

EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DULY CONVENED AND HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH JUNE 2025

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Present were Chairman I. Duff, Cllrs R. Jaboor, N. Milner, D. Rickeard and C. Shaikh

Apologies were received from Vice Chairman P. Dixon, Cllr C. Gover, District Cllrs A-M. Simpson and C. Topping, and County Cllr J. Hope-Smith

In attendance was L. Lloyd (Clerk).

I. Duff indicated there is 1 vacancy for a parish councillor.

2. PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS: None

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY

2025: The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 15th May 2025 were approved by Council and signed by I. Duff, with one amendment to item 7.e) to include the applicable power to spend.

4. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: I. Duff confirmed receipt of the District Councillor and County Councillor Reports. Please see attachment 2 for the District Councillors' Report and attachment 3 for the County Councillor's Report.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a) **Unitary Councils - Two Councils public engagement exercise:** I. Duff confirmed receipt of communications from South and Vale and OALC concerning Unitary Councils. The two District Councils are currently undertaking a public engagement exercise to inform their own proposal, and OALC circulated information on all three proposals for comparison. C. Shaikh queried the benefits of the proposed changes; I. Duff stated that the change was mandated by the Government although one benefit would be to avoid any confusion between the roles of current district and county councils and improve communications between the public and council. I. Duff encouraged individual councillors to complete the survey in preference to completing a single response on behalf of the Parish Council.
- b) **Consideration of CFO Community Hall Affiliation Scheme membership:** D. Rickeard confirmed that when discussed, EHSRC felt that EHPC should be the affiliated members of the scheme, not EHSRC. The scheme is available in addition to the standard CFO membership which the Parish Council currently has. It was agreed that clarification of the benefits to EHPC and EHSRC would be needed, ahead of any decision.
- c) **Potential CIL Expenditure for Cemetery bench and sign restoration:** I. Duff confirmed that C. Gover had circulated proposals for a new bench and restoration of the sign on the East gate ahead of the meeting. It was noted that any decisions on expenditure for the cemetery should be made jointly by WHPC and EHPC rather than any expenditure decision being made unilaterally. It was agreed that WHPC should be informed of the proposal ahead of their July meeting, with a question as to whether they wish to contribute towards the costs. The outcome of both meetings will then be taken to the Cemetery Committee for approval. Feedback from these should enable a decision to be made at our July Parish Council meeting.

6. ITEMS FOR DECISION:

- a) **To consider granting a donation of up to £100.00 to Home Start Southern Oxfordshire:** Councillors resolved to award a grant of £100.00 in accordance with the council's powers under Section 137 (S137) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- b) **To approve renewal of the Parish Council's annual subscription to Parish Online at a cost of £96.00:** Councillors approved the expenditure. It was agreed that it would be worth investigating additional ways to utilise the mapping.
- c) **To respond to the suggestions from the Public Art Steering Group following the review of submissions for the Public Art Project briefs:** I. Duff confirmed the following:
The Public Art Panel has met and reviewed applications for the three proposed public art projects in East Hagbourne:
 1. A mural at the bus shelter
 2. Decorative gates for the recreation ground
 3. Sculptural features for one, possibly two locations in the parish

Following careful consideration, the Public Art Steering Group recommends proceeding with the following artists:

1. Linda Benton – visual artist, for the Bus Shelter
2. Julie Grose – blacksmith, for the Recreation Ground gates

3. Alex Wenham – sculptor, for art features. Primary location: St Andrews Crescent, Possible additional location: Windsor Crescent

The Parish Council is now asked to:

1. Approve the recommended artists for their respective commissions: Councillors approved the recommended artists.
2. Endorse the submission of applications for Section 106 funding from South Oxfordshire District Council to support these projects: Councillors endorsed the submission of applications for Section 106 funding from SODC to support these projects; the clerk will liaise with Abigail Brown on this matter.

7. ITEMS FOR REPORT:

a) **Planning Applications:**

P25/S1321/HH 1 The Crescent: I. Duff reported that he has spoken with the applicant and as many neighbours listed on the planning consultation as possible; one neighbour has copied the Parish Council into their submitted objection to the application. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council's response should clearly encourage planning officers to visit the site to fully consider the objection and potential impact to inform their decision. Our response will be submitted ahead of the deadline on 21st June.

b) **East Hagbourne Sport and Recreation Committee:**

D. Rickeard reported that there have been several requests to use the football pitch for training over the summer period. It has been noted that holes are being dug on the recreation ground and the divots replaced, which leads to dead patches of grass. It is unknown who is doing this but it is human intervention, not animals. The approved lighting upgrade has been confirmed to commence on 11th August. Phase 1 of the car park resurfacing consultancy being undertaken by EHPC is progressing. The engineer consulting on resurfacing of the car park has prepared a comprehensive report outlining several resurfacing options and their merits. This is being considered in detail by Cllrs Dixon and Rickeard and the final version will be brought to the council for review in July.

c) **Cemetery Committee:**

R. Jaboor reported that it has been confirmed that OCC now owns the school playing field adjacent to the cemetery, following a land transfer which was completed in March last year. Leigh Travers and Carl Stallwood are looking into permissions/issues relating to the use of the Main Road ditch and planning requirements. The design drawing is in progress, with consideration as to whether it will be possible to drain within the site instead of using the ditch which will be significantly more costly.

d) **Employment Committee – To acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's Annual Appraisal Report:**

C. Shaikh confirmed that an Appraisal Report had been circulated to all councillors and summarised the recommendations of the Employment Committee regarding back pay for additional hours worked over the past year, an increase in contracted hours and the need to select a pension scheme. Councillors were in agreement that the recommendations should be put forward for approval at the July meeting. It was agreed that the clerk should investigate pension options to allow the council to make an informed decision on this matter at the July meeting.

e) **CIL Project Progress:**

C. Shaikh noted that continuation of FP12 to Church Lane is still subject to strong opinions both for and against, although there is still a need to repair the slight damage caused by farm machinery and extend the durable path surfacing to link properly to the causeway. I. Duff noted that views expressed to him have been almost wholly positive for extending the path to the Church. It was agreed that C. Shaikh would meet with SBS Oxon Ltd to discuss FP12 continuation and review the surfaces of FP12 and 15, and it would be a good opportunity to query costs for the repair and FP12-Causeway connection when on site.

f) **Butts Piece Allotments:**

L. Lloyd reported that a wasp nest was found on a plot and was treated yesterday evening by an approved contractor at a cost of £109.00.

g) **Flood Management:**

Nothing to report.

h) **Community Speedwatch:**

R. Jaboor confirmed that there has been no interest from potential volunteers. R. Jaboor is investigating the possibility of introducing speed awareness signs and automated speed monitoring options, which are an alternative if volunteers are not forthcoming.

i) **Housing development adjacent to the village hall:**

I. Duff confirmed the following:

- The village welcome sign is owned by OCC and is their ongoing responsibility, so does not need to be added to the Parish Council's asset register.
- The car park transfer from Deanfield to the Parish Council has finally been completed today; the restriction removal will be dealt with separately once Land Registry has officially recorded the transfer. The Parish Council has received written assurances that the RX4 document will be made available and any associated costs will be paid for by Deanfield.
- The public open areas are currently causing concern with Deanfield residents; recent correspondence has been received voicing concern over the lack of tree planting and lack of variety in the designated wildflower areas.
- The playground is still waiting for sign off as the grass is still not up to standard.

D. Rickeard raised concerns over the hedge adjacent to the car park, it is failing to thrive and was intended to create a barrier to prevent people cutting between the car park and housing.

j) **Hagbourne Village Hall:**

Erroneous inclusion – nothing to report.

k) **Public Art Project:** See item 6.c)

l) **Footpath Management:** L. Lloyd confirmed that she and C. Shaikh had attended a very positive introduction meeting for Path Wardens on 3rd June. It has been agreed that Stuart Grant will have volunteer access to the CAMS system and coordinate the PPW team. The map was reviewed and all PROW's have a designated PPW. The team will coordinate with the Footpaths Working Group and the Clerk to provide updates and ask for assistance where required.

m) **Matters raised at the Chairman's Surgery and OALC Councillor's Forum:** I. Duff confirmed that he had received an in-person complaint about the wildflower situation at St Andrews Crescent, and a request for FP12 continuation as it is a valued rural route that avoids Main Road.
The June Councillors Forum was chaired by Rachel Brown of OALC with the following topics noted: Councillors were encouraged to consider attending the Resilience Talking Tables workshop in July. Unitary Councils were discussed although it is not yet clear how it will impact Parish Councils. OCC Legal team were criticised for their ineffectiveness in communication or working to any finite timeframe. L. Lloyd has asked OALC for advice on whether the final restriction removal requires any input from OCC Legal team; it should be a straightforward submission to Land Registry so a decision on this can be made when needed.

8. Correspondence:

I. Duff reported receipt of the following:

West Hagbourne Parish Council approached East Hagbourne Parish Council asking for support of their proposal to redesignate Moor Lane from a BOAT to a restricted byway. Councillors responded with a letter of support; the project is also supported by district and county councillors.

OALC reported that NALC has expressed disappointment that funding has been withdrawn from Locality for supporting Neighbourhood Plans. D. Rickeard confirmed that parishes can still make a neighbourhood plan, but the previously available funding support will not be there.

9. Finance:

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

a) **Payments since last meeting:**

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

Payee	Item	Auth	Amount	VAT	Total	Date
Grundon Waste Management	PSI-1277820 Cemetery Waste Bin Collections April	DD	£58.64	£11.73	£70.37	20/05/2025
Castle Water Ltd	INV10006378502 Allotment Water - bill date 7 May 2025	DD	£5.55	£1.11	£6.66	21/05/2025
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge	Automatic Payment	£12.60	£0.00	£12.60	31/05/2025
Scribe Accounting	INV 10578 Accounting Software Monthly Fee - June	DD	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	02/06/2025
Tetbury Accounting	INV 3692 Payroll Management 2024-25	C Gover / D Rickeard	£265.00	£53.00	£318.00	02/06/2025
Dark White Digital	INV001851 May Web Hosting	C Gover / D Rickeard	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	02/06/2025
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV 8799 Dog Bin and General Waste Bin collections April 2025	C Gover / D Rickeard	£125.66	£25.13	£150.79	02/06/2025
EHSRC	INV028-25 Community Room Hire 3rd April for APM	C Gover / D Rickeard	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	02/06/2025
BGG Garden and Tree Care	INV0094.25 Parish and Cemetery cuts 25/04, Allotment clearance 15/04 and Main Road weed treatment 25/04	C Gover / D Rickeard	£1,750.00	£350.00	£2,100.00	02/06/2025
SJ Aplin Playgrounds Ltd	INV4559 Rope Bridge Repair Great Mead Playground	C Gover / D Rickeard	£496.00	£99.20	£595.20	02/06/2025
Parish and Town Audit Services	INV IA/0115/25 End of Year Internal Audit	C Gover / D Rickeard	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	02/06/2025
Laura Lloyd	Expenses - Printer Ink, Paper, laminate pouches, Mileage	C Gover / D Rickeard	£62.72	£9.49	£72.21	02/06/2025
Laura Lloyd	May Salary and WFH Allowance	C Gover / D Rickeard	£857.81	£0.00	£857.81	02/06/2025
PWLB	Pavilion Car Park Loan Repayment	DD	£2,461.17	£0.00	£2,461.17	09/06/2025

Friends of Hagbourne Pool	Grant for Pool Renovations (Power: Local Government (Misc. Prov.) Act 1976 S19		£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV8954 Dog Bin and General Waste Bin collections May 2025		£151.67	£30.33	£182.00	
Dark White Digital	INV001874 June Web Hosting		£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	
EHSRC	INV036-25 Community Room Hire 15th May		£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	
Laura Lloyd	June Salary and WFH Allowance		£857.81	£0.00	£857.81	
Peskey Solutions	Wasp Nest Removal		£109.00	£0.00	£109.00	
Hagbourne Parochial Charities	Butts Piece Rental 2025/26 - July installment		£461.80	£0.00	£461.80	01/07/2025

b) Receipts since last meeting:

From	Item	Amount	Date
Redwood Bank	Interest May 2025	£212.25	31/05/2025
Nationwide	Interest May 2025	£121.75	31/05/2025
NatWest	Interest May 2025	£243.30	31/05/2025
	Total	£577.30	

c) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled online 18/06/2025)

Unity Trust Bank - T1 current account	£14,372.26
Unity Trust Bank - Instant access account	£88,643.12
Redwood Bank - 35 Day Notice Savings Account	£85,000.00
Nationwide - Instant Access Business Savings Account	£82,038.62
Natwest - Liquidity Manager 95 Day Notice Account	£86,294.09
Total	<u>£356,348.09</u>

d) The Special Project Balances (as of 18/06/2025) are:

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Received 28/04/23 so requires spending by 27/04/28	£43,620.62
	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	£278,133.33
Community Projects Reserve Fund		£4,712.91
Planned Development Support Fund		£5,303.15
Cemetery Fund		£13,221.06
Climate and Biodiversity Reserve		£2,500.00
Reactive Works and Emergency Response Reserve		£4,000.00
Asset Maintenance Reserve		£10,000.00
Election Reserve		£1,000.00
Total		<u>£318,870.45</u>

e) General Reserve (as of 18/06/2025)

£37,477.64

- b) **Approval of payments:** L. Lloyd confirmed that the invoice from Peskey Solutions for £109.00 for the allotment wasp nest removal should be added to the pending payments list – this was agreed. The Council reviewed the pending payments list and approved those without prior minuted approval.

10. Items for report and inclusion on the July agenda:

Decisions concerning Employment Committee recommendations
Pavilion Car Park Resurfacing

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Items for consideration for the July agenda must be received by the clerk no later than Wednesday 9th July.

The next meeting will be held on 17th July 2025 at The Pavilion, Great Mead, East Hagbourne.

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

ATTACHMENT 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 finally completed today. Restriction removal still requires action.
2023-06-02	Parking and Traffic Management on Main Road	NM	NM to prepare a proposal with initial steps to investigate the practicalities and resident perception of current issues.
2023-06-03	Footway repairs in the parish	ID/PD/RJ	May 2025 C. Stallwood emailed for update on the areas that were added to the list for slurry sealing Main Road footways 15/05/2025 OCC have requested repair works to the footway surface by 12 Main Road – minor footway repair carried out in front of 12 Main Road. 19/06/2025 This matter is being referred to Johnny Hope-Smith for assistance
2023-10-01	Disabled Parking spaces in the village car park	LL/PD	24/04/2025 3 quotes received and reviewed by council. Further consideration of the best use of space in the disabled bays area is needed to maximise accessibility – P. Dixon reviewing.
2023-10-03	Weed management on Main Road	LL/ID	15/05/2025 Weed treatment now complete at raised footway near Lower Cross. Dead vegetation now present in road channel. 19/06/2025 This matter is being 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 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	LL/CS/PD/ID	03/10/2024 FP30 – Initial review of possible surface improvements undertaken by Chloe from the Highways Engagement team 05/12/2024 FP12 – Farmer to review field drainage before any continuation of the path to Church Lane is considered. 05/12/2024 FP15 surface between Fieldside and the bridge would be better finished in tarmac to withstand flooding. This is under consideration. 09/01/2025 May need to improve the point where FP12 joins the path at Parsonage Lane 13/02/2025 Contractor quote being sought for FP8. Volunteer labour still available if required 15/05/2025 New Parish Path Warden team in the process of signing up as independent volunteers to help with path monitoring.
2023-12-09	Community Speedwatch	RJ	New coordinator and team members needed to move this forward.
2024-02-01	Pavilion Lease Renewal	DR/LL	15/05/2025 Councillors reviewing questions to ask legal advisor
2024-02-04	Flood Management in the Parish	CS/DR/PD	26/02/2025 Leigh Travers and Carl Stallwood completed a walkabout to assess the rest of the watercourses in the parish with input from the flood group 29/04/2025 Leigh Travers visited the parish to meet with P. Dixon (cemetery) and Jane Bell (Flood Group)
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 and the S278 agreement was only to maintain and repair Main Road in the immediate vicinity of the site. 15/05/2025 Clarification on when works will be completed is urgently needed – surrounding villages have benefitted from resurfacing in recent weeks but to our knowledge nothing has been scheduled for East Hagbourne 19/06/2025 This matter is being referred to Johnny Hope-Smith for assistance
2024-04-01	CIL Projects Short list	ALL	24/04/2025 Allocation of councillors to progress with project proposals
2024-10-01	Blewbury Road Drainage	CS/LL	Initial communications being followed up
2024-12-01	Zebra Crossing Visibility	LL	OCC Streetlighting team investigating visibility concerns
2025-03-01	Rymans Crescent Wildflower Area	LL	Assist with comms between SOHA and BGG as needed

ATTACHMENT 2:

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	East Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	19 June 2025

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

The public hearings for the South and Vale Joint Local Plan took place first week of June

This stage of the examination involves our appointed Planning Inspectors holding sessions to hear from the Councils and other participants about whether the local plan is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements. You can [watch back the recordings of the hearings here](#).

Find out more on our [Joint Local Plan examination webpage](#).

Local Government Reorganisation

Our public engagement exercise on Local Government Reorganisation launched on Wednesday 4 June and will run for six weeks. You can **find out more** and [take part in the online survey here](#).

This will inform our proposal for a new model for local government in our area that we are seeking to submit to the government in the autumn.

We are working closely with our counterparts in West Berkshire Council, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire District Councils on both the proposal and the engagement, providing a unified and robust solution to the government's plans to end Oxfordshire's two-tier council structure in a way that best serves our communities.

Our proposal seeks to create two brand new unitary councils that cover the following areas:

- **Oxford City, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire Council** (created from the existing district councils of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire)
- **Ridgeway Council** (created from the existing district councils of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse and the unitary council of West Berkshire).

Engagement drop-ins

Our first drop-in event is on Friday 13 June at Coffee Aroma, Abingdon between 1.30pm – 4.30pm and on Tuesday 17 June we'll be at Berro Lounge, Orchard Shopping Centre, between 10.30am – 1.30pm. You can find the survey and a [full list of the drop-in events here](#).

Capital grant scheme now open

To support community projects that help improve the quality of life for local people, Our Capital Grant Scheme opened on 2 June for applications of up to £75,000.

The grant gives organisations a financial boost towards capital expenditure such as making improvements to buildings or play areas.

Applicants must show how their projects will help improve the quality of life for people in South Oxfordshire through projects that; support thriving, healthy and inclusive communities, provide infrastructure that meets local need, that take action on climate change and nature recovery, and improve participation, accessibility and accountability.

Organisations eligible to apply are:

- Town and parish councils
- Non-profit businesses and Community Interest Companies
- Community-based organisations

The Capital Grant Scheme is open for applications until **25 July**. Applicants can apply online through our website, southoxon.gov.uk/grants where the full guidance is available to help submit the best possible application. Thank you for sharing our social media messages on the grant.

Reducing need for temporary accommodation part of new homelessness consultation

Minimising the use of temporary accommodation which can be disruptive to people's lives, especially for children, is one key aim of proposed updates to how councils tackle homelessness in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Increasing the provision of genuinely affordable, long-term homes remains a core focus of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' work to reduce homelessness and end rough sleeping.

The councils are now inviting people to have their say on proposed objectives for the new strategy to reflect changes in homelessness and lay out their plans.

Plans include identifying issues early on such as 'hidden homelessness' and sofa surfing - as eviction by family and friends is the top reason for home loss in the districts. The councils will continue to work closely with every individual at risk of homelessness to help them find sustainable accommodation.

Whilst the numbers of people sleeping rough are relatively low in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, the councils are committed to continue doing all they can to end rough sleeping by preventing it wherever possible. The council's outreach team will continue to proactively identify any rough sleepers without delay, ensuring that they receive advice from the councils' dedicated team.

Supporting rough sleepers who have complex needs through continued partnership work is an important area of the strategy. By strengthening close, collaborative working with partners in health, criminal justice, the Department for Work and Pensions, social care services and local agencies, the councils will help those who are vulnerable and have multiple needs.

The consultation is now open and runs until 11.59pm on 16 June.

To take part in the consultation go to southandvale.gov.uk/homelessnessandroughsleepingstrategy/

Leisure Centres in Berinsfield and Henley to benefit from new clean green energy

Multi-million-pound plans have been approved to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions at two South Oxfordshire leisure centres in Berinsfield and Henley.

South Oxfordshire District Council has been successful in its bid for government funding of around £1.5m towards installing energy efficiency measures including double glazing and insulation, as well as solar panels and air source heat pumps to replace end-of-life gas boilers at the leisure centres.

The owners of the buildings, Oxfordshire County Council, will put in £2m towards the improvements, while the district council will fund a further £2.8m from developer contributions. All work should be finished by the end of March 2028.

Abbey Sports Centre in Berinsfield was built in 1959 as a school, before being converted to a leisure centre in the 1980s. Because of the age of the building, the roof insulation is well below current standards and the centre will benefit from extensive roof renovation to minimise heat loss.

Plans also include replacing gas heating with air source heat pumps, adding double glazing, insulating the squash court walls and installing solar panels on the roof. It is projected that the new measures will mean a 75 per cent saving in energy kWh (gas and electricity).

Built in the 1970s, Henley Leisure Centre has some elderly heating plant – two of the boilers set to be replaced are estimated to be between 22 and 25 years old. Even though the centre is shaded by trees it will still benefit from solar panels. In addition, the council will install air source heat pumps and roof insulation. It is projected that these three measures will bring a 59 per cent per cent saving in energy kWh (gas and electricity).

The funding for the decarbonisation work has been provided from Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme which is delivered by Salix Finance on behalf of the government. The scheme is run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. It is aimed at tackling emissions from heating public sector buildings, aid a green recovery and support the UK's 2050 net zero target and clean growth goals.

£1.2 million boost for local infrastructure

Over the last six months, we have invested over £1.2 million in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations.

Investments have ranged from public art and flood defences to bus service improvements.

As the local planning authority, we collect financial contributions in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – this is the funding from housing developers to support the growth of the district when new developments are created.

S106 funding approved towards community projects between 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 has totalled £251,580. During this six-month period we have also transferred £960,503 of CIL to town and parish councils that have experienced CIL liable development in their area.

Find out more about [CIL here](#) and [S106 here](#). If you have any questions please email infrastructureclaims@southandvale.gov.uk

Wallingford bathing

The bathing season in England has started, and this means that from 15 May, regular tests will be carried out on water samples from the River Thames at Wallingford throughout the summer.

Since Wallingford Beach was designated as a bathing water area last year, the Environment Agency is obliged to take weekly water samples from the site during bathing season (15 May – 30 September), test them for two types of bacteria (both of which can cause serious illness, including vomiting and fever) and publish the results within a few days.

South Oxfordshire District Council has installed a new noticeboard at the site, and this will display information about the bathing water site including details of how to find the test results. This allows swimmers and other river users to make informed choices about how they can safely enjoy the river at Wallingford.

At the end of each bathing season the Environment Agency then gives a classification depending on the results of that year. Bathing water sites can be classified as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor', based on the analysis of levels of the bacteria, E. coli and intestinal Enterococci, found in the samples.

Following testing during its first season in 2024, Wallingford Beach was classified by the Environment Agency as 'poor'. Analysis of the samples showed that there were high levels of bacteria on two occasions during the weekly testing over the five months of testing.

A poor bathing water classification means the water at a designated bathing site has not met the minimum standards set by the Bathing Water Regulations. It indicates a potential health risk for people who bathe in the water, and sites with this classification, such as Wallingford, are marked with a sign advising against bathing. This does not mean that bathing is banned, sites remain open for people to enjoy as they choose to. River users are always advised to check up to date data sources to help understand the current water quality and, links to these data sources have been provided on the new sign.

Summer fun comes to Riverside

The Riverside Park and Pools which is owned by South Oxfordshire District Council and managed by their leisure contractors GLL are open, kicking off a summer of fun for families and fans of outdoor swimming in South Oxfordshire.

The Riverside campsite is also open to welcome campers for the new season. The site has seen some exciting upgrades since last year, including new accessible mooring and associated paths and ramps, a new Changing Places accessible bathroom - providing better accessibility to all Riverside visitors including wheelchair users .

The pool will offer popular activities such as aqua aerobics, swim for fitness, adult and children swimming lessons, swimming Dr sessions and more.

Following the success of last year's event, Riverside will once again host the 'End of Season Dog Swim', where dogs can take a splash in the pool accompanied by their owners.

The splash pad will be available to use daily from 9am to 6pm until early September.

The pool will be open from 7am to 6pm weekdays and 9am to 6pm at weekends.

The campsite can be booked via the Better UK website and bookings for the pool will open 7 days before for members and 5 days for non-members.

Bookings can be made via the Better UK app and [Better website](#).

Summer at Cornerstone Arts Centre

Join the team at Cornerstone for a night of timeless glamour and unforgettable music with the Cutting Edge Big Band on 20 June, a sensational 16-piece ensemble complete with vocalists, bringing the golden age of swing to life.

From smooth, romantic ballads to high-energy dance numbers, this is a celebration of the iconic sounds of the 1930s and '40s.

Tickets available now on the [Cornerstone website](#).

ATTACHMENT 3:

Title County Councillor's Report

Author Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith

Parishes Cholsey East Hagbourne, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Moulsoford, North Moreton, South Moreton, West Hagbourne

Date June 2025

Contact Details johnny.hope-smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

I am honoured to have been elected as County Councillor for the Cholsey and Hagbournes Division. Thank you to everyone who supported me, whether by voting, volunteering, or sharing your concerns and hopes for our communities. I look forward to collaborating with residents, parish councils, and local organisations to bring about positive change and ensure your voices are heard at Oxfordshire County Council.

Here are some updates and news I have gathered for you. Please provide any feedback, if its too much or not enough and of course any more information on a specific topic I can help with.

Best wishes,
Johnny

1. Local Government Reorganization

The County Council has submitted a bid for a single Oxfordshire-wide unitary authority which contrasts with the view of SODC which is working on a proposal for a 'Ridgway Council' comprising South Oxon, Vale of Whitehorse and West Berkshire. Both those proposals are in line with government's white paper on viable options so it will be up to the Secretary of State (Jim McMahon) to choose.

There are pros and cons to each of those, and I support the inclusion of both bids.

There is a 3rd option with a unitary city on expanded boundaries as well as northern and southern unitaries, also including West Berkshire.

For this month Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is initiating resident engagement on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) starting June 2025. This is to raise awareness based on the Government's White Paper. Residents will be directed to OCC FAQs and dedicated website for more information.

Further detailed discussions will take place between the councils so that final proposals can be submitted by 28 November 2025. The government will then decide what form of unitarization will take place in Oxfordshire.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution>

2. Green Accolades and Recycling

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has been recognized as the top-performing county council in the UK for tackling climate change for the second consecutive year. This achievement is based on Climate Emergency UK's (CEUK) 2025 climate action scorecard.

The council's response includes initiatives in training, engagement, transport, waste management, the built environment, and nature recovery. OCC aims to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to help Oxfordshire achieve carbon neutrality in the 2040s.

Recent Projects: Installation of energy-efficient LED streetlighting, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 70% and saving £75m in energy costs over 20 years.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-tops-climate-table/>

<https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/scoring/county/>

3. Resurfacing Plans 25/26

Oxfordshire County Council is launching a £7.4 million road resurfacing programme this spring, aiming to improve nearly 100 roads across the county. The initiative, running from 22 April to Late June 2025, will involve surface dressing treatments to over one million square metres of carriageway. This preventive maintenance approach is designed to extend the lifespan of roads and enhance driving conditions. The council emphasises the importance of this work in maintaining road quality and urges motorists to stay informed about upcoming works and to drive cautiously in treated areas.

The method offers many advantages, including:

- ☐ Sealing the road surface to keep out water, one of the major causes of deterioration and potholes.
- ☐ Reducing the deterioration of the road surface.
- ☐ Restoring the necessary level of skid resistance to reduce skid-related traffic collisions.
- ☐ Enabling worn out road surfaces to last longer, increasing the time before structural maintenance is required.
- ☐ Maximising the cost effectiveness of limited highway maintenance budgets.
- ☐ Minimising traffic disruption and congestion as large areas of roads – up to 100,000 square metres – can be treated in a single day.

□ The work is highly weather dependent and cannot be completed in wet conditions.

Updated details about the programme, including a map showing where and when the work will be taking place, will be available on Oxfordshire County Council's website

https://oxfordshire.highway-iams.uk/Live/PBLC_ANON/PIP/?cg=scheme

4. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Oxfordshire is developing its first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to restore and enhance the county's natural environment. This initiative, part of a national effort under the Environment Act 2021, aims to map out key areas for biodiversity improvement and outline actions to support wildlife, improve air and water quality, and mitigate climate change impacts.

The strategy is being shaped collaboratively by Oxfordshire County Council, district councils, Natural England, and local communities. The development process has involved extensive public engagement. Phase 1 (February–March 2024) gathered input from 1,038 participants through workshops, events, and an online survey. Phase 2 (May–June 2024) focused on identifying specific locations for potential habitat restoration. Currently, in Phase 3, draft documents and maps have been published, highlighting priority areas and proposed actions for biodiversity enhancement. Feedback from this phase will inform the final strategy, set to be published by July 2025.

For more information and to view the draft strategy and maps, visit [here](#)

5. School Places

More than nine out of ten Oxfordshire children with applications to start reception year in primary schools across the county have been offered a place at their first choice for the next school year.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/first-choice-primary-school-places-oxfordshire/>

6. Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)

Oxfordshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) is a key strategic document which Oxfordshire County Council as highway authority is required by law to have in place. It sets out how the council can work with others to try and make sure the public rights of way network meets the needs of the public, now and in the future. More information on ROWIPs can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-authority-rights-of-way-improvement-plans>

This is the first consultation of two that are necessary to produce the third RoWIP for Oxfordshire. This is the initial review stage and the views of land managers, local councils and other stakeholders are being sought alongside members of the public, and, taken together, will help officers to write a meaningful and deliverable plan.

7. Oxford Congestion Charge Consultation

OCC approved a 6-week public consultation on a proposed £5 congestion charge for several roads in Oxford. The consultation will begin on Monday, June 23.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/connecting-oxfordshire/temporarycongestion-charge>

This is in advance of the traffic filters which has been delayed due to the Botley road reopening delay to 2026

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/connecting-oxfordshire/oxford-trafficfilters/how-they-will-work>