

Blewbury Parish Council

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MINUTES of the meeting of the

Parish Council held on **Wednesday 19th November 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

Cllr. Lee Robinson

Parish Clerk: Michelle Taylor

District Councillor: Debra Dewhurst

County Councillor: Rebekah Fletcher

3 x Members of the public

Cllr. Millman announced the introduction to the newly appointed Parish Councillor Sarah Parkin. Introductions were given by all Councillor members and members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

-Cllr. Mathias (Chair)- Cllr. Millman to Chair the meeting.

-District Councillor-Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne.

2. Declarations of Interest

- Cllr. Shayler raised an interest in item: 14.1-Approval of October payments.

- Cllr. Robinson raised an interest in item: 7- Chailey Gardens Update.

3. Public Participation

A member of public enquired if there were any updates on the S106 grants for the Amazons football team to continue towards the use of the Clubhouse pitches. Concerns were raised following an email that was sent from Blewbury Parish Council to the Didcot Cricket Club with regards to a broken solar panel. It was confirmed it was not Didcot Cricket Club, but Blewbury Cricket Club that had broken the Solar Panel on the Clubhouse roof. It was suggested that an ongoing solution needs to be sort in case this that happens again. It was announced there is an up-and-coming Clubhouse meeting, at which this would be discussed to assess the risks and an outcome moving forward.

Planning Matters

4. Planning Updates

4.1. Planning Applications – for review and comments

- [P25/V2195/LDE](#) Yard at Coffin Way Driveway access from Westbrook Street Blewbury OX11 9QB
Proposal: Use of land for Class B8 commercial storage and distribution.

BPC-has no objections to this planning application

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

- [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.

BPC NOTED-Listed Building Consent Granted.

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

Proposal: External swimming pool and associated equipment.

BPC NOTED-Planning Permission Granted.

- [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)

BPC NOTED-Planning Permission Granted.

- [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.

BPC NOTED-Listing Building Consent Granted.

Reports & Updates

5. County Councillor- Cllr Rebekah Fletcher. Reports from November were received and circulated to Council. **Appendix 1 (BPC Website)** Cllr Fletcher highlighted that the Highways team would be carrying out a site visit to local Parishes (Blewbury included) to record any works that were outstanding in and around the village. Any outstanding issues can be sent directly to Highways, and Cllr. Fletcher will be in touch with proposed dates for their visit. Cllr. Fletcher also announced that the Flooding team would also be happy to carrying out a site visit in Blewbury and any problem areas in and around the village should be put forward for their attention.

6. District Councillor - Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and Cllr Debra Dewhurst. November report received and circulated to Council. **Appendix 2 (BPC Website)** Cllr Dewhurst highlighted the current situation of the up-and-coming health centre on Great western Park; announcing it has now been delayed again due to funding.

7. Action Points

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

8. Parish Councillor Vacancies (AM & JS)

8.1. Co-option- Parish Councillor Vacancy

Council agreed unanimously to accept Sarah Parkin to the office of Blewbury Parish Council having signed the declaration of acceptance to office form witnessed by the Clerk, and the register of interest form being completed and sent via the Clerk in the given timeframe.

9. Lengthman's Report-Iain Wood

- 9.1. Bag theft and broken car window in the car park by the tennis club.
- 9.2. Graffiti in TFF. It was announced the graffiti has now been removed from the play area equipment, but there was still some remaining graffiti on the concrete picnic area which was not able to be cleared.
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Clubs and Societies

10. Clubhouse

- 10.1. Council to note Hall Administrator Report. October report circulated to Council.
- 10.2. Roof Repairs. Update on the repair to the Clubhouse roof following the Cricket Season. **(LR)** Council agreed for options moving forward to be discussed at the next Clubhouse meeting being held on the 24th November 2025, and any recommendations to be brought back to Full Council for consideration.
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11. Traffic & Safety

- 11.1. A417 Crossing near recreation ground Public Consultation Update. **(AM)** Cllr. Millman announced OCC would be carryout the Public Consultation. Council agreed in support of lighting being installed either side of the crossing.
- 11.2. Speedwatch data report for October and data trends over time. October report received and circulated to Council. Council agreed not to purchase another SID in this financial year as the current SIDS monitor and record speeds in both directions. Council noted the future costs for moving the SIDS. Council agreed to continue to support the cost of £1,000 within the next budget to cover this expense. To be reviewed annually.
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12. Environment (AM)

- 12.1. Flooding Updates **(AE & AM)**
- 12.1.1. A417 London Road-Item deferred. Awaiting confirmation of ownership of land opposite old cemetery, adjacent to London Road.
- 12.1.2. Church End. Council formally agreed to form a working group to progress the outstanding works to diminish the flooding issues at Church End, Blewbury.
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Administrative Items

13. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved for the meeting held on the 15th of October and signed by the Chairman.

14. Finance

- 14.1. The October payments were approved by Council-**Appendix 4**
- 14.2. To approve bank reconciliations:
- September 2025
 - October 2025

Council approved September and October bank reconciliations and agreed for the Chair to sign as a true record.

14.3. Budget for 2026-27. To confirm date and time for the Finance Committee Meeting, provisional booked for Thursday the 27th of November 2025 at 6pm.

14.4. To approve CIL spend of £10,000 towards the replacement of the Skatepark. Council formally approved to allocate £10,000 from CIL funding towards the replacement of the Skatepark, and ratified for Mr Paul Whitehead to be an authorised signatory for submission proposals for fundraising towards the Skatepark.

Projects & Ongoing Matters

15. Skatepark Tender Update (AE & AC)

To receive an update from Skatepark Working Group. Cllr. Austin announced there would be a crowd funding box located at the post office for people to make contributions towards the refurbishment of the Skatepark. Cllr. Evason announced the tender deadline had now past for potential suppliers to bid on the Skatepark refurbishment. Four bids have been successfully received. The Skatepark working group would now score each tender bid individually and shortlist preferred suppliers to attend interview.

16. Armillary Sphere – Play Close (JS)

To confirm grand opening of The Sphere. Cllr. Saunders announced the opening of the Armillary Sphere would take place during March equinox. Date and time to be confirmed.

Correspondence & Reports

17. Chairman's Report

For information only – No additional updates.

18. Councillors' Reports

Other updates from Parish Councillors (not listed on agenda) Cllr. Robinson outlined which S106 funding is available for use. Cllr. Robinson will circulate to all Council members for consideration.

19. Future Agenda Items

- Neighbourhood Plan Review – (Following the adoption of the OCC Local Plan)
- BPC Annual Budget 2026-27
- EV Chargers

20. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 17 December 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.

21. Payroll Processing-Village Hall

21.1. Council to agree the transfer of payroll processing to Blewbury Parish Council for J Newman (**LR**) Council agreed for J Newman to be added to Blewbury Parish Council payroll as of the 1st December 2025. Blewbury Parish Council will then recharge the Village Hall quarterly for J Newmans services.

21.2. Chairing of Parish Council and resignation of current Chair (AE, AM, LR & JS**)**

Council agreed to accept Cllr. Dermot Mathias resignation from Chairman/Councillor to Blewbury Parish Council with immediate effect. A note of thanks was given from all Council members. Council agreed that they are happy for Cllr. Julia Saunders to stand for Chair at the meeting of full Council in December until the Annual meeting of the Parish Council in May 2026.

Appendix 1

County Councillor report

Date: November 2025

Author: Cllr Rebekah Fletcher

Parishes: Blewbury, Chilton, Harwell, Upton, Western Valley

Contact details: rebekah.fletcher@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dear Parish Councillors and residents,

The last few weeks have been extremely busy, largely with road resurfacing issues. Many residents will have been negatively affected by the closure of both Didcot Road exits from GWP, and by overnight closures of part of Didcot Road. The communication, and to some extent, the planning around these roadworks was extremely poor, and several local councillors spent time following up with officers. I was able to speak directly to the Head of Highways and persuade him to switch off an ANPR camera to allow access for residents during closure, and I attended the site every night of the works with OCC officers to ensure that the works ran to schedule. On the positive side, the works were finished three days early, with some additional quality measures and pavement maintenance. I have already arranged a follow-up meeting with senior officers to review the processes that failed us on this occasion, and to make sure things improve going forwards.

Thank you to everyone who came to join our pubs of the parishes walk; in particular, John and Annabel from the Red Lion Blewbury, who between them joined the entire walk, and to the Station Garden, who put on free tea and coffee to set us up for the day.

I'm keen to continue a programme of public engagement, so will be doing more walks in the future – perhaps with particular focuses on issues raised with me directly – SEND, Adult

Social Care etc. If you have any ideas for subjects you think it would be valuable to discuss with residents, please let me know.

Lastly, I am now on holiday until 13th November, so please bear with me if there is a delayed response to any issues you raise before then.

Best wishes

Bekah

Transport update

I'm very sorry to say that our transport network platform has recently been changed, and there are ongoing technical problems that prevent me from accessing local plans. I've asked for this to be fixed asap. I haven't received any formal notification of major works or road closures.

Please continue to report any highway defects on www.fixmystreet.com.

Other news and information

Congestion Charge Permits – The Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars is now in effect. If you have yet to apply for your 25 permits, you can still do so.

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

South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) statutory consultation –

Thames Water has now launched its statutory consultation on the SESRO scheme. It will close on 13 January 2026 and you can find out more here: <https://thames-sro.co.uk/public-consultations/south-east-strategic-reservoir-option-sesro-statutory-consultation-2025/>
There will also be an information event at Didcot Civic Hall on 10th November from 2-8pm – do drop in if you can.

Shaping the future of our fire and rescue service - Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue has recently completed a review of how it delivers its emergency response and community safety across the county. We are now inviting residents to offer their views on a set of proposals for improving safety, efficiency and resilience of the service. You can do so here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ofrs-consultation>

Name that gritter! – Oxfordshire has 30 new gritters for salting roads across the county over the winter season. Members of the public can submit name ideas until 5th November here: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/name-oxfordshire-s-new-gritters/surveys/survey>

One Oxfordshire proposal – The County Council’s proposal for a single unitary council will be going to Scrutiny and Cabinet in November, and if agreed, submitted to government on 28th November. You can read it here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/plans-performance-policy/OneOxfordshireProposal.pdf>

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>

New Highways Maintenance Initiative – The council is introducing a new Highways Asset Response Team (HART), to deliver faster and more efficient reactive highways maintenance. They will be undertaking a range of activities:

- Street furniture cleaning (e.g.: signs, bollards and other safety maintenance)
- Pedestrian safety enhancements (such as removing damaged equipment/footway plates and repairing surface deterioration)
- Vegetation management (clearing footways and cycleways)
- Surface debris clearance (street and pavement sweeping)
- Visual amenity improvements (removing old flyposting to keep streets smart and tidy)
- Street clutter reduction (making sure old traffic management signs and barriers are removed promptly)

I’ll be meeting with the team before the end of the year to discuss our local areas; what and where we’d like them to focus their efforts. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

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	ONGOING	Works have now been confirmed – will miss the deadline of 19 th December and may take up to 8 weeks, most likely in New Year. 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 – this should be possible if residents can agree to dark skies compliant street lighting either side of the crossing.
Harwell roadworks	IN PROGRESS	Investigation into the Grove Road works is ongoing
Harwell roadworks - repairs	COMPLETE	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 rd October Crossing confirmed at the Winnaway, with other speeding measures to be included as part of the works.
Road safety issues on A417	IN PROGRESS	Requested briefing on previous work re: footpath/potential cycle route between Blewbury and Upton – relevant officer on leave
Coffin Way cycle path	AWAITING RESPONSE	Escalated resident complaint about Discharge to assess service from Didcot Community Hospital – followed up directly with Head of Hospitals. Now resolved with resident receiving regular physio and support visits from VOWH team.
D2A complaint	COMPLETE	

Chilton Main St traffic calming	HANDED OVER	PC would need to fund (approx. £6k for unit, £500 per pole) – will wait to hear decision
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	COMPLETE	Chilton Fields – will there be further delays due to lighting upgrades – no upgrade due before adoption takes place, but Street Lighting team could upgrade in future if necessary and with resident support
Harwell - flooding	IN PROGRESS	Visit agreed: to be scheduled with flooding team
Harwell – pavement repairs and maintenance	IN PROGRESS	Visit agreed: to be scheduled with HART
SID data	ONGOING	SID data submitted to Police and Crime Panel; will be followed up at a future meeting.

Appendix 2

Monday 10th November 2025

Monthly Parish Update

Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and

Cllr Debra Dewhurst

Vale of White Horse District Councillors

[Hello from Hayleigh and Debra](#)

Sunday 9th November was Remembrance Sunday, and like every year, we honoured to be laying a wreath of Remembrance on behalf of the Vale of White Horse District Council. Each year, we parade down the High Street in Harwell Village alongside veterans, cadets, parish councillors and other local groups.

National Government's plans to reorganise local government still dominates the discussion at the council, and the work of the officers. By the end of November, we will, as a council, have submitted a proposal to the Government for their consideration. To be clear, this will be their decision – and they have, in the case of Oxfordshire, three submissions to look at. The Oxfordshire unitary, the Greater Oxford model and the one which the Vale is putting forward alongside four other councils; Cherwell, West Ox, South Ox and West Berkshire. The proposal has the potential to save the most money of all the options – with possible savings

reaching £59.8m a year. It would create authorities that are big enough to be efficient, stable and reliable, but local enough to care and be responsive to communities.

The proposal would create two councils covering the following geographical areas:

- **Oxford and Shires Council** would comprise all of the existing district areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- **Ridgeway Council** would be made up of the whole of West Berkshire Council's area and all of the existing district areas of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

The proposal has been designed to meet the criteria set out by the government earlier this year. The criteria called for all proposals to be for councils that serve populations of around 500,000, are financially stable, deliver high-quality services, are responsive to the needs of communities, and support positive growth across the region. Residents can read the full proposal or an abridged version on the website <http://twocouncils.org>.

In the last update, we explained the current position with the Joint Local Plan – which is still at the examination stage, though the Planning Inspectorate asked us to withdraw it. The Inspectors said the councils had failed in a “duty to co-operate” with Oxford City Council on the single issue of how many homes South and Vale should plan in their districts to help Oxford with its unmet needs. The councils wrote back to the Inspectors setting out concerns they had with the Inspectors’ recommendation.

The latest development is that a few days later Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning has written to the Planning Inspectorate, the organisation that oversees all Planning Inspectors, to request that they “be proportionate” in how they apply the guidelines related to the duty to co-operate, and to consider the context. The Minister’s letter also welcomed Inspectors providing more opportunities during the examination process for councils to clarify how they’ve met the duty to co-operate.

Now [the two councils have written to the Inspectors again](#) requesting that they reconsider their initial conclusions in light of the Minister’s letter, along with legal points the councils have raised, and Oxford’s latest published housing figures – which show that we have already planned enough to cover the unmet need.

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 & www.facebook.com/Debra4BlewburyAndHarwell

Or email us:

hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and debra.dewhurst@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Local News

[SESRO consultation](#)

Thames Water has launched their statutory consultation for the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) Project, running until 11.59pm on 13 January 2026.

Community drop-in events

As part of this, Thames Water is also hosting community drop-in events which we have set out below. This is a formal consultation they need to undertake before they can submit their plans to government for the reservoir, which they currently intend to do in autumn next year (2026).

Thames Water is inviting responses from the wider public, and so you can provide your own, individual responses to the consultation through any of the following ways:

- Fill in the [online feedback form](#), accessible via the consultation website
- Email Thames Water's consultation response email address at SESRO@ipsos.com
- Fill in a printed feedback form, which are available from one of Thames Water's public consultation events, or by requesting that one is posted to you by Thames Water.
- Write to Thames Water free of charge at FREEPOST SESRO CONSULTATION.

All feedback must be submitted to Thames Water in writing by 11:59pm on 13 January 2026. Responses received after that date may not be considered. If you have any questions about the consultation materials or process, please contact Thames Water at info.SESRO@thameswater.co.uk.

Thames Water consultation events

In-person community information events:

- Saturday 15 November 2025, 10am - 4pm - Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, Hobbyhorse Lane, OX14 4BB
- Thursday 20 November 2025, 2pm – 8pm - Marcham Centre, Barrow Close, Marcham, OX13 6TY
- Friday 21 November 2025, 2pm – 8pm - Hanney War Memorial Hall, Brookside, East Hanney, OX12 0JL
- Wednesday 26 November 2025, 2pm – 8pm - The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BX
- Thursday 27 November 2025, 2pm – 8pm - Milton Hill House Hotel, near Steventon, OX13 6AF

Online events:

- Tuesday 18 November 2025, 1pm – 2pm [Book your place here](#)
- Monday 24 November 2025, 7pm – 8pm [Book your place here](#)

Next steps

Following the consultation, Thames Water will then consider the responses, then proceed to submit their plans to government – which they currently intend to do in autumn 2026. The government will then appoint Planning Inspectors to oversee and determine whether the plans will go ahead through a process called a Development Consent Order (DCO) application. Thames Water will need to demonstrate how they have taken in account relevant comments made during this consultation.

[Winter across the districts](#)

As the colder months approach, the councils have created a helpful guide to support residents through winter. The guide includes advice on keeping warm, support available through our community hub, steps to take during extreme weather, tips to prevent damp and mould, as well as information about our council services.

We work closely with our tenants to keep homes safe, dry, and free from damp and mould. [Under Awaab's Law](#), which is now in effect, social housing providers are required to respond quickly to reports of damp and mould. We're committed to meeting and wherever possible, exceeding these standards to help ensure all our homes remain safe and comfortable.

For more information go to - [Winter in The Vale - Vale of White Horse District Council](#)

Climate & Environment News

[Tuckmill Meadows has some 'moo' residents](#)

Meet Dorisse, Lucinda and KitKat – three Irish Dexter cows who have recently moved to Tuckmill Meadows nature reserve near Shrivenham as part of a nature recovery programme. Tuckmill Meadows, which is a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), is owned by Vale of White Horse District Council and is managed by the Earth Trust with the help of Friends of Tuckmill volunteers.

[Residents' guide to waste and recycling](#)

The councils have produced new easy-to-read guides to help residents with their waste and recycling. The guides include what items go in which bin, who to contact if a collection is missed, how to reduce your waste and much more. There are two guides, available to view now on our website. Paper copies will also be provided to new homes.

- [houses with individual wheelie bins - guide to waste and recycling](#)
- [flats and properties with communal bins - guide to waste and recycling](#)

[Help for town and parish councils](#)

More of our town and parish councils are now wanting to introduce their own climate and biodiversity projects and strategies and are looking for advice on where to start.

The councils have developed a webpage hosting a variety of information for them from funding opportunities, ready-made strategies and case studies of other community projects which could offer them a framework for what they are trying to achieve. Take a look - <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/action-on-climate-and-nature/what-you-can-do-as-a-community/what-town-and-parish-councils-can-do/>

[Energy saving measures - new information about funding](#)

If residents are concerned about heating bills this winter, they may be interested in the councils' [updated energy saving leaflet](#) available on the website - <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/action-on-climate-and-nature/what-you-can-do-to-help-tackle-climate-change/retrofitting-your-home/>

The flyer comprises information about energy saving solutions from insulation to air source heat pumps and details of where people can get funding to help install these - including the new Warm Homes Grant.

Council News

[Full Council – 22nd October](#)

Significant public concerns around Thames Water's South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) and the spiralling costs now associated with the proposed development, were raised at Vale of White Horse District Council's [full council meeting](#).

Councillors heard impassioned public statements from residents and local representatives before considering a [motion on the South East Strategic Reservoir Option \(SESRO\)](#) and discussed, amongst other issues, the emergence of much higher costs for the development. Capital construction costs have increased so far from an estimated £2.2 billion to three times that amount. Council unanimously approved the motion.

The Leader will now request that The Secretary of State directs Thames Water to prepare a new Water Resource Management Plan in the light of the significant change in costs, alongside writing to all the MPs representing parts of the Vale of the White Horse urging them to support the request. The council will continue arguing for the consideration of the alternative scheme, the Severn to Thames Transfer.

[Man convicted after admitting eight-year council tax fraud](#)

A Blewbury resident has been convicted of two charges of fraud after admitting to falsely claiming a single person discount on his council tax over an eight-year period. Residents in receipt of the Single Person Discount on their council tax are reminded of their

legal obligation to notify the council of any change in circumstances that may affect their eligibility for the discount. In addition, the council conducts periodic reviews to verify that recipients continue to meet the criteria, specifically, that they remain the sole adult occupant of the property. If a resident's circumstances change, they must inform the council tax team without delay by contacting the Council Tax office or completing the [change of circumstances form](#). Failure to report any relevant changes within 21 days constitutes a criminal offence. This may result in the withdrawal of the discount and could lead to legal proceedings.

[Record-Breaking Season at Abbey Meadow Pool!](#)

This summer was a record breaker for Abbey Meadow outdoor pool in Abingdon with nearly 30,000 visitors coming to enjoy the facility. Vale of White Horse District Council and its leisure provider, GLL, who manage the pool, kiosk and splash pad for the council agreed a slightly earlier opening of the pool for summer season this year, and visitor numbers were double that from 2024.

[Breaking the cycle of homelessness](#)

Homelessness extends far beyond rough sleeping and can impact anyone, often without warning. It is frequently hidden, such as sofa surfing, encompassing individuals living in insecure, inadequate, or unsanitary housing, as well as those affected by domestic abuse. Proactive work to break the cycle of homelessness for vulnerable people and ensure support is accessible, effective, and timely is the focus of a new council strategy. Following a public consultation held in May and June, a new Joint Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy has been put in place by South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse district councils.

[Postal vote reapplications](#)

Residents who vote by post now need to reapply every three years if they wish to continue to cast their ballot this way.

Starting with a short trial in October, the council will write to people when their postal vote is up for renewal. The first group this rule change impacts, and who will receive a notification, will be those who applied for a postal vote on or before 31 January 2024. They will need to re-apply by 31 January 2026, otherwise their postal vote will expire.

You can find more information on postal voting on the [Electoral Commission website](#).

[Social housing allocation policy changes now in place](#)

Following a public consultation, the councils have now put in place an updated joint Housing Allocation Policy for both councils. The refreshed policy sets out the criteria on who can join the councils' housing register and the rules for how social housing is allocated. See the policy on our website - <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/housing/social-housing-and-join-the-housing-register/>

[Over £580,000 boost for local infrastructure in the Vale](#)

Over the last six months, the council has transferred over £583,000 to invest in vital infrastructure delivered by the council, town and parish councils and other community organisations.

These investments have supported many projects — from public art and sports to eco-friendly improvements like solar panels.

As the local planning authority, Vale of White Horse collects financial contributions in the form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 (S106) – this is the funding from housing developers to support the growth of the district when new developments are created.

Follow this link for a breakdown of [S106 funds have been approved and paid out and CIL monies transferred for Vale](#) (the document should download automatically).

Find out more about [CIL here](#) and [S106 here](#).

[Magic awaits in Didcot as Beauty and the Beast opens in six weeks](#)

With just six weeks to go until opening night, excitement is building as Polka Dot Pantomimes brings the much-loved classic Beauty and the Beast to Cornerstone Arts Centre this Christmas.

Running from **Thursday 18 December to Wednesday 31 December**, this spectacular family production promises a festive experience filled with laughter, music and magic.

Featuring a talented professional cast alongside local young performers, Beauty and the Beast is set to be a true community celebration and the perfect festive treat for audiences of all ages.

Tickets are on sale - <https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/whats/beauty-and-beast>

Appendix 3

Actions from November Meeting, table 1

Item	Action	Ownership
10.2	Clubhouse Roof Repair	Cllr. Millman and Cllr. Austin-Following the Clubhouse meeting; Recommendations to be brought back to the December meeting.
11.1	A417 Crossing near recreation ground- Installation of lighting	Cllr. Millman to contact OCC to confirm Council's full support for the installation of lighting either side of the new crossing on the A417.
12.1.1	A417 Flooding	Clerk to establish who owns the land opposite the cemetery and bring it back to Council.
12.1.2	Church End Flooding, Blewbury	Cllr. Millman and Cllr. Evason to form working group.

Outstanding Actions from previous meetings - table 2

Item	Mtg	Action	Ownership	Update on action
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8	April	Clubhouse, meter installation	Lee and Andy Evason	Awaiting a date to install meter from Octopus. Ongoing
17	May	Update Asset Register	Iain/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 on Monday 24 th November
8.3	July	To order new clubhouse signage-Stone engraving	Clerk/Iain/Mark	Contact local suppliers for quotations. Ongoing.
8.4	July	To consider replacing old bench	Action: Clerk/Iain to investigate and list old benches within the village that are due to be replaced	In Process
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
18	September	To investigate the process and timings of the transfer current	Clerk	In Process

		Gmail addresses to Gov.uk		
12.2	October	Solar Panel Repairs-	Cllr. Millman and Cllr. Austin	To be discussed at the Clubhouse meeting on Monday 24 th November
15.1	October	Upkeep and maintenance of Cob Walls within Blewbury Village	Cllr Calder and Clerk	Ongoing

Appendix 4

Finance October 2025				
Inv Date	PAYMENTS TO APPROVE IN MEETING		Payee	Amount
15.11.2025	S106-Climate Grant Fund		VOWH	503.00
24.10.2025	Hedge Cutting		J Drewe	492.00
24.10.2025	Moving the SIDS		MAC Traffic Solutions	648.00
31.10.2025	Grass Cutting-Churchyard		J.J Woodage	200.00
13.11.2025	Wood Repair for Zip Wire-TTF		Shayler Concrete Pumping Ltd	685.46
13.10.2025	Wreath for Remembrance Sunday		Bill Gore	50.00
13.11.2025	Concrete for Height Barrier Installation		Shayler Concrete Pumping Ltd	739.20
PAID: Salaries for September Month, Paid on 01.10.2025				
01.10.2025	August Cleaning Clubhouse		Jayne Newman	234.00
01.10.2025	M Taylor, July		M Taylor	1,316.12
01.10.2025	Expenses, Working from home allowance, September		M Taylor	26.00
01.10.2025	Village Hall and Clubhouse Administrator Salary, September		Helen Evi Holroyd	1,019.85
01.10.2025	Expenses, Working from home allowance, September		Helen Evi Holroyd	26.00
01.10.2025	Lengthman Service Salary, September		Iain Wood	1,055.80
01.10.2025	Employer/ee Tax/Ni Contributions for September		HMRC	733.60
01.10.2025	Payroll, September		SME Accounting Services Ltd	20.00
PAID: Direct Debits/Standing Order				
01.10.2025	Octopus Energy-Ref: 38KQSQY PAID 01.10.2025		Octopus Energy	100.00
06.10.2025	BT Group PLC-Internet (Clubhouse)		Bt Group PLC	39.77
20.10.2025	Bank Service Charges		Lloyds	8.50
PAID: Since previous meeting				
01.10.2025	Village Hall and Clubhouse Administrator, Expenses		Helen Evi Holroyd	50.99
01.10.2025	Mobile Phone Top Up (Clerk)		EE Top Up.com	23.78
14.11.2025	Waste Collection		Biffa	371.84
14.11.2025	Cleaning Materials (Clubhouse)		Amazon	58.11
14.11.2025	Stationary (Clerk)		Amazon	66.32
	Total Expenditure			8,468.34
RECEIPTS				
30.10.2025	Lloyds Deposit Account Interest for October		Lloyds	142.63
06.10.2025	Memorial Headstone		Set In Stone	120.00
08.10.2025	Reimbursement- Hall Administrator Q2		Blewbury Village Hall Executives	1,182.62
08.10.2025	Melland Room Income Q2		Blewbury Village Hall Executives	3,425.99
24.10.2025	S106-Clubhouse Solar Panels		VWHDC	11,799.73
	Total Income			16,670.97