

# Blewbury Parish Council

**Clerk to the Council**  
Miss M Taylor  
21, Chilton Field Way  
Chilton  
Oxfordshire, OX11 0SQ  
[blewburypc@gmail.com](mailto:blewburypc@gmail.com)  
07968 772935

**MINUTES** of the meeting of the

Parish Council held on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025** at 7.00 pm in the Melland Room at the Blewbury Clubhouse.

**In attendance:**

Cllr. Anne Millman- Chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr. Mathias.

Cllr. Julia Saunders

Cllr. Shelia Austin

Cllr. Mark Shayler

Cllr. Andy Evason

Cllr. Andrew Calder

Parish Clerk: Michelle Taylor

District Councillor: Hayleigh Gascoigne

County Councillor: Rebekah Fletcher

4 x Members of the public

---

**Cllr. Millman announced a note of thanks to Lydia Inglis for her ten-year voluntary service to Blewbury Parish Council.**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr. Mathias (Chair) and Iain Wood (Lengthman) sent apologies.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

- Cllr. Shayler raised an interest in item: 15.1-Approval of August payments.
- Cllr. Robinson raised an interest in item: 7- Chailey Gardens Update.
- Cllr. Evason raised an interest in item:10.1-Borehole Request-Croquet Club.

### 3. Public Participation

A member of the public raised a query with regards to bus stops along Bessels Lea Way, Blewbury, questioning whether the layby near the garage was a bus stop or just a layby. Questions were also raised with regards to the erection of a memorial headstone and installation of a memorial bench within the cemetery, along with queries on planning regulations to install a flagpole within their garden. All queries to be sent directly to the Clerk and Cllr. Robinson for a response.

### Planning Matters

#### 4. Planning Updates

##### 4.1. Planning Applications – for review and comments

- [P25/V1935/LB](#) **The Cleve South Street Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PR**

**Proposal:** Various internal and external works, including; alterations to fireplaces, the replacement of cementitious plaster with lime plaster throughout the building and the reduction of the external ground level outside the kitchen window.

**Blewbury Parish Council** has no objections to this application.

- [P25/V1918/HH](#) **Lowmans South Street Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PR**

**Proposal:** External swimming pool and associated equipment.

**Blewbury Parish Council** has no objections to this application.

- [P25/V1920/LB](#) **Stocks Chapel Lane Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PQ**

**Proposal:** Replacement of 6no. modern single glazed windows in poor repair with 6no. new timber windows with slim profile double glazing in the same apertures.

**Blewbury Parish Council** has no objections to this application.

- [P25/V1979/S73](#) **Fieldside Farm Westbrook Street Blewbury Didcot OX11 9QB**

**Proposal:** Variation of conditions 2 & 7 on application ref. P24/V2620/S73 - internal layouts & window/door positions revised; revert to previously approved Ashlar stone materials to rear single storey extension; additional chimney; outbuilding repositioned and alteration of opening from 3 arches to one arch Variation of conditions 2 (approved plans) and 7 (External materials) on application P24/V1397/FUL - to make changes to the internal and external

design and materials in order to improve living accommodation and aesthetics.  
(Self-build replacement dwelling with garage and outbuilding)

**Blewbury Parish Council** has no objections to this application.

- [P25/V1799/SCR](#) **Sheencroft Farm Bessels Way Blewbury OX11 9ED**

Proposal: Request for Pre-Application Opinion and EIA Screening Opinion for 32,000-bird multi-tier free-range poultry building, associated feed silos and hard standings.

**Noted** by Blewbury Parish Council.

#### 4.2. Planning Decisions from Vale of White Horse DC – **for information only**

- [P25/V1413/FUL](#) Planning Permission Granted  
Carramores Church Road Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PY  
Conversion of existing outbuilding to separate, one bedroom, private dwelling.

**Noted** by Blewbury Parish Council.

---

## Reports & Updates

**5. County Councillor-** Cllr Rebekah Fletcher. Reports from October were received and circulated to Council. **Appendix 1 (BPC Website)** Cllr. Fletcher highlighted that the County Councillor priority fund is now open of which £10,000 is available over the next two years split across all five Parishes. Applications can be put forward to help towards Community improvements. Also, a reminder that the congestion charge for Oxford will be in place as of the 29<sup>th</sup> of October. Permits can be applied for online through OCC.

**6. District Councillor -** Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne. October report received and circulated to Council. **Appendix 2 (BPC Website)** Cllr. Gascoigne announced the proposed withdrawal of the Joint Local Plan, of which a conclusion will be announced following further review.

### 7. Action Points

See **Appendix 3** for update on actions.

- It was agreed by Council to continue to pursue Trinity Management for Chailey Gardens playground repairs through writing to the local MP, as there had been no response to date.

### 8. Parish Councillor Vacancies (AM & JS)

8.1. Co-option- Two Councillor Vacancies

**Council noted** five candidates have been interviewed. Recommendations to be discussed in confidential under item: 26.2.

**9. Are You Ready for Winter? - Spokesman from SSE Plc**

Spokesman was not in attendance at this meeting. Clerk to follow up.

---

**Clubs and Societies**

**10. Borehole Request-Croquet Club (AE)**

10.1. Council to agree installation of a borehole on the TTF Croquet lawns. **Council agreed** as landowners for the Croquet Club to install a borehole underground on the croquet lawn at no expense to the Parish Council. Installation commencing November 2025.

**11. Tennis Club (AM)**

11.1 Council to note outcome from discussions with Tennis Club representative regarding the perimeter of the courts and to agree progression of planting scheme. **Council agreed** to go ahead with the planting of shrubs on the perimeter of the courts as per their original proposal, utilising the funds received from S106.

11.2. Council to note forthcoming meeting on the 16/10/2025 to finalise the lease and agree financial contribution to the Parish Council. **Council noted** the upcoming meeting and agreed that a fee of £500 would be included within the lease to be paid annually to Blewbury Parish Council.

**12. Clubhouse**

12.1. Hall Administrator Report. August and September reports circulated to Council.

12.2. **Roof Repairs.** Council to agree on a permanent repair to the Clubhouse roof following the Cricket Season. **Council agreed** to contact Didcot Cricket Club with the quote for repairs for the solar panels damage at the end of the cricket session.

**13. Blewbury History Group**

13.1. Council to note final arrangements for storage of BHG archives in the Clubhouse. **Council noted and agreed** for the second changing room at the Clubhouse to be used for storage and a second door will be installed for access for the Blewbury History Group.

---

**14. Traffic & Safety**

14.1. Bollards-Council to note confirmation the OCC are to progress with installing traffic-calming bollards and to agree recommended locations and type of bollards with amber reflective bands. Circulated to Council. **Council noted and agreed** the recommended locations by OCC for the installation of the new bollards for Blewbury Village and approved the Heritage bollards for suitability.

14.2. A417 Crossing near recreation ground **(AM)** Cllr. Millman announced the Traffic Officer from the VOWH had been in contact and confirmed that £200,000 has been allocated by the VOWH for the Blewbury Crossing near the recreation Ground on the A417. Concerns were raised with regards to street lighting on either side of the crossing, of which is a requirement for any crossing. **Council agreed** for a public consultation to be carried out to determine the process going forward.

14.3 Council to note movement of SIDS in October 2025, speedwatch data report for September and data trends over time. Speedwatch SID reports circulated to Council members. **Council noted and agreed** to share the data further with the Local Authority.

---

## 15. Environment (AM)

15.1. Cob Wall General Maintenance **(JS)** A letter was received from a Blewbury resident, thanking Blewbury Parish Council for the works carried out on the recent works on the Cob Wall in Coutoys Lane. **Council agreed** to contact all owners of cob walls within Blewbury Village to remind them of the upkeeping and maintenance of their cob walls.

15.2. EV Chargers- Blewbury Village Hall **(AE & LR)** **Council agreed** to obtain quotations to take forward to the Village Hall for recommendation.

15.3. Energy Audit- Melland Room and Village Hall to discuss. **Council agreed** to send the information forward to the Village Hall as the Melland Room has already had an up-to-date audit

### 15.4. Flooding Updates (AE & AM)

15.4.1. A417 London Road. Cllr. Evason raised concerns about the amount of water that is running down from Bohams Road to London Road which is settling on the verge and flooding. **Council agreed** to establish firstly who owns the land and then progress.

15.4.2. Church End. Council have earmarked funds to resolve the issues at Church End, Blewbury, following confirmation from OCC that they would oversee all works carried out at Church End, Blewbury. Cllr. Millman announced an email was received recently from OCC announcing all works carried out in Church End would now have to be contracted by Blewbury Parish Council not OCC.

---

## Administrative Items

### 16. Approval of Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2025. It was **agreed by Council** to approve the minutes of the September meeting and for the Chairman to sign as a correct record.

### 17. Finance

17.1. All September payments were approved, as shown in **Appendix 4**:

17.2. Council noted the External Auditors Report. Council thanked the Clerk for all her hard work in resolving the issues that were outstanding.

17.3. To approve the S106 application for 'Outdoor Sports' contribution for Solar Panels-Clubhouse Roof **(LR)** It was **agreed by Council** to approve the S106 application and for Cllr. Robinson and Cllr. Millman to sign for authorisation.

### **18. Parish Council Insurance Renewal (AC)**

To receive an update on the insurance renewal for 2025-26. Cllr. Calder announced the insurance renewal has now been accepted through Marsh, continuing with Zurich as our insurer, confirming the renewal annual amount being 25% lower than last year, totalling £15,651.20, plus a commission fee of £3,405.00. Cllr. Shayler raised concerns that the Council currently only has Iain Wood as named on the insurance for use of Council horticultural equipment. **Council agreed** to add both Cllr. Shayler and Cllr. Robinson onto the policy so that Council is covered in all circumstances.

### **19. Poppy Wreath-Remembrance Sunday (AM)**

To agree to purchase a Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday. **Council agreed** the purchase of the Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday, to be presented on behalf of Blewbury Parish Council.

---

## **Projects & Ongoing Matters**

### **20. Skatepark Tender Update (AE & AC)**

To receive an update from Skatepark Working Group. Cllr. Evason updated Council on the progress of the Skatepark tender confirming the ITT has now been sent to all suppliers and bids are due to be mid November, at which time Council will review.

### **21. Clubhouse Borehole Update (Clerk)**

To receive an update on the inspection of the Borehole and ongoing annual maintenance. It was announced that the inspection has now been carried out. The UV bulbs and filter had been replaced, but it was reported that the cylinder is currently leaking. The Clerk has requested a quote for the cylinder repair and has arranged annual inspections of the borehole going forward.

---

## **Correspondence & Reports**

### **22. Chairman's Report**

For information only – any additional updates.

22.1. Parish Council meeting dates-To refer back to the second Wednesday of the month.

It was **agreed by Council** members to continue to hold the Parish Council meetings on the third Wednesday of the calendar month.

### **23. Councillors' Reports**

-Cllr. Robinson raised the up-and-coming annual budget meeting for 2026-27, reminding HR Personnel to notify the Clerk of any changes in salary.

-Cllr. Shayler announced that complaints had been received with regards to signage along London Road and bushes obstructing vehicles views.

### **24. Future Agenda Items**

- Neighbourhood Plan Review – (Following the adoption of the OCC Local Plan)
- Flooding Updates-A417 London Road & Church End

- BPC Annual Budget 2026-27

## 25. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 19 November 2025

## PART 2

### Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### 26. Payroll Processing-Village Hall

26.1. Council to agree the transfer of payroll processing to Blewbury Parish Council for J Newman. Cllr. Robinson and the Clerk to investigate the process further and report back at the November meeting.

26.2. Co-option of new Parish Councillors: Council to discuss recommendations (**AM & JS**) Cllr. Saunders gave an overview of the process to date, reviewing the skills of each candidate of which would be beneficial to projects that are current or due to commence for the Parish Council. **Council agreed** to nominate S. Parkin to be appointed at the November meeting, and B. Scott to be invited to be appointed when the next vacancy arises. Cllr. Austin raised concerns that both applicants voted and agreed to be appointed by Council are new to the village.

26.3. Chairing of Parish Council and resignation of current Chair (**AE, AM, LR & JS**) **Council agreed** to hold a meeting to discuss the up-and-coming vacancy of Chair.

## Appendix 1

Armistice Day ceremony. Please avoid driving in the area where possible out of respect for the services [High Street, Harwell](#)

Works for traffic calming have now been confirmed, although no traffic management application appears to have been made yet. Works supposedly to be finished by 19<sup>th</sup> December, and there may be considerable disruption while works are carried out

### Westbrook Street, Blewbury

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November, a very small section of the road will be CLOSED. These are listed as essential works so please be aware that legally, they could continue for up to 5 days (this is not anticipated) [A34](#)

Overnight closures for resurfacing, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November (9pm-6am), Southbound Milton-Chilton.

Please continue to report any highway defects on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

## Other news and information

**Councillor Priority Fund** – All County Councillors have access to a pot of funding to support local community projects. Applications are open from now until November 2026. All parish councils and community groups or charities are welcome to submit applications – the minimum grant is £500, and there are rules regarding eligibility of applicants and projects. You can read more at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/communities/councillor-priority-fund>

**Congestion Charge Permits** – The Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars comes into effect on

29th October. Oxfordshire residents can apply for a **free** permit that gives you 25 day passes per car per calendar year. Households can apply for a maximum of two cars. Each pass is valid for **one day's travel for all six congestion charge locations**. Without a permit, car drivers can choose an alternative route or mode of transport or pay the daily charge. Additional permits are available for certain groups including Blue Badge holders, unpaid carers, community health and care workers, mobile traders and patients required to attend frequent hospital appointments in Oxford.

You can apply here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporarycongestion-charge-cars/apply-permit>

**HIF1 Major infrastructure scheme for Didcot and surrounding areas** – there will be a series of drop in events in the next couple of weeks, where members of the public can view designs for the scheme. We are approaching construction stages, so anyone who wants to find out more, ask questions or raise concerns can attend any of the events:

**Wednesday 15 October 2025**, 3:30pm – 8pm

District Community Centre, Gentian Mews, Great Western Park, Didcot, OX11 6GR

**Friday 17 October 2025**, 2pm - 8pm

Clifton Hampden Village Hall, Abingdon Rd, Clifton Hampden, Abingdon OX14 3EG

**Saturday 18 October 2025**, 11am – 4pm

Cornerstone Art Centre, Didcot, 25 Station Rd, Didcot OX11 7NE

**Wednesday 22 October 2025**, 2:30pm - 8pm

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Hobbyhorse Ln, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon OX14 4BB

**Thursday 23 October 2025**, 2pm - 8pm

Appleford Village Hall, Main Rd, Abingdon OX14 4PF

You can also read about the project here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-andtravel/roadworks/future-transport-projects/didcot-and-area-improvements>

## Councillor queries

Recent queries I've raised on behalf of residents and Parish Councils include:

Ticket description	Status	Outcome/latest information
--------------------	--------	----------------------------

Traffic calming Harwell village	CONFIRMED	Works have now been confirmed - due to be finished by 19 <sup>th</sup> December and may take up to 8 weeks. The Parish Council already has details of the works.
GWP adoption	ONGOING	Spine roads adoption currently stuck in negotiations between Leap Utilities, SODC and Taylor Wimpey. We can't adopt any estate roads until the spine roads are adopted. I have a briefing scheduled on what the obstacles are to adoption.
Blewbury road safety	IN PROGRESS	Funding confirmed for wig wags, dropped kerbs and bollards at multiple points on London Road and Bessels Way. Hoping this will be a Christmas present for Blewbury! Still pushing for funding for a crossing at Savages.
Harwell roadworks	IN PROGRESS	Investigation into the Grove Road works is ongoing
Harwell roadworks - repairs	IN PROGRESS	Further to the above, contractor vehicles damaged a manhole cover outside the High Street shops – this has been reported for repair and will also be followed up with the contractor. Virgin Media have now attended to put in temporary fix, due to return on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Road safety issues on A417	IN PROGRESS	Crossing confirmed at the Winnaway, with other speeding measures to be included as part of the works.
Coffin Way cycle path	AWAITING RESPONSE	Requested briefing on previous work re: footpath/potential cycle route between Blewbury and Upton – relevant officer on leave
Steventon Lights/HIF 1 clash	COMPLETE	This will be managed by the contractor working on the “Science Bridge” section of the scheme, but I’m assured the TM will be managed appropriately. Cow lane improvements not included in HIF1, but covered by S106 for Valley Park – officers currently investigating whether to request a contribution for improvements or to leave improvement to the developer.
Harwell PC footpath right of way	COMPLETE	Have been told I do not need to support this as it can be better handled between PC and DC. However, happy to support anyway if requested
Bramble Lane broken manhole cover GWP	COMPLETE	Passed to Taylor Wimpey as an urgent fix, and followed up with officers
Thames Water road closures	COMPLETE	Complained about two “emergency” road closures preventing bus access, where TW seem to be deliberately avoiding normal planning process, and warned of another possible risk on Townsend, to avoid similar closure in future. Additionally reported to MP and followed up with Thames Water directly. Response highly unsatisfactory, have replied to that effect but unlikely to be able to change policy
D2A complaint	IN PROGRESS	Escalated resident complaint about Discharge to assess service from Didcot Community Hospital – followed up with officers twice
Chilton Main St traffic calming	HANDED OVER	PC would need to fund (approx. £6k for unit, £500 per pole) – will wait to hear decision
Library subscriptions	COMPLETE	Query on when and why subscriptions via local libraries were removed – cost-savings. Some subscriptions still available, but only onsite.
Newbury Road speed	AWAITING RESPONSE	Have asked about possibility of reducing the adopted section of Newbury Road to 20mph due to number of houses facing straight onto road and considerable traffic
Chilton Fields adoption	AWAITING RESPONSE	Chilton Fields – will there be further delays due to lighting upgrades – if so, can we prioritise this

# County Councillor report

Date: October 2025

Author: Cllr Rebekah Fletcher

Parishes: Blewbury, Chilton, Harwell, Upton, Western Valley Contact details: [rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



Dear Parish Councillors and residents,

Over the last few weeks, I've been able to support Speedwatch teams and parish councillors at site meetings in Blewbury and Harwell. There has been some great progress made on this, with crossings and speed measures confirmed (and hopefully some more good news to come for Blewbury). I've worked really hard with officers to get these items progressed, but I give my full appreciation to the Councils and community members who have been pushing for these for a very long time – I wouldn't be able to get anything done without the community behind me, so thank you for your support.

I've also attended full council, People Oversight and Scrutiny and Education and Young People (EYP) Scrutiny. I have asked several questions around SEND provision and transparency of communication. As a result of these, we will be getting a visit from the cabinet member for Children and Young People to a local school to discuss best practice, and there will also be a cross-party working group looking at possible failings at one SEND school, including how we communicate with parents.

## Pubs of the Parishes

It's now only a couple of days until my walk around the pubs of the parish on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. The weather is currently looking as good as could be expected, so we'll be starting at The Station Garden at 11am, then stopping at The White Hart, The Harwellian, The Crown at Chilton, The George at Upton, The Blueberry, and finishing at The Red Lion in Blewbury. If you would like to join me, either for a chat in your local, or for a walk in between them, please follow my Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CllrBekahFletcher](https://www.facebook.com/CllrBekahFletcher) for full timings.

Best wishes

Bekah

## Transport update

There are some really disruptive roadworks coming up, please let me know if you'd like more information on any of the below.

### Church Street, Upton

20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October, a section of the road will be CLOSED for the installation of a fire hydrant.

### Greenwood Way-Didcot Road junction, Great Western Park

24<sup>th</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November resurfacing works. There will be considerable disruption, including closures, of the entire signalised junction where Great Western Park meets Didcot Road. This will include late-night noisy works (residents have been informed). The diversion route is also quite convoluted so if at all possible, please avoid the area during half-term.

### High Street-Drewitt's Corner-Church Lane, Harwell

9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, road closures are expected for the Remembrance Sunday parade, and for

Armistice Day ceremony. Please avoid driving in the area where possible out of respect for the services **High Street, Harwell**

Works for traffic calming have now been confirmed, although no traffic management application appears to have been made yet. Works supposedly to be finished by 19<sup>th</sup> December, and there may be considerable disruption while works are carried out

### Westbrook Street, Blewbury

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November, a very small section of the road will be CLOSED. These are listed as essential works so please be aware that legally, they could continue for up to 5 days (this is not anticipated) **A34**

Overnight closures for resurfacing, 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> November (9pm-6am), Southbound Milton-Chilton.

Please continue to report any highway defects on [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com).

## Other news and information

**Councillor Priority Fund** – All County Councillors have access to a pot of funding to support local community projects. Applications are open from now until November 2026. All parish councils and community groups or charities are welcome to submit applications – the minimum grant is £500, and there are rules regarding eligibility of applicants and projects. You can read more at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/communities/councillor-priority-fund>

**Congestion Charge Permits** – The Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars comes into effect on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Oxfordshire residents can apply for a **free** permit that gives you 25 day passes per car per calendar year. Households can apply for a maximum of two cars. Each pass is valid for **one day's travel for all six congestion charge locations**. Without a permit, car drivers can choose an alternative route or mode of transport or pay the daily charge. Additional permits are available for certain groups including Blue Badge holders, unpaid carers, community health and care workers, mobile traders and patients required to attend frequent hospital appointments in Oxford.

You can apply here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporarycongestion-charge-cars/apply-permit>

**HIF1 Major infrastructure scheme for Didcot and surrounding areas** – there will be a series of drop in events in the next couple of weeks, where members of the public can view designs for the scheme. We are approaching construction stages, so anyone who wants to find out more, ask questions or raise concerns can attend any of the events:

**Wednesday 15 October 2025**, 3:30pm – 8pm

District Community Centre, Gentian Mews, Great Western Park, Didcot, OX11 6GR **Friday 17**

**October 2025**, 2pm - 8pm

Clifton Hampden Village Hall, Abingdon Rd, Clifton Hampden, Abingdon OX14 3EG

**Saturday 18 October 2025**, 11am – 4pm

Cornerstone Art Centre, Didcot, 25 Station Rd, Didcot OX11 7NE

**Wednesday 22 October 2025**, 2:30pm - 8pm

Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Hobbyhorse Ln, Sutton Courtenay, Abingdon OX14 4BB

**Thursday 23 October 2025**, 2pm - 8pm

Appleford Village Hall, Main Rd, Abingdon OX14 4PF

You can also read about the project here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-andtravel/roadworks/future-transport-projects/didcot-and-area-improvements>

## Councillor queries

Recent queries I've raised on behalf of residents and Parish Councils include:

<b>Ticket description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Outcome/latest information</b>
Traffic calming Harwell village	CONFIRMED	Works have now been confirmed - due to be finished by 19 <sup>th</sup> December and may take up to 8 weeks. The Parish Council already has details of the works.
GWP adoption	ONGOING	Spine roads adoption currently stuck in negotiations between Leap Utilities, SODC and Taylor Wimpey. We can't adopt any estate roads until the spine roads are adopted. I have a briefing scheduled on what the obstacles are to adoption.
Blewbury road safety	IN PROGRESS	Funding confirmed for wig wags, dropped kerbs and bollards at multiple points on London Road and Bessels Way. Hoping this will be a Christmas present for Blewbury! Still pushing for funding for a crossing at Savages.
Harwell roadworks	IN PROGRESS	Investigation into the Grove Road works is ongoing
Harwell roadworks - repairs	IN PROGRESS	Further to the above, contractor vehicles damaged a manhole cover outside the High Street shops – this has been reported for repair and will also be followed up with the contractor. Virgin Media have now attended to put in temporary fix, due to return on 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
Road safety issues on A417	IN PROGRESS	Crossing confirmed at the Winnaway, with other speeding measures to be included as part of the works.
Coffin Way cycle path	AWAITING RESPONSE	Requested briefing on previous work re: footpath/potential cycle route between Blewbury and Upton – relevant officer on leave
Steventon Lights/HIF 1 clash	COMPLETE	This will be managed by the contractor working on the "Science Bridge" section of the scheme, but I'm assured the TM will be managed appropriately. Cow lane improvements not included in HIF1, but covered by S106 for Valley Park – officers currently investigating whether to request a contribution for improvements or to leave improvement to the developer.
Harwell PC footpath right of way	COMPLETE	Have been told I do not need to support this as it can be better handled between PC and DC. However, happy to support anyway if requested
Bramble Lane broken manhole cover GWP	COMPLETE	Passed to Taylor Wimpey as an urgent fix, and followed up with officers
Thames Water road closures	COMPLETE	Complained about two "emergency" road closures preventing bus access, where TW seem to be deliberately avoiding normal planning process, and warned of another possible risk on Townsend, to avoid similar closure in future. Additionally reported to MP and followed up with Thames Water directly. Response highly unsatisfactory, have replied to that effect but unlikely to be able to change policy
D2A complaint	IN PROGRESS	Escalated resident complaint about Discharge to assess service from Didcot Community Hospital – followed up with officers twice
Chilton Main St traffic calming	HANDED OVER	PC would need to fund (approx. £6k for unit, £500 per pole) – will wait to hear decision
Library subscriptions	COMPLETE	Query on when and why subscriptions via local libraries were removed – cost-savings. Some subscriptions still available, but only onsite.
Newbury Road speed	AWAITING RESPONSE	Have asked about possibility of reducing the adopted section of Newbury Road to 20mph due to number of houses facing straight onto road and considerable traffic
Chilton Fields adoption	AWAITING RESPONSE	Chilton Fields – will there be further delays due to lighting upgrades – if so, can we prioritise this

## Appendix 2

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Monthly Parish Update

**CLlr Hayleigh Gascoigne and CLlr Debra Dewhurst**

*Vale of White Horse District Councillors*

Hello from Hayleigh and Debra

As we come into Autumn and the evenings draw in with the temperatures starting to drop, we seem to be entering a busy period for council business.

In September, Hayleigh was lucky enough to visit Wantage Leisure Centre in order to see the decarbonisation work that has been going on. Funded by the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, the multi-million-pound construction projects to replace end-of-life gas boilers with solar panels and air source heat pumps at leisure centres in Wantage and Abingdon are helping Vale of White Horse District Council to reduce its overall carbon emissions. It was clear to see the major work that is involved when upgrading a leisure centre, compared to a home – it was impressive!

At Vale's cabinet meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October, amongst other things, Vale's progress to Net Zero was discussed. You can find the [reports](#) from the meeting on the Vale website.

The Vale has cut its emissions by 12% since we made a commitment to net zero (in 2019), and by 45% since reporting began (2009). The Leisure Centres make up 39% of our overall greenhouse gas emissions, and so we would expect this to keep falling as the air source heat pumps come online. Unfortunately, waste collection makes up half of our overall greenhouse gas emissions. At this current time, this is much harder for us to decarbonise, as there are not yet large waste collection vehicles that can manage to do the trip from our waste vehicle depot to the places in our rural constituency, and back again. However, do look out for our electric food waste trucks, which can manage the journeys – and are in fact more reliable and better performing than their diesel counterparts.

The Government's proposed Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which aims to replace the existing two-tier council system in areas like Oxfordshire with unitary authorities, will hamper the council from making longer term financial commitments. Decisions to invest in decarbonisation works on the council's estate are likely to be postponed until the LGR is complete.

On 18<sup>th</sup> September, the councils hosted an event at the District Community Centre on Great Western Park for members of the public to hear about latest news and updates on the health, wellbeing, sport and leisure projects and developments in Didcot. Hayleigh attended the event, and was pleased to hear about the wayfinding project and an art installation at Cow Lane bridge, as well as developer Taylor Wimpey and Persimmon sharing plans for their upcoming building on Valley Park.

In previous updates over the past couple of years, you will have seen updates about the preparation of Vale and South's Joint Local Plan. In recent months, this has been at the "examination stage". A couple of weeks ago, the planning inspectorate (a national body) wrote to the councils and asked them to withdraw the plan. This is extremely disappointing, due to the years of work put into them and brilliant policies that were contained within – notably on environmental standards and social housing numbers. For the councils' response, head to the website

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/planning/councils-to-take-positive-steps-to-represent-communities-despite-concerns-with-inspectors-local-plan-decision/>

The councils are still exploring the options for the next steps and how we can make the most of the evidence base that was put together over the past few years, to develop our local planning policies. So watch this space.

As a reminder, council meetings are held in public and if you wish to address council or committee, you can contact Democratic Services. If you need more guidance on this, please let us know!

*We use these monthly updates to keep you updated on our activities and general council news. Please also follow us on facebook: [www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh](https://www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh) & [www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell](https://www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell)*

Or email us: [hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and [debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

## Community Support

### Community Hub

The Hub can offer support and direct people to help on a range of things including Cost of Living, food support, etc. If you are struggling financially or just finding life difficult, the community hub can help. Whether it's practical support or just advice, please get in touch:

- **Call:** 01235 422600
- **Email:** [communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk)

The office hours are 8.30am - 5pm Mon to Thurs, 8.30am-4.30pm on Fri (and closed on bank holidays).

## Local News

**Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Partnership are offering a host of free, tailored support to develop your social enterprise this Autumn/Winter 2025.**

- **1:1 social business development support:** Meet a business advisor to support you with whatever stage or development needs you have.
- **Free Training workshops:** A series of training sessions to help you get your social enterprise up and running.
- **Peer support groups:** A series of facilitated peer support groups for social entrepreneurs. By sharing real experience and challenges with others who understand the journey you are on you will broaden your knowledge, extend your thinking and be resourced in a supportive and confidential group
  - [Food social enterprise peer group](#)
  - [Community hubs/assets peer group](#)
  - Creative social businesses peer group - please email [makena@osep.org.uk](mailto:makena@osep.org.uk)

Find out more [on our website](#), or email us to find out more!

This programme is funded from the UKSPF fund by South & Vale District Council and Oxford City Council. Please note, this programme can only support businesses or sole traders operating in these areas.

## Valley Park applications

With Valley Park being such a large development, the developers will submit “Reserved Matters” planning applications for each parcel of homes, and for other bits of infrastructure delivery. The below are the ones that are live in the system today including the notes from the planning officers. A number of them may still be open for comments by the public as well.

### Applications Under Consideration

**P24/V1099/RM – seeks approval for the road leading south from the Science Bridge roundabout and connecting to that part of the road associated with application P24/V0549/RM which is mentioned below, and for green corridors including Cow Lane and the Central Stream.**

This application has progressed significantly, and we are hoping to be able to determine the application within the next week. The proposed watercourse crossings are now considered acceptable from an ecology perspective, however there are still some technical matters to be resolved with OCC highways authority. This is the only matter outstanding with this application and the developers are working closely with OCC to get this resolved as soon as possible.

#### *P24/V1369/SOB – request for DoV*

Proposed changes to public art delivery and proposed changes to sports provision in line with what Boundary Park Trust would like delivered, and also looking to add in that any future S73 application does not require a DoV. They are also proposing to make amendments to the school specification and the trigger by which the western access is delivered, and these have been agreed with OCC. The extra care and AH changes are no longer being sought. The legal agreement is currently in draft form, with discussions ongoing.

**P24/V2560/RM - Infrastructure phase Bund 1, comprising the installation of Noise Bund 1 and associated infrastructure and landscaping**

Amendments have been submitted and these are considered acceptable.

#### *P25/V0563/RM – seeks approval of 397 dwellings on Phase 3P*

Amended plans were received on 24 July and further consultation carried out. There are still some outstanding matters and further amendments are required to address these. An extension of time has been agreed until 28 November 2025.

#### *P25/V0873/RM – seeks approval of 105 dwellings on Phase 2Tc (Lavender Walk)*

Amended plans are required and these are expected to be submitted in a few weeks’ time. An extension of time will need to be agreed to enable sufficient time for these to be considered, along with any further consultation.

#### *P25/V0874/RM – seeks approval of 102 dwellings on Phase 2Ta (Jasmine Fields)*

Amended plans are required and these are expected to be submitted in a few weeks’ time. An extension of time will need to be agreed to enable sufficient time for these to be considered, along with any further consultation.

**P25/V0875/RM – seeks approval of the infrastructure surrounding Phase 6T (Clover Meadow) including spine road; noise bund with associated fence; landscaping; open space, including paths, LEAP and SuDS attenuation basin; infrastructure and works.**

Amended plans are required and these are expected to be submitted in October. An extension of time has been agreed until 17 October, however it is likely that this will need to be extended further

to enable sufficient time for the amendments to be considered, along with any further consultation. This application is being assessed alongside application P25/V0879/RM for the housing.

*P25/V0879/RM – seeks approval for 225 dwellings on Phase 6T*

Amended plans are required and these are expected to be submitted in October. An extension of time has been agreed until 17 October, however it is likely that this will need to be extended further to enable sufficient time for the amendments to be considered, along with any further consultation. This application will be assessed alongside application P25/V0875/RM for the infrastructure surrounding the parcel.

*P25/V1191/RM – seeks approval for 172 dwellings on phase 3Pa and 3Pb*

This is Persimmon Phase 3Pa and 3Pb. The consultation process has highlighted matters to be addressed, and therefore amendments to the application will likely be needed. Still awaiting comments from OCC highways authority to be able to fully assess the application.

## Climate & Environment News

### [Remembering South and Vale's New Waste Services Number is as easy as 123](#)

Residents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse should use a new number for district council waste and recycling enquiries: 01235 422 123

### [New garden waste permit scheme a big success thanks to residents' support](#)

Residents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse have embraced a new garden waste permit scheme this year – with an almost 5 per cent rise in collections from the previous year.

Now, 95 per cent of all garden waste customers can now be reached by email, compared to 64 per cent the previous year, which means the Councils can also quickly keep them up to date with any known service changes.

**Residents who have purchased a permit for the district council brown bin garden waste collection service in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal scheduled collection day only, between 27 October and 7 November.**

Permit holders can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

For further details - <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/brown-bin-permit-holders-can-have-extra-garden-waste-collected-this-autumn/>

### [Local groups to get £100,000 for climate and nature projects](#)

This is the fifth year we have offered the Climate Action Fund to groups across the Vale, and it's as popular as ever. It was once again oversubscribed. We have been very impressed by the quality and ingenuity of the proposals with people looking to tackle environmental issues.

In addition to a variety of ideas, we are also seeing abundant enthusiasm from all applicants to make improvements to their local areas to take action for the climate and to help build nature recovery. One of the projects funded in our local area was in Blewbury for purchase of a cycling

rack, pump, bike repair items, locks for visitors to the Style Acre Tea Room, to encourage active travel.

And those that the whole area benefits from are:

- Distribution of 1600 free, native Oxfordshire trees to households across the Vale of White Horse, creating an opportunity for people to engage with tree planting in their own gardens (International Tree Foundation)
- Introductory workshops to educate and support communities to transition to rooftop solar power (CPRE – The countryside charity Oxfordshire)
- Provision of energy assessments for up to six community organisations in the Vale (Low Carbon Hub)
- Water testing at 40 locations across the Ock river catchment and running of engagement events, production of communications and training volunteers (Thames21)
- Local talks and engagement on climate adaptation to support community resilience in the face of increased risk of flooding across the district (Future Flood Resilience Group)

### **[Street cleansing survey](#)**

The council is inviting Town and Parish Councils to [complete this survey](#) to tell us how street cleansing happens locally and how we can improve litter picking and cleanliness in your area.

The information you provide will help us understand how street cleansing undertaken at local level fits with district council responsibilities.

## Council News

### **[Wantage community hospital refurbishment ready to start following successful funding bid](#)**

Following a successful bid to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund administered by Vale of White Horse District Council, work is now ready to start on refurbishing the ground floor of Wantage Community Hospital.

### **[Food and Warmth Grant Scheme launched to support residents this winter](#)**

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have launched a Food and Warmth Grant Scheme to help local organisations who are directly supporting residents struggling with the rising cost of living. The scheme will distribute grants to local not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that improve access to food and help people keep their homes warm. Grants are available for a six-week application window with the scheme closing for applications midday 6 November 2025. Local groups can apply for up to £2,000 if un-constituted, £2,000–£5,000 if constituted, and up to £10,000 for collaborations between three or more not-for-profit organisations led by a constituted group.

### **[Enjoy an action-packed half-term across South Oxfordshire and the Vale](#)**

From theatre shows and craft workshops to outdoor adventure challenges and family fun days – there's something for everyone this October half-term! Families across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse can look forward to an exciting week of free and low-cost activities from 25 October to 1 November. Free and low-cost outdoor activities, from 25 October to 1 November.

For more information, including details on how to reserve your place or book tickets, visit [southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities](https://southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities)

### **Residents enjoy discovering latest Didcot updates at community event**

Visitors to Didcot’s community update event last week got to find out about the range of projects and developments taking place in the garden town.

### **Books take over Wantage this October!**

Talks, workshops and performances will be taking place in Wantage for a full week as part of the Wantage Literary Festival. Highlights include a free ‘Playtime’ performance introducing children to theatre, and TV personalities such as Strictly pro Janette Manrara and Sewing Bee judge Patrick Grant both discussing their recent book releases. History, mystery, or just plain literary, there’s something on the shelf for everybody’s tastes.

Saturday 25 October - Saturday 1 November.

Find out more on the [Beacon website](#).

### **Cornerstone Arts Centre is getting spooky!**

Cornerstone Arts Centre invites you to embrace the “eerie” this November with two spine-tingling performances!

On Thursday 6 November, experience [Nosferatu on their big screen](#), as composer Chris Green brings Murnau’s 1922 vampire classic to life with a haunting mix of live electronics and acoustic sounds.

Then, on Wednesday 12 November, [Bark Bark](#) blends puppetry, cameras, and diorama sets to tell a darkly funny, unsettling story from a dog’s point of view. From acclaimed live-cinema company Buzzcut Productions (from Oxford), this Edinburgh Fringe hit is a must-see.

Book now on [the Cornerstone website](#).

Planning service update

Earlier this year, the councils carried out a major piece of planned essential maintenance work on their 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, our planning team has been impacted for a longer period and unfortunately, there is still a backlog of planning applications.

## **Appendix 3**

Actions from October Meeting, table 1

Item	Action	Ownership
7	To continue to pursue Trinity Management for Chailey Gardens playground repairs	Clerk has emailed again, but no response. Clerk to email MP
14.1	Installation of traffic-calming bollards for Blewbury	Cllr. Millman to contact OCC with the preferred bollard type and Public Consultation.

12.1	Clubhouse Meeting	Cllr. Austin to arrange next meeting
12.2	Solar Panel Repairs-To contact Didcot Cricket Club with quotation for repairs.	Cllr. Robinson to contact Didcot Cricket Club
15.1	Upkeep and maintenance of Cob Walls within Blewbury Village	Cllr. Calder to contact residents
15.3	Energy Audit	Clerk to forward to the Village Hall
15.4.1	A417 Flooding	Clerk to establish who owns the land and bring it back to Council.
15.4.2	Church End, Blewbury Flooding	Cllr. Evason to put a Tender contract out for works on Church End
18	Council Insurance-To add both Cllr. Shayler and Cllr. Robinson for use of Council horticultural equipment	Clerk to contact Marsh and Gallaghers to action
19	Poppy Wreath for Remembrance Sunday	Cllr. Millman to arrange for purchase and delivery through Mr. B Gore
26.2	Co-option of new Parish Councillors	Cllr. Millman and the Clerk to contact candidates
26.3	Resignation of current Chair	Clerk to arrange a succession meeting

Outstanding Actions from previous meetings - table 2

Item	Mtg	Action	Ownership	Update on action
13	April	Repair to Zip Wire	Iain /Mark	In Progress
8	April	Clubhouse, meter installation	Lee and Andy Evason	Awaiting a date to install meter from Octopus
17	May	Update Asset Register	Andrew/Clerk	Reviewed-In Progress of updating. Ongoing
9	June	Research suitable designs and practices from other halls for ashtrays	Clerk	To be discussed at the next Clubhouse meeting
8.3	July	To order new clubhouse signage-Stone engraving	Clerk/Iain/Mark	Contact local suppliers for quotations
8.4	July	To consider replacing old bench	Action: Clerk/Iain to investigate and list old benches within the village that	In Process

			are due to be replaced	
10.1	September	To draw up a temporary term agreement between the Parish Council and the History Group for storage at the clubhouse.	Clerk/Cllr. Millman	In Process
11.1	September	To update the Tennis Club lease with suggested amendments by Council.	Clerk/Cllr. Millman	In Process
11.2	September	To draw down the Climate Action funding for use to purchase shrubs for the path in the Melland room car park.	Cllr. Millman	In Process
18	September	To investigate the process and timings of the transfer current Gmail addresses to Gov.uk	Clerk	In Process

#### Appendix: 4

<b>Finance September 2025</b>			
<b>Inv Date</b>	<b>PAYMENTS TO APPROVE IN MEETING</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>
30.09.2025	Borehole Inspection -Clubhouse	Whatley & Co. (Pewsey) Ltd	420.00
09.10.2025	Parish Council Annual Insurance-Zurich	Marsh Commercial	15,651.20
09.10.2025	Parish Council Annual Insurance Commission Fee	Marsh Commercial	3,405.00
10.10.2025	Reinstating Topsoil around new barriers	SCS Oxon Ltd	270.00
01.10.2025	Blewbury Village Hall Roof Repairs	Tom Savage	2,364.00
18.09.2025	External Audit Fee	Moore	787.50
30.09.2025	One Cut- Blewbury Churchyard	J.J Woodage	200.00
30.09.2025	Supply and Installation of Height Barriers off Bohams Road	HH Farm Services	4,140.00
15.10.2025	TTF Signs and Melland Car Park Signs	Kingdom Signs	467.29
<b>PAID: Salaries for August Month, Paid on 05.09.2025</b>			
05.09.2025	August Cleaning Clubhouse	Jayne Newman	162.00
05.09.2025	M Taylor, July	M Taylor	1,316.12
05.09.2025	Expenses, Working from home allowance, August	M Taylor	26.00
05.09.2025	Village Hall and Clubhouse Administrator Salary, August	Helen Evi Holroyd	1,045.85
05.09.2025	Expenses, Working from home allowance, August	Helen Evi Holroyd	26.00
05.09.2025	Lengthman Service Salary, August	Iain Wood	984.37
05.09.2025	Employer/ee Tax/Ni Contributions for August	HMRC	740.23
05.09.2025	Payroll, August	SME Accounting Services Ltd	20.00
<b>PAID: Direct Debits/Standing Order</b>			
01.09.2025	Octopus Energy-Ref: 38KQSQY PAID 01.09.2025	Octopus Energy	100.00
04.09.2025	BT Group PLC-Internet (Clubhouse)	Bt Group PLC	39.77
22.09.2025	Biffa Waste Services-Wheelie Bin Waste Collection	Biffa	165.26
23.09.2025	Pensions Contributions	NEST	124.98
<b>PAID: Since previous meeting</b>			
02.09.2025	Cleaning Materials (Clubhouse)	Amazon	19.98
30.09.2025	Galvanised Zip Wire Cable	For Outdoors Ltd	389.99
30.09.2025	Cob Wall Repairs	Master Thatching Ltd	10,500.00
30.09.2025	Concrete Pads and Ditch Works (Barrier Works)	SCS Oxon Ltd	1,392.00
	<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>44,757.54</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
30.09.2025	Lloyds Deposit Account Interest for September	Lloyds	149.60
05.09.2025	Precept Q2	VWHDC	59,000.00
09.09.2025	Memorial Headstone	Oxfordshire Memorials	95.00
11.09.2025	Payroll Contribution Hall Administrator Q1	Blewbury Hall Executive	1,415.95
11.09.2025	Memorial Headstone	Set In Stone-Didcot	95.00
	<b>Total Income</b>		<b>60,755.55</b>