

Blewbury Parish Council

Clerk to the Council
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MINUTES of the meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 15th July 2026** at 7.00 pm in the Melland Room at the Blewbury Clubhouse.

In attendance:

Cllr. Julia Saunders (Chair)
Cllr. Anne Millman (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Sarah Parkin
Cllr. Shelia Austin
Cllr. Mark Shayler
Cllr. Benedict Scott
Cllr. Andy Evason
Parish Clerk: Michelle Taylor
Lengthman: Iain Wood
County Councillor: Rebecca Fletcher
District Councillor: Hayleigh Gascoigne

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive and record apologies from members unable to attend.

-Cllr. Andrew Calder
-Cllr. Lee Robinson

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors are reminded to declare any interests relating to agenda items. None.

3. Public Participation

The public may speak during the first 15 minutes. Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes. Please inform the Clerk at least 48 hours in advance. Councillors may listen but not respond during this time unless invited by the Chair. None

Planning Matters

4. Planning Updates

4.1 Planning Application – for review and comments

P26/V1634/FUL Westbrook House, Westbrook Street, Blewbury, OX11 9QA

Proposal: Erection of self-build dwelling and detached carport.

BPC has no objections to this planning application, but asks that the new build detached annexe accommodation proposed remains subordinate to the main house. BPC noted that the current driveway would be shared with the main house.

P26/V2153/HH & P26/V2154/LB Nottingham Fee House, Nottingham Fee, Blewbury, OX11 9PG

Proposal: 1. Installation of EV charger 2. Repairs to rotten window frames.

BPC has no objections to this planning application however, BPC would prefer the EV cabling is buried underground as opposed to the side of the property in accordance with the Blewbury NHP, Policy P10-Sustainable Development.

P26/V0584/HH Penny Chase, Bessels Way, Blewbury, Didcot, OX11 9NH

Proposal: Demolition of loose boxes, rear extension with room in the roof.

BPC Has no objections to this planning application.

4.2. Planning Decisions from Vale of White Horse DC.

- **P26/V0846/HH & P26/V0848/LB**: Humfreys London Road Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PB. Extension and remodelling. No objection. Granted on 16th June 2026.
- **P26/V1113/HH**: 6 Bohams Cottages Westbrook Street Blewbury Didcot OX11 9QF. Removal of existing single storey side extension and replacement with new

single storey side extension and alternations to existing. No objection. Granted on 6th July 2026.

- **P26/V1101/HH:** 31 Bridus Mead Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PJ. Two storey side extension. No objection. Granted on 22nd June 2026.
- **P26/V1213/LB:** The Cleve South Street Blewbury Didcot OX11 9PR. Removal of later (C18/19) infill to reveal original fireplace aperture in order to fully expose painted plaster to allow for examination and conservation of the painted plaster. No objection. Granted on 8th June 2026.
- **P26/V1350/HH:** Duncan & Natasha's House Downside Farm Woodway Road Blewbury Didcot OX11 9EX. First floor extension over existing ground floor. No objection. Granted on 6th July 2026.

Reports & Updates

5. County Councillor- July report received and circulated to Council. **Appendix 3 (BPC Website)** Cllr. Fletcher announced investigations were still ongoing with regards to ownership/status of Church Road and Watts Lane. Cllr. Fletcher confirmed that an additional bus stop will be installed along Bessels Way within the coming months.

6. District Councillor- July report received after the meeting and circulated to Council. **Appendix 4 (BPC Website)** Cllr. Saunders welcomed Cllr. Gascoigne back following maternity leave. Cllr. Gascoigne raised the current progress with regards to the local plan of which there should be an update in the coming weeks.

7. Lengthman's Report – Iain Wood

7.1. Skate Park Graffiti and Litter. Email circulated to all Council members prior to the meeting. Iain announced the skate park is being very well used, but unfortunately, there has been graffiti, litter and glass on the skate park on a regular basis.

7.2. Clubhouse Ashtray Reminder. Iain announced cigarettes are being dropped on the floor next to the ashtray at the Clubhouse. Concerns were raised with regards to the possibility of fires/wildfires. Council agreed to put a message on social media to remind residents, visitors and hirers of the Clubhouse to stub cigarettes out properly and that there are NOT to be any barbecues either at the Clubhouse or on TTF during this period of extreme heat.

7.3. TTF Picnic Table. Iain announced the picnic table in TTF had been broken. Blewshed have kindly offered to fix the table when time allows.

Clubs and Societies

8. Clubhouse

8.1. Council to note Hall Administrator Report. June report circulated to Council. Noted.

8.2. Roof Repairs. Update on the repair to the Clubhouse roof ahead of the Cricket Season. **(SA)** Cllr. Austin announced a quote had now been received from a local company to install the netting on the Clubhouse roof. Council agreed to obtain an additional quote for comparison, but agreed a spend of up to £5,000 to carry out the works required to include the tiles.

8.3. Agenda items for forthcoming meeting of Clubhouse Working group on 4/08/26 **(AM)** Cllr. Millman announced the Hall Administrator has requested free standing fans for the hirers of the Clubhouse. Council agreed for the Clerk to purchase two fans and for the terms and conditions for the Clubhouse to be updated to include the use and storage of the fans.

9. Traffic & Safety

9.1. Speedwatch data report for May/ June and data trends over time. Circulated to all Council members prior to the meeting. Noted.

9.2. Update on installation of traffic calming measures; Wig Wags, informal bollards, crossing at Savages **(AM)** No further updates at present.

9.3. Review of speed limits on Oxfordshire's rural A and B class road network **(AM)** Email and comments circulated to all Council members prior to the meeting. Council agreed for Cllr. Millman to send a response to the consultation on behalf of Blewbury Parish Council. Council noted the second consultation reviewing the 20mph policies will be held in September 2026.

10. Environment (AM)

10.1. A417 London Road flood alleviation **(AE & BS)** No further updates at present.

10.2. Church End flood alleviation **(AE & BS)** Further updates will be given at the meeting of Full Council being held in September.

10.3. Sustainable Blewbury update, including noticeboard at ChalkPit **(AM)** Cllr. Millman announced Sustainable Blewbury would like to place a nature information sign at the Chalkpits. Council all agreed to give permission to erect a new sign and asked for the current sign at the Chalkpits be taken down and the information currently in place be included within the new sign.

Administrative Items

11. Approval of Minutes

11.1. The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 17th June 2026 were approved.

11.2. To review the effectiveness of Communications **(AM/ SP)** No further updates at present.

11.3. To approve the Village Hall Surgery Lease **(JS)** Council agreed to give the Clerk authority to sign the surgery lease on behalf of Blewbury Parish Council.

12. Finance

12.1. The June payments were approved. (Appendix 2)

12.2. Council approve the following bank Reconciliations:

- April 2026
- May 2026
- June 2026

Projects & Ongoing Matters

13. Skatepark Update (SA, AE & AC)

13.1. To receive an update from Skatepark Working Group to include Comms. Cllr. Austin announced a fencing barrier around the grassed area has been erected to allow the grass to grow.

13.2. Skate Park Official Opening Event. Council agreed to hold an official opening event during September/October. Date to be confirmed at the next meeting of Full Council in September.

Correspondence & Reports

14. Action Points

See Appendix 1 for update on actions.

15. Chairman's Report

For information only – any additional updates. None.

16. Councillors' Reports

Other updates from Parish Councillors (not listed on agenda). None.

17. Future Agenda Items

- Neighbourhood Plan Review – (Following the adoption of the OCC Local Plan)
- Cob Wall Ownership/Maintenance/Village Fund
- Approval and Adoption of Policies

18. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 16 September 2026.

Appendix 1

Actions from July Meeting, table 1

Item	Action	Ownership
7.2	Ashtray Reminder-To post on social media a reminder to residents, visitors and hirers of the Clubhouse to stub cigarettes out properly and that there are NOT to be any barbecues either at the Clubhouse or on TTF during this period of extreme heat.	Cllr. Parkin
8.3	To purchase two fans for the Clubhouse	Clerk
9.3	To respond to the consultation- Review of speed limits on Oxfordshire's rural A and B class road network.	Cllr. Millman
10.3	To contact Sustainable Blewbury to give permission to erect a nature information sign at the Chalkpits, combining the current signage in place.	Cllr. Millman
11.3	To sign the new village hall surgery lease	Clerk

Outstanding Actions from previous meetings - table 2

Item	Mtg	Action	Ownership	Update on action
8	December	Clubhouse roof tile repair	Cllr. Austin	Ongoing
10.2	December	Clubhouse Roof Repair- Research into preventive measures to protect the Clubhouse Roof from further damage during the Cricket season.	Cllr. Millman and Cllr. Austin	Ongoing
16	January	Transfer of email accounts to gov.uk	Clerk	Ongoing
12.2	February	Cob Wall Ownership/Maintenance- To set a date for a workshop day for residents	Cllr. Saunders/Clerk	Ongoing

10.6	April	Arrange installation of Bench- A417 Bus Stop	Cllr. Calder/Cllr. Shayler	In Progress
12.3	May	Church End flood alleviation-To obtain quotations to carryout investigation works.	Cllr. Evason/Cllr. Scott	Ongoing
12.4	May	Clearing of Spring Lane- To obtain quotations for the installation of the gate and clear the lane of debris.	Cllr. Shayler/Iain	Ongoing
7.3	June	To infill cemetery paths with the gravel pile in TFF Car park.	Cllr. Shayler/Iain	In Progress

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. None.

Appendix 2

Finance June 2026			
Inv Date	PAYMENTS TO APPROVE IN MEETING	Payee	Amount
13.07.2026	Plant Room Works-Relocation of existing filtration	Whatley and Co Ltd	2,972.92
12.07.2026	Venue Booking Licence	Hallmaster	279.00
03.07.2026	Skatepark Refurbishment Stage 3	Bendcrete	21,180.00
30.06.2026	Clerk Travel Expenses June 2026	M Taylor	19.99
24.06.2026	Kubota and Dumper Hire	Didcot Plant	630.97
24.06.2026	Blewbury Churchyard-June 2026	J J Woodage	200.00
24.06.2026	Barrier Fencing-Skate Park	Travis Perkins	313.06
	PAID: Salaries for June Month, Paid on 02.07.2026		
02.07.2026	May Cleaning Clubhouse & Village Hall	Jayne Newman	528.40
02.07.2026	M Taylor, June	M Taylor	1,461.98
02.07.2026	Expenses, Working from home allowance, June	M Taylor	26.00
02.07.2026	Village Hall and Clubhouse Administrator Salary, June	Helen Evi Holroyd	1,096.04
02.07.2026	Expenses, Working from home allowance, June	Helen Evi Holroyd-(Two months paid)	0.00
02.07.2026	Lengthman Service Salary, June	Iain Wood	1,322.23
02.07.2026	Employer/ee Tax/Ni Contributions, June	HMRC	932.29
02.07.2026	Payroll, June	SME Accounting Services Ltd	20.00
	PAID: Direct Debits/Standing Order		
04.06.2026	Clubhouse Internet	BT	39.54
17.06.2026	Clerks Mobile	EE	20.00
18.06.2026	Stationary and Cleaning Materials	Amazon	105.51
19.06.2026	Bank Charges	Lloyds	4.25
19.06.2026	Cloud Storage	Microsoft	19.99
22.06.2026	Clerk and Lengthman's Pension Contributions	NEST	223.37
22.06.2026	Waste Collection	Biffa	175.2
	PAID: Since previous meeting		
02.07.2026	SkatePark Refurbishment-Stage 2	Bendcrete	59,100.00
	Total Expenditure		90,670.74
	RECEIPTS		
15.06.2026	Skate Park Donation	The Tony Loy Trust	1,000.00
17.06.2026	Skate Park Donation	A Evason	2,500.00
	Total Income		3,500.00

Appendix 3

County Councillor report

Date: July 2026

Author: Cllr Rebekah Fletcher

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

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

Dear Parish Councillors and residents,

I hope everyone is coping with the recent extreme weather. Please take care of older relatives, young children and other vulnerable neighbours, and if you see someone who may be homeless and in need of support, contact the Vale of White Horse Housing Team on 01235 422420. Advice on staying cool at home is available [here](#).

In my role as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I have now joined the Health and Wellbeing Board. This month we approved Oxfordshire's new All-Age Autism Strategy, developed in partnership with autistic people, and we are committed to embedding it across the Oxfordshire Way, so if you have lived experience of autism, please do get in touch.

We also had a full council meeting in June, at which (unusually!), almost every motion was unanimously approved cross-party. These included reviewing the county's role in Disabled Facilities Grants, increasing investment in climate action, and taking steps to enforce the ban on pavement parking, whilst respecting local needs.

I was also delighted to attend a celebration of our Supported Internships and Connect to Work programmes, which help people with disabilities and long-term health conditions gain skills, confidence and work experience. It was inspiring to see residents taking steps towards greater independence, alongside the local employers who make these opportunities possible. It was a truly joyous event; everyone deserves an opportunity to find fulfilling, meaningful employment, and it was amazing to celebrate the determination and resilience on display.

At a really difficult time in local government, when we are having to make difficult choices about funding, it's incredibly heartening to also celebrate the things that are great about Oxfordshire.

Best wishes

Bekah

Transport update

There is a huge amount going on over the summer and I've been disappointed by continued overlapping and disruptive works; where possible, I am trying to get things scheduled more sensibly, but the reality is sadly that many of the works (e.g.: SGN and Thames Water in Harwell) are either things the council can't say no to, or that logically need to be prioritised – such as getting gas pipes replaced before resurfacing.

I will do my utmost to keep people informed via Facebook, as many of these change on a weekly basis as permits are altered or traffic management plans are adapted. Below I've listed the most urgent:

A4130 Steventon Lights scheme – from now **until 17th July**, there will be overnight work Mon-Fri conducted under two-way traffic lights. Update is here: [Steventon lights scheme](#)

Jennings Lane, Harwell – 10th July – 7th August SGN will be moving from Burr St to Jennings Lane to replace more gas main connections. This shouldn't be too disruptive; traffic will be give and take.

Wantage Road, Harwell – 13th July – 7th August at the junction with Tyrell's Close, there is a plan to put in a new bellmouth junction and lighting, under traffic management. I'm trying to find out more as I don't think anyone wants yet more roadworks in Harwell right now.

High St, Harwell – 13th July – 14th September, I've been advised that road space has been booked for traffic calming. HOWEVER I am yet to receive a Traffic Order, and nothing is on the network management platform so I really hope this is not yet confirmed.

Harwell Link Road– 13th July – 17th August there will be two-way traffic lights while Thames Water put in a new water connection. They will work in 200m sections, starting at the Southern end of the link road. The order says they should remove traffic signals when not needed, so I'm hoping there will be some common sense around evenings and weekends.

Hollow Way, Upton 15th – 26th July the very top of Hollow Way at the junction with Reading Road will be closed for Thames Water, but the diversion is not far – you'll just need to cut out via the Lynchway

Newbury Road, by Chilton Fields, Chilton – 17th – 18th July I finally have some progress on the terrible condition of the road by Harwell campus/Chilton Garden Centre!! M group will be doing Bobcat resurfacing under multi-way signals, so do expect some delays.

Bessels Way, Blewbury – 17th – 24th July SSEN will be digging up the pavement and part of the road at the junction with London Road. Traffic control will be give and take, but I would expect some delays here.

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

Other news and information

Shared Lives Carers – If you might be interested in opening up your home to an adult who needs additional support to be independent, please do consider becoming a [Shared Lives Carer](#). It's a paid role, our carers describe it as hugely rewarding, and it can genuinely change lives for people with additional support needs.

Local Government Reorganisation - Three different unitary models have been proposed for Oxfordshire. A 'minded-to' decision on whether there will be one, two or three unitary authorities for

Oxfordshire is expected on or shortly after 16 July; however, there is a lot going on with the national government at the moment, so this may be delayed.

HWRC Booking System – You now need to book a slot to visit any of the Household Waste Recycling Centres. When visiting, you will need to bring proof of address. If you're unable to sort your recycling in advance, you will be asked to do so onsite in the designated sorting areas. To book your slot, go to: <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking> or call 01865 519800.

Councillor Priority Fund – All County Councillors have access to a pot of funding to support local community projects. Applications are open until November 2026, and I still have around 50% of my fund remaining so any local charity or parish council, please do

apply! 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>

Councillor queries

Recent and ongoing queries raised on behalf of residents and Parish Councils include: Ticket description	Status	Outcome/latest information
Traffic calming Harwell village	IN PROGRESS	I've been advised that the work could take 8 or 9 weeks, so scheduling will be vital. Ideally it would take place over the school holidays as much as possible, but with all the other works going on, this may be too disruptive. Latest update: I've been told the road has been booked for 13 th July but I've not received any traffic order or further information so I'm following up with officers
GWP adoption	ONGOING	Spine roads adoption currently stuck in negotiations between Leap Utilities, SODC and Taylor Wimpey. Latest update: the required remedial works at Didcot Road last year weren't up to standard and had to be redone in places. Highways Agreements have therefore imposed another 3-month review on Taylor Wimpey before adoption.
Damage to electrical unit at skate park, GWP	ONGOING	Repeated damage to the electrical unit at the skate park – Taylor Wimpey is in discussions with SSE on providing a more robust housing unit. Latest update; consideration of whether the unit should go underground, but no decision communicated.
Blewbury road safety	IN PROGRESS	Scheduled for October-December 2026!
Network Management Concerns	IN PROGRESS	As a result of several concerns raised re: works in and around Harwell, the Network Management team is undergoing a reconfiguration that should improve planning in the future. Latest update: I've requested a meeting with the Director as traffic calming is the latest to be added to the list!
Road safety issues on A417	IN PROGRESS	Crossing confirmed at the Winnaway, with other speeding measures to be included as part of the works. Latest update: scheduled to start July-September, but given other concurrent works this may be too disruptive. To be included in meeting above
Coffin Way cycle path	IN PROGRESS	Requested briefing on previous work re: footpath/potential cycle route between Blewbury and Upton – relevant officer on leave. Latest update: team looking to reopen conversations with landowner; with countryside access, but have

		offered a workaround: I've suggested dates in July
Harwell – High St. flooding	IN PROGRESS	Visit undertaken 6 th Jan – waiting list for drain maintenance c. 10 months. Latest update: Have now seen gully reports from January gully cleansing; silt had been between 25% and 75% and now all cleared; will monitor whether this improves situation.
Harwell – pavement repairs and maintenance	IN PROGRESS	Footway slurry treatments in progress. Additionally, Didcot Road, Blenheim Hill, and Burr Street are marked for footway reconstruction, while Westfield Road is set for carriageway surface inlay. Have also reported High St/Wantage Rd as particularly bad.
Blewbury flooding	IN PROGRESS	Sheencroft corner flooding problems – identified more than 50% of gullies non-operational. Now chasing to get action on fix.
Reading Road - flooding	AWAITING RESPONSE	Flooding query - now that the weather has turned, asked for flooding sites to be re-investigated.
Flooding Frank Williams Way	ONGOING	District has cleared road, but almost immediately problem has recurred. Urgent drainage repairs being undertaken this week!
Hagbourne Hill improvements	AWAITING RESPONSE	Stagnated due to problems with funding and utilities; I am chasing regularly, and have asked for a better interim solution as part of the forward planning works.
Upton-W.Hagbourne one-way route	ONGOING	Query as to whether the road from W.Hagbourne to Upton could be southbound only, with Upton-W.Hagbourne diverted via roundabout.
Knightsward Chilton	IN PROGRESS	Query re: upkeep of this care home - should receive initial response by end of June. Latest update: operator to implement maintenance programme, officers to visit in July to check on progress
A417 safety	AWAITING RESPONSE	Query re: deer signs on A417 Reading Road
Be Free Young Carers	AWAITING RESPONSE	Query re: young carers provision (BFYC no commissioning contract at present – awaiting briefing on alternative provisions)
Commissioning transport	IN PROGRESS	Query re: Volunteer Driver Service CIC commissioning
Bus stop signs, Bessels Lea	IN PROGRESS	New bus stop to be installed at Winterbrook Farm. Awaiting update on missing signs.

Appendix 4

Sunday 19th July, 2026

Monthly Update

Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne

Vale of White Horse District Council

I'm back

As many of you will know, I gave birth to my baby girl in mid December, a little earlier than expected and have been on maternity leave since. I have recently returned to my role as a ward councillor, representing Blewbury, Harwell, Chilton, Upton, Valley Park and Great Western Park.

Heatwave

You don't need me to tell you that recent heatwaves have been challenging, and at the most recent Vale council meeting, I asked a question to find out how we are supporting affected residents, whether signposting to cool spaces, or providing funding to community spaces to become more resilient. The science tells us that weather events like those we've seen in recent weeks are here to stay, so I'm keen that as a council, we are doing what we can to prepare for that, and protect people from the effects, where we can. Head to the Vale website, to the council meeting minutes to find the full question and answer.

Planning Regulations

Last week, I attended a briefing from the Vale Planning Officers about the new planning regulations. As of October this year, new government legislation will mean significant changes to the National Scheme of Delegation. As a council, we are still working through the details of the changes we will have to make. In broad terms, it will mean less decisions are made by councillors and more by officers. To be clear, the officers already make a large proportion of the decisions around planning, using both national and local policies. Today, ward councillors, such as myself, have the power to "call in" a planning application, so that councillors

can review the evidence and make the decision. The new rules from the government, will mean these powers will be taken away and planning applications that can be decided by the planning committee will need to meet certain criteria – they must be “major” applications, and pass “gateway tests”. More guidance will come out as we approach the deadline, and training will be offered to Town and Parish councillors.

Trouble with missed bins?

I've received a few emails about missed bin collections these past few weeks, so I'll use this as a reminder to everyone that if your bin is missed, you should report it missed by 6pm the following day. You can do this by filling in this form https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/java/support/formcall.jsp?F=MISSED_BINS or by emailing admin.vale@biffa.co.uk or by calling 01235 422123. Then, Biffa should return within a couple of days to collect it. If they do not, then Vale Council can follow that up with Biffa – as they are not completing their obligation. But note that, unless it is reported as missed, we can't chase Biffa for it.

Local Government Reorganisation

What is it? Here in Oxfordshire, we have a two tier system – District councils and councillors deal with certain matters (like planning and bins) whilst the County deals with others (like social care and roads). The government would like to get rid of this, and have everyone under a Unitary system, just one council. Whilst this would be easier from the residents' perspective, only needing to contact one council – the question is how to set up the new councils? What should the geography be? Virtually hot off the press as I write this is the Secretary of State's decision on Local Government Reorganisation. Announced on the last day of Parliament, before the summer recess, at virtually the last moment, Steve Reed has said that our area will have three unitary councils. These will be Greater Oxford, Ridgeway and Northern Oxfordshire. The decision is surprising to me, as across Oxfordshire, this was the proposal with the least support – it was proposed by just one of our 6 councils, Oxford City Council. You can read more on their website 3councils.org

The new councils are expected to come into force on 1st April 2028, a day known as vesting day. Before then, the existing councils will operate as normal, performing the usual duties. There are expected to be elections for this council in May 2027, and the councillors elected at that point will be the ones making decisions about how the new council will operate. I will continue to share updates on this matter, but as always let me know any questions you have.

I write these updates to keep you updated on what I am up to, what is happening at the District Council and other relevant local matters.

You can follow me and the Vale of White Horse District Council on facebook:
www.facebook.com/CllrHayleigh & www.facebook.com/whitehorsedc

The best way to get a direct response is to email me and my ward colleague, Cllr Debra Dewhurst.

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

Local News

Great Western Park GP surgery

Just before I went on maternity leave, at the end of 2025, the Integrated Care Board announced that they would no longer be working with the appointed developer, due to feedback from the District Valuer about value for money. Since then, the ICB have appointed a new developer. Whilst this is a positive step forwards, there will be some work behind the scenes to change everything over. I will continue to work with both the council officers and our local MP, Olly Glover, to push the ICB to deliver this much needed service.

Valley Park

The housing estate next to Great Western Park is growing by the day, with people moving in, and a Primary School being built. I have periodic meetings with the Vale planning officers looking at the submitted

applications from the developers, and am able to raise any concerns or queries with them – please let me know.

Current “Reserved Matter” applications in the system are listed below, and these generally relate to parcels of homes, or pieces of infrastructure.

Applications Decided and Approved

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.

This application was approved on 22 May 2026.

P25/V0879/RM – seeks approval for 227 dwellings on Phase 6T

This application was approved on 9 June 2026.

New Applications Received

P26/V1626/RM – seeks approval for a small section of the spine road only
The application is currently out for consultation until 22 July 2026.

Applications Under Consideration

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

Awaiting amendments from the applicant.

Beat the heat in the Vale

A guide to services and advice from the council, as well as local and national organisations, to help during the summer months. Read more about Community organisations get a boost from the White Horse Community Lottery

Community organisations get a boost from the White Horse Community Lottery

Community organisations across the Vale of White Horse will receive more than £8,000 this year through the

White Horse Community Lottery's community fund. If you would like to support the fund, you can buy a lottery ticket here - www.whitehorselottery.co.uk/support/whitehorse

Cost of Living Roadshows

The council is offering help and support to anyone struggling with cost of living.

The next stop is:

- Tuesday 11 August, 11am to 1pm at Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot, OX11 0BS

You don't need to book - just drop in and speak to the team.

For more information, visit our Community Hub webpage. https://us.list-manage.com/KF_4iH5jjOy?e=8281252f8c&c2id=eba88de3126af863a692dc352f7414ce
[/https://us.list-manage.com/Ksdzq5Ua8yq?e=8281252f8c&c2id=eba88de3126af863a692dc352f7414ce](https://us.list-manage.com/Ksdzq5Ua8yq?e=8281252f8c&c2id=eba88de3126af863a692dc352f7414ce)

Climate & Environment News Read more about Oxfordshire moves forward with programme to support residents without private parking to switch to EVs

Oxfordshire moves forward with programme to support residents without private parking to switch to EVs

Over the next two years, Oxfordshire residents will benefit from the largest installation of public electric vehicle (EV) charging points ever seen in the county following the award of two charge point operator (CPO) contracts.

These two companies will work together with Oxfordshire's councils to create a reliable, easy-to-use, contactless EV charging network spanning the county. This will give more people the opportunity to switch to an EV – regardless of where they live or their parking situation – to improve Oxfordshire's environment and air quality. Read more about Wantage Leisure Centre is fit for the future

Wantage Leisure Centre is fit for the future

Wantage Leisure Centre is running on renewable energy following the completion of a multi-million-pound energy efficiency programme which installed air source heat pumps, solar panels and extensive insulation.

When the work at both leisure centres is finished, the council has calculated that its overall carbon emissions should be reduced by more than 25 per cent.

Council News Read more about Wantage community hospital refurbishment ready to start following successful funding bid

Full Council meetings

The Vale of White Horse District Council held meetings in May, June and July. May was the Annual General Meeting of the Council, in which we re-elected our Chair and Vice Chair of the council. In addition to this the council passed motions, proposed by the Liberal Democrats, relating to the Protection of Chalk Streams and to request targeted consultations on the issues surrounding the proposed SESRO or “White Horse Reservoir”.

In June, the council held a special meeting to consider our next Joint Local Plan. Opposition members brought forward a motion relating to Household Recycling Centres that was amended and approved.

In July, one of the motions brought forward by members was in relation to the EHRC Equality Act Code of Conduct, during which the council reaffirmed its commitment to value, respect, welcome and create a safe environment for transgender and non-binary residents, staff, and visitors to access essential services and public spaces.

I asked a question around support for residents particularly vulnerable ones, due to the recent heatwaves.

I was assured that the council will further look at ways to signpost support, such as cool spaces, or pots of available funding. To see the full response - (Public Pack)Written responses to questions Agenda Supplement

for Council, 15/07/2026 17:30

To see the full agendas and minutes for all the meetings, please head to the website.

Browse meetings - CouncilRead more about New rates support approved for Vale pubs and rural businesses

New rates support approved for Vale pubs and rural businesses

Pubs and essential rural businesses across the Vale of White Horse are set to receive extra support following

the approval of a new one-off discretionary business rates relief scheme for 2026/27Read more about Joint statement from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils on local devolution

Joint statement from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils on local devolution

The leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have reaffirmed their commitment

to working constructively and collaboratively with all partners and the government on discussions around a new strategic authority that would cover the Thames ValleyRead more about Councils are encouraged by the results of their tenants' satisfaction survey

Read more about Councils are encouraged by the results of their tenants' satisfaction survey

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have carried out a satisfaction survey among their

tenants for the first time since they re-registered as social housing providers and the results are encouraging.Read more about Park Yoga proves a hit with record numbers rolling out their mats

Park Yoga proves a hit with record numbers rolling out their mats

Hundreds of people across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are rolling out their yoga mats and

making the most of their local green spaces, with this year's Park Yoga sessions already attracting record

numbers. Read more about Bin days staying the same, but collection times may change across South Oxfordshire and the Vale

Bin days staying the same, but collection times may change across South Oxfordshire and the Vale

Residents across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded to put their bins out by 6am on their scheduled collection day, ahead of route changes starting later this month. Read more about Free and low-cost family fun all summer long

Free and low-cost family fun all summer long

Families can look forward to an action-packed summer with six weeks of free and low-cost activities taking place across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. It has something for everyone, from skateboarding and cricket to family fun days, outdoor adventures and wellbeing activities. Most activities are free or low cost, although some require advance booking. For the full programme, including dates, venues and booking information, visit southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities. Read more about Land Charges system to launch on Monday 13 July following major upgrade

Land Charges system launched following major upgrade

The new Land Charges system will launch on Monday 13 July, following final testing to ensure the system is working correctly and returning accurate searches. This final stage has been essential because these searches are relied upon for important property decisions, and inaccurate information could cause significant problems for those using the service and potentially create legal liability for the council.

The priority now is to reduce the impact of the disruption. Due to the downtime, there will be a backlog of searches to process, and the council are putting additional resources in place to work through outstanding requests as quickly as possible and mitigate any further delays.

If you have already submitted a search request by email, please do not submit the same request again through the new portal. Existing requests are already recorded and will be processed. Anyone wishing to use the new system will need to register for an account.