

West Hagbourne Parish Council



Minutes of West Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting held at Hagbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 7:30pm.

Present: Parish Cllrs: D. Tozer (Chair), M. Leishman, A. Wimshurst, R. Wilkes, J. Freeland; District Cllr. A.M. Simpson, District Cllr. C.Topping, Mr. A. Wise (Parish Clerk) and 4 residents.

	DT opened the meeting at 19:30 hrs	
25/890 Apologies	County Cllr. J. Murphy	
25/891 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None received. 	
25/892 Report on OCC and SODC activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>SODC Report</u> - attachment 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to add agenda item for Neighbourhood Plans advice from SODC officers for the March Meeting <u>OCC Report</u> - None received 	CLERK
25/893 Hear representations from members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
25/894 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2024	It was proposed by DT, seconded ML, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
25/895 Consider matters, not take elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting 6 November 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items had been completed JF confirmed that the defib training for all interested parties in the village has been booked for 15th Jan at 7:30pm in Hagbourne Village Hall. 	
25/896 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JF reported that with assistance from the Vice Chair, she had submitted a grant request for £500 from SODC to enable the old Telephone Box to be refurbished which now houses the Defib Machine. JF to obtain quotes for the work and report back at the March Meeting. JF who is also the WHPC rep on the Hagbourne Cemetery Committee reported that the committee was looking for WHPC to contribute £8k towards the cost of the flood prevention works which is 25% of the total proposed costs. Clerk advised that this could be funded from the CIL money. It was proposed by DT, seconded JF that the clerk transfer the money when requested by the cemetery committee probably in the summer. 	JF
25/897 Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of payments. It was proposed DT, seconded ML, and carried nem con that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's wages, Expenses, PAYE, grass cutting, village hall hire and tree pollarding. Current Financial situation for 2024/25 – attachment 2 & 3 Clerk took the councillors through the draft 2025/26 Budget. Having made changes requested, it was then proposed DT, seconded ML and accepted in full. It was proposed DT, seconded ML, that the Clerk complete the paperwork to request a Precept of £9600. Clerk reported that he had submitted the annual CIL Report to SODC Clerk to process the annual VAT Return Clerk to invoice 6 current newsletter advertisers for 2024 	CLERK CLERK CLERK
25/898 Flooding Alleviation Strategy	Flooding Summary Report for WHPC Meeting Minutes on Wednesday 8th January 2025 – report by RW: We have continued to be involved with a range of flood water-related activities since our last WHPC meeting on the 6th November 2024. Close to twenty villagers have volunteered to join our Flood Response Group, which met up on four Sundays before	

	<p>Christmas, addressing a number of potential issues across the village including particularly the clearance of road drains and drainage pipes, the digging out of some ditches, the clearing of trash screens along waterways and the cutting back and subsequent clearing of some culverts. Many thanks to the team for their efforts, often in terrible weather and this has clearly made a difference already. Work by the group has also highlighted more difficult problems, such as completely blocked and inaccessible drains and overgrown ditches and these have been reported to OCC, SODC and landowners.</p> <p>Regarding our drawn-up list of eleven priority items for investigation/potential action across the village (see notes from last meeting), OCC are still awaiting quotes and dates relating to surveys of the Moor Lane ditch from Thatch Cottage onwards (item 2 on our list) and under York Farm to Brook Lane (relating to items 10 & 11 on our list). Following assessment, OCC advised that clearance of silt from two sections of particular ditches might be beneficial: the section of ditch from the pipe between Manor Close and York Road and alongside Driftway (item 6) was dug out by the village's Flood Response Group (a quote was requested but not received) and along the small ditch at Green Thatch (towards item 4), where the work was carried out by David Carter, our thanks to him for this.</p> <p>Important news has been received concerning the ditch system carrying water from GWP Didcot into the Manor Close ditch (item 7), where an evaluation by SODC, in conjunction with OCC, highlighted that the surface water outfall that discharges past Manor Close has not been installed correctly. We have been advised that SODC have requested the developer rectify this as soon as possible (our latest update from SODC on 17 December 2024 brought news that one of three missing hydro brakes had been installed and that the further two would be installed on 19 December 2024 – we await confirmation that this has actually been performed). This should 'very significantly reduce the amount of water discharging along the Manor Close ditch following heavy rainfall.' We have put a number of questions to SODC concerning this omission by the developers and we await replies. SODC have stated that the work will be inspected once completed and an investigation requested as to how this omission was allowed to happen. Outstanding items concern clearance of the pipe running from Green Thatch into the pond (item 5) and the removal of the fallen tree in the drainage channel to the left of the kissing gate on the Upton footpath (item 9), towards which Chris Lay has now removed the part on the bank but a further piece is still present in the ditch. WHPC will work with Chris to address this. A reminder that a stock of sandbags are held by the Parish Council and available to villagers in need. Please contact us and we can arrange their supply when required.</p> <p>RW to speak to Jane Drewe the landowner at York Farm concerning the open ditch adjacent to her land that has recently been exposed as a result of clearance work undertaken by the flood prevention team as it needs fencing around it.</p>	RW
25/899 To note decisions made with respect to planning applications dealt with since meeting of 6 November 2024 and consider outstanding applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications reviewed - attachment 5 • AW reported that the Lizard Bank planning application has failed its appeal. • Councillors discussed their response to the following 3 planning applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wytchaven – P24/S3680/HH (DT recused himself from this discussion, as he is a neighbour to this property) ○ 7 Manor Close – P24/S4010/HH ○ Ivy Farm – P24/S4010/HH (ML recused herself from this discussion, as she is a neighbour to this property) <p>It was proposed by AW, seconded JF, that the Clerk respond to each application with SUPPORT.</p>	CLERK
25/900 Highways and Transport	<p>Community Speed Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ML reported that her team will recommence the speed watch work when the current winter weather allows. She is currently trying to arrange a site visit with OCC Vision Zero team to see if their input for suggestions for speed prevention measures could help improve things with a different approach to speeding in the 	

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	<p>village. ML will circulate the quotes for both the post-mounted speed cameras and a data traffic counter for councillors to consider at the March 2025 meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ML reported that the VAS signs are due to be updated with the change to 20mph on all roads in the village. <p>Super User for Fix My Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Chris Lay is now fully trained and operational. 	ML
25/901 Risk assessment	DT signed off appropriate parts on the current Risk Assessment Checklist - attachment 5	
25/902 Chairman's Report for Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair will send a report to Editor Sue Totterdell before the end of the month in time for the next edition of the Village Newsletter. 	DT
25/903 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	<p>Sheila Taylor emailed the clerk with the following update: Please accept my apologies for the PC meeting on 8th January. I am away until February. Just to report back on the current situation with the Archive. My meeting with Katharine Spackman, Lead Librarian: Digital, Information and Learning. Oxfordshire County Council, Library Support Services was disappointing. Clearly Didcot Library cannot manage records such as ours. They have taken a couple of books. I will give you a complete list of holdings once everything is sorted. I had better luck with Oxfordshire History Centre. They are willing to take quite a lot of material including the minutes of the History Group's meetings, West Hagbourne Newsletters and some research material. As soon as I return in February I will be making an appointment to transfer this material. I will of course provide you with a list of what they take. There is other material which I did not offer the History Centre, e.g. folders of local events, archaeology reports, projects, Village Association activities and our historic photo album which it may be worth digitising. I can now fit all the remaining material into the filing cabinet which was purchased for this purpose. If we can store this in the small room at the Village Hall as previously agreed we can make it available to villagers, etc. As discussed at the last PC meeting, Val Brownsword is happy to ask the Village Hall Committee at their next meeting if we can formalise this arrangement. [DT] has emailed me with lists of the material he has in his possession. I will reply to that when I have had chance to check against our records as I think there is some duplication. If you have any questions I gave a verbal report to Councillor Leishman who is very familiar with the material.</p>	
25/904 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	<p>Emergency Plan</p> <p>Chair has produced a first draft for councillors to review before the March'25 meeting where it will be approved and signed off and circulated around the village.</p>	
25/905 Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 5 March 2025 	
25/906 Meeting Closed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DT declared the meeting closed at 8:55pm 	

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2024/2025
- 4.. Planning Applications
5. Risk Assessment
6. SODC Report

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Chmn	
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Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	8 January 2025

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils

English Devolution

The Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council has written to Cllr Liz Leffman, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, asking her to make formal contact with the Government as soon as possible to express a strong view for Oxfordshire to move forward quickly with local government reorganisation.

In his letter, sent in the days following the publication of a Government White Paper on English Devolution, Cllr David Rouane set out that it was not in the interests of South Oxfordshire to have a prolonged period of debate on the matter within the public sector.

Cllr Rouane explained that "the Government has already decided that local government reorganisation is going to happen. Delay will only bring uncertainty for residents and local businesses who depend on our services, and for our staff who will be worried about their own futures. We owe it to everyone to move to a more stable position as soon as possible."

The letter is available on the council's [official correspondence page](#) on its website.

Council's future plan takes next steps forward

A plan for the future in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse has taken its big next step forward.

The two district councils have been working together to produce a Joint Local Plan (JLP), which aims to help meet their local communities' need for affordable housing, jobs and infrastructure while tackling the climate emergency.

Following a series of successful public consultations, which produced strong and positive feedback, the plan has now been submitted to the Government for the examination stage.

The Planning Inspectorate will examine the JLP and assess whether it has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

At the end of the public examination, the Inspector will conclude whether or not the plan is sound. In most cases the Inspector's report will recommend some changes that would allow the plan to be adopted.

If successfully adopted, the plan would replace the existing Local Plans for both councils.

In the new draft Joint Local Plan, the councils have shown that there are enough new homes in the pipeline already. This means that there is no need to build on any extra new greenfield sites over the next 15 years, beyond what has already been allocated. Only one area of expansion has been earmarked, which is on the brownfield land owned by the Ministry of Defence at Dalton Barracks near Abingdon.

Crucially, the plan also sets out new firmer environment policies so that development is net zero carbon and delivers twice the national level of biodiversity net gain to help with the recovery of nature.

More information on the examination process can be found on [the councils' Joint Local Plan webpage](#).

Bathtub dumpers ordered to soak up hefty fine

Two Nottinghamshire residents must pay more than £4,000 after admitting illegally dumping a bathtub, tyres and a large amount of renovation waste near Didcot.

Pamela Whata, 47, and Willard Kurisa, 47, of Dryden Dale, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, appeared at Oxford Magistrates' Court on Friday 13 December where they both pleaded guilty to a charge of unlawfully depositing waste, commonly known as fly-tipping.

The incident was reported to South Oxfordshire District Council on 14 August 2024 after a large fly-tip was discovered on an unnamed road, off the A417, at Aston Tirrold.

Council Envirocrime Enforcement Officers investigated and found evidence that traced back to Ms Whata. In an interview on 6 September, Ms Whata and Mr Kurisa confirmed that they were both responsible for dumping the waste, having brought it to Oxfordshire in a hired van, from their address in Nottinghamshire.

Ms Whata and Mr Kurisa had loaded the waste into the van with the view of disposing the waste at a local recycling centre enroute to their rented property in Oxfordshire. However, they were turned away from all the recycling centres in Oxfordshire due to the size of the van that they had hired. They claimed that they had previously used a recycling centre in Worksop with the same hired van, and accepted in court that there was no reason why they could not have taken the waste back to Worksop with them to dispose of it properly. Instead they made the decision to fly tip their waste and drove to a quiet rural area to do so.

Taking early pleas into account, Mr Kurisa was fined £1,143 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £457 and £614 towards prosecution costs. Ms Whata was fined £961 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £384 and £614 towards prosecution costs, total of £4,173.

If you come across fly-tipping or notice anything suspicious, please visit southoxon.gov.uk/fly-tipping.

New Performing Arts Grant gets approval

Community organisations working in the arts in South Oxfordshire will benefit from a new grant launching in 2025.

Following a Cabinet meeting on Thursday 28 November, South Oxfordshire District Council members approved their new Performing Arts Grant. The new grant will open on 3 February 2025 and be open to voluntary and community organisations in South Oxfordshire, who will be able to apply for up to £5,000 in funding for projects that improve community wellbeing across the district.

The grant scheme aims to enhance the cultural landscape of South Oxfordshire by providing a financial boost to projects that help improve the quality of life of people living in the district, through projects that have a significant impact on the community.

Applicants must show how their projects meet the following community values and priorities, fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable performing arts scene in South Oxfordshire:

- Increase the range of arts opportunities available to local communities.
- Support inclusive practice and celebrate diversity
- Develop local artistic talent
- Promote innovation and excellence
- Develop new audiences and participants in performing arts initiatives

Organisations eligible to apply are:

- Non-for-profit groups, arts, or community groups
- Town and parish councils
- Schools (for non-core curriculum activities)

More details about the grant along with information about the launch event and drop-in events across the district will be made available in the new year on the council's website

southoxon.gov.uk/grants and organisations can contact the Community Arts team performingartsgrants@southandvale.gov.uk for support when the grant is open.

Council begins to decarbonise fleet with delivery of new Electric Vans

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have taken delivery of two new electric vans as they start to decarbonise their fleet of maintenance vehicles.

The all-electric Renault Kangoo vans, which were delivered at the start of autumn 2024, will be used by the parks team and the public toilet cleaning team to travel throughout both districts, as the teams conduct inspections, perform cleaning and maintenance work, and make deliveries to various sites.

These electric vehicles (EVs) will replace petrol and diesel vans, making a significant impact on reducing the councils' carbon emissions – it is estimated each van has saved 475.25kg of carbon dioxide equivalent in the first two months of use.

Their arrival is the beginning of a broader plan by the councils to fully convert the 12-strong fleet of maintenance vehicles used by the facilities, toilet cleaning, and parks teams to electric vans within the next three years.

New tourism and local events website

At the end of last year, we launched the new [Visit Southern Oxfordshire website](#). It is packed with things to do in our districts both for visitors and residents alike there's something for everyone!

Please take a look and spread the word on the new site.

Business support on offer

We've awarded some funding to [OSEP](#) – a social enterprise that supports social enterprises in Oxfordshire - to provide a programme of support and guidance for early-stage, purpose-led businesses and social impact organisations in South and Vale.

The money has come from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – a government fund for local places to

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invest in communities and place, support for local businesses and people and skills.

OSEP is partnering with Co-operative Futures, Aspire Oxfordshire, Makespace, SOFEA, Soha Housing Association and African Families in the UK.

Among the programmes on offer is:

- A Bootcamp Training Course for early-stage and pre-start enterprises, offering workshops on essential topics
- Business support specifically aimed at self-employment and sole trader options, empowering individuals with the knowledge to explore entrepreneurial opportunities
- One to one mentoring with signposting and strategy development tailored to the needs of emerging social enterprises

If you know a business based in South or Vale that would like to access support, [please encourage them to visit OSEP's website](#).

Nuclear RAI Cluster Oxfordshire and Cumbria

Earlier in 2024, we provided a letter of support for the UK Atomic Energy Authority with UKAEA as lead on their application for their Place Based Impact Acceleration Account submission focused on a nuclear robotics and AI cluster linking Cumbria and Oxfordshire.

We are pleased to announce that they were successful and have secured funding - [more information available here](#)

Flooding advice

Please monitor [the Environment Agency's Flood Warnings map](#) for updates relevant to your area.

Advice to share

- The [Environment Agency](#) is regularly updating its website and social media with relevant information.
- Residents can call the Environment Agency's flooding hotline for advice and support at any time on 0345 988 1188.
- As the lead authority for flooding in the county, [Oxfordshire County Council has a live webpage up and running](#) with the latest information and advice.

Preparing and reporting

Residents and businesses have responsibility to protect their own properties, so please direct them to [the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit](#) where they can read about preventative measures they can take.

Importantly, they should also use the [reporting form on the toolkit](#) should their home or business become flooded. The toolkit explains what constitutes a reportable flood.

If it's a flooding emergency, you should focus on the safety of yourself and your family. **Dial 999 if it is an emergency** and you or someone else is in danger. If there is flooding to your property, make sure you

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stay safe and visit the County Council's [Help I'm Flooding page](#) for more information on what to do.

Oxfordshire County Council leads the flood response activities in our area, and we provide a supporting role across a range of areas.

We also have general Flood Advice webpages: ([South](#) / [Vale](#)) which can direct members of the public to the relevant authorities' websites.