, R. Jaboor, D. Rickeard and C. Shaikh.

Apologies were received from County Cllr J. Hope-Smith and District Cllrs A-M Simpson and C. Topping. In attendance was L. Lloyd (Clerk) and one member of the public.

4. PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS:

The MOP queried the council's biodiversity and nature measures for the coming year, requesting consideration for more native hedging along the footpaths. It was agreed that the council's biodiversity strategy that was adopted in 2024 should be reviewed with this in mind and potential projects considered. D. Rickeard noted that the Neighbourhood Plan focuses on housing and is subject to rigid review processes, but the biodiversity strategy offers flexibility to adapt and propose suggestions. Councillors agreed to review, noting that any planting would require landowner permissions.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

I. Duff confirmed receipt of the County Councillor report (Attachment 2) and District Councillors' report (Attachment 3).

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH APRIL 2026:

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2026 were approved by Council and signed by I. Duff.

7. PROCEDURAL MATTERS:

The council reviewed the Annual Review of Council Operations (the Annual Checklist) which was circulated ahead of the meeting. The final copy will be available on the website.

a) Review of nominations and terms of reference to committees, working groups and non-Council bodies, including signatories for online banking/cheque payments:

C. Shaikh and C. Gover were confirmed as continuing members of the Employment Committee. P. Dixon and R. Jaboor were confirmed as continuing members of the Cemetery Committee and it was noted that R. Jaboor from EHPC will hold the Chair role for the committee in 2026-27. R. Avery's position as a Flood Warden was added to the document. D. Rickeard noted that new members would be required for the NPSG to help with the next NP review. The Archive group is currently dormant; it was agreed that I. Duff would speak to Allison Huckle to see whether it could be revived. Confirmation of Authorised Bank Signatories: D. Rickeard, C. Gover, C. Shaikh, R. Jaboor

b) Review and adoption of standing orders and financial regulations: Following recommendation from OALC and the Internal Auditor, a draft adapted version of the NALC 2025 model Standing Orders was circulated ahead of the meeting. Councillors considered the proposed amendments and resolved to adopt the document. The Financial Regulations were updated in April 2025 to align with changes to the NALC model regulations and it was confirmed there have been no changes to these in the past year.

c) Review of inventory of land and assets including buildings and office equipment: A review of assets was carried out at the end of March 2026. Two new benches have just been installed at the recreation ground, and will be added to the formal register at the June Parish Council meeting.

- d) **Review and confirmation of arrangements for insurance cover in respect of all insured risks:** Insurance cover was reviewed in February 2026 ahead of renewal with Clear Councils on 1st April 2026.
- e) **Review of the Council's Risk Assessment:** The Risk Assessment including financial risks was adopted in 2015 and revised in May 2021. A review in May 2023 resulted in a minor change to the risk assessment, which was approved by council. No changes were made following review in early May 2024. A review in May 2025 resulted in a minor change to the risk assessment, which was approved on 15th May 2025. An updated risk assessment was circulated in early May 2026, and approved at the meeting. D. Rickeard noted that as changes are made in the recreation ground, the risks should be revisited and inspection timeframes considered.
- f) **Review of the Council's and/or employees' memberships of other bodies:** Memberships were noted.
- g) **Other Councillor responsibilities:** None noted.
- h) **Setting the dates, times and place of ordinary meetings of the full Council for the year ahead:**
 2026: June 18th, July 16th, September 10th, October 15th, November 12th, December 10th
 2027: January 14th, February 11th, March 18th, April 15th, May 13th
 All Parish Council meetings will be held at the Pavilion, Great Mead, East Hagbourne
 The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on April 29th 2027 and will be held at Hagbourne Village Hall.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a) **To discuss parking and access concerns on Main Road and consider next steps:** N. Milner noted that J. Hope-Smith, in his talk at the Annual Parish Meeting, had said that OCC have a role in parking, and she had contacted J. Hope-Smith to clarify the consultation process and whether OCC would be able to manage to help review the situation. As this information has not yet been received, the item was deferred.
- b) **Chair's Surgery – discussion on recording comments/feedback:** R. Jaboor opened the discussion, noting that it would be useful to have more quantifiable feedback following the surgeries in order to better understand the levels of engagement on issues. Concerns were raised regarding the legitimacy of input where matters had not been submitted formally via the Clerk. However, it was recognised that this informal input is valuable to make councillors aware of parish issues and inform future Parish Council discussion and actions. It was suggested that the surgeries provide an alternative route for residents who are more comfortable speaking on a one-to-one basis instead of attending a Parish Council meeting. It was noted that the informal nature of the surgeries can bring issues to councillors' attention that might not otherwise be raised.

9. ITEMS FOR DECISION:

- a) **Public Art Projects - acceptance of S106 conditions for the Sculpture project:** Councillors reviewed and approved the terms of the Section 106 funding release letter from South Oxfordshire District Council relating to the Sculpture project. It was agreed that L. Lloyd as Parish Clerk and RFO will sign the acceptance of terms on the Parish Council's behalf.
- b) **To consider updated advice and proposed locations/specifications for VAS and to agree next steps, including obtaining quotations and consideration of expenditure:** Councillors discussed the location of the proposed sign in relation to the village gateway on Blewbury Road. As councillors had a slightly different preference to the suggestion from OCC, it was agreed that a preferred location and a second option would be agreed for this location, for R. Jaboor to propose to OCC along with the other four locations and sign choices.
 Decisions made:
 Blewbury Road village entrance: Preferred Position A is between the existing 20mph sign and the village gateway. Position B would be between the village gateway and Fieldside as per OCC's suggestion. The sign type for this location was discussed at length and councillors moved to a vote which was tied 4:4. I. Duff used his casting vote and the agreed sign type was VAS.
 Blewbury Road: 2 x SID in OCC's suggested locations.
 New Road: SID in OCC's suggested location.
 Main Road coming in from Coscote: Dual purpose VAS in OCC's suggested location.
 It was agreed that R. Jaboor would relay these decisions to OCC to obtain a quote for poles and installation, and to confirm precise locations. It was further agreed that R. Jaboor would also obtain quotes for consideration and decision at the June meeting.
- c) **Pavilion Car Park Resurfacing – Tender Outcome and Conditional Award:** D. Rickeard updated the council following the tender process which closed on 17th April 2026. Three contractors had been shortlisted and invited to tender. One contractor declined to quote, one submitted a partial quotation, and one acceptable full submission was received. Further discussions are required with the contractor to clarify the project particulars, timescales and level of input required from Glanville during the works. The current Lawful Development Proposal (LDP) application is still under consideration and may not be approved by the Planning Officer. In this case, a full planning application would need to be submitted as soon as possible in order to enable the works to be completed this summer.
 Councillors also discussed the new recreation ground gates, which are due to be completed by Julie Grose in late May/early June, including their potential storage and later installation to minimise risk of damage from machinery working on the car park.

Decision: Councillors resolved to accept the tender submission from SCS Oxon Ltd (including white lining of the carpark and replacement of broken knee-high fencing rails) at a cost of £52,828.50+VAT, subject to further discussions regarding the project particulars and timescales, including any implications arising from the possible requirement for a full planning application.

Decision: To speak with Glanville to confirm the contract requirements and level of input needed during the project.

Decision: To seek clarification regarding the viability of the current LDP application and, if necessary, to submit a full planning application, with associated costs to be ratified at the June meeting.

Decision: Councillors resolved that the cost of the tender will be funded using CIL monies.

- d) To consider and approve revised costs from SCS Oxon Ltd following supplier material price increases to the previously approved works on Footpath 9 (Shoe Lane) and Footpath 30 (Village Hall) agreed at the April 2026 meeting:** Councillors approved the additional costs of £411.00 for Footpath 30 (new total £2975.00+VAT) and £350.00 for Footpath 9 (new total £4102.00+VAT) Works will hopefully be completed during the May half term.
- e) To consider awarding a grant of up to £150 to Home Start Southern Oxfordshire:** Previous grants awarded to Home Start have been for £100, and it was agreed that any increase should be proportionate with the increase in the Parish Council's grants budget for the year. Councillors resolved to award a grant of £110 in accordance with the council's powers under Section 137 (S137) of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. ITEMS FOR REPORT:

- a) Recreation Ground and Pavilion:** D. Rickeard reported that EHSRC are having a working party this weekend to prepare the pavilion flowerbeds for planting.
- b) Cemetery Committee:** P. Dixon reported that investigations have not yet clarified whether planning may be required for the cemetery drainage. It was agreed that speaking to C. Topping would be beneficial.
- c) Employment Committee:** Nothing to report.
- d) Butts Piece Allotments:** P. Dixon noted that there is just one half-plot vacant at present.
- e) Community Speedwatch and Traffic Monitoring:** See item 9.b)
- f) Public Art Projects:** See items 9.a) and 9.c)
- g) Flood Management:** The Clerk confirmed that an expression of interest has been submitted for OCC's Lead Local Flood Authority Priority Action flood project funding.
- h) Annual Parish Meeting – to receive and note feedback from Councillor displays:** Councillors' summaries of display feedback were circulated ahead of the annual parish council meeting. See attachment 1.
- i) Matters raised at the Chair's Surgery and OALC Councillor's Forum:** No surgery has been held since the last meeting. I. Duff circulated a brief report on the Councillors' Forum head of the meeting: Matthew Barber was the invited speaker and gave an update on current policing matters within the Thames Valley area. Topics included proposed future changes to policing governance, current staffing levels within Thames Valley Police, increased PCSO capacity, improved 101 response times, and ongoing work relating to drug and cyber crime. Discussion also covered the differing roles and powers of police officers, PCSOs and local authorities in relation to parking, traffic management and community enforcement issues, including abandoned vehicles, pavement parking and speeding enforcement on unadopted roads. It was also noted that PCSO vacancies are currently available within Thames Valley Police.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

- Blewbury Road/New Road – OCC has circulated details of planned resurfacing works which are scheduled in June and will require a road closure.
- Landowner communications – I. Duff confirmed he has initiated discussion with the relevant landowners for improvements to the final stretch of FP12 to the Church.
- West Hagbourne Parish Council – I. Duff reported on an initial conversation with D. Tozer of WHPC concerning possible information boards at Shovel Spring; WHPC are happy to liaise on the matter and if plans include a double-sided boundary sign (Welcome to East/West Hagbourne) they may contribute to this. Although there was no formal vote, WHPC did not feel it would be appropriate to have a Welcome to East Hagbourne sign within their parish.
- Town and Parish Council Planning information circulated to councillors
- NCN544 - An initial draft has been circulated by Didcot Garden Town for improvements to the cycle path through East Hagbourne. The Clerk has followed up to see if the access at Bishops Orchard can be included in these improvement plans as it is not in the draft proposal.

12. 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
Grundon Waste Management	PSI-1470673 Cemetery Bin Collections March 2026	DD	£62.15	£12.43	£74.58	20/04/2026
Nest	Pension Contributions March 2026	DD	£66.55	£0.00	£66.55	22/04/2026
Dark White Digital	DWD-INV-002157 Web Hosting April 2026	Auth: DR / CS	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	23/04/2026
TMS Local Handyman Service	2025-2026/10/INV698 Bus Shelter Renovation Works	Auth: DR / CS	£4,462.00	£0.00	£4,462.00	23/04/2026
Fenton Timber	Invoice SI-287589 2 x 4-seater benches	Auth: DR / CS	£389.90	£77.98	£467.88	23/04/2026
HMRC	Q4 NI Contributions	Auth: DR / CS	£249.06	£0.00	£249.06	23/04/2026
SE Environmental Information Commissioner's Office	Invoice SN-4381 Final treatment for JKW at the Butts Piece Allotments	Auth: DR / CS	£600.00	£120.00	£720.00	23/04/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Annual Fee ZB683211	DD	£47.00	£0.00	£47.00	24/04/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge	Auto Charge	£9.40	£0.00	£9.40	30/04/2026
Laura Lloyd	April Salary & WFH Allowance	Auth: DR / CS	£978.48	£0.00	£978.48	30/04/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge	Auto Charge	£10.15	£0.00	£10.15	01/05/2026
Scribe Accounting	INV-18232 Monthly Accounting Software Fee - May 2026	DD	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	01/05/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Charges Reversal	Auto Charge	-£10.15	£0.00	-£10.15	11/05/2026
Hobs Reprographics	S2013PRF26050002 Annual Parish Meeting printing costs		£32.61	£6.52	£39.13	
ONPA	Membership 2026/27		£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	
Dark White Digital	DWD-INV-002182 Web Hosting May 2026		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV 10201 Dog and General Waste Bin Collections April 2026		£201.49	£40.30	£241.79	
EHSRC	INV126-26 Community Room Hire 16th April 2026		£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	
Glanville	INV51779 Pavilion Car Park Consultation Phase 3 - Tender		£850.00	£170.00	£1,020.00	
BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd	INV26104 Parish and Cemetery Cuts April 2026		£555.00	£111.00	£666.00	
Carolyn Shaikh	Expenses - APM refreshments		£26.29	£5.26	£31.55	
Robin Jaboor	Expenses - APM refreshments		£112.50	£22.50	£135.00	
Laura Lloyd	Expenses - Printer cartridges and stationery		£56.66	£11.33	£67.99	
Laura Lloyd	May Salary & WFH Allowance		£978.48	£0.00	£978.48	

2) Receipts since last meeting:

From	Item	Amount	Date
OCC	Councillor Priority Fund Grant	£774.88	16/04/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 23	Allotment Rent 2025/26	£14.00	20/04/2026
Oxfordshire Memorials	Memorial G193	£184.00	28/04/2026
EHSRC	Insurance Contribution	£500.00	29/04/2026
Redwood Bank	Interest April 2026	£242.83	30/04/2026
Nationwide	Interest April 2026	£99.04	30/04/2026
NatWest Bank	Interest April 2026	£193.06	30/04/2026
Allotment Tenant Plot 7A	Allotment Rent 2025/26	£6.40	07/05/2026
Set in Stone	Memorial CM083	£184.00	11/05/2026
Set in Stone	Memorial CM086	£184.00	13/05/2026
	Total	£2,382.21	

3) Transfers since the last meeting:

From	To	Amount	Date
Redwood Bank	Unity Trust T1 Account (monthly automatic transfer)	£242.83	30/04/2026

4) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled online 13/05/2026)

Unity Trust Bank - T1 current account	£25,614.56
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	£83,203.26
Natwest - Liquidity Manager 95 Day Notice Account	£88,718.58
Total	<u>£334,595.63</u>

5) The Special Project Balances (as of 13/05/2026) are:

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Received 28/04/23 so requires spending by 27/04/28	£10,266.78
	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	<u>£244,779.49</u>
Community Projects Reserve Fund		£0.00
Planned Development Support Fund		£5,303.15
Cemetery Fund		£10,543.64
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>£280,013.42</u>

6) General Reserve (as of 13/05/2026)

£54,582.21

- b) Approval of payments:** The Clerk noted two invoices received that required adding to the pending payments: The Parish Notice Board Company invoice totalling £2215 for noticeboards including replacement poles (a 50% deposit payment ahead of production is required) and the PATAS invoice for the end of year audit at £150.00; these were agreed. The Council reviewed the pending payments list and approved those without prior minuted approval.
- c) Review of Direct Debits and regular payments:** The DDs and regular payments were reviewed and approved. In addition, the variable direct debits were re-approved and signed as a record by R. Jaboor and C. Gover.
- d) Internal Audit – response to recommendations:** I. Duff confirmed that the end of year internal audit report had been received from Parish and Town Auditing Services. The council is considered to be compliant with all assertions, and only two recommendations have been made:
- **It is recommended that the Council adopts the latest NALC template (2025) for Standing Orders:** The Parish Council's new Standing Orders based on the 2025 template were approved at this meeting under item 7.b) – complete.
 - **Asset Register: It is recommended that insurance values and replacement values be added during the next financial year to ensure that Council is fully aware of its liabilities:** It was agreed that the inclusion of insurance and replacement values on the asset register would be considered this financial year.
- f) Formal Acceptance of Internal Audit :**The council formally accepted the Internal Audit for 2025/26.

g) Formal Acceptance of Annual Accounts:

i) Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26: The Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26 was formally accepted by the council and signed by I. Duff and L. Lloyd.

ii) Accounting Statements for 2025/26: The Accounting Statements for 2025/26 were formally accepted by the council and signed by I. Duff. The document was signed by L. Lloyd ahead of circulation to councillors before the meeting.

iii) Confirmation of the period for exercise of public rights: L. Lloyd advised that the Notice of Public Rights would be posted on the noticeboard and in the Financial Information folder on easthagbourne.net on 2nd June, with the period of 30 working days being 3rd June – 14th July inclusive. The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements will also be posted for viewing on the noticeboard and the website. The documents will also be sent to the External Auditor for review.

13. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND INCLUSION ON THE JUNE AGENDA

None noted.

Items for consideration for the June agenda must be received by the Clerk no later than Wednesday 12th June 2026. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 18th June 2026 at the Pavilion, Great Mead.

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

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. 05/03/2026 Clerk to follow up with OCC Legal team on Land Registry progress
2023-06-02	Parking and Traffic Management on Main Road	NM	14/05/2026 Looking into possible OCC led consultation
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 Nov 2025 Consider a ramp for mobility scooter access at FP4 Wilcher Close 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. 16/04/2026 FP9 and FP30 approved for resurfacing – to be completed during May half term
2023-12-09	Community Speedwatch	RJ/ID	New coordinator and team members needed. 12/02/2026 New volunteer, needs to undertake training

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 15/04/2026 ODC visit to review and supply quotes for tree removal and channel clearance FP19 (OCC Flood Project Funding) 03/05/2026 OCC Flood Project Funding Expression of Interest submitted
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. Feedback from the 2026 APM to help inform the decision making process.
2024-10-01	Blewbury Road Drainage	CS/LL	Initial communications being followed up

ATTACHMENT 1: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DISPLAY FEEDBACK

FOOTPATHS – C. Shaikh

Limited feedback:

- People from outside drive to the village and park on Main Road to walk the paths leading to increase in dog poo and etiquette declining.
- The Causeway (FP13) needs repair
- Requests to not urbanise our countryside too much please
- Flood work also considered looking after regular removal of debris from streams

RECREATION GROUND – R. Jaboor

The feedback points to an interest in facilities that support active play, exercise, and multi-age use, with several practical considerations raised about management and maintenance.

Summary of Suggestions



Play and Youth Activity Ideas

- Monkey bars / climbing frame - Seen as suitable for both children and adults, offering strength and coordination exercise.
- Zip wire (mentioned twice) - A popular request, suggesting strong community interest in a dynamic play feature.



Exercise and Sports Facilities

- Pump track - For bikes, scooters, and skate-style use; appeals to a wide age range.
- Running track - Provides a simple, accessible exercise option for all fitness levels.
- Tennis court (suggested as a question) - Indicates interest but possibly uncertainty about demand or feasibility.



Dog-Related Facilities

- Dog agility equipment - Suggests a desire for dog-friendly exercise spaces.

- Concerns about fencing - Notes that some areas (e.g., for petanque or similar activities) may need fencing to prevent them becoming informal dog-toilet areas.



Multi-Use and Management Considerations

- Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) concept - Recognised as versatile and suitable for multiple ages and activities.
- Booking system - A concern about ensuring fair access and avoiding monopolisation of facilities.

Key Themes

1. Strong appetite for active, outdoor facilities

There is interest in equipment that encourages physical activity for all ages.

2. Preference for multi-use, flexible spaces

Several comments highlight the value of facilities that can serve different groups without being overly specialised.

3. Need for practical management solutions

A booking system and appropriate fencing were raised as important to ensure fair use and maintain the quality of shared spaces.

4. Interest in both family-friendly and dog-friendly amenities

Suggestions span children, adults, and dog owners, indicating a desire for inclusive design.

VILLAGE SPARKLE – C. Gover

Suggested Ideas:

- Nature garden
- Community orchard
- More events bringing people together like the Duck race did....eg a Pancake race; Bunting making for the opening of the bus stop & gates.
- It was mentioned that St Andrews residents are having a 'Picnic Day'
- Nature board / Welcome to East Hagbourne signage by Shovel Spring
- Drinking fountain – dogs have water stops, why shouldn't all the walking humans too! A good spot is the Village Hall car park
- Village Kindness Day – Suggestion from C. Gover

The idea is that instead of a litter pick morning (which we don't do anymore), people could put their name down on a form in the shop and either offer one hour of their time with their skill to neighbours or put their name against a few jobs we could list in the village itself. EG

- Clean the EH village entrance signs
- Tidy the village entrance gardens and plant bulbs (x3)
- Litter pick
- Drive a neighbour to the supermarket/doctors
- Walk a neighbour's dog
- Babysitting

ATTACHMENT 2:

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	MAY 2026
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



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1,500 New Public EV Charge Points Planned Across Oxfordshire

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council will deliver around 1,500 new public electric vehicle (EV) charge points as part of the Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) programme.
- The programme is backed by over £4 million of Department for Transport funding.
- It is aimed at supporting the estimated 30% of households without off-street parking.
- Two operators, Connected Kerb and EZ-Charge, have been appointed to install, operate and maintain the chargers.
- Charger locations are being informed by data mapping, consultation, local demand and electrical capacity.
- Residents who park on-street outside their home can alternatively apply for a subsidised EV charging cable channel at a cost of £300.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/climate-action/electric-vehicles/ev-cable-channel>

What Parishes Can Do

- Encourage residents to log demand using the EV charger and car club demand tracker to influence where chargers are installed.
- Share information locally with residents who do not have driveways and are considering switching to an EV.
- Feed in local knowledge on suitable locations or constraints (e.g. village centres, parking pressures).
- Promote the cable-channel option as a practical alternative where public chargers are not suitable.

Household Waste Recycling Centres – Cleaning & Repairs Programme

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council will carry out a programme of cleaning and essential repairs at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) across the county.
- Works include deep cleaning, safety improvements and repairs to keep sites operating safely and efficiently.
- Some centres may have short, temporary closures while work is completed.
- The programme is planned to minimise disruption, with advance notice provided where closures are required.
- **Oakley Wood, near Wallingford: Thursday 7 and Friday 8 May**

What Parishes Can Do

- Share information locally so residents are aware of possible short-term closures.
- Encourage residents to check the HWRC website before travelling, especially during the works period.
- Promote alternative nearby sites where appropriate.

- Reassure residents that the works are intended to improve safety and reliability of recycling centres in the long term.

INFO - SEND Services – Government Recognises Improvement in Oxfordshire

Key Details

The government has formally recognised ongoing improvements in services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire.

- This follows monitoring by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission, which found effective action has been taken since the 2023 inspection.
- Improvements include stronger leadership and governance, better partnership working, and increased involvement of children, young people and families.
- Progress has been noted in areas such as EHCP timeliness, communication, and quality assurance of SEND provision.
- Inspectors acknowledged that while progress is clear, further work is still required to ensure consistency across all services.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share reassurance locally that SEND services are improving, while acknowledging that challenges remain.
- Encourage families to continue engaging with SEND forums, consultations and feedback opportunities.
- Signpost residents to county-level SEND support and information where appropriate.
- Feedback any local SEND concerns to me so they can be raised with officers.

<https://www.localgov.co.uk/Improvement-notice-lifted-on-Oxfordshires-SEND-services/64231>

INFO - Clifton Hampden Bypass – New Milestone Reached

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council has reached a new milestone in the long-running work to deliver a bypass for Clifton Hampden.
- The update marks further progress in the agreed process, following many years of work to address traffic impacts through the village.
- The milestone reflects completion of a defined next step, allowing the project to move forward to the following stage.
- The bypass remains intended to reduce through-traffic, improve safety, and enhance quality of life for local residents.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/new-milestone-in-plans-to-build-clifton-hampden-bypass/>

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 3:

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	East Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	14 May 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.

Livestreaming of Full Council Meetings

We're making it even easier for everyone to follow local decision making. While both councils already livestream a wide range of meetings - from Cabinet and Scrutiny to Planning and Licensing - we will now, for the first time, be able to livestream full Council meetings.

Previously this wasn't possible due to space and technical limitations, as full Council meetings had to be held offsite. Thanks to newly available space at Abbey House, the councils can now host full Council meetings in a location equipped for livestreaming. This means people will be able to watch the discussions and decisions that matter most to our communities live or catch up later at their convenience.

The first livestreamed full council meetings will take place on:

- [Vale of White Horse – 13 May](#)
- [South Oxfordshire – 14 May](#)

The meetings will be recorded using Microsoft Teams and appear on the councils' [Committee Meetings YouTube channel](#).

This upgrade strengthens openness, accountability and public engagement - ensuring more people can stay connected to the democratic process. Please help us promote the new live streaming by sharing our social media posts and spreading the word.

BinDays Web App

We are pleased to confirm the launch of BinDays, our new web app for residents to find out when their bins will be emptied for their next two scheduled waste and recycling collections.

BinDays has been provided by our IT team to replace Binzone which we are no longer able to support, due to updated internet security standards. BinDays will provide a more reliable and easier to manage system going forward.

If people are using a smartphone, once they enter their postcode and select the 'install instructions' button, they will be able to add the app to their mobile for easy access next time.

Residents can access the service at southoxon.gov.uk/BinDays

Please help us spread the word and share our social media posts later this week, and please do let us know if you have any feedback on BinDays. Please note, the BinDays web app does not collect any user data.

Capital Grant Scheme opens soon

The latest round of our Capital Grant Scheme will go live later this month.

The grant gives organisations a financial boost towards capital expenditure such as making improvements to buildings or play areas with applications of up to £75,000.

The grant will launch on **Tuesday 26 May to Monday 20 July**. Head to our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants for more details. Please do help share the opening date and our upcoming social media messages.

Joint Local Plan latest

8 May 2026 – Inspector G J Fort BA PGDip LLM MCD MRTPI has been appointed alongside Inspectors R A Bust BSc (Hons) MA MSc LLM PhD MInstLM MCMI MEnvSci MRTPI and C Mulloy BSc (Hons) DipTP MRTPI.

24 April 2026 – The Inspectors have written to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils regarding the examination process moving forward. This letter is now available in the Examination Library ([ID16](#)).

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](#))

Artweeks Takeover at Cornerstones

Cornerstone Arts Centre will host its first Artweeks Takeover this May, bringing a programme of exhibitions, installations and events to Didcot.

From Friday 1 May to Saturday 30 May, art will appear not only in the centre's gallery but across the building, including its public spaces.

This year's theme, "Stories of Arrival and Belonging", brings together artists from across the county. Working in painting, sculpture, film, photography, ceramics, textiles and mixed media. They explore ideas of home, identity and connection through a range of personal and shared perspectives.

The main gallery exhibition will feature artists Amanda Benstead, Catherine Rye, Sue Chamberlin and Lin Dewsnap, offering a quieter, more reflective contrast to the activity elsewhere.

Cornerstone Arts Centre has worked with Oxfordshire Artweeks for more than 15 years, supporting artists and offering free exhibitions throughout the year. This is the first time it has hosted multiple exhibitions on this scale.

The exhibitions are free to view during Cornerstone's opening hours. For more information and opening times, [visit the Cornerstone website](#).

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.

2026 Waste & Street Cleaning Survey

Residents across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being encouraged to share their views on how rubbish, recycling and street cleaning services are run in their area, via an annual survey.

Whether you think things are working well or could be improved, your feedback will play a vital role in shaping the future of waste and street cleaning services across both districts.

Last year, more than 2,100 people took part in the 2025 survey, with more than 81 percent of respondents indicating they were satisfied or very satisfied with the waste collection service. As a result of the feedback, staff received extra training to help ensure bins are returned correctly after emptying, further checks were put in place around litter bin emptying and measures put in place ensure street cleaning standards across the area. There has also been increased communication on which items go in which bin, especially around food waste.

A new survey has now launched for 2026 giving residents another opportunity to have their say on everything from household waste and recycling collections to street cleaning and local waste reduction initiatives.

Take part in the 2026 Waste and Street Cleaning Survey now at: southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey

The survey is open until 4 June 2026.

If you have any questions or need the survey in an alternative format (including large print, Braille, audio, Easy Read or other languages), please email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422146.

This survey focuses on services provided by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils. It does not cover any questions relating to Household Waste Recycling Centres as these services managed separately by Oxfordshire County Council.

Social media links for South Oxfordshire District Council

South

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

Joint with Vale

- [LinkedIn](#)