Minutes of the Meeting of Bletchingdon Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th August 2026 in the Meeting Room at Bletchingdon Village Hall, OX5 3FD at 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Dan Robins (Chair), Cllr Rachel Pirie (Vice-Chair), Cllr Sue Davies, Cllr Chris Lane, Cllr Mark Taylor

In attendance: District Cllr Tim Faltermeyer, Andy Crick (locum clerk and clerk to the meeting)

Apologies: Cllr Nicola Morris

The meeting commenced at 7:30pm and concluded at 8.50pm

1. **Apologies:**
   Cllr Nicola Morris
2. **Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality**
   DR plans to offer the PC a used laptop for a fee, to be discussed on the agenda.
3. **Minutes**
   The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2026 were approved by all and signed by the Chair.
4. **Public participation**
   None
5. **Reports from District and County Councillors –** for information only
   Cllr Tim Faltermeyer.
   - Written to Cherwell District Council (CDC) in support of **Black's Head** and will contact the County Cllr responsible for highways to raise issues. Some concerns over the report from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) and expectations for the pub.
   - Planning to oppose the **Heathfields** proposal for six caravans.
   - **Local government reorganisation**: TF has met with Oxford City Council and has made clear that the new authority in place from April 2028 will be a new council rather than a takeover of new parishes by the existing city council. TF also asked for a collective meeting of all councillors in new areas. Of six parishes in this ward, five will remain with Cherwell District Council as it moves into the new Northern Oxfordshire Council. The incorporation of councils to the south of Oxford has been discussed but was not accepted. The new council ward will be Bletchingdon and Otmoor. Currently three District Councillors and two County Councillors, the new council will have two councillors. Some concern was expressed in the meeting over future plans. It is expected that the council tax will increase as it is higher in Oxford City. Future service provision will depend on the councillors to be elected in 2027, who will need to campaign for services such as buses.
6. **Communications from TVP, CDC, OCC, NALC and OALC**
   Parish liaison meeting scheduled for 9.9.26, 6pm, online.
7. **Update on progress from previous minutes**
   - DR has been working on appointing a new locum clerk, who has started.
   - Quote for bins received: 'Derby standard', £414 plus £113 delivery. The meeting agreed to proceed with the purchase, four week lead time.

   Action: DR
8. **Finance**
   a) **Financial Report**

As at 30 July 2026, the accounts stood at:

Barclays Community Current Account	£3,678.36
Barclays Business Premium ME Deposit Account	£75,310.86

Income **Received**

None

Outstanding Payments

None

Debit Card Payments

Date paid	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
20/07/26	Vonage – Service charge 18 July 2026 – Inv 1161506889	General Admin	149/24/o	£5.82	£1.17	£6.99
17/07/26	ID Mobile – Inv: 86744456	General Admin	Apr26/11/o	£5.00	£1.00	£6.00

Standing Orders and Direct Debits

Date paid	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
30/06/26	Bletchingdon Village Hall – Monthly rent of the Parish Office	Village Hall	025/25/q	£180	Nil	£180.00
23/07/26	HMRC – PAYE & Employers NI	Clerks Salary	025/25/q	£80.92	Nil	£80.92

b) Invoices and other items for payment – to consider items for payment as listed on the payment schedule

Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
Green Scythe Ltd – Grass cutting Inv: 18883	Grounds Maintenance	073/25/t	£321.43	£64.28	£385.71
OALC – Roles & Responsibilities training	General Admin	May26/10/a	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00

c) Invoices and other items for payment - to consider invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule

d) Locum clerk added to bank mandate. Once confirmed, new payment arrangements will be made.

9. Training

a) NALC, OALC and SLCC – no update

10. Parish matters/Parish plan

a) Community Emergency Plan – no update

b) Green Bletchingdon – no update

c) Bletchingdon Bus Service – changes noted

d) Bletchingdon School – no update

e) Neighbourhood/Parish Plan – no update

f) Village Improvements

- letter sent to Gemma Magnuson expressing our strong support for the planning application for the Blacks Head Inn and to encourage the CDC Planning Department to bring the matter to a swift and positive conclusion.

Action: DR

g) The Village News donation

- update from Mr Gedling asking for donation. DR proposed £600, agreed.

h) Enforcement Update

- no update on Heathfield, Diamond Farm.
- question of whether Greenhill Farm is reported, agreed to do so.

i) Community Fitness Area – no update

j) EV charging points – no update

k) Land behind the Sports Social Club – no update

l) Traffic Calming and Speedwatch

- RP reported. Signs have been installed on telegraph poles in a neighbouring village, RP has asked about this to avoid additional street furniture. The company will need to seek permission from Openreach to do this. The parish council previously approved up to £8,000 for traffic calming and this proposed option would deliver a considerable saving. The council agreed to proceed with this. RP to try and get way leave from Openreach

Action: RP

m) Website

- DR to work with locum clerk to finalise the new website.

Action: DR/clerk

n) Village benches

- SD prepared a proposal, DR asked for sites identified to be prioritised. Village café charity has donated £300 for the upkeep of benches.

o) Fix my street update

- Many pavements and kerbs are in a poor state due to tree roots and vehicle damage. RP to send info to locum clerk.
- Hole reported at Village Farm on Oxford Road, to be reported to Openreach.

p) Clerk – Arnold-Baker to be bought. Clerk asked to send link to DR to make purchase.

q) Maintenance of shoots on the Green

- Spending agreed at last meeting - £125
- Fair turns up on Sunday 20 September 2026. DR to publicise this further.

r) Dog bins

- dog bin by village hall disappeared, replacement not needed as there is one close by.

s) Gully emptying – to be scheduled for the Autumn

- on agenda as a reminder for future action, previously done in October. May need to be done several times over the winter.

t) Playground fencing

- quote needed for remedial work to boards and wires. It was noted that the most recent playground report passed the fencing as acceptable. CL to look for a contractor to provide a quote.

Action: CL

u) Development proposals

- Proposed development of land west of Springwell Hill: consultation period has closed, RP sent a letter to Spitfire, posted on website. Spitfire (developer) responded, not in agreement to hold a public meeting. Spitfire have met with school to discuss proposals. Many comments from residents referred to water supply, developer advised that Thames Water will review supply during the development process. The parish council noted continued concerns over water. 20mph zone will be extended to the development. Parking will be adequate and the developer supported its plans.

v) Volunteer Driver Service Community Interest Company donation

- grant application shared with parish councillors. There are four service users and one volunteer driver based in Bletchingdon, each service user will average around two journeys a month. Looking to grow their client numbers. The charity asked for a grant of £250 for the current year. Current PC donation budget is £800, £600 committed to village news, so £200 available. £100 proposed by DR, agreed.

11. Planning Applications

a) Awaiting Decision

26/01681/F	Land East of Heathfield Cottages, Heathfield	Change of Use of stables and land used for equestrian purposes to caravan park - PC has already objected to this
26/01300/F	Os Parcel 7400 Sw of River Cherwell Adj, Part of A34 By Hampton Gay And Poyle, Hampton Gay And Poyle	Retrospective - Agricultural buildings, hardcore surfacing, boundary fencing, access gate and associated landscaping, together with proposed agricultural storage and pedestrian gate - PC to object as the site is in a flood plain. No business plan, no livestock plan.

b) Decisions made

26/00250/F	Monks Head, The Causeway, Weston Road, Bletchingdon, Kidlington, OX5 3DH	Alterations and extensions to existing property including the demolition of garage and garden room and erection of side extension.
26/00573/CLUE	Ingleby Farm, Ingleby Paddocks Enslow Kidlington OX5 3ET	Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development: Commencement of consent as approved under application ref: 10/01620/F

Noted.

Enforcement: MT noted that the extension at Heathfield is very long, currently under appeal.

c) Appeals

- none

d) To note those received after Agenda publication

- none

12. Correspondence (emails and letters) received

- Email re proposed development, suggesting 20m biodiversity buffer with Duchy Field

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

- Monthly Sports & Social Club – no update

14. Upcoming attendance at Meetings

a) Monthly Sports & Social Club

b) London Oxford Airport Consultative Committee, Tuesday 15th September

15. Items for information or next Agenda only

a. Gift for previous clerk

b. To stop cutting the green while it is dry

c. Dead trees on the Duchy – to contact BCF to pass on to management company

d. Cones and bins left out by resident, parish council to consider action to stop this. Report cones to county, report bins to CDC

e. Items for village news

i. Electric blanket testing

ii. Email from Oxford Health asking to raise awareness of services in the community to help with mental health problems. Poster provided

iii. To warn people to be careful with tumble driers and washing machines which can cause fires.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday 30 September 2026 at 7.30pm. Apologies were given from Cllr Tim Faltermeyer.

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