



Minutes of West Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting held at Hagbourne Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7:30pm.

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

26/1041 Opening of Meeting	DT opened the meeting at 19:30 hrs with a warm welcome to all attendees	
Administrative Matters		
26/1042 To receive Parish Councillor's apologies for absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
26/1043 Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest from Parish Councillors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
26/1044 Adopt new version of PCs Standing Orders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the PCs standing orders were last reviewed in 2015, the clerk asked the chair to review them, which he did and then circulated to all councillors for comment. It was proposed by DT, seconded RW, that this new version of standing orders be adopted by the council. Clerk to save in PCs files and upload final version to the village website. Within the new version of the standing orders, it now explains how the clerk is to deal with planning applications that are received between meetings and for which a response is required before the next meeting. If non-material to circulate by email, collate responses and clerk to respond to SODC Planning as instructed by councillors. If a Material application is received and a response is required before the next PC meeting and the clerk can't obtain an extension, then the clerk is to schedule an open planning committee meeting and invite residents to attend. It was proposed by DT, seconded ML, that this process as part of the standing orders be adopted immediately. 	CLERK
26/1044 To approve the minutes of the meeting of 07.01.2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed by DT, seconded ML, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con. 	
26/1045 Agree formation of and membership of Employment Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed by DT, seconded ML, that this be made up of the chair and vice-chair and meet annually every November to appraise the clerk's performance and award the pay rise to take affect the following January. 	
26/1046 To agree any outstanding actions from minutes of the meeting of 07.01.2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items had been completed except 26/10128,26/1033 and 26/1034 	
Open Session		
26/1047 To hear reports on OCC and SODC activities from any OCC or SODC Councillor's present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>SODC Report</u> - attachment 6 <u>OCC Report</u> – attachment 7 RW to write to OCC offering himself as West Hagbourne Flood Warden ML to email Jonny Hope-Smith requesting a large quantity of "20 is plenty" stickers to be delivered to the village for onward delivery to residents by Margaret 	RW ML
26/1048 To hear representations from members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In response to a question about the Horse & Harrow Pub, AW/DT to write to Hawthorn Leisure formally to seek confirmation that they are the legal owner and, if so, what their intentions for the site are. ST emailed the clerk before the meeting to express her support for the PC 	AW/DT

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	installing white village entrance signs and for exploring the neighbourhood plan options.	
Planning Matters		
26/1049 Discussion and decisions on any new planning applications since the previous meeting	<p>Planning applications reviewed - attachment 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No outstanding planning applications to discuss AW reported that the PIP for the land at Little Acorns for three additional houses, was granted on 23 February by SODC. The Parish Council had supported the application following a meeting with the developer (Mansbridge Construction), where they agreed to deliver a new footpath along Main Street - from the pub to the Nursery, and having no intention to develop the triangle parcel of land at the A417 Junction. The next stage will be a full planning application that the PC will be invited to comment on as will residents. AW reported that Upton PC were keen to produce a Neighbourhood Plan and would work closely with West Hagbourne due to the parish boundary which has part of the village in Upton's parish boundary. The councillors then discussed the merits of producing a neighbourhood plan bearing in mind the cost and effort involved. In short, a neighbourhood plan enables you to nominate where further development would be acceptable rather than trying to prevent additional development taking place. SODC Councillor AMS advised the PC that templates were now available to use but to invite one of the planning officers to meet with the parish councillors to answer all of their questions first and then invite them to the APM if possible, so that they could brief residents on the merits of producing a neighbourhood plan. AW to invite an SODC planning officer to meet with the Parish Council to discuss the merits further, if possible, to come to a Parish Council meeting. 	AW
26/1050 Discussion and decisions on any other ongoing planning matters	None	
Drainage Matters		
26/1051 Any questions on ongoing drainage matters (see report submitted – included here for reference)	<p>Flooding Summary Report for WHPC Meeting on Wednesday 11th March 2026 Activities Since Last Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GWP Didcot Drainage Investigations: we received a response on 29 January 2026 from Andrew Busby, SODC's Head of Development and Corporate Landlord, to WHPC's letter, dated 19 December 2025, expressing concerns with 'Drainage Approvals, Monitoring and Process' in light of the issues faced by the village since GWP was built. We intend to reply on several points, particularly regarding ongoing maintenance concerns with the drainage structure. <p>Flood-related Work Across the Village:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drains: we have not had any further update from OCC Highways regarding cleaning of the Brook Lane drains and have asked for a current status. - Ditches connecting at York Farm: significant work has been performed by the Allen family along the ditches since our last meeting. This should help our efforts to maintain the flow of water away from the village along those key exit points. Work at York Farm has included fencing off of the culvert opposite Fairview. Similar fencing has been put in place around the culvert at Driftway, York Road. We thank the Allens for completing work on both culverts to a very high standard. - Moor Lane Ditch: we have not yet had any further update yet from Lewis Purbrick of OCC regarding the suggested levels survey or thoughts on how we might best address the middle section 'ponds'. The Flood Group have worked hard over several weekends to remove soft vegetation from the ditch and we thank all of the team for their efforts. • Testing of Water Pumps for the Village: the pump purchased by the Flood Group has 	



	<p>now been tested a couple of times and found to be working as expected. We plan ongoing tests every 3-4 months and would again like to thank Steve Carr for his involvement with this project. Flood group items amounting to £65.89 have been purchased this month. A reminder that a stock of sandbags are held by the Parish Council and available to villagers in need. A very helpful website for assessing home flood resilience is to be found at floodmary.com and RW is happy to talk to villagers about potentially helpful flood prevention items for homes. Robin Wilkes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT/RW to draft a response to the letter dated 29 January 2026 from Andrew Busby 	DT/RW
Highways and Transport		
<p>26/1052 Any questions on ongoing highways matters (see report submitted– included here for reference)</p>	<p>Roads, Traffic and PROW Report</p> <p>Community Speedwatch Group – so far this year, group activities have been hampered by the continuous wet weather with only 2 sessions being possible throughout January and February. I am hoping that spring weather will be more conducive to roadside monitoring and the group will be able to resume regular sessions as normal.</p> <p>SIDS Data Collection – the two Speed Indicator Devices that were installed on Main Street last July collect data on every passing vehicle (one way only). This data is downloaded at the kerbside and can be analysed to produce valuable information about traffic heading east towards the centre of the village. Data collected on 8th February has revealed some astonishing (although not entirely surprising) results. For example, these are the figures recorded by the SID (located opp. Shire House) for the one week period commencing Monday 12th to Sunday 18th January 2026 inclusive:</p> <p>Day Total vehicles (24hrs) Those exceeding 20mph</p> <p>Monday 12th January 2409 1674 Tuesday 13th January 2549 1792 Wednesday 14th January 2595 1850 Thursday 15th January 2448 1698 Friday 16th January 2339 1679 Saturday 17th January 1606 1204 Sunday 18th January 1385 1057 TOTAL 15331 10954</p> <p>Of those vehicles that exceeded the 20mph limit, the majority travelling between 21 and 29mph totalled 9760, 1177 between 30 and 39mph and the remaining 17 between 40 and 54mph.</p> <p>These figures show that approx. 70% of drivers of vehicles passing Shire House heading east into the village are exceeding the statutory speed limit.</p> <p>The most alarming fact is however, that the village speed record has now been broken on 22nd December 2025 at 7:05pm, by a vehicle travelling at 60mph! (Previous record was 55mph).</p> <p>FYI – the readouts on the SIDS do not visibly display excessive speeds, as experience in the County has shown that joy-riders were using the displays to compete with each other for top speed!</p> <p>New village entrance gates and signage – progress has been made on the planned new village gates and signage. Jon Beale (OCC Highways) has now provided a quote for all three sets as follows:</p> <p>Main Street (appr. the nursery) £3417.50 Brook Lane £ 2757.72 Road from Upton (appr. H&H) £2475.87 Total £8651.09 +VAT £10,381.31</p> <p>The PC gave provisional funding approval (based on previous quotes) for the gates at the January 2026 meeting. However, now that these have been officially confirmed, full approval is required before the gates can be ordered. We have now also received formal consent from Upton PC for the installation of the gates on the Upton road within the boundary of their parish. This consent has been granted with</p>	

	<p>conditions which I shall present at the meeting for PC consideration and acceptance which can then be relayed back. We are very grateful to Upton PC for their co-operation with this.</p> <p>Clerk to formally respond to Upton PC accepting their conditions of consent.</p> <p>ML to write back to John Beale of OCC Highways requesting the formal order and installation of the new village entrance gates.</p> <p>ML to contact Jon Beale (OCC traffic and road safety officer) to express our concern regarding the occurrence of RTAs on Hagbourne Hill.</p> <p>Clerk to include this payment under CIL reconciliation as will be in the region of £10k</p> <p>New road signage – these have now been displayed at either end of the single-track section of Main Street. The signs are intended to alert drivers to the narrowing road with new white lines in the middle of the road to guide drivers and keep the carriageways clear. The broken verge markers have also been replaced on the corner opposite Appledore.</p> <p>Vehicles on pavements – I have received a communication from a concerned resident who has observed and recorded evidence of the incidence of large vehicles, on two separate occasions, mounting and driving along the raised pavement between the pond and the junction of York Road. This seems to be an increasingly common occurrence throughout the village putting pedestrians at risk and damaging kerbs and pavements.</p> <p>Telraam traffic sensors – JF has kindly agreed to put forward her property as a possible location to trial one of forty new AI-powered traffic counters for pedestrians, cyclists, cars and heavy vehicles which also records average speeds. This is an OCC pilot project designed to better understand how people are moving on roads and paths across the County.</p> <p>PROW</p> <p>Footpath No. 389 – Moor Lane to Upton church - I have again reported the very dangerous condition of the two bridges that span Moor Lane ditch and the Mill Stream on the footpath to Upton from Moor Lane. These were first reported to the OCC Countryside Access team in February last year!</p> <p>Waymarkers – a request for a waymarker post to be positioned at the junction of Manor Farm path and Moor Lane has been sent to OCC Countryside Access in an attempt to deter drivers of 4x4s and motorcyclists from using the footpath instead of the byway. This year I shall be surveying all the waymarkers in the West Hagbourne area to make sure they are present where needed, clearly visible and in good repair.</p> <p>Moor Lane – the surface is now in an atrocious state again. So far, there appears to have been only light use by 4x4s and motorcyclists since its reopening last year. However, the dumping and spreading out of a considerable amount of subsoil, containing a high proportion of clay, onto the lane in May last year, has ruined the surface in many parts and seriously affected its drainage capacity. The practice of a local motorbike scrambling club using the lane as a venue for their competitions has resumed this month.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>Letter sent to Thames Water on 16th January following the latest water mains leakage resulting in low pressure and loss of supply to some residences in the village. Clarification of most efficient and reliable communication methods between customers and TW has been requested but no reply has been received to date. However, a customer service survey has been received and responded to! Margaret Leishman.</p>	<p>CLERK ML ML CLERK</p>
<p>26/1053 Moor Lane byway update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DT to chase Arthur McEwan-James at Highways about when they will be installing the monitoring equipment in Moor Lane as proposed last year 	<p>DT</p>
<p>26/1054 Community Matters (see report submitted– included here for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was proposed by AW, seconded JF, that AW order a second filing cabinet as per the quote circulated prior to the meeting. Clerk asked AW either pays by VAT invoice, which can then be passed to clerk for payment by bank transfer or personal credit card which will then be reimbursed. 	<p>AW</p>

West Hagbourne Parish Council

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reference)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW/ DT to draft and then print a survey for delivery to residents to gather appropriate data for inclusion in village emergency plan <p>Community Matters Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both Margaret and I have submitted a request to the Waste team at SODC to try to get the waste bins relocated! I have submitted a form to the grants people reference the grant for the letter box being repainted. I'm looking to do a litter pick in April just waiting for the forms! I have a cemetery meeting tonight so may have some update on the flooding! 	AW/DT
Financial Matters		
26/1055 Approval of regular payments	<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, Notice Boards painting, village hall hire and flooding prevention tools. Clerk to investigate £12 payment to Mystic Beasts that suddenly appeared on the latest bank statement Clerk to request 2026 Grass Cutting Quote 	CLERK CLERK
26/1056 The current financial situation for 2025/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Financial situation for 2024/25 – attachment 2 & 3 	
26/1057 Risk Assessment Register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DT signed off appropriate parts on the current Risk Assessment Checklist – attachment 5 	
26/1058 Agreement of items to include in Chairman's report for next monthly Parish 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
26/1059 Agreement of items to include in the agenda for the next WHPC meeting Wed 7 Jan 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to draft agenda and circulate amongst councillors 10 days before next meeting including Neighbourhood Plan next steps & adopt privacy policy in addition to normal agenda items Next meeting to be held on 6 May 2026 with the APM to be held on 13 May 2026 	CLERK
26/1060 Close of meeting	DT declared the meeting closed at 9:20pm	

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

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

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	West Hagbourne Parish Council
Date	13 March 2025

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

Town and County Planning Association letter

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse have joined a host of other local authorities, businesses and non-government organisations in signing an open letter from the Town and County Planning Association (TCPA). The letter has been sent to The Rt Hon Steve Reed MP Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Named signatories include Cabinet members, Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson and Cllr Andy Foulsham, both with portfolio responsibility for planning policy at the councils.

The letter supports the climate ambitions in the emerging Joint Local Plan, as well as the strategic priorities of both councils, as it urges government to reconsider proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that would prevent local authorities from requiring higher energy efficiency standards for new buildings, as we have included within the emerging Joint Local Plan. The letter warns that by restricting local authorities in this way, the draft NPPF would halt progress on the delivery of net zero carbon buildings in England, and undermine the ability of councils, including South and Vale, to address climate change locally and meet their climate obligations.

[Read the letter in full.](#)

South Oxfordshire District Council agrees £500,000 towards improvement for nature site

South Oxfordshire District Council has agreed to give £500,000 to fund major improvements at the Earth Trust site in Little Wittenham, making it safer and more welcoming for visitors to enjoy the area's natural beauty.

Environmental charity Earth Trust looks after the largest free-to-access green space in Oxfordshire, at Wittenham Clumps. Each year around 200,000 people visit this area of open countryside including around 6,500 education visits. New housing in the area has increased the numbers visiting this public open space, which has had a significant impact on the small country lanes and parking nearby.

The charity has secured planning permission for the improvements which include building a new junction and access road and 80 new parking spaces, including disabled spaces.

In addition, there will be new hedgerows and sustainable drainage installed. These upgrades aim to reduce traffic, resolve parking issues, and improve access to the site.

New safe walking and cycling routes will also be added, encouraging people to get outdoors and stay active. The project will create new jobs and volunteer opportunities, helping to strengthen the local community and economy.

The upgrades will make it easier for families, schools, and residents to visit, improving their health and wellbeing. It will also allow Earth Trust to become an even better space for learning about nature, with more opportunities for children and families to connect with the environment.

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South Oxfordshire District Council agreed at a meeting this month to allocate £500,000 in funding for Earth Trust's plans. This money comes from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) from developer contributions.

The wider scheme also includes a café and adventure playground, delivered through other sources and not through CIL.

By supporting this project, the council is helping to create a lasting community resource that will provide free access to nature and educational activities for years to come.

Earth Trust has a long history of successfully working with South Oxfordshire District Council. It manages council-owned Castle Meadows and Riverside Meadows in Wallingford and Mowbray Fields in Didcot and uses traditional meadow management approach to encourage more plants, insects, and birds to the areas.

The work at the Little Wittenham site is due to start this spring with completion anticipated in the summer. Future plans for the site also include some EV charging points in the new car parking area.

Over £1.5m grants funding available for community organisation

Community groups and non-profit organisations in South Oxfordshire will be able to apply for grants totalling £1.5M over the next year.

The range of grant schemes will give a financial boost to projects that improve community facilities, enhance the health and wellbeing of residents and support the fight against climate change across the district.

The schemes coming up this year and their provisional launch dates are as follows:

- **Everyone Active Grant:** £50,000 launches 30 March – for projects that improve the health and wellbeing of residents
- **Capital Grant Scheme:** £320,000 launches 1 June – for projects such as play areas, community and sports facilities, and sustainability projects
- **Performing Arts Grant Scheme:** £60,000 launches 20 July - designed to enhance the cultural landscape and support local performing arts groups
- **Councillor Community Grant Scheme:** £270,000 launches 17 August – for projects and activities that offer community benefits including sports equipment, trees for community orchards, events for the elderly
- **Climate Action Fund:** £100,000 launches 28 September – aimed at projects that help to tackle climate change and nature recovery.



- **Community Infrastructure Levy Grant:** £750,000 launches 15 February 2027 – for organisations to deliver infrastructure for their community

There are a number of opportunities for organisations to find out more about the grants available and the criteria for applications, at events taking place across the district over the coming months. Grants officers from South Oxfordshire District Council will be on hand to answer questions and offer advice:

- **Connecting Local Action - climate and sustainability event:** 5 March Thame Barns – midday to 2.30pm
- **Didcot Garden Town Community Update Meeting:** 18 March 5-7.30pm
- **Partnership event with OCVA and Oxfordshire Community Foundation:** 15 April District Community Centre in Didcot 11am – 4pm and 6 May Holton Village Hall 12.15 until 6pm

Information about the drop-in events and the grants can be found on the council website southoxon.gov.uk/grants. Places are limited so there is a booking form on the website where organisations can advise which session(s) they wish to attend.

Organisations can also contact the Community Enablement team by emailing grants@southandvale.gov.uk if they would like an initial discussion.

Incredible theatre coming to Cornerstone

From Shakespearean drama to dystopian thrillers and darkly funny satire, there's some unmissable theatre heading to Cornerstone Arts Centre this March.

Experience **NLive's Hamlet** on **Wednesday 18 March (7pm)**, with a Relaxed and Captioned screening on **Saturday 21 March (2.30pm)**. Olivier Award-winner Hiran Abeysekera (Life of Pi) stars in this new staging of Shakespeare's famous tragedy.

On **Thursday 19 March** Box Tale Soup returns to the centre with Orwell's chilling vision to life in **1984**. This gripping adaptation captures a world where Big Brother is always watching. Then on **Tuesday 24 March**, celebrate 10 years of the darkly hilarious **Meet Fred**, from inclusive theatre company Hijinx. Packed with biting satire and unexpected tenderness, this critically acclaimed hit asks what independence really means when the system pulls the strings.

Find out more and book your tickets on the **Cornerstone website**.

7. OCC Report

Title	County Councillor's Report
Author	Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith

West Hagbourne Parish Council

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Parishes	Aston Tirrold/Upthorpe, Cholsey, East Hagbourne, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Moulsoford, North Moreton, South Moreton, West Hagbourne
Date	March 2026
Contact Details	johnny.hope-smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

Here are some updates and news I have gathered for you. Please provide any feedback; or if its too much or not enough and of course any more information on a specific topic I can help with. I have put in **BOLD** the items which I think may be specifically appropriate for the Parish Councils to consider advertising or acting upon

Best wishes,
Johnny

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Community Hubs Survey – OCC Asking Groups to Take Part

Oxfordshire County Council and Community First Oxfordshire are working to understand more about what the community hubs there are across the county. This will help us strengthen the visibility and voice of community hubs

Key Details

- The survey is for any organisation that runs or hosts activities in a building used regularly by the community.
- Hubs may provide social, economic, health or environmental benefits and often act as trusted connectors within their neighbourhoods.
- The aim is to strengthen the visibility, voice and role of community hubs as part of work on Community Wealth Building.
- Survey takes no more than 15 minutes.
- Participants can opt into a prize draw for **one of three £100 donations to their hub.**
- Survey runs 16 February – **17 March 2026.**

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the survey with village halls, community centres, churches, youth groups, charities and volunteer-run spaces.
- Encourage local hubs to take part so Oxfordshire can build an accurate picture of community activity.

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/community-hubs-survey>

Flood Warden Scheme – Volunteers Needed

An appeal has been issued for volunteers to help their communities understand flood risks and responsibilities by becoming flood wardens.

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council has expanded its flood warden scheme countywide following successful pilots.
- Flood wardens are volunteers who act as local eyes and ears, reporting blocked drains, ditches and issues that could increase flood risk.
- Anyone can volunteer - residents, parish councillors, resilience volunteers or community groups and there is no minimum time commitment.
- The council provides training and support, including an initial one-hour briefing call.
- Flood wardens help raise awareness, work with local landowners, support emergency planning and improve community preparedness.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the opportunity locally and encourage volunteers, especially those in flood-prone areas.
- Direct interested residents to the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit to sign up.
<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/flood-wardens/>
- Promote reporting of blocked drains/ditches as part of wider flood resilience work.
- Consider linking parish emergency plans with local flood wardens for better coordination

Free '20's Plenty' Stickers Available for Residents



Oxfordshire has now introduced its 275th 20mph scheme, delivered in partnership with town and parish councils since the programme began in 2022. To mark this milestone, residents can now apply for free wheelie bin stickers to encourage drivers to respect the lower speed limit in residential areas. The stickers are being provided jointly by Oxfordshire County Council and the national campaign group 20's Plenty for Us.

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the sticker application link below with residents via newsletters, Facebook pages and email lists.

https://www.20splenty.org/oxon_wbs

- Encourage residents to use the stickers to reinforce community support for the 20mph schemes already implemented in your area.
- Remind residents that 20mph schemes are introduced only where requested by parish and town councils, and that community support helps their long-term success.

INFO - Secondary School Offers – Majority Receive First Choice

Almost nine out of ten Oxfordshire children applying for secondary school places across the county have been offered a place at their first choice school for September

Key Details

- 85.4% of Oxfordshire children have been offered their first-choice secondary school for September 2026.
- 96.4% received one of their preferred schools, reflecting strong performance in school place planning across the county.
- Where a school was oversubscribed, some families did not receive their first preference.
- Families can appeal decisions by 31 March 2026 and can join waiting lists from 25 May 2026.

REMINDER - LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

A statutory government consultation on the future structure of local government in Oxfordshire has launched and runs from 5 February to **26 March**.

Key Details

- There are three options being consulted on:
 - One Oxfordshire – a single countywide unitary council (Oxfordshire Council)
 - Two unitary councils – Oxford & Shires Council and Ridgeway Council
 - Three unitary councils – Greater Oxford Council, Northern Oxfordshire Council and Ridgeway Council

Links

- Consultation Link with links to the three proposals <https://oneoxfordshire.org.uk/>

What Parishes Can Do

- Share the consultation link with residents and encourage participation.
- Consider submitting a formal parish council response, as parish-level feedback will form part of government's assessment.



REMINDER: Councillor Priority Fund – Supporting Local Projects – HALF NOW ALLOCATED

The Councillor Priority Fund has reopened, offering each Oxfordshire County Councillor £10,000 to support community projects within their division. This funding is designed to help deliver local priorities and strengthen community initiatives.

Parish councils, community groups, and local organisations are encouraged to apply for funding to support projects that benefit residents. Examples might include:

- Improvements to community facilities
- Local environmental initiatives
- Activities that promote wellbeing or inclusion
- Smaller-scale projects are especially encouraged, as the fund is modest and intended to support a wide range of communities across Oxfordshire

Key details:

- Applications must be submitted by 30 November **2026**
- Grants are typically paid within 28 days of approval
- Applicants must register for an account to apply and track progress
- Monitoring and reporting are required for successful projects

To ensure your project meets the funding criteria, please read the guidance document before applying.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Identify local projects that could benefit from modest funding**
- **Collaborate with community groups to develop proposals**
- **Submit applications early to allow time for review and payment**

Keep records and be prepared to report on outcomes

For more information or to apply, visit the Councillor Priority Fund page.

<https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund>