

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bletchington Parish Council held on
Wednesday 7 January 2026 in the Meeting Room at Bletchington Village Hall, OX5 3FD at 7:30pm**

Present: Cllr Dan Robins (Chair), Cllr Chris Lane, Cllr Duncan Ledger, Cllr Nicola Morris, Cllr Rachel Pirie (Vice-Chair), Cllr Mark Taylor, Cllr Matt Whitehead

In attendance: Cllr Laura Gordon (OCC), Paul Roberts (Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service) until 8.05pm, Owen Pates (Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service) until 8.05pm.

Apologies: Cllr Gemma Coton (CDC)

1. Apologies for absence – to receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gemma Coton (CDC)

2. Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality – to receive any requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the Agenda, in accordance with the Council's code of conduct

Cllr Lane declared an interest in relation to item 9b, items for payment.

3. Public participation - to receive questions from members of the public relating to items on the Agenda, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and standing orders

Paul Roberts and Owen Pates provided an update on the current Oxfordshire County Council consultation regarding changes to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service. The consultation runs until January 20th 2026. The concern was shared that communities are unaware of the implications of potential change, and that the consultation should be paused to allow for greater scrutiny.

Paul Roberts and Owen Pates were thanked for their attendance and left the meeting at 8.05pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to make the village aware of the consultation via social media and the village noticeboard.

4. Reports from District and County Councillors - for information only

Cllr Gordon (OCC) reported that Kidlington illegal landfill will be cleared, the date that clearance will start is not yet known.

Cllr Gordon reported some drain clearance in Thrupp which she had been instrumental in organisation. For similar Parish matters reports should be made through Fix My Street, but where matters are not resolved Cllr Gordon can escalate. Annual gully clearance is scheduled for February or March.

Cllr Gordon that initial data regarding the impact of the congestion charge has been made available via the Oxfordshire County Council website, showing reduced congestion in many areas but increased congestion on Banbury and Woodstock Roads - with implications for bus times.

Cllr Gordon reported that the booking system for visiting waste disposal sites will shortly be active; libraries are running the Warm Welcome programme; electric vehicle charging pilot running to create 500 charging facilities for homes without driveways in Oxfordshire; consultation open regarding school admissions until 31st March 2025.

Cllr Gordon reported that an expression of interest has been submitted for a Thames Valley Mayoral Combined Authority.

Cllr Gordon left the meeting at 8.30pm.

5. Communications from CDC, OCC, NALC and OALC - have been forwarded to Cllrs

Noted.

6. Minutes - To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025

Amendment to the date of confirmation of the previous minutes to *October* 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** that with this amendment the minutes be accepted as a true record. They were signed by the Chair.

- 7. Update on progress from previous Minutes** – the Clerk / Chair will report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision. Refer to Rolling Monthly Action List

The Chair gave an update on the progress of items listed on the Rolling Monthly Action log.

8. Governance

- a) Scheduled Elections 2026.** It was resolved that Cllr Morris will attend the online briefing on 29th January at 5pm.
- b)** External Audit to be submitted. It was resolved that Cllr Morris will oversee this piece of work.

9. Finance

- a) Financial Report** – to receive the report for information

As at 31st December, the accounts stood at:

Barclays Community Current Account	£ 2,221.59
Barclays Business Premium ME Deposit Account	£76,400.82

Income		Received
Ecclesiastical - for repair of Playground fence	£ 200.00	12/12/25
Interest Earned Gross	£ 209.10	08/12/25

Outstanding Payments

HMRC for October, November and December	£ 140.98
Clerk's salary (due 22 January 2026)	

Debit Card Payments

Date paid	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
19/12/25	Vonage – Service charge 18 Nov to 17 Dec 2025 Inv 1158045697	General Admin	149/24/o	£5.83	£1.17	£6.99

Standing Orders and Direct Debits

Date paid	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
01/12/25	Bletchingdon Village Hall – Monthly rent of the Parish Office	Village Hall	025/25/q	£150.00	nil	£150.00
30/12.25	Bletchingdon Village Hall – Monthly rent of the Parish Office	Village Hall	025/25/q	£150.00	nil	£150.00

- b) Invoices and other items for payment** – to consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoices for payment which were authorised by Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Taylor.

Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
Colban Ltd – Trimming tree shoots on Village Green Inv 0085	Parks, Trees and Open Spaces	Nov 25/11/f	£85.00	£17.00	£102.00

- c) Parish Precepts 2026/27** – It was **RESOLVED** to submit a precept request to OCC £25,000 for the financial year 2026/27. Cllr Ledger will submit the request.

10. Training

- a) **NALC, OALC and SLCC** – to consider any further training offered by NALC, OALC and SLCC

The Council **RESOLVED** to note the training courses and agreed that Councillors should attend any appropriate training if available.

11. Parish matters

- a) **Community Emergency Plan** – Cllr Morris to report. No update.
- b) **Green Bletchingdon** – No update
- c) **Bletchingdon Bus Service** – No update.
- d) **Bletchingdon School** – No update.
- e) **Neighbourhood/Parish Plan** – The consultation is active - noted.
- f) **Village Improvements** – The planning application for The Blacks Head has been submitted.
- g) **The Village News** – The deadline for the next issue is 18th January 2026. It was **RESOLVED** to include the upcoming elections, Fix My Street, call for volunteers to support the Parish, update regarding The Blacks Head, update regarding recycling facilities, removal of free park and ride bus travel, electric vehicle charging scheme.
- h) **Enforcement Update** – It was **RESOLVED** to ask Cllr Coton for an update.
- i) **Community Fitness Area** - Cllr D. Ledger has received confirmation from OCC that the legal agreement is being progressed. Noted.
- j) **EV charging points** – No update
- k) **Land behind the Sports Social Club** - Cllr M. Taylor to report – No update.
- l) **Oxford Road Playground** – Matter was resolved. It was **RESOLVED** to settle the invoice when received.
- m) **Damage to roadside fence on Oxford Road Playground** – No further update.
- n) **Traffic Calming and Speedwatch** – It was **RESOLVED** to agree an allocation of £8,000 for 2 VAS signs. Cllr Whitehead to progress this matter to installation of the signs within the allocation of £8,000.
- o) **Website** – Cllr Ledger to report, no update
- p) **Laptop Computer** – To consider – Quote for repair of laptop. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote and arrange for the laptop to be repaired.
- q) **Mobile phone for Clerk** - It was **RESOLVED** to review this when a new Clerk is in post.
- r) **Trees on Village Green and Recreation Ground** – It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the quote from Treotech for the full works, Cllr Lane to instruct Treotech.

12. Planning Applications

- a) **Awaiting Decision**

25/03128/F - Mr Doug Bagnall - Dollys Barn, Bletchingdon, Kidlington, OX5 3DP - Erection of stockyard building on existing agricultural holding.

25/03297/Q56 - Ms Amber Richardson - Ingleby Farm, Ingleby Paddocks, Enslow, Kidlington, OX5 3ET - Prior approval application for the conversion of an agricultural building into one dwelling.

No comments.

- b) **Decisions made**

Approved - 24/03381/F – Robin Investments Limited - Caravan and Camping Park, Diamond Farm, Islip Road, Bletchingdon, OX5 3DR – The use of land for the siting of 8 holiday lodges (technically static caravans), infrastructure and landscape planting, in place of 13 touring caravan pitches.

- c) **Appeals** - none

- d) **To note those received after Agenda publication**

25/03340/F / 25/03341/LB - EMN Properties Ltd, development of The Blacks Head.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Ledger will submit comments in support of this application.

13. Correspondence (emails and letters) received

- a) Updating CDCs Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy Action Plan. It was **RESOLVED** the Cllr Taylor will respond.
- b) New Government Funding for Play Areas – How We Can Help Bletchington Parish Council – noted
- c) Akeman Lent Labour 2026 – email from Rector of the Akeman Beneface. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Robins will respond.
- d) PCC December Newsletter - noted
- e) Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan – noted
- f) Your SLCC Membership Renewal Notice – It was **RESOLVED** the membership will be renewed.
- g) Grounds Maintenance Services for 2026 Season – It was **RESOLVED** the Cllr Lane will follow up.
- h) Greater Oxford Local Government Proposal – noted
- i) Coalition of Objection to the Cumulative Traffic Issues from all the major planning developments in NW Bicester – noted
- j) East West Rail: Keeping You Connected - Edition 19 – email - noted
- k) CPRE - Reflecting on 2025 and looking to the year ahead – email - noted
- l) Mid Cherwell Modified Neighbourhood Plan – email from CDC - noted
- m) New booking system at the Household Waste Recycling Centres – email – this has been shared on Facebook and added to the website
- n) FOR INFORMATION: Oxfordshire Street Design Code – email - noted
- o) PCC - My local update for you - December 2025 – email - noted

14. Reports from meetings - to receive reports from any meetings attended

Nothing to report.

15. Attendance at Meetings – there are no upcoming meetings

Noted by the Council.

16. Items for information or next Agenda only

All items for next agenda to be submitted to the Chair by Wednesday 18 February 2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek an update on the Slupe.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek an update from the benefactor.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek an update on pavement works, as not all the village has been completed.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place in the Meeting room of Bletchington Village Hall on Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 10.15pm