

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2026

Present: Chairman Liz Yuille, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Steve Brown and Cllr Ian Burton
RFO Clifford Bosley, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye and eight members of the public.

In attendance: Liz Cruse (Clerk/RFO).

Chairman Yuille welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2026/054 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith.

2026/055 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Bolton and Burton declared their interest in Long Wittenham Athletic Club.

2026/056 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None.

2026/057 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2026.

2026/058 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

The Defib Training carried out by the South Central Ambulance Charity on 18th April was very successful. They had requested £10 per head as a donation. Cllr Brown advised that the event was attended by 17 people, he suggested a donation of £200. The Council RESOLVED to agree to this amount.

Action: Cllr Brown to confirm with SCAC whether they will be able to send an Invoice

2026/059 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Casey-Rerhaye's report to be forward.

2026/060 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

2026/061 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

R26/S0816/A & Barley Mow, Long Wittenham

NSV

2026/062 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Brown advised that he had chased Pye for an update. Mark Utting advised that they are working on highways, drainage, layout amends and viability updates. Some additional infiltration testing is expected to be completed onsite later this week and we will be engaging the LLFA thereafter. He is also meeting with the architect to brief him on the layout amendments we require to inform an update to the viability.

2026/063 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Thompson advised that he had spoken to Cllr Brown regarding his draft Consultation Leaflet and he had nothing further to add. The Chairman will



Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2026

advise Cllr Thompson who the previous Clerk has used in the past for printing then the Cllr's will leaflet drop to the residents in the Parish

Action: Cllr Brown to get the Leaflet printed and Cllr's to leaflet drop

2026/064 COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

One resident had advised that they would aim to attend the April meeting however they did not attend.

The Chairman advised that due to long term cancer treatment she will soon be stepping down as Chairman and Councillor.

2026/065 WARM HUB GRANT APPLICATION

The Chairman advised that they have received the Warm Hub application.

The Council RESOLVED to offer a one-off payment of £500, however this would not be paid until Wittenham Warriors confirmed the names of the signatories on the bank account and how they will ensure that the grant is only used for the Warm Hub project.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Wittenham Warriors regarding queries prior to the Grant payment

2026/066 NORTHFIELD LANE POTHoles

The Chairman advised that the costs had increased from previously agreed. The Council RESOLVED to agree to the increased costs.

2026/067 PROJECT SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

The Chairman advised that although the PC had already considered the document previously but thought this would be a good time to consider it

again.

The Council RESOLVED to agree to the document for all Projects to be considered by the Council.

2026/068 WARD'S FIELD FOOTPATH

Janet Haylett, from the PCC, attended the meeting to provide an update on what is happening with regard to the trees on Ward's Field. She started by reminding the meeting that the land is owned/managed by the PCC, and the PC has no responsibility for it. There was an opportunity for members of the public to ask Janet questions and to express their concerns, which led to a healthy discussion. One point that was made raised by a number of the members of the public was with regard to the 'official' footpath, on Reading University land the other side of the trees. Janet asked if the PCC could contact OCC Right of Ways/Footpath Officers to urge them to require the landowner and tenant farmer to reinstate this public right of way.

Action: Ian Burton to raise the footpath issue with the appropriate OCC Officer

2026/069 DOG BINS – EMPTYING COSTS

The Chairman advised that SODC have increased the costs of emptying the two dog bins SODC have listed in the Parish to about £500 a year per dog



Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2026

bin. The PC have requested whether these bins could be changed to mixed waste bins so that SODC will collect the rubbish under their Council services without further cost to the PC. The PC is awaiting a reply.

The Clerk has been asked to obtain a quote from the Contractor that emptied the bins at her last Parish.

Action: Clerk to obtain a quote from Contractor for dog bin emptying

**2026/070
RUBBISH**

ACKLINGS WOODLAND SCHOOL – REPORTS OF DANGEROUS

There was found dangerous rubbish on the Forest School site which is unused in the Winter. The PC thanked Jim Brown for removing this rubbish.

The Council discussed several options regarding a review of the current agreement with the Pre-School going forward to stop this happening again. It was **RESOLVED** by the PC to revise the agreement for the Pre-school to amend the current notices and install locks on the gates and request the woodland school to be the key holder so that the site can be maintained all year round by them.

Action: Liz Y to review agreement and contact the pre-school

2026/071

FUN RUN DATE 14TH JUNE – INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Prew Bowtell advised that the Fun Run would be going ahead on the 14th June. She asked if the PC would be willing to pay for the trophies that would amount to £150. The Council **RESOLVED** to agree to this request. Prew to forward an Invoice to the Clerk. The Chairman advised that she would contact the PC's Insurance provider to advise.

Action: Liz Y to contact PC's Insurance provider

2026/072

REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Long Wittenham Athletic Club
None

- Village Hall Committee (VHC)

The Council discussed that as Cllr Bolton wouldn't be able to attend VHC meetings on Wednesdays as the PC representative, the Chairman advised that there would need to be another person from the PC. However a member of the VHC advised that the meetings aren't always held on a Wednesday and can be different according to when people can make the meetings.

Action: All Councillors to consider if they are prepared to act as a Representative

2026/067

ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Retiring RFO and Clerk
The Chairman requested that this item be deferred until the next meeting.
- Core Documents Annual Review



Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2026

The Chairman requested that all Councillors review the documents in the drop box folder prior to the May meeting.

- Goal posts
Cllr Bolton advised that he now has a goal post quote to replace the small goals at Bodkins. There is a grant that can be applied for from 'Everyone's Active' however it would need to be applied for from outside of the club. Cllr Thompson volunteered to apply

Action: Cllr Thompson to apply for 'Everyone's Active' Grant

2026/068 FINANCIAL REPORT

- The RFO presented the 2025-26 end of year accounts. The Council RESOLVED to accept them and the Chairman signed the AGAR forms.
- Income during March £0
- Expenditure during March
 - A1 Posters & Laminators Inv 8439 (Village Hall Map), £47.76
 - 3/3/2026, Elliff Expenses (Laptop for Clerk), £399.99
 - 3/3/2026, OALC (Membership), £312.00
 - 10/03/2026, M Rainbow Inv 01-2026 (Bodkins Fence) £400.00
 - 13/03/2026, SODC (Dog Bins), £561.88
 - 15/03/2026, RFO's Salary March 2026, £472.00
 - 15/03/2026, Clerk's Salary March 2026, £354.15
 - Bank Service Charge, £4.25

March Expenditure Total, £2,552.03

2026/069 OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting Closed at 21.03pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 21st May 2026

Signed: 

Date: 21/5/26

APPENDIX A

County Councillor Report – April 2026

Warm Homes Local Grant – Free Energy Improvements Available

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council is delivering the Warm Homes Local Grant, helping eligible households make homes warmer and cheaper to heat.
- Fully government funded improvements may include insulation, low carbon heating and solar panels, depending on eligibility and property type.
- The scheme supports residents on lower incomes and those living in less energy efficient

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2026

homes.

- Residents do not pay for measures covered by the grant.
- The council will never cold call residents about this scheme.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the scheme with residents who may be struggling with heating costs.
- Encourage residents to apply only through official channels:
<https://www.welcomethewarmth.org.uk>
- Signpost queries to the council's retrofit team: retrofit@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Flooding Grants – Next Step After Flood Wardens

Following the expansion of the Flood Warden scheme, Oxfordshire County Council is also offering

grant funding to help communities take practical action to reduce flood risk.

Key Details

- Grants are available for small, local flood-mitigation projects.
- Funding can support measures such as drainage improvements, property-level resilience and community-led prevention work.
- Parish councils and community groups are eligible to apply

What Parishes Can Do

- Use local knowledge from flood wardens to identify priority problem areas.
 - Work with community groups or landowners to develop simple, deliverable projects.
 - Promote the grant scheme locally and encourage early engagement with OCC officers.
- <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/more-grants-on-offer-to-help-communities-tackle-flooding/>

INFO - Wallingford Area LCWIP – Walking & Cycling Plan

Key Details

- Following a previously approved and adopted Didcot area LCWIP The Wallingford Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is scheduled to be approved by Oxfordshire County Council on 23 April 2026.
- The LCWIP sets out longterm priorities for improving walking and cycling routes in and around Wallingford and nearby villages.
- It helps identify where future investment should be focused, including links between villages, schools, employment areas and services
- Having an agreed LCWIP strengthens the case for external funding bids and developer contributions.
- Details of scheme
<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wallingford-lcwip-2>

INFO - Unauthorised Flags on Highway Land – Legal Notice Issued

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council has issued (30/3) a formal legal notice requiring the removal of unauthorised flags placed on public highway land.
- The action relates to highway safety, obstruction and legal compliance, not the content or message of any individual flag.
- Any signs, flags or structures placed on highway land require formal permission from the County Council.
- Where items are installed without consent, the Council has a legal duty to take enforcement action.
- The same rules are applied consistently across the county, regardless of the cause being promoted.
<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/unauthorised-flags/>



REMINDER - Flood Warden Scheme – Volunteers Needed

An appeal has been issued for volunteers to help their communities understand flood risks and

responsibilities by becoming flood wardens.

Key Details

·Oxfordshire County Council has expanded its flood warden scheme countywide following successful pilots.

·Flood wardens are volunteers who act as local eyes and ears, reporting blocked drains, ditches and issues that could increase flood risk.

·Anyone can volunteer - residents, parish councillors, resilience volunteers or community groups and there is no minimum time commitment.

·The council provides training and support, including an initial one-hour briefing call.

·Flood wardens help raise awareness, work with local landowners, support emergency planning and improve community preparedness.

What Parishes Can Do

·Share the opportunity locally and encourage volunteers, especially those in flood-prone areas.

·Direct interested residents to the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit to sign up.

<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/flood-wardens/>

·Promote reporting of blocked drains/ditches as part of wider flood resilience work.

·Consider linking parish emergency plans with local flood wardens for better coordination

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>



Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 16th April 2026

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

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Johnny Hope-Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.