

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 18th September 2025

Present: Chairman Liz Yuille, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr Steve Brown, Cllr Ian Burton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Mark Thompson, RFO Clifford Bosley, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, County Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith.

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk) and 4 members of the public.

Chairman Yuille welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2025/141 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2025/142 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllrs Bolton and Burton declared their interest in Long Wittenham Athletic Club and Cllr Yuille for planning application P25/S2775/FUL.

2025/143 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2025/144 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2025.

2025/145 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.

2025/146 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Casey-Rerhaye's report for September, sent by email, is attached in appendix A.

2025/147 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hope-Smith's report for September, sent by email, is attached in appendix B.

Cllr Brown asked both councillors to do what they can to get both district and county officers to provide prompt feedback to Pye Homes (see section 2025/149 below).

2025/148 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P25/S2004/DIS	Land to the north east of Didcot Didcot	NRR
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P25/S2547/HH	26 Saxons Heath Long Wittenham	NSV
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P25/S2775/HH	Mouldens High Street Long Wittenham	
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- Cllr Brown raised concerns that, although the garage is not in the conservation area, it would have an adverse effect on the area. Resident Dom Jarman said that the design of the garage could be more sympathetic to its surroundings. It was agreed to revisit the application once the concerns have been put to the applicant.

Actions:	Cllr Burton to discuss the council's concerns over application P25/S2775/HH with the applicant. Cllr Thompson to ask SODC if the effect on the conservation area will carry any weight with the planning committee.
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2025/149 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Brown had circulated a summary of the current status of the Hub by email. Pye Homes from Kidlington feel that with some adjustments, they may be able to come up with a revised proposal that will be financially successful. Pye are working on this and hope to have a workable project within a few months. Cllr Brown, Cllr Yuille



and the Clerk have a virtual meeting with Pye Homes scheduled for 30th September to review the progress to date.

2025/150 ACKLINGS PLAYGROUND

This is finished apart from:

- 12 trees need to be planted over the Winter. Cllr Bolton will get quotes. This will have to come out of the PC's funds. It was suggested that the cost could be mitigated with a 'sponsor a tree' scheme. Claire Michellis has volunteers to help with the planting.
- Table Tennis Table. This would also have to come from PC funds so it was suggested deferring the purchase until next year. Agreed.

Actions: Cllr Bolton to seek quotes for the trees at Acklings playground.

2025/151 LONG WITTENHAM TO CLIFTON HAMPDEN PERMISSIVE PATH

Cllr Thompson reported that a problem with the gates not self-closing has been fixed. Quotes for the improvement of the verge from Lower Farm to the Buxton land are still awaited. These are needed before applying for grants.

Resident Richard May asked if the traffic lights on this side of Clifton Hampden Bridge could be moved to before the corner as this would be safer. Such changes would have to be implemented by OCC, but Cllr Yuille said that she would approach the new Clifton Hampden parish council for their views once they have been in post for a while.

2025/152 HIGH STREET CHICANES / SIDs

The High Street chicanes consultation had yielded 38 responses which was disappointing with 762 residents on the electoral roll. Of these, 19 were in favour of immediate removal, with the other 19 against, wanting to wait, or were not specific in their views. With such a small response it was agreed to defer any removal until the outcomes of the HIF project and the Community Hub are more certain. It was also agreed that this was not a good time to be spending a significant portion of the PC's CIL funds as these might be needed to make the Community Hub project viable. The Clerk and Cllr Yuille agreed to draft a website post for circulation.

Cllr Corney reported that a grant application had been made to the Thames Valley Police Community Fund to finance the SIDs. If the PC contributes 20% of the costs (£1.3k), there is an increased likelihood of funding. Agreed.

Actions: Clerk and chairman to draft website post about the High Street chicanes consultation for circulation.

2025/153 PARISH CLERK / RFO RECRUITMENT

Cllr Yuille had been informed of a possible RFO who has yet to make contact. Cllr Corney said that a fully qualified Clerk/RFO may be interested. He will pursue this.

2025/154 COUNCILLOR ROSE RESIGNATION

After 13 years service, Cllr Rose resigned from the PC on 18th August. There was discussion about how to cover the various projects in which he has been involved: Community Hub: This will be covered by Cllr Brown, Cllr Yuille and the Clerk whilst Pye works on a revised plan.

Neighbourhood Plan: There was discussion as to whether NDPs now carry any weight, but it was agreed that the current NDP should be revised as soon as possible to ensure that any benefits to the village will be continued. Cllrs Thompson



and Corney agreed take this on and look at options. The Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance (ONPA) may be useful and Cllr Hope-Smith suggested contacting the Clerk of Cholsey Parish Council as they had just finished revising their NDP.

Village Hall Committee (VHC): Cllr Bolton volunteered to be the council's representative.

SODC has been advised of Cllr Rose's departure and it should be possible to co-opt a replacement councillor from 29th September. Councillors were urged to identify residents who might be interested.

It was suggested that Cllr Rose's service with the PC might be commemorated by dedicating one of the new trees to be planted at Acklins to him. It was also suggested that a personal gift such as a bottle of wine might be appropriate. Cllr Brown volunteered to sound him out.

2025/155 RoSPA PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORTS

Cllr Yuille had circulated her summary of this year's RoSPA playground reports. The major issue is the swings at Bodkins which were identified as unsafe. They have been taken down. Three playground companies were asked to provide quotes for replacement and Creative Play were the cheapest. They were met on-site at the end of July by Cllr Yuille and Bolton and they have quoted approximately £7,500. This may be reduced if we remove the existing structure and provide security fencing. It had been suggested that one of the four seats be a 'Tango' seat. This will cost an additional £1,200. Cllr Yuille will be applying for a grant from the District Councillor Community Fun to finance this. The RFO advised that whatever the final cost of the swings, it will have to come out of CIL funds. Agreed.

The minor maintenance issues identified by the RoSPA report and the PC weekly playground checks will be considered at next month's PC meeting.

2025/156 CLERK/RFO SALARY INCREASES

Cllr Brown reported that NALC had advised that the Clerk and RFO salaries should be increased by 3.5% this year. Their salaries have been adjusted accordingly. Approved.

2025/157 ABINGDON RESERVOIR

Cllr Corney advised that GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) is trying to persuade parish councils to join their opposition to the Abingdon Reservoir. It was suggested that councillors have a look at the GARD and Thames Valley Water websites to evaluate the cases for and against the reservoir so that the PC can adopt a position at the next meeting.

2025/158 INSURANCE RENEWAL

Cllr Yuille had circulated the details of this year's insurance renewal from Clear Council. The cost is £883.49 (incl IPT). Approved.

Actions:	Clerk to renew the insurance with Clear Council.
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2025/159 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr Bolton advised that the Brownies and Rainbows are now using the clubhouse at LWAC and that three rallies are booked for next year.

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2025/160 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Cllr Brown advised that the footpath by the noticeboard at the end of Fieldside is prone to flooding. This can be fixed with gravel at a cost of £50-£100. Approved.

2025/161 FINANCIAL REPORT

- The RFO had circulated a report showing the various options for funding current projects such as the swings at Bodkins, and the trees and table tennis table at Acklings.
- CIL Funds held by SODC
Every 6 months, the council is asked to confirm that SODC should continue to hold the council's CIL funds on its behalf. Confirmed.
- Income during July

02/07/2025	HMRC (VAT Repayment)	£16,492.75
03/07/2025	OCC (Verge Cutting Grant)	£857.21
18/07/2025	SODC (Acklings Grant Part 2)	£7,085.00
24/07/2024	FCC Communities Fund (Acklings Grant Part 3)	£18,837.00
July Income Total		£43,271.96
- Expenditure during July

08/07/2025	Jupiter Play & Leisure Ltd Inv 4265 (Part Payment)	£24,000.00
01/07/2025	Rose Expenses (Acklings Opening Refreshments)	£37.07
02/07/2025	Logs Unlimited Inv 250129	£1,818.00
08/07/2025	Bosley Expenses (Payroll)	£241.92
08/07/2025	Bosley Expenses (Stationery)	£32.85
10/07/2025	Clerk's Salary July 2025	£350.45
21/07/2025	Bank Service Charge	£4.67
22/07/2025	Grant 023 Long Wittenham School Association	£1,000.00
24/07/2025	Playsafety Ltd Inv 90848 (RoSPA Inspections)	£201.60
25/07/2025	Jupiter Play & Leisure Ltd Inv 4265 (Final Payment)	£29,232.00
July Expenditure Total		£56,918.56
- Income during August

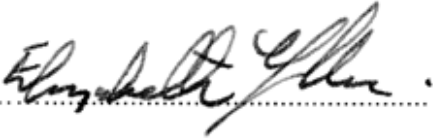
13/08/2025	FCC Communities Fund (Acklings Grant Part 4)	£803.00
28/08/2025	SODC (Acklings Grant Part 3)	£2,288.00
August Income Total		£3,091.00
- Expenditure during August

05/08/2025	Logs Unlimited Inv 250174	£1,383.60
07/08/2025	Brown Expenses (Acklings Upgrade)	£589.90
12/08/2025	Jim Brown Inv 1019 (Acklings Picnic Tables)	£161.00
12/08/2025	Clerk's Salary August 2025	£405.40
18/08/2025	Moore Inv 332698 (Audit)	£252.00
19/08/2025	Bank Service Charge	£4.25
29/08/2025	Logs Unlimited Inv 250196 (Acklings Fence)	£3,868.80
August Expenditure Total		£6,664.95

Meeting Closed at 9:30pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th October 2025



Signed: 

Date: 16/10/25

APPENDIX A

District Councillor Report September 2025

Councillor Community Grants

The Councillor Community Grant scheme is now open for applications. If there's a community project near you that could do with a boost, please tell them about this. I have £7,500 to give out to groups across the ward.

The deadline for applications is midday 5 December and more information can be found on the **grants pages on our website**. The grants team are also very happy to speak to people who want more information or to find out if a project is likely suitable.

We've also created a poster which can be downloaded and put up around your wards to help spread the news! Scan here:



New phone number for waste inquiries

From 8th September, residents should use a new number for district council waste and recycling enquiries: 01235 422 123.

The previous number (03000 610 610) is being phased out and will be switched off soon.

01235 422 123 is **the new number is for all household waste, recycling, food, garden waste (collections only*), bulky waste collections, clinical waste collections and street cleaning services**. It is also the number to call to report fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

*For queries about garden waste permits, residents should continue to call 01235 422 422.

For enquiries relating to Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC's), please continue to contact the county council on 0345 310 1111.

Planning service update

Earlier this year, the council carried out a major piece of planned essential maintenance work on the council's IT system. The work affected the availability of many of the council's online services. The majority of our online services returned to normal in July, however, the planning team has been impacted for a longer period and unfortunately, they still have a backlog of planning applications. The team is currently unable to offer a full level of service to residents and customers but are phasing the reintroduction of services.



At present they are working approximately two weeks behind the standard time for processing planning applications. I am pleased to confirm they have resumed offering a pre-application advice service in connection with major planning application work; for non-major pre application work, this will be reviewed again by 15 September.

I would like to thank you all for your patience during what has been a challenging time during a complex change to the IT systems.

Give your views the new Licensing Act Policy

There are changes planned to the Council's policy which determines how licensing decisions are taken and how licensed premises can operate in our district. The proposed updated Licensing Act Policy includes new references to: Martyn's Law, the Ask for Angela scheme and promoting initiatives for women and girls' safety; and updated guidance on staff training about safeguarding and evacuation and emergency procedures.

You can find out more and have your say via our consultation page. Comments are open until 16 October.

Annual Elector Canvass

The electoral register annual canvass is the requirement to contact residents each year to ensure they check that their details on the register are up to date.

Residents will receive either a yellow letter or an email - this will ask them to visit householdresponse.com/southandvale to either confirm 'no change' to our records, or to make changes online, if required.

Anyone who doesn't respond by 3 October, or who hasn't registered an email address with the council, will receive a green letter in October.

Please encourage people to respond by email as it avoids having to send a letter to them, saving printing, admin and postage costs.

The email will go out from Monday 8 September from elections@southandvale.gov.uk with the subject line "South & Vale District Councils - Annual Electoral Register Check" and will contain both council logos.

Residents can find more information at southoxon.gov.uk/ElectionsCanvass or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ElectionsCanvass

Email: Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

APPENDIX B

County Councillor Report September 2025

1. OxRAIL 2040 – County Rail Strategy Consultation

Oxfordshire County Council has launched OxRAIL 2040, a bold 15-year strategy to improve rail transport across the county. The plan sets out a vision for a more connected, accessible, and sustainable rail network, with proposals grouped under three key themes and four priority projects.

A public consultation is now open, inviting residents to share their views on:

- The overall vision for rail in Oxfordshire
- The themes and priorities shaping the plan
- The proposed timeline for delivery

The consultation runs until Wednesday 1 October 2025, and responses will help shape the final strategy, due for adoption by the County Cabinet in November 2025.

You can read the full consultation document and complete the short survey (5–10 minutes) online.

OxRAIL 2040: Plan for Rail | Let's Talk Oxfordshire

Alternatively, comments can be emailed to OxRAIL2040@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

2. Community Transport Grants Awarded Across Oxfordshire



Oxfordshire County Council has awarded £64,572 to four organisations to support essential community transport services. Grants will help fund new routes, vehicle costs, and driver expenses.

Recipients include: Daybreak Oxford – expanding dementia-friendly transport, Thame Senior Friendship Centre, Filkins & Broughton Poggs volunteer car service, Wallingford Town Council - launching the new 131 town bus

These services support residents without access to private transport, especially in rural areas. **The council also backs new community transport groups with start-up funding and volunteer training..**

Community transport | Oxfordshire County Council

3. Electric Blanket Testing

Summer may have just recently finished but it's never too early to prepare for the cold winter nights, **which is why residents are being encouraged to take advantage of free electric blanket testing later this year –book your appointment as soon as possible to avoid disappointment**

In 2024, of the 743 blankets tested, more than 30 per cent failed the safety test.

Sessions will be held by Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards teams at locations across the county. The full address and a specific time slot will be provided at time of booking:

September 2025:

- 22 September: Rosehill, Oxford City
- 23 September: Henley on Thames, South Oxfordshire
- 24 September: Bicester, Cherwell
- 25 September: Chipping Norton, West Oxfordshire
- 26 September: Abingdon, Vale of White Horse

October 2025:

- 6 October: Risinghurst, Oxford City
- 7 October: Didcot, South Oxfordshire
- 8 October: Banbury, Cherwell
- 9 October: Witney, West Oxfordshire
- 10 October: Wantage, Vale of White Horse

Spots can be prebooked by calling 01865 519800 (option 4), by emailing duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk or by booking online.

Electric blanket testing - Oxfordshire County Council

4. Short Story Competition Returns to Oxfordshire Libraries

Oxfordshire libraries have launched their 11th annual short story competition, inviting writers of all ages to submit original stories. Hosted by Oxfordshire County Council's libraries service, the competition celebrates creativity and local voices.

Winning entries will be published as ebooks and audiobooks on the libraries' OverDrive platform, making them accessible to readers and listeners across the county.

The competition is free to enter and open to:

- Children (7–11 years) – up to 1,000 words
- Young adults (12–17 years) – up to 3,000 words
- Adults (18+) – up to 3,000 words

Entries are open from Monday 8 September to Sunday 9 November. Full details and submission guidelines are available on the Oxfordshire libraries website

5. Adult Social Care Rated 'Good' by CQC

Oxfordshire County Council's Adult Social Care service has been rated 'Good' following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This is a strong endorsement of the council's efforts to deliver high-quality, person-centred care across the county.

The CQC report highlights:

- Effective partnerships with local organisations
- A strong community-based approach
- Positive outcomes for residents, helping them live well and independently

This result reflects the dedication of care teams and partners, and aligns with the council's Oxfordshire Way vision for adult social care. The council remains committed to continuous improvement, building on this success and extending progress across all areas of the service

Oxfordshire County Council Adult Social Care service graded 'good'

6. UPDATE - Major Road Resurfacing Programme Under Way

Oxfordshire County Council continues with its significant resurfacing programme to improve road quality and safety across the county. Running from late June to 17 October, the works will cover over 111,000 square metres of road surface across 36 sites, using nearly 22,000 tonnes of material.

The programme, delivered in partnership with highways contractor M Group, includes:

- Safety schemes to improve skid resistance in accident-prone areas
- Surface inlay to replace worn layers where road foundations remain sound
- Structural maintenance for roads requiring deeper reconstruction

To minimise disruption, most road closures will take place overnight. However, more intensive works may cause daytime disruption in some areas.

Key sites in South Oxfordshire include:

- Wantage Road/Station Road, Wallingford (26 August – 9 October)
- A4155 Reading Road, Henley (15–19 September)
- A4155 Reading Road, Henley (Station Road to Friday Street) (8–15 October)

Other major routes affected include parts of the A40, A361, A420, and B4495, with works in areas such as Witney, Oxford, Chipping Norton, and Burford.

Motorists are advised to follow signed diversion routes and check the council's website for the latest updates and maps. All dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions.

This programme follows the council's earlier surface dressing maintenance completed between April and June, further demonstrating its ongoing investment in Oxfordshire's road network

Planned, routine and reactive road maintenance information | Oxfordshire County Council

7. County Hall Sale Agreed

Oxfordshire County Council has exchanged contracts to sell County Hall to L&G, who plan to transform the site into a high-quality hotel. Proceeds will fund the refurbishment of Speedwell House, the council's future HQ. The move is planned for spring 2027, though archaeological findings may delay occupation. The redevelopment will preserve the historic Old County Hall and contribute to the regeneration of Oxford's West End.

Email: Johnny.Hope-Smith@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

