Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 15th October 2026

Present: Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr Mark Thompson, Cllr Steve Brown, Cllr Richard Jackson and Cllr Laurie Read
2 members of the public

In attendance: Liz Cruse (Clerk/RFO).

Cllr Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2026/155 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Thompson stood as the October meeting Chairman and was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Jackson.

2026/156 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

County Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith and Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

2026/157 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

None

2026/158 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Brown registered an interest in Planning application P26/S4345/HH. Cllr Jackson registered an interest in Planning application P26/S3367/FUL.

2026/159 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Village Defibrillators

Cllr Bolton has been advised by a safeguarding lead that none of the village Defib cabinet codes have been logged on the local ambulance service system. These are the LWAC, High Street telephone box, Sidonum Close and Pendon Museum.

Action: Cllr Bolton to collate postcodes and cabinet numbers and log all defibs

Pavement parking in Saxon Heath

The Clerk has been contacted by a resident regarding vehicles parking on the pavement and causing problems with access. The Council discussed and agreed to send letters to the residents requesting that they move them.

2026/160 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2026.

2026/161 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- Wards Footpath
  Cllr Bolton has requested a quote from Logs Unlimited. Cllr Read advised of two other companies that could quote.

Action: Cllr Read to contact 2 x companies for quotes

- Signage at 'The Maddy'
  Cllr Brown will organise a quote for the footpath signage

- Bodkins Spider Web
  The Top pole of the web needs replacing. Cllr Brown to obtain quotes for the part and labour to replace it.

Action: Cllr Brown to obtain quotes

2026/162 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S

Cllr Hope-Smith's and Cllr Casey-Rerhaye reports for September, sent by email, are attached in appendix A and B respectively.

2026/163 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P26/S4345/HH Little House High Street Long Wittenham Abingdon OX14 4QH
The Council discussed and resolved to reply with No object in accordance with their previous reply to a similar application in the same road.
P26/S3367/FUL
It was advised that this application hadn't been received by the Clerk, Clerk to investigate The Council discussed agreed to comment regarding whether all the red marked land in the application is officially owned by the applicant.

2026/164 COMMUNITY HUB

Cllr Brown advised that there had been no further information from Pye regarding the Hub. He advised that he could speak to a contractor architect that works with Pye to possibly find out further information and also to check whether the agreement with the landowner has been extended from October. The Council agreed.

Action: Cllr Brown to check on contract extn and any further progress from Pye

2026/165 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Thompson advised that there was no further update

2026/166 ROSPA INSPECTION REPORTS

The top pole of the 'Spider Web' requires replacement. Another option would be to replace the entire structure.
The Inspection report also advised signage should be placed at the playgrounds to advise users to contact the Clerk to report any damage or litter issues

Action: Cllr Brown to organise quotes for the labour and parts. Cllr Brown to add to order for signage under 2026/162

2026/167 ACKLINGS IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTIONS

The Council discussed solar lighting for some outside spaces in the village further and agreed there was a concern over encouraging unsociable behaviour. It was discussed that moving the bin into the playground area could be possible if the PC have a handyman.

2026/168 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Long Wittenham Athletic Club
  Cllr Bolton advised that they are going to be hosting 'Chair up' sessions for the local area that will be paid for the first five sessions by OCC.
- Village Hall Committee (VHC)
  The next meeting is on the 28th October. Cllr Brown agreed to attend.

2026/169 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Parish Council Handyman

  The Council discussed using a local handyman for 2 hours per week to cover small jobs, possibly empty bins and for playground inspections.

- Village Litter pick
  Thank you
  The Council discussed the success of the recent litter pick. It has been organised for a long time by Clifford Bosley who is now stepping down. The Council agreed to pass on their thanks for his efforts.
  Signage
  The Council discussed adding litter signs to the playgrounds.

Action: Cllr Thompson to email thanks. Cllr Brown to add to order for signage under 2026/162

2026/170 FINANCIAL REPORT

- Expenditure during September
  2/9/2026, Moores External Audit Inv 339803, £598.50
  7/9/2026, Cruse August Payslip (Increase applied and back dated to 1st April), £445.44
  15/07/26, Smartr.homes Inv #1025 Noticeboard Repairs, Acklings Trees and Table Tennis Table, £625
  15/09/26, Playsafety RoSPA Playground Annual Inspections, £337.20
  24/09/26, Cruse Salary (Sept), £398.08
  September Total £2,404.22

- Income during September
  03/09/26, SODC Precept 2nd half £13594.00

Meeting Closed at 20.56pm.
Date of next meeting: Thursday 19th November 2026

Signed: ……..... Date: .....

Appendix A

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 15th October 2026

County Councillor Report October 2026

Forthcoming OxBus2040 Consultation – Have Your Say on the Future of Bus Services

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council is expected to launch the OxBUS2040 consultation shortly. The strategy will set out how bus services across the county could develop over the next 14 years.

The consultation was expected to begin during October and will provide an opportunity for residents, parish councils and community groups to comment on current services and future priorities

Oxon4Buses has produced a questionnaire to help communities identify local bus priorities and transport needs

What Parishes Can Do

·Look out for the consultation when it launches and consider submitting a parish council response.

·Discuss local bus provision and future transport priorities at parish council meetings and with residents.

·Consider appointing a Parish Transport Representative (PTR) if your parish does not currently have one.

·Encourage residents to participate in the consultation, particularly those who rely on buses or would use services if they were improved.

Site for further details on the PTR : https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/public-transport/parish-transport

Oxford Traffic Filters Trial – Consultation Now Underway

Key Details

Oxford's long-planned traffic filter trial began on 28 September 2026. The scheme restricts private cars from passing through six locations across the city during operating hours, with fines of up to £70 for motorists without a permit.

- NOTE: If you already held a congestion charge permit, it has been automatically transferred to a traffic filter permit. You do not need to apply for a new traffic filter permit.
- Day pass allocations have been automatically reset to 100 for Oxford residents and 25 for Oxfordshire residents.

Since implementation, there have been reports of significant congestion around Botley Road, Oxpens Road and access routes to the Westgate Centre, particularly at weekends and during peak periods.

Bus operators have reported that it is still too early to fully assess the impact of the filters, as ongoing roadworks and the continued closure of parts of the Botley Road corridor are also influencing traffic conditions.

The County Council says the trial is intended to tackle long-standing congestion in Oxford and

forms part of a wider strategy to improve bus reliability, air quality and sustainable travel.
A six month public consultation is currently underway and the trial can continue for up to 18 months before a final decision is made.

- Link: https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxford_filters_etro2026

What Parishes Can Do

- **Encourage residents who regularly travel into Oxford to monitor developments and participate in the consultation process.**
- **Share feedback from residents, commuters and businesses about how the trial is affecting journeys to Oxford, particularly for work, healthcare, shopping and education.**
- **Remind residents that the scheme remains a trial and that the consultation is the formal mechanism through which views can be considered before any long-term decision is taken. Encourage anyone experiencing significant impacts to submit evidence and comments through the official consultation channels**

Didcot Substation Community Fund Consultation – £530,000 Available for Local Projects

National Grid Electricity Transmission has launched a consultation on how a new £530,000 Community Fund linked to the Didcot Substation extension should operate.
The consultation runs from 22 September to 27 October 2026, with funding expected to open for applications in early 2027.
Following confirmation from National Grid, the proposed eligible area aligns with the Didcot Garden Town Area of Influence and includes communities such as Didcot, **East Hagbourne, West Hagbourne, North Moreton, South Moreton, Long Wittenham, Little Wittenham, (Map below)** Clifton Hampden, Culham, Appleford, Sutton Courtenay, Blewbury, Harwell, Chilton and surrounding areas.
Organisations do not need to be based within the eligible area, but they must demonstrate that their activities benefit communities within it.
The consultation is seeking views on local priorities to help shape how the fund is administered and what types of projects should receive support.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Consider responding to the consultation and encouraging local community groups to do the same.**
- **Discuss potential future projects that could benefit from grant funding, such as community facilities, environmental projects, youth activities, accessibility improvements or local resilience initiatives.**
- **Share the consultation with local voluntary organisations, charities and community groups that serve residents within the eligible area.**
- **Further information and the consultation survey can be found at:**
  - https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-

infrastructure/didcot-substation

INFO - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – County Council Seeks Further Evidence

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has issued a formal legal letter to the Government seeking disclosure of the evidence and analysis used to support the Government's July "minded to" decision on LGR in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

The move follows the Government's decision in September to pause and review its earlier LGR decisions. The County Council says it wishes to understand the evidence underpinning the preferred option of creating three unitary councils across the area.

- The council has stated that its priority is to secure local government arrangements that are financially sustainable, protect key services and deliver the best outcomes for residents and communities.

The Government is yet to provide further detail on the scope or timetable of its review.

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INFO - First EV Charging Sites Approved Across Oxfordshire

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has approved the first 11 on street electric vehicle (EV) charging locations as part of its countywide EV infrastructure programme. The sites are located in Berinsfield, Burford, Henley on Thames, Kidlington and Oxford. The programme is supported by more than £4 million of government funding and aims to install over 1,500 public chargers by summer 2028.

The programme is designed to support the estimated 30% of Oxfordshire households without access to a driveway or private off street parking, making EV ownership more practical for residents who rely on on street parking.

Alongside public charging infrastructure, the programme includes:

- Public chargers in council owned car parks.
- Public on street chargers.
- Subsidised EV cable channels for residents charging vehicles from their homes.
- Community EV charging microhubs delivered with town and parish councils.

More than 700 responses were received during consultation on the first phase of on street locations, with further sites still undergoing assessment and local engagement.

When complete, the programme will more than double the number of publicly available EV chargers in Oxfordshire ahead of the UK's transition away from the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles.

INFO - Road Traffic Casualty Data 2025 – New Report Published

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has published its annual Road Traffic Collisions and Casualty Data Summary 2025, providing the latest picture of road safety across the county.
The headline message is that Oxfordshire continues to make progress towards its Vision Zero ambition of eliminating deaths and serious injuries on the road network.

Oxfordshire performed better than the national trend and better than many similar county areas in 2025

- Oxfordshire's KSIs (Killed or Seriously Injured) fell from 260 in 2024 to 216 in 2025, a reduction of 17%.
- Across Great Britain, KSIs fell by around 4% over the same period, meaning Oxfordshire's improvement was substantially greater.

Long term trend

- Compared with the 2010-2014 baseline used for road safety comparisons, Oxfordshire has achieved a greater reduction in casualties than the national average.
- The report notes that Oxfordshire remains amongst the better performing local highway authorities for casualty reduction

·Report Location: .https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-policies-and-plans/CasualtyReport2025.pdf

INFO - Government Approves Oxfordshire SEND Improvement Plan

Key Details

Oxfordshire's plans to improve support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) have now received full government approval.
The plan includes recruiting more educational psychologists and therapists, creating additional inclusion support bases in mainstream schools, and delivering more support through local, area based teams.
The programme is backed by £4.9 million of government funding to support SEND transformation over the next three years.
Government approval will also allow Oxfordshire to receive a High Needs Stability Grant, helping reduce the significant SEND related deficit within the Dedicated Schools Grant budget.
The changes are intended to improve access to specialist support closer to home and strengthen inclusion within mainstream education.

REMINDER: Councillor Priority Fund – Supporting Local Projects – DEADLINE NOVEMBER 2026

The Councillor Priority Fund is still open, 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 a pply 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 and to then apply, visit the Councillor Priority Fund page.
https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

Appendix B

District Councillor Report October 2026

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Community cohesion survey

Earlier this year the Councils launched a series of community-led initiatives, under the theme of ‘Be Together’, ranging from park yoga, 'have a go' days and community arts events to bike repairs and food skills courses.

Its core aim is to foster integration by encouraging social participation, cultural understanding, and mutual support. Linked to these smaller community initiatives, the Councils’ longer-term ambition is to develop a new, evidence-based Community Cohesion Strategy. This work came out of a budget amendment we Green Party councillors proposed to use a small amount of the council’s forecast surplus on work

to support cohesion.

The Council is working with Belong – The Cohesion and Integration Network. Belong is experienced in supporting the development of community cohesion strategies and has worked with other local authorities.

Throughout September and through to November, representatives from Belong will be out and about in the district on behalf of the Council, talking to organisations, community groups and residents to gather evidence for the strategy. People can also take part in an online survey and share their views and experiences within their own communities: A place for everyone. One place. One community.

Updates to the National Planning Policy Framework

Many of you will be aware that the government's changes to this are having an impact on the District already. Planning appeals are already being allowed, and the planners are having to reconsider whether they will defend their decisions to reject planning applications at appeal. It is incredibly frustrating and damaging to our area, especially when the government also says that they believe in a plan-led development.

Because of developer delays, the larger development sites in the council's Plan are not being built out (ones at Culham, Berinsfield, Sandford on Thames and Northfield Brook). Some of this delay is because of issues I and others were pointing out in 2019 when these sites were proposed like the lack of capacity in our current sewage and water infrastructure; not surprising then that the sites cannot yet be built, and other, speculative green field sites are consequently being given planning permission. This is a disastrous, and against the 'Plan-led approach'. Just next week I am having to speak at an appeal inquiry against 200 homes on Sires Hill in Long Wittenham.

I, along with Green Party councillor James Norman who is the Planning Committee vice-chair, are pressing the Council to be robust in defending their decisions to reject planning applications as much as possible.

‘Check before you Chuck’

A series of events in towns has been taking place to explain and remind people of the importance of using the correct bin for our waste. The council is supporting WRAP's national "Rescue Me, I'm Worth It!" campaign, which encourages people to see every-day recyclable items as valuable resources, rather than rubbish. Through fun, character-led messaging, the campaign reminds us that plastic bottles, cans, cardboard and other recyclable materials all have the potential for a second life when they're recycled correctly. By rescuing these items from the wrong bin, residents can help keep valuable materials in use for longer and play their part in creating a more circular economy.

By taking a few seconds to check the Oxfordshire Waste Wizard (Oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard) before recycling, residents can help improve the quality of recycling collected across the districts and make sure more recyclable items are recycled.

Update for the Climate Action website

The Climate Action Oxfordshire website, which has been running for four years as a one stop shop for top tips on local climate and nature opportunities, has undergone a recent transformation. Run by the county, district and city councils in Oxfordshire, it now incorporates other community groups such as CAG (Community Action Group), Low Carbon Hub, Good Food Oxfordshire, Wild Oxfordshire, Greener Henley, the CPRE - Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, the Mycelium Map and Zero Carbon Oxfordshire.

It has stacks of interesting ideas including advice on plug-in solar panels and how to get involved in monitoring our rivers.

This month’s articles focus on how local schools save energy and how you can save money using a nearby library of things.

Please feel free to email me with any queries: sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

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