

EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DULY CONVENED AND HELD ON THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2026

1. ATTENDANCE, APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:

Present were Chair I. Duff, Cllrs R. Avery, P. Dixon, R. Jaboor and C. Shaikh. Vice Chair N. Milner joined the meeting at 19.45 during item 5.h. The order of business was varied by agreement of the Council to enable all councillors to participate in particular agenda items.

Apologies were received from Cllrs C. Gover and D. Rickeard, County Councillor J. Hope-Smith and District Councillor C. Topping.

In attendance was L. Lloyd (Clerk)

2. PUBLIC FORUM AND QUESTIONS: None

3. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: I. Duff confirmed receipt of the County Councillor report (Attachment 1).

4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2026: The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2026 were approved by Council and signed by I. Duff.

5. ITEMS FOR DECISION:

- a) **To consider renewal of the Council's annual subscription to Parish Online digital mapping at a cost of £96.00+VAT:** Councillors approved the renewal of the digital mapping subscription. R. Avery confirmed he would like a councillor login for access.
- b) **Asset register - To approve addition of 2 benches at the recreation ground to the Council's asset register following their installation:** Councillors approved the addition of the two benches at a cost of £349.90 to the asset register.
- d) **To consider options for purchase of a PC printer and approve the preferred option:** The Clerk circulated options for a replacement printer with a recommendation to purchase a Canon Pixma G3590. Councillors approved this option and agreed to the expenditure of £154.99+VAT. The printer will be added to the Council's formal asset register on receipt.
- e) **To consider and determine allotment rent levels from 1 October 2026 following recommendation from the Allotments Management Committee:** A recommendation for a 1p/m² increase had been made by the Allotment Management Committee. Councillors agreed to the increase which will be implemented on 1st October.
- h) **To consider planning applications received since the last meeting:**
 - P26/S1387/HH 57 New Road, East Hagbourne - Front dormer windows and small rear infill extension:** Councillors agreed to post a No Objection response to the planning application. It was noted that neighbours had not been consulted when I. Duff spoke to them; this seems to be a glitch with the new planning software.
- c) **To note the resignation of the Chair of the East Hagbourne Archive Group and to appoint a replacement Chair:** Councillors noted the resignation of Allison Huckle and the intention for a new Chair and additional committee members to take over the group. The group may also be renamed to East Hagbourne Archive and History Group. Councillors agreed that Alison Lane could be asked to talk with other interested people to form a replacement committee. It was noted that there are a substantial number of records in the archive at the village hall and a new enthusiastic group would be most welcome.
- f) **Speed signage - to consider quotations received for the supply of speed signs and:**
 - i) **To determine the preferred supplier(s):** Councillors considered the quotations received. During discussion, it was noted that the quotations were not directly comparable and councillors discussed the implications of Financial Regulation 5.6, including whether a waiver would be required. Councillors agreed that data collection from all speed signs would be essential to maximise the benefits of the project, enabling analysis of changes in vehicle speeds over time and providing valuable information to support the Community Speedwatch team. Councillors also noted that only one quotation provided a complete turnkey solution, including installation of the signs, which it was felt would reduce project risk and minimise uncertainty over installation costs. Having considered the quality, suitability, functionality, value for money, the benefits of selecting a turnkey solution and the County Council's supplier recommendation, councillors identified Westcotec Ltd as the preferred supplier, subject to consideration of f)ii)
 - ii) **To consider whether a waiver of Financial Regulation 5.6 is required and if so, approve the waiver and the reasons for it:** Councillors noted that the project had initially been expected to fall below the quotation threshold in Financial Regulation 5.6. Three suppliers were invited to submit quotations. On receipt of the quotations it became apparent that to fully meet the council's requirements, the contract value would

exceed the threshold and that the quotations were not directly comparable, offering differing specifications, functionality and installation arrangements. Having considered these factors and the reasons recorded under f)i), councillors resolved to waive Financial Regulation 5.6 for this procurement. Councillors were satisfied that the circumstances of this procurement justified a waiver in the interests of securing the most suitable and best value solution for the Council.

iii) To approve proceeding with the procurement and implementation of the speed signs project: Councillors resolved to procure the speed signage from Westcotec Ltd at a cost of £26,812+VAT, and to proceed with the implementation of the project.

iv) To agree a maximum project budget for installation costs and delegate authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Cllr R. Jaboor, to obtain and accept Oxfordshire County Council costs and any necessary installation quotations and to take steps necessary to implement the project within that budget: Councillors approved a maximum budget of £7,500+VAT for the installation of the poles by OCC and delegated authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Cllr R. Jaboor, to obtain and accept Oxfordshire County Council's quotation for installation of the speed signage posts, and to take the steps necessary to implement the project, provided the approved budget is not exceeded.

g) Pavilion Car Park:

i) To ratify expenditure of £245.50 for submission of a full planning application: Following confirmation from planning that the car park resurfacing project required a full planning application, the Lawful Development application was withdrawn and a full planning application was submitted to keep the project moving forward. Councillors ratified the expenditure noting that it should be paid from the Asset Maintenance reserve.

ii) To engage Mike Griffin to supervise the construction work (Phase 4) at the quoted budget figure of £1650.00+VAT, plus additional work as needed up to £1000.00+VAT: Councillors approved the expenditure noting that it should be paid from the Asset Maintenance reserve.

iii) To note progress on the written agreement relating to Phase 4 works: The Clerk has drafted a written agreement and is currently waiting for feedback from Mike Griffin (Glanville). The project dates are now reliant on the planning application.

6. ITEMS FOR REPORT:

a) Recreation Ground and Pavilion: I. Duff reported that EHSRC has reviewed the recreation ground and approached BGG for quotes for ad hoc items including tree trimming and clearance of a boundary area to store goalposts.

b) Cemetery Committee: R. Jaboor confirmed the application for lawful development for the cemetery drainage is being submitted this week, following some corrections to the project specification document. The next Cemetery Committee meeting will be in early July.

c) Employment Committee: To acknowledge receipt of the Clerk's Annual Appraisal Report: Councillors acknowledged receipt of the report.

d) Butts Piece Allotments: See item 5.e)

e) Community Speedwatch and Traffic Monitoring: See item 5.f). It was noted that it is still proving difficult to recruit volunteers.

f) Public Art Projects: The Clerk confirmed that the initial installment of S106 funds for the Sculpture project has now been received, and arrangements are being made with Alex Wenham to meet at the location next week. Linda Benton has confirmed the artwork for the Bus Shelter is nearly complete and wording has been discussed to recognise the artist and funding source. After a long discussion over the length of the text and the perception of how the artwork was funded, it was agreed to confirm with Abi Brown about exact wording and credits that should be included. The preferred version at the end of the discussion was *Commissioned by East Hagbourne Parish Council in 2026 using Public Art Funds from South Oxfordshire District Council. By Artist Linda Benton.*

Julie Grose has agreed to store the recreation ground gates until after the car park works are complete.

g) Flood Management: The Clerk confirmed that the channel clearance and tree removal along footpath 19 has been included in OCC's funded projects list. It has been confirmed that the Parish Council wishes to proceed and the Clerk is currently seeking quotes for Ecology Surveys (OCC have confirmed the survey costs should be covered by their fund). C. Shaikh reported that a drain channel at the church was almost overflowing earlier this week and cleared by a dog walker with a stick – active flood management at its best. R. Avery confirmed that East Hagbourne is now considered higher risk and is included on an annual scheme for drain clearance which is very positive news.

h) Matters raised at the Chairman's Surgery and OALC Councillor's Forum: I. Duff reported on the following:

Chairman's surgery held on 5th June:

- Discussion with Alison Lane about the future of the Archive Group (see also item 5.c)
- Suggestion to install heritage/history information boards in addition to the proposed nature/biodiversity boards
- Concerns raised regarding vehicle speeds on New Road and the condition of the 'SLOW' road markings

- Post Office Closure – potential representations to Government ministers
- Enquiry on progress with the Causeway footpath, and comments made on recent improvements to Shoe Lane footpath (it was a big improvement but would have benefited from a more complete resurfacing)

OALC Councillor's Hour held on 9th June:

- Malcolm Smith of ONPA was the guest speaker, focused on Neighbourhood Plans.
- Discussion included the review and refresh of existing plans and future alignment with NPPF.
- I. Duff left the meeting early, but asked for details of any further matters discussed (none noted).

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

I. Duff noted the following correspondence

- Footpath 12 (Church Lane end) – Conversations are ongoing with the landowners about the extent of the lane that might be resurfaced. It has been confirmed that full width resurfacing could not be done at PC cost, so further conversation is required with the landowners to ascertain the best solution to complete this path.
- Bus stops - There is ongoing discussion between Joy Napper and OCC regarding possible new bus stops in the village as the stop and drop option has been deemed dangerous. New stops at The Crescent on New Road, opposite Higgs Close, Parsonage Lane and possibly by the school are still under consideration.
- Didcot Garden Town – Plans for improvements along NCN44, including replacing a bench by the Footpath 6 junction, NE of the Butts Piece wooded area, and Wayfinding signage.
- Road Closures – The Clerk noted that it has been difficult to share accurate information on the two road closures in the village, particularly due to the limited information given on the Main Road closure for drainage jetting which starts tomorrow. The dual signage is also confusing residents.
- Correspondence received regarding Climate resilience and in particular, possible tree planting for the pavilion car park - D. Rickeard noted ahead of the meeting that the parish council should consider climate resilience, particularly in the context of high temperatures, in its future plans and decisions. The call for more immediate action to plant trees for shade to the side or within the car park is not immediately practical due to the location of soakaways on the N and W sides of the car park, and the space and construction of the car park prevent any planting within it.

8. 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
Hobs Reprographics	S2013PRF26050002 Annual Parish Meeting printing costs	CG / DR	£32.61	£6.52	£39.13	18/05/2026
ONPA	Membership 2026/27	CG / DR	£50.00	£0.00	£50.00	18/05/2026
Dark White Digital	DWD-INV-002182 Web Hosting May 2026	DR / CG	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	18/05/2026
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV 10201 Dog and General Waste Bin Collections April 2026	DR / CG	£201.49	£40.30	£241.79	18/05/2026
EHSRC	INV126-26 Community Room Hire 16th April 2026	DR / CG	£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	18/05/2026
Glanville	INV51779 Pavilion Car Park Consultation Phase 3 - Tender	DR / CG	£850.00	£170.00	£1,020.00	18/05/2026
BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd	INV26104 Parish and Cemetery Cuts April 2026	DR / CG	£555.00	£111.00	£666.00	18/05/2026
Carolyn Shaikh	Expenses - APM refreshments	DR / CG	£26.29	£5.26	£31.55	18/05/2026
Robin Jaboor	Expenses - APM refreshments	DR / CG	£112.50	£22.50	£135.00	18/05/2026
Laura Lloyd	Expenses - Printer cartridges and stationery	DR / CG	£56.66	£11.33	£67.99	18/05/2026
PATAS	INV IA/0249/2 End of Year Internal Audit	DR / CG	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	18/05/2026
The Parish Noticeboard Company	INV 12651 Community Shop and New Road noticeboards 50% DEP	DR / CG	£1,107.50	£221.50	£1,329.00	18/05/2026
Grundon Waste Management	PSI-1489248 Cemetery Bin Collections April 2026	DD	£60.15	£12.03	£72.18	22/05/2026
Laura Lloyd	May Salary & WFH Allowance	DR / CG	£978.48	£0.00	£978.48	29/05/2026

Scribe Accounting	INV 19346 Accounting software monthly fee	DD	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	01/06/2026
Unity Trust Bank	Bank Service Charge	Automatic Payment	£10.15	£0.00	£10.15	01/06/2026
Home Start Southern Oxfordshire	S137 Grant	CG / RJ	£110.00	£0.00	£110.00	05/06/2026
PWLB	Loan Repayment 505533	DD	£2,461.17	£0.00	£2,461.17	08/06/2026
Noel Carter	EHPC BENCHES MAY26 - Installation of 2 x benches at the recreation ground	RJ / CG	£539.96	£0.00	£539.96	08/06/2026
The Planning Portal	PP-14980268-V1 - Pavilion Car Park Full Planning Application	RJ / CG	£245.50	£0.00	£245.50	08/06/2026
Dark White Digital	DWD-INV-002210 Web Hosting June 2026	RJ / CG	£30.00	£0.00	£30.00	08/06/2026
Nest Pensions	Monthly pension contributions	DD	£66.55	£0.00	£66.55	09/06/2026
BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd	INV 26243 May Parish and Cemetery cuts	RJ / CG	£395.00	£79.00	£474.00	17/09/2026
EHSRC	INV135-26 Community Room Hire 14 May		£25.00	£0.00	£25.00	
Shield Maintenance Ltd	INV10320 Dog and General Waste Bin Collections May 2026		£223.17	£44.63	£267.80	
SCS Oxon Ltd	INV SB966 Footpath 30 and Footpath 9 resurfacing works plus additional FP4 slope		£7,477.00	£1,495.40	£8,972.40	
The Parish Noticeboard Company	INV 12651 Community Shop and New Road noticeboards 50% Balance		£1,107.50	£221.50	£1,329.00	
OALC	INV 6408 Roles and Responsibilities (New Councillor training for R. Avery)		£125.00	£25.00	£150.00	
Laura Lloyd	June Salary & WFH Allowance		£978.48	£0.00	£978.48	

2) Receipts since last meeting:

From	Item	Amount	Date
SODC	S106 Sculpture Project 1st Funding Installment	£2,000.00	29/05/2026
NatWest Bank	Interest May 2026	£174.11	29/05/2026
Nationwide	Interest May 2026	£102.47	29/05/2026
Redwood Bank	Interest May 2026	£250.92	31/05/2026
Robin Jaboor	Invoice 5 - APM Surplus Wine buyback	£30.00	05/06/2026
	Total	£2,557.50	

3) Transfers since the last meeting:

From	To	Amount	Date
Redwood Bank	Unity Trust T1 Account (monthly automatic transfer)	£242.83	31/05/2026

4) Accumulated Account Balances (reconciled online 17/06/2026)

Unity Trust Bank - T1 current account	£19,080.03
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	£83,305.73
Natwest - Liquidity Manager 95 Day Notice Account	<u>£88,892.69</u>
Total	<u>£328,337.68</u>

5) The Special Project Balances (as of 17/06/2026) are:

Community Infrastructure Levy Fund	Received 28/04/23 so requires spending by 27/04/28	£9,159.28
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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	<u>£8,330.18</u>
Total CIL money	£243,671.99
Community Projects Reserve Fund	£0.00
Planned Development Support Fund	£5,303.15
Cemetery Fund	£10,328.71
Climate and Biodiversity Reserve	£2,500.00
Reactive Works and Emergency Response Reserve	£4,000.00
Asset Maintenance Reserve	£2,591.64
Election Reserve	£1,000.00
S106 Funds	<u>£10,200.00</u>
Total	<u>£279,595.49</u>
6) General Reserve (as of 17/06/2026)	<u>£48,742.19</u>

b) Review and approval of pending payments: The Council reviewed the pending payments. It was noted that that the addition of a tarmac slope to access FP4 at Wilcher Close had been approved by the Clerk and Chair using delegated authority while the SCS Oxon Ltd team were on site completing the planned resurfacing of FP30 and FP9. The extent of the works at FP9 have been discussed with the contractor and it was confirmed that patching works look less impressive for the time taken than full path resurfacing. Councillors approved all payments without minuted/regular payment approval.

9. ITEMS FOR REPORT AND INCLUSION ON THE JULY AGENDA

Items for consideration for the July agenda must be received by the Clerk no later than Wednesday 8th July 2026. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 16th July 2026 at the Pavilion, Great Mead.

Meeting closed at 21.14pm

Signed _____ Date _____

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 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. 29/05/2026 Works on FP30 and FP9 plus installation of ramp for FP4 access at Wilcher Close carried out over the half term break
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) 18/06/2026 OCC Flood project funding confirmed for channel clearance and tree removal along FP19
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:

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	JUNE 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



Renewable Energy Consultation – Community Funding Opportunity

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council has launched a consultation on a new policy for Community Benefit Contributions (CBC) and Community Shared Ownership (CSO) linked to renewable energy projects.
- The policy aims to ensure local communities directly benefit from developments such as solar farms and battery storage.
- For host communities, this could mean annual, index-linked payments for 20 to 40 years into a locally controlled fund.
- For projects under 10MW, 100% of funding would stay within the local community.
- Parish and community groups would help decide how funds are spent through a Community Action Plan.
- There are already 25+ renewable projects in the Oxfordshire pipeline, potentially generating over £20 million in community benefit funding by 2030

What Parishes Can Do

- Respond to the consultation and encourage residents to do the same:
 - Consider how your parish could use long-term funding (e.g. facilities, climate projects, transport, community services).
 - Engage early if renewable schemes are proposed locally to ensure your parish secures its share of funding.
 - Begin thinking about local priorities that could form the basis of a future Community Action Plan.
- <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cbc-and-cso-in-oxfordshire>

Road Safety – Oxfordshire Leads Regional Reduction in Casualties

Key Details

- New data shows Oxfordshire is leading the region in reducing road casualties, with a downward trend in serious injuries and fatalities.

- The figures reflect the impact of a range of measures including 20mph schemes, road safety improvements and targeted interventions.
- Reductions have been seen across different road users, including drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.
- The progress aligns with the council's wider aim to improve road safety and create safer, more liveable communities.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the positive trend locally to build support for road safety initiatives such as 20mph limits.
- Encourage residents to continue reporting safety concerns or hazardous locations.
- Support local measures that improve safety, including speed awareness, signage and community campaigns.
- Feed in local concerns about speeding or dangerous junctions to inform future improvements

Link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9d3z2n2n5zo>

INFO/REMINDER - Highways Maintenance Updates & Resources

- Oxfordshire County Council continues its programme of highways maintenance, including surface dressing, grass cutting, gully cleaning and pothole repairs.
- Dedicated webpages and portals are available for each activity, providing latest schedules, updates and communications materials for parishes.

What Parishes Can Do

Share relevant updates with residents using the official pages:

- Surface dressing: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks/how-we-maintain-our-roads/surface-dressing>
- Grass cutting: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks/how-we-maintain-our-roads/grass-cutting>
- Gully cleaning: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks/how-we-maintain-our-roads/cleaning-drains-and-gullies>

INFO - Leadership Change – New Leader and Cabinet Reshuffle

Key Details

- Cllr Tim Bearder has been appointed as the new Leader of Oxfordshire County Council.
- Following this appointment, there has been a reshuffle of Cabinet roles and responsibilities.
- The Leader sets the council's overall direction and priorities, with Cabinet members taking responsibility for key service areas.
- While services continue as normal, the reshuffle may shape future policy focus and decision making.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdpxjnydxeno>

REMINDER - Water Safety – Summer Safety Message

- Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging residents to stay safe around open water, particularly during warm weather.
- Open water (rivers, lakes, quarries) can be extremely dangerous, with risks including cold water shock, strong currents and hidden hazards.
- Several serious incidents and deaths have already been reported nationally and locally during recent hot weather.
- Young people are particularly at risk, especially during the summer holidays.

If someone is in trouble in the water, remember "Phone, Float, Throw"

- Phone 999

- Encourage them to float on their back
- Throw something to help them stay afloat
- **What Parishes Can Do**

- Share this safety message widely via parish newsletters, social media and noticeboards.

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>