

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 17th April 2025

Present: Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Peter Rose, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Liz Yuille, RFO Clifford Bosley, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, County Cllr Pete Sudbury.

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk).

Chairman Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Cllr Yuille for chairing meetings in his absence..

2025/057 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ian Burton.

2025/058 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Cllr Bolton reported that resident Les Ormonde had asked who owns the lay-by next to Bodkins as a car has been parked there for several days. It was suggested that it is probably owned by the PC. Cllr Bolton agreed to notify the police of the car's presence.

2025/059 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

2025/060 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2025.

2025/061 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

2025/062 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Casey-Rerhaye reported:

1. The new Garden Waste Permit Scheme is going well.
2. The Joint Local Plan is with the inspectors and the inquiry is expected in June.
3. Much of the council's time is being spent on the Local Government reorganisation. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse have submitted a proposal for a new unitary council that would see the areas combined with West Berkshire. It would be called Ridgeway Council. West Oxfordshire, Oxford City and Cherwell would make up a second unitary council. Oxfordshire Council favours one unitary council for the whole of the county.

2025/063 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Sudbury reported:

1. He will recommend a review of the county council's role in the Community Hub project.
2. He is in favour of a single unitary council for Oxfordshire as it is the least complex proposal.
3. When he ceases to be a councillor, he will continue working behind the scenes on climate control and particularly flood prevention.

2025/064 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P25/S0796/HH The Old Bakery High Street Long Wittenham
P25/S0918/DIS The Clock House Long Wittenham

NSV
NRR



2025/065 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Rose reported that, following the departure of Thomas Homes from the project, the three developers that had been recommended were approached to take it on but they have refused as they do not believe it is financially viable.

A meeting is planned with a Development Advisor with a view to finding a solution and Cllr Rose has discussed the issue with the CEO of the Academy Trust who will take it up with the primary school at the governors' meeting next week.

The S106 is progressing, but owing to the lack of a developer, Roberts Weavers' land agent has not yet engaged a solicitor. It is hoped that the S106 can be completed so that the project has full planning consent.

Cllr Brown said that after the county council elections he will talk to the Education lead on the council to ask why the school has to be so costly.

Cllrs Rose and Brown will write a post for the website explaining the situation and making it public.

The council expressed its thanks to Cllr Rose for all his work on the project and Cllr Rose thanked Cllr Sudbury for his help and support.

2025/066 ACKLINGS PLAYGROUND

Cllr Rose reported that a recent site visit had agreed all the details with Jupiter. The equipment is expected to be delivered by the end of the month and work will start in May. The installation will take four to six weeks and be completed by the Summer holidays. Having secured grants from both SODC and FCC, there is a £5,000 contingency fund for any 'extras' required such as new fencing for the Woodland Adventure site.

The council gave a vote of thanks to Cllr Rose for all his hard work and patience with the grant organisations.

2025/067 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN PERMISSIVE PATH

Cllr Thompson has applied for a grant from the OCC Flood Authority Priority Action Flood Project to fund improvements to the verge from Home Farm to the ramp. The response is awaited. It was agreed that in the meantime he should seek quotations for the necessary work from contractors.

2025/068 SIDs / HIGH STREET CHICANES

Cllr Corney needs to have a discussion with the Community Speedwatch team so that he can provide a specific proposal, identifying which type of SID would be appropriate along with costs, and the locations for the mounting poles.

2025/069 FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES REVIEW

There had been a number of comments from residents about the 95 bus service in response to the appeal on the website. It was agreed that the clerk should forward them to OCC for consideration as part of its review.

Actions:	Clerk to forward bus review comments to OCC.
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2025/070 ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The chairman reminded councillors that he will not be standing as chair at the annual parish council meeting in May. As well as electing a new chairman, it would be beneficial if a vice chairman could also be elected with a view to them taking on the chairman role at some point in the future.

The clerk will be circulating the PC's core documents in advance of the meeting at which they will need to be approved by the council.

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2025/071 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

2025/072 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Bodkins Entrance Gate Post
Cllr Bolton reported that one of the gate posts at the entrance to Bodkins Playground has rotted and needs to be replaced. Cllr Thompson offered to get a quotation for this from the contractor that installed the permissive path gates.
- War Memorial Flag Pole
The chairman had circulated details and costs for this prior to the meeting. The estimated cost is £407 plus VAT. Approved.
- Headington Boathouse
The council noted that the entrance to the Headington School Boathouse has still yet to be finished. The clerk was asked to ask for an update from the school's bursar.

Actions: Cllr Thompson to seek a quotation for the Bodkins gate post replacement.
Clerk to contact the Headington School Bursar about the boathouse gates.

2025/073 FINANCIAL REPORT

- The RFO had circulated the 2024-25 Final Accounts by email before the meeting. Approved and signed by the chairman.
- The RFO and Clerk will be collating the required 2024-25 documents over the next couple of weeks for submission to the internal auditor.
- The RFO had circulated the 2025-26 Budget by email before the meeting. Approved.
- Income during March

05/03/2025	SODC CIL Drawdown (Permissive Path Gates)	£2,950.00
12/03/2025	SODC Acklings Grant (part 1)	£32,210.00
	March Income Total	£35,160.00
- Expenditure during March

06/03/2025	OALC Inv L00186-2025-1 (Membership)	£300.00
06/03/2025	Xplosive Group Ltd Inv INV-11430 (Village Bonfire Night)	£2,375.00
06/03/2025	FCC Recycling (UK) Ltd Ref CF-2700 (Acklings Grant)	£3,116.91
11/03/2025	Bosley Expenses (Stationery & Litter Pick)	£50.29
11/03/2025	RFO's Salary March 2025	£457.60
11/03/2025	Clerk's Salary March 2025	£358.25
18/03/2025	Community 1st Inv 718 (Membership)	£55.00
18/03/2025	Bank Service Charge	£4.25
28/03/2025	SODC Inv 10390655 (Dog Bins)	£515.23
28/03/2025	Community Heatbeat Inv 25766 (Phone Box Defib Supt)	£162.00
31/03/2025	Jupiter Play & Leisure Ltd Inv 21925 (Acklings Deposit)	£20,000.00
31/03/2025	Plainlaw Solicitors Inv 9258 (Community Hub)	£3,663.00
31/03/2025	Brown Expenses (Permissive Path)	£345.45
	March Expenditure Total	£31,402.98

2025/074 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

Meeting Closed at 8:45pm.



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Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th May 2025

Signed: 

Date: 15/5/25