

Minutes of the Chair's Annual Parish Meeting of the Yarnton Electorate

Meeting held on 22nd April 2026 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

Attendees	
Mike Groves (MG)	Yarnton Parish Council Chair
Amir Kianzad (AK)	Yarnton Parish Councillor
Fiona Mawson (FM)	Yarnton Parish Council Vice Chair
Lesley McLean (LM)	Yarnton Parish Councillor, Oxfordshire County Councillor
Ian Middleton (IM)	Yarnton Parish Councillor
Tara Taylor (TT)	Yarnton Parish Council Gardener
David Thornhill (DT)	Yarnton Parish Council Clerk

1. Apologies	Joe McEaney (JM), Sam Smith (SS), Dorothy Walker (DW), Debbie Behan (DB)
2. Introductions	Introductions were made by the attending Parish Councillors and village group representatives, followed by light refreshments and informal conversations with Councillors.
3. Minutes	The minutes of the Chair's Annual Parish Meeting of Yarnton held on 27/3/25 having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record by all.
4. Matters arising	None.
5. Finance	The Clerk made a presentation on the Council's observations of its finances for 2024/2025, including an overview of income and expenditure, precept calculations and S.137 spend. The Clerk also informed residents of the carry-over of finance from 2025-6 to 2026-27 concerning long-term projects, including the purchase and installation of SIDs devices, the replacement and installation of new litter bins in the village and on the A44, maintenance of the Orchard, and plans for the lectern and sensory garden. The Gardener also spoke briefly about this. More details are in the Chair's report.
6. Chair's report	The Chair made a presentation of their observations over the past year, and informed the members of the public who attended the meeting of plans and initiatives for the coming year. See Appendix 1 CR.2026.
8. County Councillor's report	The County Councillor reported on matters affecting Oxfordshire County Council's funding, Environmental matters and Highways concerns, including pothole repairs on Cassington Rd. See Appendix 2 CC.2026.

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9. District Councillor's report	The District Councillor gave a verbal account of issues affecting Cherwell District Council's budget in this financial year, and plans for the future including schemes and initiatives for release in the coming financial year. See Appendix 3 DC.2026
10. Parishioner's questions and feedback	<p>Questions were asked of Councillors concerning environmental issues including flooding, littering, antisocial behaviour, traffic and highways concerns. Answers to questions raised were provided by members of Yarnton Parish Council and the County Councillor. Residents were advised to report anti-social behaviour to the Police. Questions were also raised concerning the airport and an update was provided by the Airport Group.</p> <p>Community members left the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good to meet as this group of village organisations – thank you!• Could we meet more than once a year for interactions & collaboration?• Thank you for your ongoing work, especially re ditches, drainage et.c• Sam Smith's Litter Pick was very positive Possible additional litterpick more than once per year?• Liaison over orchard and planting in village with William Fletcher & informal organisations?• Well done for maintenance of the Orchard area.• Gardener must be thanked and congratulated!• Much gratitude to Yarnton Flood Defence group. 😊• Excellent job on the ditches.• This village needs the [highway] gutters cleaned.• The Orchard looks so lovely!
11. AOB	No AOB was raised.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Date of next Chair's Annual Parish Meeting: Wednesday 21st April 2067 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

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Appendix I CR.2026

YPC Chairs Report

Welcome to the 2026 Yarnton Annual Parish Meeting. This year, we are changing the format of this meeting to try to make it easier for all attendees to chat with the councillors and enjoy some light refreshments.

Flooding

This year, after many months of badgering, the ditches that surround the village have been desilted. This is with grateful thanks to Sanctuary Housing, Yarnton Parish Council and Cherwell District Council, who have all contributed financially. The many tons of removed silt will hopefully make the regular flooding events less likely to flood homes and property.

The Parish Council will also continue to watch developers, who will start to build homes around the village and make sure that they don't exacerbate the flood risk with their house builds. I would also like to thank the Yarnton Flood Defence Group for all their time and help during all the flood events that have occurred over the year. This is totally a voluntary act, and should you like to join them, please contact the Parish clerk for more details.

The Orchard

I'm sure if you have walked through the Orchard this year, you will have noticed all the spring bulbs now in full bloom. The Council have employed a gardener (Tara) 1 day a week to improve the area. It was Tara, along with a few willing resident volunteers, and the Clerk who planted 4.5 thousand bulbs (although many will have been lost to squirrels!) and we are now beginning to evidence their labours.

The Council have plans to plant a sensory garden in the centre of the Orchard, on either side of the footpath to aid elderly and disabled visitors' enjoyment, will be erecting a signage lectern in the orchard in the coming months that will show the different species of trees in the area, the different apple tree varieties and wild life that you can expect to see.

There are many plans afoot to enhance the area, so please keep an eye out for upcoming seasonal changes. Again, if you feel passionate about our orchard area and would like to help in any way, then please contact the Parish clerk for more details.

Keeping Yarnton tidy

Keeping a village tidy is a big job. We all know that, as Yarnton has a dual carriageway running past us, some uncaring people, unfortunately, just throw their rubbish from their vehicles. We also have two garages, one with a food outlet and the other that doesn't appear to care about rubbish.

That said, each year, the Parish council organises a village Spring clean with the aid of village-based volunteer organisations and individuals. By working together, we pick up litter and help keep the village an enjoyable place for all residents and visitors. We do employ a village tidier to pick up litter and empty bins, but there is more litter than the working hours he has the time for.

In the coming months, we will be ordering a large quantity of new litter bins, and we will replace old, worn-out ones, as well as add to the tally we already have. This will allow for the safe disposal of litter. We, like the rest of the residents, wish for a clean and well-looked-after village to be proud of. Since the bottle banks were removed, we are seeing an increase in fly tipping. Please if you witness an incident, please report any incident to Cherwell District Council.

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Speed watch

We have a problem with speeding vehicles in the village. In the coming months, we will be installing new SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices), one at either end of Cassington Road and the same number in Sandy Lane, as well as the two existing devices on Rutten Lane. This will bring the total in the village to 6.

The SIDs devices will flash up the speed of the vehicle and hopefully slow them down, with the newer ones with the green smiley face or the red devil for the speeders, like they have in Cassington and Deddington, which we considered to be the most visually effective.

The Police will not at present monitor or provide a speed check vehicle. The village Speed Watch team at present does not have enough trained persons to monitor speeding vehicles. If you are interested in joining the speed watch group, please either speak to me or email me at mike.groves@yarnton-pc.gov.uk

New playing field initiative

I would like to thank the new subcommittee of the Playing Fields Charity for their enthusiasm and plans for new play equipment at Rutten Lane Park. They have been sharing their thoughts with the Parish Council, and the council have given them a grant to ensure that some of the old mound is repaired to ensure its safety. We wish them well with their fundraising and look forward to a new play area in the near future.

Village Hall

The Village Hall will be going a little greener very soon. A new roof and insulation are being fitted next month, and they will then have solar panels fitted to lessen their reliance on the electricity grid. This has been a project has been planned for a long time, and now, with fundraising and a grant from the Parish council as well as Village Hall savings, it's about to materialise.

It's been a busy year for us all, and I would like to thank all my Councillors for their support and commitment over the year. The rest of the council and I, along with the Clerk, are always happy to provide help, updates and assistance wherever we can. I'd like to thank everyone for attending tonight. I hope you'll find the meeting an interesting and informative evening.

If you have any questions, we will try to answer them during this meeting, but we're also available throughout the year. All our contact details are on our website, and we will try to respond as quickly as we're able.

Thank you.

Mike Groves

Yarnton Parish Chairman

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Appendix 2 CC.2026

Councillors: Dorothy Walker and Lesley McLean.

Parish Councils: Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke

Period: May / June 2026

Area Oversight Group.

£300k of funding was awarded to the local area and it is suggested local councils review the Area Priority Plan.

Next meeting is 27th May, 2026.

Green Spaces

Draft reports are in progress and will be ready for review shortly. These reports are evaluating the current spaces, how they are used, and how we can make the best of those spaces. Most local green spaces will be included in the reports.

At Rutten Lane a plan is being formalised in partnership with the Yarnton Park Renewal Group and the Parish Council, funding has been secured for one part of the scheme, and we are awaiting quotations for the works, and an agreement on installation management will then be required.

REPF/Green Space & Community Grants

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) will be supporting a number of projects locally, including paths and planters at Park Hill, a Historical route from Begbroke to Kidlington and a sensory garden at Chorefield Green.

Flooding

Funding has been secured for locally held flood equipment, to be used in emergencies in the local community. Council Clerks have put forward requests and equipment should be delivered in the next period.

Flood Awareness Event – 24 September

Flooding can be a worrying experience, and we know that many residents want clear, practical help to better protect their homes. That's why we're holding a Flood Awareness Event on 24 September, bringing together expert advice, practical solutions and local support in one place.

The event will provide householders with information on simple, effective steps they can take to reduce flood risk to their property. Flood protection manufacturers will be on hand with information stands, demonstrating a range of products and offering advice, with some solutions available for householders.

There will also be opportunities to find out more about local flood wardens and sign up to get involved, helping to strengthen our community's response before, during and after flood events. We hope you'll join us.

Waste Site

After a delay due to site flooding, removal is now in progress, with traffic control in place for entry and exit. 2

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Changes in Planning regulations for District Councils and Councillors

Councillors were recently given an outline of the very significant recent and forthcoming changes to Planning legislation being introduced by the government. Briefly, these are as follows:

- 150 Home Notification Rule – if a planning committee opts to refuse a housing development application for more than 150 homes, the Planning Inspectorate must be notified, giving officials the opportunity to call in for decision by the Inspectorate.
- A new National Scheme of Delegation will replace Council drafted policies. The new national scheme will mean that:
 1. Councillors will not be able to call in house-holder developments – these will automatically be delegated to officers
 2. Councillors will not be able to call in developments of under 9 dwellings.
- Smaller Planning Committees – these will be limited to a maximum 13 members
- Mandatory Training and National Certification of Planning Committee members
- Introduction of a centralised, online Planning Inspectorate and Planning Decisions Service, replacing the former semi paper based one.

HMOs

Proposed dates for the HMO briefing for councillors are still awaited from the Planning Department.

Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre

The Planning Application for Phase 2 (a second building housing some 200 further detainees) will be submitted with a view to completing construction by 2030. The Development Consent Order application is still awaited. A DCO application will be posted on the Council's Planning Register. Although comments and objections can be submitted by stakeholders, the decision will be taken by the Home Office in conjunction with the Planning Inspectorate, not by Cherwell District Council. In the light of the road, water supply, drainage and sewage infrastructure pressures at PR8 and PR9, and with the prospect of a forthcoming OTP(2) development on Langford Lane, its feasibility is open to question.

Roundham Crossing

This petition was presented at a Full Council meeting of OCC by Lisa Smith (Candidate for Kidlington West), and further discussions are expected once proposals for Begbroke station are understood.

Enforcement Updates

6 The Closes – The requested retrospective planning application for the informal access installed was refused by CDC. A pre-application was invited from the developer and sits with OCC as this is a matter of highway safety. Input from OCC still awaited.

Kebab Kid non permitted signage – Awaiting legal comments to witness statements.

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3 Paternoster Court, Yarnton – A reminder has been sent to Tony Brummel referencing the Report's requirement for proper maintenance and unblocking of the watercourse on Cassington Road to the East of Pixey Close' Update 17/4/26 – reported as cleared (to be confirmed by inspection reports).

45 Merton Way, Yarnton – Enforcement have now re-opened investigation and are looking for additional information from local residents.

73 High Street, Kidlington – Next steps are an interview under caution of the applicant, followed by enforcement action pending the outcome of public expediency assessment. Also outstanding are the details and images yet to be provided to Building Control proving the correct installation of foundations under the non-permitted 2-storey extension. Although not strictly a Planning issue, this is a public safety issue.

55 Church Street, Kidlington (Conservation Area) - Insertion of an unauthorised full size vehicle gate from the historic footpath which runs between No 55 and St Mary's Church. Heavy damage to the footpath surface indicates the use of motorised vehicles on it. A report has been submitted to Planning Enforcement as the gated entrance is serving a workshop constructed in the garden with planning permission from CDC (the permission does not include the irregular access.)

Kerbside Glass Recycling

From 1st January CDC has been collecting glass at the kerbside which is placed in the blue bin for recycling. Removal of the recycling banks was planned; however, this was bought forward due to fly tipping at Curtis Place. Recycling banks have now been removed from locations in Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke.

Abandoned cars

Any vehicle believed to be abandoned can be registered at Cherwell District Council here: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/7/environment/415/abandoned-vehicle>

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Appendix 3 DC.2026


Title: County Councillor's Report

Author: Cllr Lesley McLean

Division: Yarnton, Begbroke and Kidlington.

Date: May / June 2026

Contact Details:

 Email: lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk

 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CllrLesleyMcLean>

Dear Residents and Councillors

As we move into late spring and early summer, it has been good to see progress on a number of long-standing local issues. Over the past couple of months, much of my time has continued to be taken up with highways matters, particularly potholes, drainage and keeping residents informed about roadworks and closures.

Alongside this, I have been engaging with Oxfordshire County Council on wider transport and place-based policy work, including the development of the Movement and Place Strategy, as well as continuing work on flood resilience and responding to the Fire & Rescue Service consultation. I aim to keep parish and town councils and residents informed through reports such as this, as well as via my Facebook page.

Potholes, Road Condition and Resurfacing

Potholes remain one of the most frequently raised concerns across Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke, particularly on the main roads and bus routes. During this period, I have been very active reporting defects, following up repairs and escalating repeat failures.

There has been good success in securing individual repairs, and I would like to thank residents for continuing to report issues via FixMyStreet, which remains the most effective way to ensure problems are logged and addressed. Many of the most problematic roads locally are key bus corridors, which are under constant pressure but are not currently included in the resurfacing programme. I continue to push for a more strategic approach, including resurfacing of these routes, and will keep pressing this case with officers.

Gully Cleaning and Drainage

Drainage and gully maintenance are closely linked to both road condition and localised flooding. While the countywide gully-cleaning cycle has been completed, it is clear that timing, targeting and follow-up are critical. In addition to raising individual issues, I am currently awaiting a report from the highways drainage team to establish what issues have been identified locally.

I have also been pressing for better-timed gully cleaning, particularly ahead of wetter periods and in known problem locations. Once the report is available, I will update parish councils and residents on the findings and next steps.

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In Yarnton additional culvert clearance has been carried out by Sanctuary Homes and the Parish Council supported by additional grant funding from OCC. In Kidlington the OCC additional funding covered mapping of the water course and drainage systems across the area.

Flood Grants

OCC are repeating the flood grant scheme for 2026/2027. Communities can now apply for grants of up to £25000 to fund projects that help reduce the impact of flooding. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/>

Flood Warden Recruitment – Please Get Involved

Flooding and community resilience remain important priorities, and the Flood Warden scheme is a great way for local people to help protect their community. Flood Wardens act as local “eyes and ears”, spotting blocked drains, ditches and other flood risks before problems escalate. Training is provided, there’s no fixed time commitment, and I would warmly encourage parish councils and residents to consider whether this is something they — or someone they know — might like to support.

Movement & Place Strategy – Overview

Movement and Place (MAP) Plans set out a long-term approach to how our streets work for everyday life—covering walking, cycling, public transport, traffic and safety. Work is starting on the Kidlington and Surrounding Villages MAP Plan, and I am working with officers to make sure local priorities and community views help shape it as it develops. I will keep parish and town councils updated as this progresses.

Upcoming Road Closures

There have been a number of announcements for road closures and traffic restrictions to allow works to be carried out safely.

5th May Gravel Pits Lane, Yarnton Limited access maintained.

22nd June Sandy Lane, Yarnton Broadband cabling.

19 June The Moors, Kidlington Limited access. Overhead power maintenance.

Kidlington Library Events:

Lego Club Saturday 25th April, Saturday 27th June, 2026.

Rhyme time Tuesday 28th April, Tuesday 5th May, 2026

Community Help and Information Thursday 7th May, Thursday 14th May, 2026

Elmer Day Saturday 23rd May, 2026

Further details can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/events?venue=2248> 3

A44 Speed Limit Review

The A44 corridor remains under review as part of wider work on road safety. Evidence from elsewhere suggests that changes to speed limits can improve safety, particularly where communities, pedestrians and cyclists interact with through-traffic.

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I will continue to monitor this review and ensure local views are reflected as proposals develop.

Fire & Rescue Service Consultation – Kidlington

The consultation on improving Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service has now concluded, and the County Council has published its response.

Kidlington Fire Station is not currently proposed for closure, and no decision has been taken to close or downgrade the station. However, there has also been no explicit statement guaranteeing its long-term future, and future options are under review.

There is now a focus on recruitment, resilience and response cover. I will continue to follow this carefully and make sure the voices and safety of residents are clearly represented. Full details of the published report they can be found here:

Independent Consultation Analysis Report:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s81598/Annex%203%20-%20OFRS%20Consultation%20Analysis%20Report.pdf>

Cabinet Report – Improving our Fire and Rescue Service:

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s81566/Improving%20our%20Fire%20and%20Rescue%20Service%20Cover%20Review%20-%20Cabinet%20v3.0%20FINAL.pdf>

Councillor Priority Fund – Applications Welcome

A reminder that parish councils and community groups can apply to the Councillor Priority Fund (CPF). Each county councillor has £10,000 available over the 2025–2027 period to support local projects.

I am particularly keen to support projects linked to flooding, drainage, resilience and education, and I am very happy to discuss ideas before an application is submitted.

Further details are available here:

 <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/communities/councillor-priority-fund>

Keeping in Touch

Thank you to everyone who has raised issues, shared local insight or kept in touch during this period. Please do continue to get in contact—your feedback really does make a difference.

Best wishes

Lesley

Signed as a correct record:

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