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

Present: Cllr Dan Robins (Chair), Cllr Chris Lane, Cllr Mark Taylor

In attendance: Andy Crick (locum clerk and clerk to the meeting), County Cllr Laura Gordon

Apologies: Cllr Sue Davies, Cllr Nicola Morris, Cllr Rachel Pirie (Vice-Chair), District Cllr Tim Faltermeyer

Three members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.20pm

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rachel Pirie and District Councillor Timothy Faltermeyer.

2. Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality

DR declared an interest with regard to item 8e as the laptop offered to the council belongs to him.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26 August 2026 were agreed.

4. Public participation

Several residents attended to speak on the proposed development at Springwell Hill - item 10e on the agenda. Issues raised included the number of houses proposed for the development and the lack of adequate non-vehicular access to the site.

DR noted that the parish council is concerned that this is not an integrated part of the village and noted that the parish council had raised the non-vehicular access to the site and issues over water provision with the developer. The parish council has not yet formally responded to the planning application.

The village has had a significant amount of development and is classed as a category A village, which means that it is considered appropriate for development. There were concerns among attendees that the proposed development would lead to further development which would have a significant impact on the village.

County Cllr Laura Gordon noted that Cherwell considers planning applications but power to determine applications now sits with central govt. The county council (OCC) will be asked to comment and may raise issues such as highway safety and if the county council objects the planning authority should abide by this.

The parish should consider what it would welcome if the application was approved, such as traffic calming, to ensure that if this happens the village benefits from developer contributions. DR noted that the parish had been contacted by CDC regarding s.106 developer contributions for sports facilities, so there may be benefits to the village.

A resident requested that environmental benefit should be added to the development if possible, such as an orchard and a hedgerow. DR mentioned concerns over such additions moving the development even further from the existing village.

Concerns were raised by all attendees about traffic. There may be increased access through the Duchy Field development which Duchy residents pay for. Potential disruption from development

traffic was also highlighted. Residents mentioned a construction management plan for traffic which would be useful.

The parish council would ask for an extension to the application deadline to allow residents to be consulted with.

LG recommended that the parish consider opposition but to note that if approved, it would prefer 44 rather than 65 houses. The parish was also recommended to refer comments to LG and TF to review and advise on.

5. Reports from District and County Councillors – for information only.

Cllr Laura Gordon, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC):

Local govt reorganisation has been paused, likely to be a year later. OCC continues to lobby for Greater Oxfordshire.

Traffic filters introduced in Oxford. Consultation open on new scheme for six months. Vehicles registered for the congestion charge will be automatically moved into the new traffic filter scheme, giving them 25 passes. Congestion charge revenue will fund an express bus to from Oxford Parkway P&R to the JR, with free parking to be offered to NHS staff.

20mph review, comments invited – recommended to request buffer zone speed limits, e.g. 60 to 40 to 20.

Islip Bridge closed for eight weeks due to disrepair, LG invited any comments.

Illegal dump next to the A34 now cleared, land to be sold by the EA to mitigate costs. The site is in Hampton Poyle parish.

HGV width restriction request suggested by LG as an option to reduce traffic in the village. OCC does not support weight restrictions due to legal challenges from owners.

A written report was provided by Cllr Faltermeyer, Cherwell District Council (CDC) and is summarised below:

Black's Head Inn – TF commented on the planning application and contacts with OCC over the county council's objection. He noted that his contacts had proven positive and had helped to change the county council response.

Heathfield planning application for 8 caravans – TF had objected and requested that the application be 'called in'. This application had now been refused.

TF noted an issue with a scaffolding business in Heathfield, which was given until September 18 2026 to cease trading and evacuate the property by the end of the year following an appeal by the Planning Inspectorate. TF asked residents to keep him updated.

TF had sent an objection to the use of Site A MOD Bicester for Asylum Seekers. He noted that planning consultees had only been given a limited time to respond and he commended officers at Cherwell District Council (CDC) for their work in preparing a response.

TF attended the meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). He noted that HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Directorate of Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) had raised

with Thames Valley Police (TVP) that they do not have a specialist unit dealing with serious sexual offences including rape, and that officers involved investigating such offences aren't qualified. TF has asked that the PCC provides a report at the next meeting detailing precisely what action TVP are doing to rectify this.

TF mentioned the Community Fund (from the PCC) which local groups may apply for and which closed to applications in September.

Islip planning development - a planning application has been submitted for a former fuel depot to be used for housing. This may be a good use of a brown field site but analysis of chemicals and other hazardous substances embedded in the area need to be undertaken by the developers, including what action they will take should such things be identified. TF noted the issue of local flooding which can cause waste sewage facilities to become unable to cope and effluent to pour into the river and the gardens of people living alongside the river.

Shipton on Cherwell – there is an outline planning application for 500 dwellings to be built (which will more than double the size of the village) and there are increasing discussions about turning the quarry into a residential site of 1600 dwellings, including a train station, primary school and other such infrastructure.

6. Communications from TVP, CDC, OCC, NALC and OALC – have been forwarded to Cllrs

a. Community First Oxfordshire AGM 8.10.26 - invitation to attend online
b. PCC community fund grant invitation
c. Email from OCC re 20mph speed limits, consultation to end in November
d. Update on Oxford City Local Plan

Noted.

7. Update on progress from previous minutes

Bin purchased and installed on Oxford Road. CDC to be contacted to ask them to add it to their rounds for emptying.

8. Finance

a) Financial report

As at 28 August 2026, the accounts stood at:

Barclays Community Current Account	£2,316.60
Barclays Business Premium ME Deposit Account	£73,810.86
Total	**£76,127.46**

Income received

Precept – Cherwell District Council	£12,500.00

Outstanding Payments

None

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

Debit Card Payments

Date paid	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
18.9.26	Vonage – Service charge 18 September 2026 – Inv: 1161924087	General Admin	Sep26/8/b	£5.82	£1.17	£6.99
17.9.26	ID Mobile – Inv: 89682039	General Admin	Sep26/8/b	£5.00	£1.00	£6.00

Standing Orders and Direct Debits

Date paid	Payee and Reason	Budget	Minute Ref	Net	VAT	Total
24.9.26	Bletchingdon Village Hall – Monthly rent of the Parish Office	Village Hall	Sep26/8/b	£180	Nil	£180.00

a. Bank Statements – to acknowledge scrutiny and acceptance of the previously circulated bank statements. Noted.

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
Andy Crick – purchase of 'Arnold-Baker' legislation guide for parish councils, plus postage	General admin	Sep26/8/b	£149.40	£0	£149.40
Moore – auditors, completion of audit.	General admin	Sep26/8/b	£288.75	£57.75	£346.50
Kay's Admin Office – locum clerking services, invoice 056	General admin	Sep26/8/b	£1,203.40	£0	£1,203.40
Broxap street furniture – New bin	General admin	Sep26/8/b	£527.00	£105.40	£632.40

c) External audit (AGAR) – received from auditor and circulated to councillors.

d) Grants: request for funding from CleanSlate. It was noted that there is a form to complete, to be sent to CleanSlate for them to complete for the next meeting.

ACTION: clerk

e) Laptop – to consider the purchase of a laptop provided by Cllr Robins. There were not enough cllrs to make a decision as DR was not able to contribute. Deferred to next month.

f) Microsoft renewal - due for renewal 4th Oct @ £84.99 by direct debit. DR to action on parish council debit card.

ACTION; Chair

9. Training

a) NALC, OALC and SLCC – noted

10. Parish matters/Parish plan – updates by exception

a) Policies and admin

i. Community Emergency Plan
ii. Green Bletchingdon
iii. Neighbourhood/Parish Plan. Screening document received from Cherwell District Council approving the work done. The NP can now be submitted to CDC for the formal consultation and approval to proceed.
iv. Website – update from meeting with web developer. No update.
v. Gift for previous clerk – agreed previously, voucher to be purchased.

ACTION: Chair

vi. IT policy – clerk to prepare for later meeting. Agreed.

ACTION: clerk

b) Local services

i. Bletchingdon Bus Service – no update
ii. Bletchingdon School – no update
iii. Garages – parish council has been asked who owns the garages and how to rent them. Cllrs to ask residents with garages for further information.

ACTION: all cllrs

c) Environment

i. Village improvements. Black's Head pub has had planning permission granted, welcomed by the parish council.
ii. Community Fitness Area – no update
iii. EV charging points – no update
iv. Land behind the Sports Social Club – no update
v. Village benches – Cllr Sue Davies not available, deferred to next meeting.
vi. Dog bins – no update
vii. Maintenance of shoots on the green –CL to invoice council for work carried out by resident.

ACTION: CL

viii. Gully emptying – to be scheduled for the Autumn. To be added to fixmystreet by DR.

ACTION: Chair

ix. Playground fencing. Quote received by CL, cost £320 plus VAT. Agreed.

ACTION: CL

x. Green: to stop cutting the green while it is dry. Green Scythe to be requested to do a cut now the weather has changed.

ACTION: CL

xi. Dead trees on the Duchy – to contact BCF to pass on to management company – requested in August meeting

ACTION: CL

xii. Cones and bins left out by resident, parish council to consider action to stop this. Deferred to October meeting, to ask County Cllr Laura Gordon for advice. Email TF re bins to ask what can be done.

ACTION: clerk

d) Roads and traffic

i. Traffic calming and Speedwatch – request from resident re Speedwatch 'scarecrows'. Such items can be placed on private land but cannot be endorsed by the parish council. DR has responded to the resident.

ii. Fix my street update: Blocked drain on Oxford Road at the junction with Lenthal reported to fixmystreet and now lined up for action by council cleaning teams.

iii. Email from resident re HGVs and traffic. Resident asked about HGVs, to be given contact details for Cllr Laura Gordon.

ACTION: clerk

e) Development proposals

Springwell Hill (Spitfire) discussed under public participation.

f) Other items

i. Electric blanket testing - added to items suggested for Village News October 2026. Noted.

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

iii. To warn people to be careful with tumble driers and washing machines which can cause fires - added to items suggested for Village News October 2026. Noted

iv. Stoptober email 9.9.26 – to consider actions. No action.

11. Planning Applications

a) New applications since last meeting

Reference	Address	Description	Comments
26/02180/PIP	Land West Of Valentia Close Adj To, Station Road, Bletchingdon	Permission in Principle for residential development of 7-9 dwellings	Mark: Object
26/02182/PIP	Land West Of Valentia Close Adj To, Station Road, Bletchingdon	Permission in Principle for residential development of 7-9 dwellings	Mark: Object
26/02024/F	Heathfield Golf And Country Club, Heathfield, OX5 3DX	Change of Use and extension of the extant and approved facilities building for use as a public house and retail (Class E/sui generis)	
26/02305/F	5 Heathfield Cottages, Street Through	Addition of a rear facing dormer at second floor level	No objections

	Heathfield Village, Heathfield, OX5 3DX		
26/02306/F	Heathfield Cottages, Heathfield, OX5 3DX	Erection of a single storey-rear extension with 1no rooflight	No objections
26/02359/F	Land West of Springwell Hill Bletchingdon Oxfordshire	Erection of 65 dwellings, with vehicular access from Springwell Hill, associated pedestrian connections, public open space including an equipped play area, pumping station, sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), landscaping, and other ancillary and associated works	Object – PC to prepare response

Noted.

b) Decisions made

Number	Title	Description	Planning authority decision
26/01122/F	The Oxfordshire Inn, Meadow Walk, Heathfield, Kidlington, OX5 3FG	Redevelopment of the site (former function hall) to provide 6no. semi-detached dwellings (2no. two bed and 4no. three bed units).	REFUSED
26/01681/F	Land East Of Heathfield Cottages, Heathfield	Change of Use of stables and land used for equestrian purposes to caravan park	REFUSED

c) Appeals

Totem Scaffold appeal dismissed.

d) To note those received after agenda publication

Refusal for public house at Heathfield

Black's Head permitted

12. Correspondence (emails and letters) received

a) To review all other correspondence received in September. Noted.

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

a) Monthly Sports & Social Club – no update

b) London Oxford Airport Consultative Committee 15.9.26 – minutes received 18.9.26

14. Upcoming attendance at meetings

a) Monthly Sports & Social Club

b) London Oxford Airport Consultative Committee

15. Items for information or next Agenda only

All items for next agenda to be submitted to the chair by Wednesday 21 October 2026.

- Invoice Perry Hatwell, won't pay bill until invoiced. Check for last year's invoice, add covering note thanking him for attending and leaving the site in immaculate condition.
- Drainage down Islip Road, ditches need to be cleared. Check previous minutes to see what action has been taken before. Ask Laura Gordon?
- Overhanging bushes on bend on Weston Road, report to fixmystreet, hazardous to vehicles, especially HGVs
- Loose kerbs around 'Finger Piece'? To report to fixmystreet.

16. Date of Next Meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting on Wednesday 28 October 2026 at 7.30pm.

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