

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

Attendees	
Debbie Behan (DB)	Yarnton Parish Councillor
Mike Groves (MG)	Yarnton Parish Councillor – Chair
Fiona Mawson (FM)	Yarnton Parish Councillor – Vice Chair
Joe McEneaney (JM)	Yarnton Parish Councillor
Lesley McLean (LM),	Yarnton Parish Councillor, Cherwell District Councillor, Oxfordshire County Councillor
Ian Middleton (IM)	Yarnton Parish Councillor
Damian Mizzi (DM)	Yarnton Parish Councillor
Steve Smith (StS),	Yarnton Parish Councillor
David Thornhill (DT)	Yarnton Parish Council Clerk

<b>1. Apologies</b>	Sam Smith (SaS) and Dorothy Walker (DW) sent their apologies.
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<b>2. Co-options to the Parish Council</b>	None.
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<b>3. Declaration of interests</b>	Members were asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the agenda items under discussion at this meeting. No declaration of interests were made.
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<b>4. Minutes</b>	The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 11.6.25 having been previously circulated were accepted as a true record by all.
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<b>5. Matters arising from the minutes without decision</b>	None.
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<b>6. Public participation</b>	No members of public attended the meeting.
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<b>7. Police liaison</b>	DM has met with the neighborhood team in relation to the traffic on Rutten Lane and they have passed this over to roads policing in relation to the overweight vehicles using the rail bridge on Cassington road. They have asked for times and I have said the morning rush hour is the worst time due to vehicles using the cassington road between the A40 as a rat run. Safe Spaces is being followed up by DM and the organisers, and a following meeting with the Police is scheduled for August/September.
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<b>8. Schools</b>	<p>JM is in communication with William Fletcher School and will provide an update for the Council concerning parking issues at the next meeting, as the School is currently closed for half-term.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> JM updated the Council concerning communications with the School which have not proved fruitful in terms of their policing the area during school drop off and pick up times. SS will join with JM as WFS liaison and will continue to pursue the issue.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> SaS has met with the new school Head, and will engage regarding the upcoming village litter pick scheduled for 20th September. Highways issues were mentioned concerning safety at school dropoff. SaS will be attending the WFS governors meeting and will update the Council concerning new initiatives.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> Council to consider parking issues at WFS.</p> <p>The WF School representative was unable to attend the meeting, so this issue will carry over to the next meeting when they are hoping to be able to attend.</p>
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<b>9. Planning</b>	
9a. The Parish Council considered the following planning applications:	
<b>Planning ref:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
25/01403/F	Proposal: RETROSPECTIVE - Single storey extension to the rear. Location: 139 Woodstock Road, Yarnton, Kidlington, OX5 IPT The Council raised no objections to this development.
24/00539/F	Proposal: Erection of a stadium (Use Class F2) with flexible commercial and community facilities and uses including for conferences, exhibitions, education, and other events, club shop, public restaurant, bar, health and wellbeing facility/clinic, and gym (Use Class E/Sui Generis), hotel (Use Class C1), external concourse/fan-zone, car and cycle parking, access and highway works, utilities, public realm, landscaping and all associated and ancillary works and structures Location: Land To The East Of Stratfield Brake And West Of Oxford Parkway Railway Station, Oxford Road, Kidlington. Details of amendment Further information has been received in relation to the environmental statement, comprising an updated lighting assessment and ecology statement. Additional information has also been received in relation to financial sustainability - June 2025 The Council continues to object to this development.
9b. The Parish Council noted the following planning decisions:	
25/00417/F	49 The Garth Yarnton Kidlington OX5 INA. Application Permitted
24/02872/F	Oxford South Depot 1 Woodstock Road Yarnton OX5 INY. Application Permitted
25/01464/CM	Agrivert Ltd Cassington AD Plant Unnamed Single Carriageway 6811439 Yarnton Kidlington OX29 4FL Planning Application for the proposed erection of lightning protection equipment, including sixteen large modified HVI masts and four telescopic air

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	rods mounted on existing structures, as well as reuse and minor modification to the existing mast at the anaerobic digestion facility - MWV.0048/2.
9c. Planning issues	
1	<p>3/2025.14.3 – extension of property boundary into an ordinary watercourse on Cassington Rd.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> An update was provided by DW, and this is included in the District Councilors report. See 11c.4.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p>
2	<p>45 Merton Way planning enforcement issue</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> An update was provided by DW – see the District Councillor's report for further information. Noise and environmental pollution complaints were recommended to be made by members of the public to Cherwell District Council concerning the breach of planning consent. The planning enforcement case reference number is 25/00103/ENF.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> As DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> Two unannounced site visits were carried out to this property, on both of these occasions no work was being carried out. An arranged visit was carried out on 30 April with CDC officers and the owner, a member of Environmental Protection Team and the Planning Enforcement Team Leader also attended. DW was not present at the Council meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p>

### 10. Emergency management plan

1	<p>Council to review and minute the effectiveness of internal controls (including risk assessment) for the following areas: Village Hall, Playing Fields.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> The Council raised concerns about the safety of open hinges on public access doors, which could be added to increase to public safety in the hall, particularly for children. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall about this for their consideration.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact Zurich to clarify the insurance separation and the necessary PFC / YPC risk assessments for buildings insurance going forward.</p> <p>The Clerk has requested the PFC risk assessments for RLP and LM several times and these have not been forthcoming. The Council has requested the PFC Risk Assessments by the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> The PFC have not provided the risk assessments for RLP or LM so this issue will carry over to the next meeting.</p>
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	<p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> The Council have received the draft Risk Assessments from the PFC which will be reviewed fully in due course.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Council considered the PFC risk assessments, but found they were not fit for purpose as there was insufficient detail and specificity concerning risks and control measures at each site.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The PFC has not yet returned their risk assessments for further consideration.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The PFC has returned their risk assessments, and although they have been improved, more specification is required concerning risks posed by play equipment and play areas including MUGA and grassed areas.</p>
2	<p>Council to consider donation of defibs</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to donate the Spencer Avenue defib to the Westlake Pharmacy, and to donate the Yarnton Nurseries defib to Yarnton Nurseries.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council noted that Westlake Pharmacy has agreed to the donation of the defib attached to their property. The Clerk will confirm this donation and the maintenance/public availability responsibility in writing.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> Yarnton Nurseries has recently changed ownership, so the Clerk is waiting for confirmation from the new owners of their ability to receive the donation of the defib.</p>
3	<p>Council to consider safe spaces</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> Safe Spaces were discussed, and the Westlake Chemist, the Red Lion, and Budgens were mentioned. The Chair asked DM to contact the various establishments about being involved and will update the Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> DM has spoken to the safe spaces coordinator, who is willing to help with this provision. DM will provide an update at the next meeting.</p>
4	<p>Council to consider the S.19 flood report</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> DT gave an appraisal of the S.19 flood report, and the flood grant from the LLFA. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from the Scouts, and the Village Hall Committee concerning permission to proceed with drainage works.</p>

### 11. Highway matters

1	<p>Council to consider the lining scheme outside William Fletcher School.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> LM has raised the issues with OCC Highways and has requested a meeting with the school to move forward.</p> <p>The Clerk raised the suggestion of adding additional parking space to RLP, however as this is a FIT site, the proposal was rejected – however considerations may be given to this in the future should any redevelopment of the park be forthcoming, as 20% of the total area may be used for car-parks and buildings.</p>
2	<p>Speedwatch – update from Parish Council concerning speedwatch activities</p> <p><b>Update 3/7/24:</b> MG is still awaiting confirmation that speed watch data is being processed, and will update the Parish Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 3/10/24:</b> MG reported that there was no information apparent from the Police regarding speed related data.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> DB will write to Jean Conway regarding an update on speedwatch activities at CDC.</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> As DB has now left the Parish Council, MG will write to JC re CDC speedwatch updates. IM raised the issues of the need for purchase four SIDS which will be considered at the budget meeting in January. JM accepted responsibility for Highways.</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> JM has accepted responsibility for Speedwatch activities in lieu of MG's absence.</p>

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	<p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> JM is awaiting relevant training and will update the Council further at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> The Clerk has contacted OCC to confirm the SIDs installation costs and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> See 13.2 and 13.7</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> IM updated the Council concerning speed issues on Sandy Lane, and forthcoming speed enforcement.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> Speeding issues persist on Rutten Lane. The Clerk informed the Council of resident complaints. MG raised the need for training to be undertaken by a minimum of three people (residents and Cllrs) in order to undertake speedwatch activities. The Clerk noted one Speedwatch Hi Viz jacket has been returned, leaving one outstanding.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> More volunteers are needed for speedwatch activities – an advert in the village news was discussed and will be submitted before the next copy deadline by MG.</p>
3	<p>Council to consider SIDS on Sandy lane</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> JM to raise potential purchase with Police Liaison. The Council agreed that a smiley face SIDs device was a better option than solely a display of the vehicle speed. Milestone/ S106 funding to be investigated – LM/DW to confirm at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> The Clerk has contacted Deddington PC and Cassington PC concerning their SIDS, and will present costs for consideration at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> The Council resolved to purchase 4 x SIDs devices for installation on Cassington Road and Sandy Lane pending approval of the installation costs by the Council.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> See 13.1 and 13.7 IM has contacted OCC Highways for an update on the installation costs and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> IM has not heard from OCC concerning installation costs. An update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council will wait until SIDs installation is confirmed before purchasing SIDs for Cassington Rd and Sandy Lane. LM to provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> IM and LM disclosed conversations with OCC, which have not been fruitful yet. LM will update the Council at the next meeting.</p>
4	<p>Parish Council to discuss extension of property boundary in to an ordinary watercourse on Cassington Rd.</p> <p><b>Update 3/7/24:</b> The Parish Council agreed to include this area on the Highways walk-around, as the Parish Council were not aware of any application for a dropped kerb to be permitted to allow access to the property in question. The Parish Council agreed that it would be necessary to inform Cherwell District Council of the boundary breach and obstruction of an ordinary watercourse, which was not disclosed in the planning application for the property.</p> <p><b>Update 3/10/24:</b> The Parish Council resolved to challenge CDC in terms of their making a robust approach to the enforcement of planning applications.</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> DT has sent IM a location map – IM will raise the issue with OCC Highways directly and provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> This issue was not discussed at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> See 25/00157/F. DW to liaise with Cherwell District Council and provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> DW reported that a CDC Enforcement Officer has been made aware of the issue. An update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> See 11c.1</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p>

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	<b>Update 9/7/25:</b> DW was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting. Noted that the watercourse in question has not been included in the S.19 flood report, with no reason given for the omission. Issue Closed.
5	<p>Update from IM re refreshing the lining scheme around Budgens</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> IM updated the Council concerning the need to refresh the lining scheme around Budgens, and is chasing a response from OCC Highways.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has discussed this issue with LM who will keep the Council updated at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> LM is awaiting response from Highways and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p>
6	<p>Council to consider 20mph signs</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> SaS raised issues with the size and visibility of the 20mph, and the speed of traffic in the village. Issues were raised with the sudden drop in speed from the 50mph on the A44 to 20mph throughout Yarnton. SaS will liaise with LM concerning speed issues and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> SaS was not present at the meeting, an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p>

### 12. Village hall

I	<p>Council to consider Gardeners storage and water/power access</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Village Hall have agreed to garden storage in the VH car park, and water/power access, and the storage of power tools inside a locked Village Hall storage area, which the Council expressed its thanks for. Issue Closed.</p>
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### 13. Environmental matters including airport and orchard

I	<p>The Community Service Team have been emailed to ask what The Parish Council needs to do to bring the team back to Yarnton.</p> <p><b>Update 9/5/24:</b> MG has volunteered to take on responsibility for liaison with the Community Service Team going forward. An update will be provided by MG at the next Council meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 6/6/24:</b> MG will liaise with the Community Service Team and task the volunteers to clear the debris from the metalled surface of the bridleway that leads from Church Lane to the cemetery.</p> <p><b>Update 3/7/24:</b> Due to the handover of staff at the Community Service Team office, there has been a break in communication. MG is actively trying to resolve this and will update the Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 3/7/24:</b> Update from MG re Community Service team: The Community Service Team have had a handover in personnel. MG updated the Council in regard recent contact and will continue to chase a response from the CST on a monthly basis.</p> <p><b>Update 4/9/24:</b> The Vice Chairman reported he is contact with the relevant person, but they have been on sick leave.</p> <p><b>Update 3/10/24:</b> Due to time constraints this issue was not discussed at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> There was no update on this issue at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> MG is away for several months, so will attend to this issue on his return.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> MG is away for several months, so will attend to this issue on his return.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> DM has offered to take over liaison with the Community Service Team, and has started this process by reaching out to the Probation Service. An update will be provided by DM at the next Council meeting.</p>
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	<p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> DM has been trying to reach the probationary service with no reported success – an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> DM has been trying to reach the probationary service with no reported success – an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> DM has been trying to reach the probationary service with no reported success – an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> DM has been trying to reach the probationary service with no reported success – an update will be provided at the next meeting.</p>
2	<p>Council to consider tree survey findings</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to undertake remedial works to ensure tree safety. Issue Closed.</p>
3	<p>Council to consider tree work costs</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to commission Blue Monkey Trees to undertake the remedial work outlined in the tree survey report. Issue Closed.</p>
4	<p>Council to consider trees adjacent to 37 Meadow Way</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to commission Blue Monkey Trees to remove the ash saplings and surrounding overgrowth in order to allow better access for contractors to cut the grass. Issue Closed.</p>
5	<p>Council to consider the Orchard lectern</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to proceed with Arien Signs Option 1, with quotations to follow for design and artwork. Funding TBC from the County Cllrs discretionary fund.</p>
6	<p>Council to agree people and dates for gulley-pot inspection walk-around</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The following people volunteered to inspect these areas:</p> <p>DT: Spencer Avenue, Dashwood Avenue and Merton Way</p> <p>FM: Sandy Lane Poppy close, Broadfield Est.</p> <p>IM: A44 @ Sandy Lane</p> <p>StS: RLP to end Rutten Lane</p> <p>JM: RLP to A44 on WFS side</p> <p>DM: RLP to A44 on non WFS side</p> <p>MG: The Garth/Aysgarth</p> <p>StS: Church Lane &amp; Cassington Rd</p> <p>JM volunteered to research any existing Fix My Street &amp; advert for the Yarnton News</p>
7	<p>Council to consider litter at Shell Garage layby</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The litter has been cleared. The Clerk will write to the garage owners concerning perpetual litter and environmental health concerns. Issue closed.</p>
8	<p>Narrowing of the watercourse adjacent to the A44 verge on Highways land.</p> <p><b>Update 9/5/24:</b> DT to send IM the What3Words geo-location by email to enable him to make a site visit and to follow-up with OCC Highways for action to remedy the issue. It was noted that DB and SS who were not present at the meeting has made a site visit and has confirmed the restriction was present.</p> <p><b>Update 6/6/24:</b> DT has sent IM details of the obstruction IM reported that he had not yet had time to visit the location and request action from Highways to resolve the problem.</p> <p><b>Update 3/7/24:</b> IM was not present at the Parish Council meeting, so as no update was available this item will carry over to the next meeting in September. DB and SS will include this issue during the upcoming Highways walkaround on 20th August.</p> <p><b>Update 20/8/24:</b> This item was not discussed at the Parish Council meeting</p>

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	<p><b>Update 3/10/24:</b> DT has a scheduled meeting with the EA 23/10/24 to review the issue and will provide an update at the next Parish Council meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> DT has met with the EA who are in agreement that the narrowed watercourse is in need of repair to its full width in a linear fashion and that OCC Highways will need to undertake this repair as they are the responsible party. IM to provide an update at the next YPC meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> IM has raised the issue with OCC Highways and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> The item was not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> The item was not discussed at the meeting due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> IM has raised the issue with OCC Highways and a response has been received, which indicates that it is the Officer's opinion that there is no such narrowing of the watercourse in question which in his opinion would cause flood water flow rates to be held-back by the restriction in culvert width from 2' to a 6" in the watercourse, and that the tree which has caused this restriction needs not be dealt with.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> DT provided an update to the Council on the disappointing response from OCC Highways in regard their opinion that this issue is inconsequential. The Clerk will meet with the new County Councillor to raise this issue again, and will provide an update to the Council at the next meeting as it has a bearing on the Aysgarth Flooding and the S.19 flood report.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk provided an update to LM at a recent meeting and is awaiting an update, as this issue should be included in the pending S.19 flood report.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> YFD have scheduled a meeting on 23rd October where this issue will be discussed. An update will be provided to the Council at the following November meeting.</p>
9	<p>Council to consider the Orchard Gardener's employment</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to employ Tara Taylor as a part-time employee with responsibility to manage the gardening of the Community Orchard in-line with the Wild Oxfordshire report, as well as work with volunteers where appropriate.</p>

### 14. Playing fields

I	<p>Report from the PFC working group</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> The PFC working group has not met so no update is available at the present time. A meeting with the PFC is scheduled for 10/12/24.</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> The PFC working group met with PFC representatives Alun Oliver and Linda Kimber on 10/12/24. LK informed the Council that she was not aware that she was a trustee of the charity. Paul Skinner has been appointed as the PFC Treasurer, and has conveyed the PFCs wishes to remain a charity in order that they can be autonomous, and apply for grant funding from multiple sources. LK confirmed that the PFC has 7 applicants from the various sports clubs as charity trustees. AO confirmed with an email that he is an employee of the PFC, and not YPC. The PFC working group met again on 4/1/24 to discuss allowable grant expenditure under Parish Council legislative powers to spend S.19 and S.137 of the Local Government Act 1976.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> The PFC Working Group met with the PFC and associated members of the public 7/2/25. The Council representatives confirmed that before any grants would be considered the PFC needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that they have sufficient trustees to manage the charity effectively.</li><li>• Ensure they have a fit for purpose charity governance statement.</li><li>• Change the names on the gas, electricity and water bills to that of the PFC.</li><li>• Take responsibility for the EDF electricity account for Littlemarsh.</li><li>• Take responsibility for payroll arrangements for their employees.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensure that the Fields in Trust status is maintained by allowing public access to the site.</li></ul> <p>The Council representatives confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That as per sections 4.2 and 4.8 of the lease for Rutten Lane Park, the PFC has the maintenance responsibility for the children's play area equipment.</li><li>• That quotations have been sought by the Council in reference to the 2024 RoSPA report, and the cost for the urgent RoSPA report repairs will be taken from the remaining 2024 PFC grant.</li><li>• The total amount of items on the PFC grant application that could not be considered.</li></ul> <p>The PFC Chairman confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the children's play equipment was purchased by the PFC with funds which were raised by the PFC, with the addition of a 50% match-funding grant from YPC, therefore establishing the ownership and persons responsible for necessary repair work to the play equipment be the PFC.</li></ul> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> The Clerk has met with the PFC Treasurer who has confirmed that he is able to process payroll arrangements for the Groundskeeper, and the transfer of payroll provider will be effective from the 1st April 2025. Arrangements were also noted for the transfer of the EDF account when the balance has been settled. Signposting was provided by the Clerk in terms of charity governance statements to assist the PFC in their set-up.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> The Council is still in negotiations with EDF concerning their charges. The Clerk will update the Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Clerk is waiting for EDF to resolve the complaint, which should be finalised by EDF by 31/5/25. An update will be presented to the Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> As EDF have failed to resolve the complaint within the specified 8 week period, the Clerk has escalated a complaint with the Ombudsman. An update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Ombudsman has found, in favour of YPC that EDF have billed incorrectly, and have recommended that EDF:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Issue a letter of apology</li><li>2. Issue a goodwill gesture of £100.00, direct to the energy account.</li><li>3. Complete the manual bill, use data collector readings from on or around February 2024. The actual reads suggest usage of around 22 units per day and the manual bill need to reflect this correct usage.</li></ol>
2	<p>Council to review and minute the effectiveness of internal controls (including risk assessment) for the following areas: Playing Fields</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> See 12.1 for further information.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Council considered the PFC risk assessments and found one document to be viable, but the other risk assessment appeared to be a duplicate of the first. The Clerk and the Chairman will meet with the PFC Chair to raise the issue of the need for specificity in the risk assessments.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk and the Chair met with the PFC Chair and confirmed in detail the expectations of the risk assessments for both Rutten Lane Park and Littlemarsh, and each of the individual items which could pose harm and needed to be included on the PFC risk assessments. The Clerk is awaiting updated copies of the PFC risk assessments.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The PFC have produced risk assessments for both RLP and LM, however these are missing risk assessments for the children's play equipment which will need to be produced in order to make the risk assessments fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Clerk has confirmed with the PFC that the necessary insurance and risk assessments for fireworks will be provided by the display organiser.</p>
3	<p>Council to consider RoSPA routine inspections</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Council resolved that proper oversight should be maintained, and SS intends to undertake the tri-monthly inspections. The Council agreed that PFC representatives would be able to</p>

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

	<p>undertake the weekly play area inspections, but the Council were of the opinion that the RoSPA reports needed to be conducted by an accountable Trustee of the Charity.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council Auditor made recommendations concerning bringing forward the RoSPA report, to ensure the play area is safe for public use. The Clerk has advised the PFC of the need to undertake the annual RoSPA report, which has been noted to have been booked in during July.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> OALC have advised that contrary to Council opinion, it is not recommended that StS conducts the quarterly inspections, as this could lead to a liability issue should there be an accident. Mick Hall from the PFC has signed up to undertake the necessary quarterly inspection training. Issue closed.</p>
4	<p>Council to consider repairs to the play area embankments</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has written to the PFC informing them of the need to maintain the play area after recent vandalism.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The RoSPA report finds no issue with the embankments, despite their being in a state of di-repair. Issue closed.</p>
5	<p>Council to consider PFC safeguarding policies</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The PFC Chair has disclosed the Clerk that they are developing a safeguarding policy, and an update will be provided once this is provided by the PFC.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The PFC safeguarding policies have not been received –The Clerk has written to the PFC with a further request for their safeguarding policies.</p>
6	<p>Council to consider PFC hirer's safeguarding policies</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has informed the PFC Chair of their need to ensure hirers have risk assessments, public liability insurance and safeguarding policies in place.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk has consulted with OALC who have confirmed that the PFC do need to provide risk assessments and safeguarding policies as a tenant, as there should be no reason why these documents could not be provided if they are in place.</p>
7	<p>Council to consider resident complaints concerning children's play equipment</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> This issue is on the agenda to be discussed with upcoming PFC meeting. Noted that the RoSPA report for 2025 has been booked in for July which will highlight any safety issues.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The 2025 RoSPA report raised no issues requiring immediate action, therefore this issue has been closed.</p>
8	<p>Council to consider H&amp;S requirements</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The PFC Chair informed the Clerk that there were no dedicated handwashing facilities in the RLP pavilion kitchen, and that a food business registration license was not in place presently. The Clerk has informed the PFC Chair of the need to ensure all food business licenses are in place prior to any preparation or vending of food. Copies of all licenses have been requested. An update will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council have not been made aware of the food business operating from RLP re-opening, however social media advertisement has been noted. The food business has been registered, and will be inspected soon by CDC. So long as there is an appropriate food license in place and food safety legislation is in place the Council has no objection to the operation of this facility.</p>
9	<p>Council to consider PFC insurance arrangements.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council voted unanimously in favour of invoicing the PFC for buildings and structures. The PFC has subsequently settled the invoice for buildings insurance. Issue closed.</p>

### 15. Risk assessment

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

1	<p>Council to consider Health and Safety training for Orchard Gardener and Village Tidier</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to provide appropriate health and safety training for both the Orchard Gardener and Village Tidier. This includes:</p> <p><b>Gardener:</b> PUWER v6 Lone Working v4 Health and Safety Training for Employees v3 Ladder and Stepladder Safety Training v7 Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) v12 Manual Handling Awareness v13</p> <p><b>Village Tidier:</b> Lone Working v4 Manual Handling Awareness v13 Issue closed.</p>
2	<p>SS to provide an update on the village risk assessments.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> SS Provided an update on the need for a 5x5 risk matrix, and provided an update for the Council regarding the need for additional members of the YENT group. An update on the YENT group will be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> SS updated the Council with the Yarnton Emergency Management Review Report information. SS, FM and DM agreed to liaise with SS in the completion of the Yarnton Emergency Plan in relation to the 5x5 risk matrix.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> SS was not present at the meeting to provide an update</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> SS was not present at the meeting to provide an update</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> SS was not present at the meeting to provide an update</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> SS is producing a hierarchy of risks and will consult concerning the risks posed. This will now include heatwave events, flood events and will be circulated prior to consideration at the next meeting.</p>
3	<p>Parish Council to consider updating the village risk assessment in light of recent flood events.</p> <p><b>Update 3/10/24:</b> Due to time constraints this item was not discussed at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 4/12/24:</b> SS volunteered to update the risk assessments accordingly and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> SS has conducted a review of the village risk assessment and found it to be in need of revision in light of recent flooding events. DT has reviewed and updated the Cemetery risk assessment. All other risk assessments have been reviewed and were found to be fit for purpose, bar the Village Hall and Playing Fields risk assessments which will be reviewed at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> The Clerk will confirm the new risk assessments with SS in preparation for consideration by the Council at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> due to time constraints this issue was not able to be discussed at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> SS was not present at the meeting to provide an update</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> SS was not present at the meeting to provide an update</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> SS was not present at the meeting to provide an update</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> SS will consult with YFD members and provide an update at the next meeting.</p>
4	<p>Council to consider contractor risk assessments and insurance</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council noted that the Internal Auditor had requested risk assessments and evidence of insurance from all contractors for the 2024-25 period. The Clerk has insurance documents and risk assessments from all contractors apart from M. Rudge Tree Services, which is on a 2 year fixed contract</p>

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## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

	arranged under the prior administration. Evidence of these documents was not provided when requested, and is not on file for the 2024-25 year. Noted that when requested, only current 2025-26 insurance and risk assessments were supplied. Issue closed.
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### 16. Burial ground/St Bartholomew's churchyard

1	<p>Council to consider bench ownership and memorial plaques</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council agreed that the bench which was purchased with funds donated by the Carrier family would remain the property of YPC for insurance purposes, but no other plaques than the one which is permanently affixed would be allowed to be fixed to the bench, which is dedicated to the memory of Harry Carrier, an ex-YPC Chair and long serving Cllr. This is in perpetuity. Issue closed.</p>
2	<p>Council to consider planting of flowers</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk will write to the owner of the grave in question, requesting that plants and non-approved cemetery ornaments are not placed on or around the grave. Issue closed.</p>
3	<p>Council to consider the colour and style of cremated remains headstones</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council requested that colour catalogue images with dimensions were supplied in order that they could consider this memorial at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to approve the design and colour of the memorial. Issue closed.</p>
4	<p>Council to consider resident complaints</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has received complaints from residents concerning several issues in the cemetery:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That one grave had been over-filled and it was not possible to place a headstone, or mow the ground. Noted that an adjacent grave has sunk. The Clerk will recommend to funeral directors that we need to use a regulated company.</li><li>2. That vehicles had been driven in to the cemetery. The Council agreed that residents with disabilities would be allowed to drive to the cemetery gate.</li><li>3. That behaviour unbecoming a place of rest had been observed by residents. The Council RESOLVED to purchase a welcome sign to be affixed to the gate providing information to residents.</li></ol> <p>Issue closed.</p>
5	<p>Council to consider bench repairs</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council RESOLVED to purchase a replacement bench to match the others in the cemetery with installation by ODS.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> A matching replacement cemetery bench has been purchased, which will be installed by ODS on a shallow concrete plinth. The Clerk has written to ODS confirming concerns about the installation and the costs of rectifying the bench installation, which has been undertaken at the time of writing. Issue closed.</p>
6	<p>Council to consider revisions to the burial ground policy</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council considered revisions to the policy to include the colour of headstones to match those already in place in the cemetery. Issue closed.</p>

### 17. Recent Correspondence

<b>18. Report of the District Councillors</b>	See section 30/2025 for the report of the District Councillor.
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Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

<b>19. Report of the County Councillor</b>	For further information see 30a/2025 for items relevant to Yarnton.
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<b>20. Finance and general purpose</b>	
1	Council to consider recurring payments for 2025/26 (see attachment 1) <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council approved all recurring payments from the preceding month.
2	Council to consider payments (see attachment 2 and shared finance file for pending invoices) <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council approved all pending payments raised in the preceding month.
3	Council to consider Local Government reforms <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council considered the LG reforms, and were in favour of the CDC proposal.
4	Council to note EDF refund <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council noted the EDF refund.
5	Council to consider 5 Parishes representation <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> MG volunteered to be the 5 Parishes representative for Yarnton.
6	Council to consider reclaiming grant unspent funds <b>Update 9/7/2</b> The Clerk will write to BYG requesting unspent monies to be returned, and will provide an update at the next meeting.
7	Council to consider legal advice concerning property extension built on YPC land <b>Update 9/4/25:</b> The Council resolved to undertake legal advice. <b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Clerk has reached out to OALC concerning legal recommendation, and will update the Council on next steps and potential costs at the next meeting. <b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has been provided with a list of legal advisors and will aim to contact these to obtain costs in preparation for the next meeting. <b>Update 9/7/2</b> The Clerk provided information to the Council for their consideration, however a decision was not reached on how to best proceed, therefore this item will carry over to the next meeting.
8	Council to consider costs of legal action <b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk is waiting to confirm costs and will provide an update at the next meeting. <b>Update 9/7/2</b> See above point 20.7
9	Council to consider paying the balance of the PFC EDF electricity account at Littlemarsh <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk is waiting for EDF to respond to the Ombudsman's recommendations, therefore this item will carry over to the next meeting.
10	Council to consider ownership liabilities and VAT reclaims <b>Update 9/4/25:</b> The Council noted the recent correspondence with HMRC. <b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Clerk has had no response from HMRC to date. An update will be provided at the next meeting. <b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has had no response from HMRC to date. An update will be provided at the next meeting. <b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk has had no response from HMRC to date. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
11	Council to consider asset valuation costs

Signed as a correct record:

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## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

	<p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council has been informed that the asset list will need to be updated for insurance purposes to the current value of each item. This is in addition to the mandatory purchase value being recorded. The Clerk will continue to review the asset register and will update it accordingly. Issue closed.</p>
	<p>Council to consider the Clerk's additional hours</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Council approved the Clerk's additional hours.</p>
12	<p>Council to consider virtual PA</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk has spoken to local providers who may have been able to provide a service, however the costs for this would be comparable to the rate of pay for the Clerk, so this may not be viable. Alternative AI options will be investigated for consideration.</p>
13	<p>Council to consider reviewing the Clerk's job evaluation</p> <p><b>Update 8/1/25:</b> The Council resolved to undertake a revised review of the Clerk's job evaluation.</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> This issue was not able to be discussed due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> This issue was not able to be discussed due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> This issue was not able to be discussed due to time constraints.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> The Clerk has contacted OALC for advice. Chris Moses will undertake a new job evaluation imminently.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk is waiting to hear confirmation and will liaise with the Staffing Committee once the job evaluation has been received.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> On advice from SLCC as Chris Moses completed the prior evaluation it has been recommended that SLCC advisors undertake the subsequent evaluation in order that there is no conflict of interest.</p>
6	<p>Council to consider paying the balance of the PFC EDF electricity account at Littlemarsh</p> <p><b>Update 12/2/25:</b> The Council resolved to pay the EDF bill in full and will continue to pay the direct debit until 31st March. Thereafter the account must be transferred to the PFC to pay.</p> <p><b>Update 12/3/25:</b> EDF have sent an unexpectedly large bill which the Council feels should be disputed via the supplier's complaints process and the OFGEM ombudsman if necessary prior to any settlement being reached.</p> <p><b>Update 9/4/25:</b> The Clerk has written to EDF in complaint with no response to date. EDF have disclosed their intentions to increase the Direct Debit, which has been raised in a further written objection to EDF.</p> <p><b>Update 14/5/25:</b> No further response has been received from EDF. The Council noted that the deadline for the complaint to be resolved is 31/5/25.</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Clerk has had no response from EDF so has raised a complaint with the Ombudsman. An update will be provided at the next meeting, as the Ombudsman will make a decision within 4-6 weeks.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> See item 14.1</p>
12	<p>Council to review the Internal Audit report</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council reviewed the Internal Audit report (see 29b/2025) and RESOLVED to action the recommendations which have not already been resolved:</p> <p>1. (2.) I would also recommend the inclusion of expenditure approval dates <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk has confirmed with Unity that a detailed approval report can be issued which shows the expenditure approval date per transaction. This will be produced in preparation for each monthly Council meeting going forward. Issue closed.</p> <p>2. (5.) I would recommend that a schedule of invoices is signed by 2 councillors upon payment approval.</p> <p><b>IN PROGRESS</b></p>

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

	<p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> This item has been added to the next meeting agenda for signature each month going forward. Issue closed.</p> <p>3. (7.) A large amount of parish expenditure relates to the activities of the Playing Field Committee, a charity, which manages the pavilion and land involved under a full repairing lease: THE PLAYING FIELD - 294537, Register of Charities - The Charity Commission (PFC). The Parish Council is reviewing these costs and expenditures, and I would strongly recommend that a clear delineation of activities and responsibilities needs to be formally determined, documented and actioned to ensure that the Council is complying with its own responsibilities and regulations. <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> This item has been added to the next meeting agenda for consideration by the Council.</p> <p>4. (13.) A Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed and adopted at the January 2025 meeting. I would recommend expanding upon this to incorporate more strategic operational activities such as risk assessments and inspections. (See Practitioners Guide page 66 for a template Strategic Risk Assessment) <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> This item has been added to the next meeting agenda for consideration by the Council.</p> <p>5. (14.) In addition, the PFC as tenants, should provide risk assessments and proof of insurance for its activities. <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The PFC has provided copies of their insurance, and risk assessments have been produced for all areas apart from the play equipment in RLP. Issue closed.</p> <p>6. (20.) Inspections of play equipment are carried out monthly by trained Councillors, with a RoSPA inspection conducted annually. However, this area again appears to fall under the PFC's responsibility (full repairing lease) and I would recommend that legal advice is taken and a formal agreement must be confirmed and recognised by both parties going forward, as there could be serious potential ramifications should this be neglected. <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The PFC have undertaken the necessary quarterly training and will be completing the quarterly play equipment inspections as well as the weekly inspections forthwith. Issue closed.</p> <p>7. (23.) Other asset inspections are conducted regularly, and repairs made accordingly. A register of these repairs should be maintained for insurance purposes. <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> A repairs register has been created and will be updated when work is completed. Issue closed.</p> <p>8. (26.) I would recommend confirming that the current Remuneration Panel rates from Cherwell DC have been agreed and applied. <b>IN PROGRESS</b></p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> The Clerk has written to CDC requesting this information.</p>
23	<p>Council to note the EDF complaint to the Ombudsman</p> <p><b>Update 11/6/25:</b> The Council noted the EDF complaint to the Ombudsman concerning electricity at Littlemarsh. The complaint is expected to be resolved in 4-6 weeks.</p> <p><b>Update 9/7/25:</b> See item 14.1</p>

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

The meeting ended at 10.08pm

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall – Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

### Attachment 1

#### Recurring payments (Inc-VAT) from 1/6/25 to 30/6/25:

1. Scribe, direct debit
2. Nest pensions, direct debit
3. Clerk's salary
4. Village tidier's salary
5. Google

### Attachment 2

#### Payments (Inc-VAT):

Date	Description	Amount
12 Jun 2025	B/P to: M Rudge Trees	-1837.50
12 Jun 2025	B/P to: Deborah O'Brien	-500.00
12 Jun 2025	B/P to: ICCM	-105.00
12 Jun 2025	B/P to: Ricky Smith	-800.00
16 Jun 2025	Direct Debit (LLOYDS CORP CARD)	-220.68
16 Jun 2025	B/P to: HMRC Cumbernauld	-1436.28
20 Jun 2025	Direct Debit (EDF ENERGY)	-223.00
23 Jun 2025	B/P to: Castle Water	-253.96
27 Jun 2025	B/P to: Ian M Middleton (Members allowance)	-98.40
27 Jun 2025	B/P to: Fiona Mawson (Members allowance)	-121.00
30 Jun 2025	Bank Service Charge	-9.75

#### Receipts:

Date	Description	Amount
03 Jun 2025	Funeral Partners	130.00
11 Jun 2025	Haven Memorials	130.00
13 Jun 2025	Central Eng Coop	130.00
19 Jun 2025	Carrier D M	50.00
23 Jun 2025	Banbury Memorials	85.00
27 Jun 2025	Banbury Memorials	120.00
30 Jun 2025	Credit Interest	1057.37

Signed as a correct record:

Date:



## **Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council**

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

**31/2025**

**The District Councillors report:**

**Councillors: Dorothy Walker, Lesley McLean, Jean Conway.**

**Parish Councils: Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke**

**Period: June/July 2025**

**Parish Liaison Meeting.**

Last Wednesday's Parish Liaison meeting was very successful and informative: many useful questions were put from the floor. The webcast and minutes will be viewable on the CDC website. Residents and councillors were urged to attend the drop-in sessions on LGR currently being held across Cherwell (session dates and location details on the website). Parishes are urged to check that the details about membership of their councils is correctly recorded at CDC. The membership listings for each council can be seen on the Council's Website.

### **Health Scrutiny.**

As CDC's representative on the Oxfordshire Health Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, I recently raised a question about residents' take up and use/non-use of the NHS App, given that it is being so heavily promoted nationally and locally. Healthwatch have taken this question up and are currently running a survey of people's experience of the NHS app in managing their healthcare. Everyone is urged to respond, whether or not they are users of the app. All responses will be useful. The survey is on the Healthwatch website at

[www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

### **Area Oversight Group.**

A green spaces review is currently underway to establish knowledge of the space and use. This will also begin to establish possible 'green and blue corridors' across the area. Next Five Parishes meeting will be: 2nd July, 2025 at Exeter Hall.

### **Local Plan 2042.**

The Cherwell Local Plan has now completed both the Regulation 18 and Regulation 19 consultation stages. Council officers have reviewed all the feedback received during these Stages.

Before the Plan can move forward, a few additional topic papers still need to be prepared. The current timetable is for the Plan to be considered by the Executive on 1 July, and then by Full Council on 21 July.

At present, Cherwell District has only a 2.3-year housing land supply, which falls short of the government's required five-year supply. To address this, a Housing Delivery Action Plan has been developed. This aims to ensure that new development is located on suitable and sustainable sites—avoiding speculative or inappropriate development in less suitable locations.

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## **Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council**

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

Once the new Local Plan is formally adopted, we expect to restore a five-year housing land supply, supported by a clear trajectory of deliverable housing sites. This will help strengthen the Council's ability to defend against unsuitable development proposals, which is of direct importance to local communities and parish councils.

### **Local Government Reorganisation.**

Devolution and Local Government Reform were brought forward by the Government in December 2024. The proposal will see two-tier authorities as seen in Oxfordshire, end and new unitary councils created. Local engagement events have been taking place and information and surveys can be found here [twocouncil.org](https://twocouncil.org).

### **Flood Funding.**

Thirteen of the Expression of Interest applications approved are in Cherwell. The number of current active flood risk reduction projects in Cherwell have swollen to more than 20. A budget has been provided for an additional full-time Flood Risk Officer. A recruitment campaign will soon commence. In the meantime, our Flood Risk Manager will be using available funds to secure some consultancy support so that a start can be made on the Workload. The Section 19 report for Garden City has been released and we are awaiting a further report for Mill End. OCC have now published their Flooding Toolkit on their website. Parishes will be invited to attend a flooding workshop at the end of the summer.

### **Extinction Rebellion March.**

There will be an Extinction Rebellion March to the Airport on 5th July 2025.

## **31a/2025**

### **The County Councillor's Report:**

Title: County Councillor's Report

Author: Cllr Lesley McLean

Parishes: Yarnton, Begbroke and Kidlington.

Date: June / July 2025

Contact Details: [lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.mclean@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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Dear Parish Councillors and residents,

I'm honoured to have been elected as County Councillor for the West Kidlington Division. Thank you to everyone who supported me, whether by voting, volunteering, or sharing your concerns and hopes for our communities. I look forward to working with residents, parish councils, and local organisations to deliver positive change and represent your voices at Oxfordshire County Council. Here are some updates I have gathered for you, but please note I am yet to the set up and it may take a little while to be fully onboarded.

Best wishes

Lesley

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## **Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council**

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

### **Budget**

The budget was approved at Oxfordshire County Council and the highlights are as follows:

- An additional £58.8 million fixing potholes
- An additional £17.2 million for children's services
- An additional £1.14 million for SEND
- An additional £10.8 million for Adult Social Care
- An additional £11.8 million for greener schools and public buildings
- Unlocking £22.5 million of developer contributions
- An additional £1.8 million for rural active travel including £200k for the Haddenham and Thame Greenway
- £3.6 million to increase the frequency of gully clearing from every 4 years to annually
- £1 million for better rail stations and greener travel
- Park & Ride prices frozen for 2025/26

### **Recycling**

For the 11th year in a row, residents in Oxfordshire are the best in England for recycling, reusing and composting, according to the latest government figures. OCC have again been named the top performing county council waste disposal authority.

### **Resurfacing Plans 25/26**

Oxfordshire County Council is launching a £7.4 million road resurfacing programme this spring, aiming to improve nearly 100 roads across the county. The initiative, running from 22 April to 16 June 2025, will involve surface dressing treatments to over one million square metres of carriageway. This preventive maintenance approach is designed to extend the lifespan of roads and enhance driving conditions. The council emphasises the importance of this work in maintaining road quality and urges motorists to stay informed about upcoming works and to drive cautiously in treated areas.

The method offers many advantages, including:

- Sealing the road surface to keep out water; one of the major causes of deterioration and potholes.
- Reducing the deterioration of the road surface.
- Restoring the necessary level of skid resistance to reduce skid-related traffic collisions.
- Enabling worn out road surfaces to last longer, increasing the time before structural maintenance is required.
- Maximising the cost effectiveness of limited highway maintenance budgets.
- Minimising traffic disruption and congestion as large areas of roads – up to 100,000 square metres – can be treated in a single day.
- The work is highly weather dependent and cannot be completed in wet conditions.

Updated details about the programme, including a map showing where and when the work will be taking place, will be available on Oxfordshire County Council's [website](#).

In the division works are planned for:

A44 Woodstock Road, Yarnton – Surface dressing

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

Langford Lane, Kidlington – Surface Inlay

Upper Campsfield Road A4095 – Surface dressing.

Grovelands, Kidlington – Surface Inlay

### Gulley Cleaning Schedule for 25/26

Below you will find the gulley cleaning schedule for the upcoming financial year. If there are any problem areas you would like me to raise with county officers please let me know.

Start Finish District Ward

01/02/2026 31/03/2026 Cherwell Kidlington North

01/02/2026 31/03/2026 Cherwell Kidlington South

01/02/2026 31/03/2026 Cherwell Yarnton, Gosford & Water Eaton

### Plans for Improving Bus Travel

Oxfordshire County Council has submitted an updated [Bus Service Improvement Plan](#) (BSIP) to the UK government, detailing how it intends to utilise over £15 million in allocated funding to enhance bus services across the county. The plan focuses on making bus travel more reliable, accessible, and affordable, particularly in rural areas. Key proposals include introducing new and faster services, retaining existing routes, and implementing measures such as £1 Sunday bus fares during December to encourage increased usage.

These efforts are part of a broader strategy to increase bus patronage and reduce reliance on private vehicles, contributing to environmental goals and improved public transportation options for residents. The council's submission reflects its commitment to working collaboratively with bus operators and stakeholders to deliver a more efficient and user-friendly bus network.

### Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Oxfordshire is developing its first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to restore and enhance the county's natural environment. This initiative, part of a national effort under the Environment Act 2021, aims to map out key areas for biodiversity improvement and outline actions to support wildlife, improve air and water quality, and mitigate climate change impacts. The strategy is being shaped collaboratively by Oxfordshire County Council, district councils, Natural England, and local communities. The development process has involved extensive public engagement. Phase 1 (February– March 2024) gathered input from 1,038 participants through workshops, events, and an online survey. Phase 2 (May–June 2024) focused on identifying specific locations for potential habitat restoration. Currently, in Phase 3, draft documents and maps have been published, highlighting priority areas and proposed actions for biodiversity enhancement. Feedback from this phase will inform the final strategy, set to be published by July 2025.

For more information and to view the draft strategy and maps, visit [here](#).

### Devolution and Government Reorganisation

On 16 December 2024, the government [published a white paper](#) on a national programme of devolution and reform to local government. The [county council's cabinet responded](#) by requesting that the county is fast-tracked for local government reorganisation while continuing to work with partners on a future mayoral strategic authority.

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## **Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council**

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

The County Council's has submitted a bid for a single Oxfordshire-wide unitary authority which contrasts the view of CDC is working on a proposal comprising West Oxfordshire, and the City. Both those proposals are in line with government's white paper so it will be up to the Secretary of State to choose.

There are pros and cons to each of those, and I support the inclusion of both bids. However, on balance my current preference is for a smaller unitary which should lead to a more equitable consideration and allocation of resources to our towns and villages.

### **School Places**

More than nine out of ten Oxfordshire children with applications to start reception year in primary schools across the county have been offered a place at their first choice for the next school year.

### **The Oxfordshire all-age autism strategy 2025 – 2030**

Oxfordshire County Council is developing its first all-age autism strategy for 2025–2030, aiming to enhance the lives of autistic individuals across the county. This comprehensive plan addresses the diverse needs of autistic people and their families, ensuring access to necessary resources, services, and opportunities for a fulfilling life. The strategy has been co- produced with a wide range of partners and stakeholders to reflect the community's needs and Aspirations.

Related to this, if you a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)? Get information and advice straight to your inbox. Sign up [here](#).

### **Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP)**

Oxfordshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) is a key strategic document which Oxfordshire County Council as highway authority is required by law to have in place. It sets out how the council can work with others to try and make sure the public rights of way network meets the needs of the public, now and in the future. More information on ROWIPs can be found at [Government guidance on improvement plans\(External link\)](#). The [Current Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2015-2025](#) can be found here, along with the contact details of the officers involved.Grants and Cost of Living Hardship fund: OCC's hardship fund (Resident Support Scheme) was launched in June. Phone: 01865 804171

Home Upgrade Grants: OCC & its partner AgilityEco is reaching out directly to households who will qualify to benefit from Home Upgrade Grants (to improve energy efficiency for 'off-grid' homes).

Community Capacity Grants: The Community Capacity Fund will open for grant applications from 6th September. Grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 are funded by OCC and applications processed by Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Grants are given to projects that "support people to live well in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as Possible".

### **Local Matters**

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

## **Minutes of the meeting of Yarnton Parish Council**

Meeting held on 9th July 2025 at 6.30pm at Yarnton Village Hall

Section 19 report for Garden City, Kidlington has been released, others are due shortly. Sanctuary Housing, Yarnton. They will be attending to clear culverts in the area and are in communication with the Parish Clerk.

Flooding at the Royal Sun roundabout has been noted and remedial works are being chased. Flood Funding. Expressions of Interest were made and funding will be discussed and confirmed over the next few weeks.

Signed as a correct record:

Date: