Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 18th June 2026

Present: Cllr Liz Yuille, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Steve Brown and Cllr Ian Burton
County Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith and Five members of the public.

In attendance: Liz Cruse (Clerk/RFO).

Cllr Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2026/102 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Due to Chairman Liz Yuille stepping down as Chairman after the May meeting and no other Cllr's coming forward to be Chair it was agreed to elect a temporary Chairman for each meeting going forward. Cllr Brown stood as the June meeting Chairman and was unanimously agreed.

Chairman Brown completed the Declaration of Acceptance of office

2026/103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Richard Jackson and District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

2026/104 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

A resident that had indicated that she may stand as a Cllr was unable to attend the meeting.

2026/105 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

2026/106 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Prew thanked the Parish Council for their support of the Fun Run this year. It was a well supported event and went without a hitch.

- Cllr Brown raised an issue that had been made by a member of the public regarding the footpath from Acklings to the River that Jim Brown is currently clearing there is a huge amount of green waste piling up. He had asked if the Parish Council could dispose of the green waste via Logs Unlimited. The Council RESOVLED to agree.

- A resident has emailed regarding a hedgerow that is overgrown and overhanging the pavement. The Council discussed that there are several areas like this in the village, they agreed to write to send letters to the residents to ask them to cut them back and also to log them with Fix my Street.

Action: Cllr's to advise Clerk of addresses where hedges cause a problem

2026/107 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2026.

2026/108 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Cllr Brown is still working on the Contaminated land Policy to be added to the NDP.

Cllr Brown has not been able start the Noticeboard Project yet.

Cllr Brown has purchased the gift vouchers.

Cllr Bolton advised that Logs have checked the Common Land at the Maddy and will quote.

Cllr Brown advised that maintenance of The Pound can be added to the Projects list.

2026/109 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Hope-Smith's report for May, sent by email, is attached in appendix A. The PC discussed road maintenance and quiet lanes from his report and also asked that the information on renewable energy be sent to the Clerk.

2026/110 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None

2026/111 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Brown advised that there had been a brief update from Pye that they are still working on the project but were having a few issues regarding access decisions from OCC and education issue around the school element. Cllr Hope-Smith agreed to look into these at OCC.

Action: Cllr Brown to try to get contact details of Officers at OCC to enable County Cllr to contact them

2026/112 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

The Council discussed that the indecision with the Community Hub was holding back the NDP submission. The Council agreed that as the deadline date is fast approaching, they should submit with the knowledge they have on the Community hub and revise it later if required.

Cllr Thompson advised that there have been 76 completed survey forms. There had been many suggestions for Green spaces, Cllr Thompson to share these via email with the other Cllr's to create a final list.

Cllr Thompson also advised that a number of the maps in the NDP still needed to be updated before submission. Cllr Thompson agreed to notify Cllr Yuille which maps needed revising and she would then look to see how much work is required to update them

Action: Cllr Thompson and Cllr Yuille Map review

2026/113 COUNCILLOR RECRUITMENT

The Council discussed and agreed to hold a Saturday morning drop-in session for Councillor recruitment. Cllr Brown to contact Cllr Jackson regarding arranging.

2026/114 COMPLIANT WEBSITE AND CLLR EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Council discussed GDPR and Cllr Yuille advised that she had researched the current requirements and the use of Dropbox. GDPR related to personal information being held by the PC of which there are some that shouldn't be held any longer. She offered to review the Dropbox for documents that should be deleted and move them to a folder for review by the PC.

With regard to the complaint website and emails the Clerk advised that she had checked with the Cllr's at Sutton Courtenay PC and they were able to access their emails and they work well on a mobile phone as well.

The Council discussed the options and are aware that the current advice is to have a gov.uk email address and website to be compliant. The Council RESOLVED to agree to go ahead with the website and email addresses.

Action: Clerk to arrange new website and email addresses

2026/115 OCC HIF1 STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS DELEGATE – 23RD JULY

Cllr Brown agreed attend the meeting via teams.

Action: Clerk to forward meeting Invite to Cllr Brown

2026/116 DECEMBER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Council discussed cancelling the December meeting as suggested by Cllr Brown. The Precept is normally agreed in that meeting so would need to be moved to the November meeting. The Council discussed further and there were concerns that the January meeting would then be very busy as the September one is after the August break. The Council RESOLVED to keep the December meeting.

2026/117 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Long Wittenham Athletic Club
  Cllr Bolton raised that the Club had a lot of Flood signs that OCC need to collect. Cllr Brown advised that he is meeting the OCC contact about excess signs and would advise him.

Action: Cllr Brown to arrange for road signs to be collected from Bodkins by OCC Traffic Signs Team

Village Hall Committee (VHC)The next meeting is on the 27th July, however none of the Councillors are currently available on that evening. Clerk to ask Cllr Jackson.

Action: Clerk to ask Cllr Jackson

2026/118 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Process for responding to residents' issues/concerns raised with PC
  Cllr Bolton was concerned whether residents' concerns were being replied to by the PC and whether all Cllr's were informed. It was agreed that some had been responded to without all Cllr's copied in in error.
  Some abandoned vehicles and rubbish are still causing a concern for residents, the council discussed and agreed to write to the residents regarding removal

  Action: Clerk to send letters to residents

- Fence at Acklings
  Cllr Bolton has reviewed the fence and has confirmed that it will be large enough to be moved from the Woodlands school area to Bodkins Play Area. Cllr Bolton to confirm quote from local contractor for PC approval.

  Action: Cllr Bolton to request a quote from Contractor

- Contractor Churchyard Grass cutting
  Cllr Bolton advised that Logs Unlimited normally cut the areas raised but they had been missed. They have all been cut now other than near the Ashes plots. Cllr Bolton will advise the Contractor.

- Wards Field Trees
  Cllr Brown advised that he has been liaising with the PCC and it appears around 80-90 Poplar Trees are currently to be felled. Cllr Brown wanted to know who exactly is deciding that these trees should be felled and has asked the PCC representative Janet Haylett Secretary to PCC to come along to the next meeting to advise further.

- Playground Inspection Log
  Cllr Yuille has reviewed the historical log and updated the current one to be less personal. She also requested that each Cllr inspecting advises the Clerk not only what to add to the report but also what to remove when faults have been fixed.

- Dropbox and GDPR Compliance
  Please see agenda item 2026/114

- Projects Forward Plan
  Cllr Brown advised that this plan is to go with the NDP. New projects are needed from the residents. The Council discussed and agreed to hold a drop in event on a Saturday morning and combine it with Cllr Recruitment. Cllr Brown to speak to Cllr Jackson regarding the organising the event.

- Overgrown path from School to Old Vicarage

Please see agenda item 2026/106 bullet point 3

2026/119 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Income during May
  22/05/2026, SODC Everyone Active Grant , £1,000.00
  May Income Total, £1,000.00

- Expenditure during May
  1/5/2026, Grant Wittenham Warriers Warm Hub, £500
  5/5/2026, Running Imp Limited - Fun run medals, £160.94
  5/18/2026, Clerk Salary (May), £386.24
  May Expenditure Total, £1,047.18

- Adding bank Signatories
  The Clerk advised that when Cllr Yuille steps down as Cllr next month there will only be two signatories for the bank account. The Council discussed and agreed that all Cllrs should be added as signatories so there are always two approvers available for payments.
  Action: Clerk to add all Cllrs as signatories

- Unity Bank Account
  The Clerk advised that the monthly fees for a current bank account with Unity would be considerably higher than Lloyds and there would be no further functionality. However, the Clerk raised the idea of a Savings account either at Lloyds or Unity which would provide some interest. The council discussed and agreed that as they are putting aside money for future projects this may be a good route. Clerk to review interest payments and access controls on various savings accounts for the next meeting.
  Action: Clerk to review bank savings rates

2026/120 OTHER BUSINESS

None

Meeting Closed at 21.18pm.
Date of next meeting: Thursday 16th July 2026

Signed: ……..... Date: .....

Appendix A
County Councillor Report - June 2026

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/cdxpjnydxeno

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