

Minutes from Littleworth Parish Meeting (Precept) 15 January 2026

Present: Lee Evans (County Councillor) Mark Coleman (Vale of White Horse District Council), Tony Woodward (Chairman) Neil Dawson (Clerk) Alice Margey, Adrian Pickett, Nikki Radcliffe, Simon Thomson, Ceri Thomson, Dave Mackay, Leah Baigel, Nicola Tannion, Sarah Hyland.

Apologies: Keith Boswell, Julia Smith, Ruth Mackay.

Agenda Item	Outcome / Action
1. Minutes from Parish Meeting on 15 May 2025	Minutes approved
<p>2. Matters arising</p> <p>Chairman stated that there was ‘good news’ to tell as regards the following MA’s:</p> <p>Road repairs Thrupp road - 75% of the work had been completed on repairs to the Thrupp road along lower two thirds of its length.</p> <p>Park Farm entrance - Face to face meetings with OCC Highway schemes senior officer which had agreed a plan of action to flush through drains along Park Farm road, repair/renew manhole covers\pipe work to provide greater managed ‘water run’ off. Work is expected to Start March 26.</p> <p>South bound bus stop - Ongoing issue, has now been raised as an agenda item as part of FATAC meetings. And an agreement ‘in principle’ that funding of £250,000 would be needed to provide a ‘safe crossing’. This funding is subject to the monies actually being available.</p>	
<p>3. Reports from District and County Councillors</p> <p>Vale of White Horse District Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached report. <p>Oxfordshire County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached report. 	
<p>4. Approval of Parish meeting Budget (precept)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Clerk confirmed current status of ‘total funds’ available to the Parish. Confirmed the expected outgoings for 2026/27, the revised OCC tax base figure for Littleworth Parish with the resultant ‘Band D dwelling rate (See attached report). 	Budget (precept) approved
6. Parish Reports	

Footpaths - See attached report.

Allotments - Mr Keith Boswell sent his apologies, however he did provide a written summary:

- All allotments taken at present (10 in total).
- One person requesting an allotment, currently work in progress.
- Ivor Glanville's family have provided a mower for grass cutting on the allotment. Looking for storage for it.

Neighbourhood watch & Speedwatch - See attached report.

Village Events Group - See attached report.

Playing Field & Reading room update - See attached report.

Faringdon United Charity - See attached report.

Church - See attached report.

Old School Playground - The Chairman firstly reminded meeting attendees that this whole area was 'held in trust' by the Littleworth Parish Chairmans position and a Senior Vale of the White Horse District Councillor position. The area continues to suffer from surface wear with 'potholes' now visible.

Updating meeting attendees as to the current value of the 'Old School Playground' maintenance fund. He confirmed that his sum (£7800) had enabled him to start looking at repair quotations, one of which he had already received. But he intended to gain others for comparison. Further updates to follow.

Any Other Business

- A request was made for more information as regards 'Reading room grants' noting that monies allocated had not been spent. CIO Trustees and DCC representative would discuss future action and Trustees would update as appropriate.
- Reminder of next whist drive taking place on Wednesday 21st January from 19.15 hrs.

Next Parish meeting planned for May 2026 (date/timing tbc) in the Reading room.

Vale District Council report

Disabled Facilities Grant

Disabled or vulnerable residents can apply to the Council now for a Disabled Facilities Grant to make their homes safer and easier to live in. The grant provides up to £50,000 for essential adaptations such as ramps, stairlifts, level-access showers, heating or insulation improvements, and more. Details about how to apply for the grant are available at this link: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/housing/help-with-improving-your-home/>

Winter Advice and Resources

The Vale has created a helpful guide to support residents through winter. The guide includes advice on keeping warm, support available through the Vale's community hub, steps to take during extreme weather, tips to prevent damp and mould, as well as information about council services.

The Vale works closely with its tenants to keep homes safe, dry, and free from damp and mould. Under Awaab's Law, which is now in effect, social housing providers are required to respond quickly to reports of damp and mould. They are committed to meeting and wherever possible, exceeding these standards to help ensure all their homes remain safe and comfortable. More information may be found here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/winter-in-the-vale/>.

Climate Action Fund Grants

Two Vale Climate Action Fund grants (References: CAF23-24\48 for £5,000 and CAF24\100014 for £5,000) were provided for approved work to be conducted in the Reading Room. To date, neither of these grants has been used for the original purpose. The first grant, CAF23-24\4, should now be returned to the Vale as it was only extended to 9 April 2025. The second grant cannot be repurposed for the installation of an acoustic ceiling in the Reading Room as the Climate Team has concerns over the overall effectiveness of this as an energy saving measure. It is possible that the Reading Room could make other lighting and drafting improvements including energy efficient glazing, for which the grant might be able to be retained, but the Vale would need quotes for this type of work before officers could consider it. The second grant should therefore either be returned to the Vale or the trustees should contact the Vale grants team (grants@southandvale.gov.uk) to provide information on other energy saving measures they would like to pursue including providing quotes for the work.

County Councillor Report

Lee recorded his thanks to Tony and Neil, in particular, for being so pro-active for the village in discussions with the County Council and said he is always happy to support the village however he can in County Council related matters.

Safe access to A420

This is a recognised priority for the village and multiple discussions have been had with the County Council in recent months. At the last meeting of the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee (FATAC), it was agreed this would be a standing item on the agenda. The County Council officer in attendance also said they agreed in principle that there should be a crossing on the A420 at Littleworth. However, the challenge is funding. Lee is now working on getting proper costs from the County Council so an application to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) can be considered in the next cycle.

Footpath on A420 (east of Littleworth)

Following Neil's correspondence about overgrown hedges blocking the path, Lee raised this issue with the County Council. Noted in the meeting that the Parish Chairman has also discussed it with the landowner. Lee will liaise with the Chairman about next steps.

Drainage issues in Littleworth

Following consistent issues with flooding and drainage, the County Council will be closing the road down by the farm on 3rd and potentially 4th March, between 9:30am and 3:30pm, to facilitate CCTV and drainage investigations. Please use alternative routes.

Councillor Priority Fund

Every County Councillor has a pot of money (£10,000 over two years) that they can use to support projects in their local area. The Council has a set of rules about who is eligible for funding, but providing your organisation has a committee, a set of rules setting out their aims, and is doing good work locally, you will hopefully be eligible. All projects must address the needs of the local community in our part of Oxfordshire, be completed by 31 March 2027, and provide good value for money (after all, the donation is from Council Taxes). Due to the size of the Kingston & Stanford division and the limited money available, it is not possible to fund every project Lee would like to support. But he would be happy to hear from the village about a project he could support in Littleworth.

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

Issues beyond Littleworth:

- **Safety of A420 junctions.** New plans are going ahead to reduce speed limits at the Charney Road and Pinewoods Road junctions near Longworth/Southmoor. The next priority is to try and get the County Council to take action to improve safety at the Buckland Road junction.
- **Condition of A417.** After much campaigning, the County Council has now agreed to resurface the A417 from the tip to the Shellingford crossroad, and also from Stanford Mill to around the Baulking turn. Both of these sections of road are in urgent need of repair.

- **Condition of A420 between Buckland/Hinton Waldrist.** The County Council has also agreed to resurface this stretch of road, which has a series of potholes appearing on it, in the new financial year.
- **Changes at the Tip.** The County Council has introduced new demands when using the tip, including booking in advance and taking proof of address with you to the tip. Lee had consistently opposed these plans in the Council chamber as he believes they are unnecessary and will increase the risk of fly-tipping.
- **Remarks in County Hall.** Since the last Littleworth Parish Meeting, Lee has spoken in County Hall on the following themes:
 - **Special Educational Needs & Disabilities**, specifically calling for the County Council to bring back the dedicated Cabinet member responsible for S.E.N.D.
 - **The Oxford Congestion Charge**, which he opposed on the grounds that the public consultation showed overwhelming opposition and it lacked a democratic mandate.
 - **Questions** have been asked on S.E.N.D., the condition of local roads, the Home Library Service, Ten Foot Bridge and Home to School transport, among other topics.

LITTLEWORTH PARISH 2026/27 BUDGET (PRECEPT)

Item	Notes	Budget 2026/27	Actual 2025/26	Budget 2025/26
OALC subscription	Advice on requirements for Parish Meetings	£185.22	£0.00	£176.40
Insurance	Public liability insurance	£205.80	£196.00	£205.80
Bank fee	Account maintenance fee	£51.00	£34.00	£51.00
Web site	Hosting costs and required updates for web site	£209.15	£199.19	£209.15
Expenses	Chairman and Clerk expenses and minor payments for unexpected items	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
Old School Playground fund	Added to the reserves so funds will be available when repairs are needed. Current fund is £6200	£1,200.00	£1,000.00	£1,200.00
Defibrillator pads / batteries	Replacement pads October 2027	£132.30	£126.00	£150.00
Other				
Total		£2,083.47	£1,555.19	£2,092.35
Estimated annual cost per band D dwelling		£17.04	£12.36	£16.63

Cash position forecast for April 2026	Total	Commitments
Bank Balance 18 Dec 2025	£9,258.69	
Old School Playground fund		£7,800.84
Allotments fencing fund		£19.50
Other bills to April 2026 - Bank charges		£17.00
Other bills to April 2026 - OALC Sub		£180.00
Reserves		£1,241.35

Parish Footpaths report

Overall, the footpaths in the parish are in reasonable condition, though naturally a little muddy at this time of year. There are a couple of stiles that need attention, particularly the one at the top of Mole Hill, which will be reported through the usual channels for maintenance.

One issue to note is that the footpaths running from the top of Church Walk to the back of Smokedown Farm have not been cut through the fields. As a result, walkers currently need to pass through the standing crop, assuming they know the intended route.

Speedwatch & Neighbourhood watch reports.

Speedwatch

The number of operating days were restricted by lack of volunteer operators.

If you could possibly give an occasional assistance it would be much appreciated, training provided. Contact Dave Mackay.

Three drivers were reported.

Average speeds were generally in the high teens showing reflecting drivers slowing down when they notice the equipment, the majority are showing respect for the village community.

22nd May 25 40 vehicles Mean 18mph Max 34mph Reportable 2

11th Jun 25 32 vehicles Mean 16mph Max 30mph Reportable 1

Neighbourhood Watch

Little local crime to report for the last six months.

Locally last week multiple theft, attempted theft and burglary of tools, vehicles and property, in Broadwell and Langford. Sometimes various rural villages are targeted in quite a wide area. Internet crime is now a large proportion of overall crime UK wide. Report all incidents of scams and phishing.

If you think you may have been the victim of fraud or cybercrime and incurred a financial loss or have been hacked as a result of responding to a phishing message, you should report this to [Action Fraud](#) Report or get advice Call 0300 123 2040

Have you spotted a suspicious email?

If you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): report@phishing.gov.uk

Have you received a suspicious text message?

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to 7726. This free-of-charge short code enables your provider to investigate the origin of the text and take action, if found to be malicious.

Should a criminal event occur:

For a crime is in progress, report promptly to Thames Valley Police on 999.

Where a crime is discovered after the event or where suspicious activity is observed, report online or on phone number 101 as soon as possible, with as much detail as you can, including location, time of event (if known), description of persons involved, what is missing/damaged with full description.

Safeguard any video recording from security doorbells/cameras and do not disturb a scene of crime, in order that all evidence is preserved.

VEG report

First of all we would like to thank everyone who has shown their support during the last year. As the original planned schedule was disrupted for many reasons, some obvious and some not, we are delighted to say things have now settled and we are moving forwards with purpose. With this in mind.....

Coffee Mornings

VEG are delighted with the ongoing success of these and with the inclusion of the specially dedicated coffee morning for The Royal British Legion held in November. It was a privilege to be recognised as an official fund raising event for the RBL and it is the intention of VEG that this will be repeated every November, with the amazing help from the local branch, specifically Matt Mortiboy from Barcote.

VEG would like to thank everyone who has supported the coffee mornings in any way as they only work because of the help and support from the village.

Village get together Saturday 14th February in the church.

This will be a village DIY party with music, drinks and nibbles where we will have the opportunity to raise a few glasses to Mandy & Ray who are getting married at the end of February. The date itself couldn't be more perfect!

The church has been selected as the venue to facilitate larger numbers as everyone is invited. Whilst further details will be distributed in next week's newsletter, please feel free to make your suggestions at anytime.

VEG donation (repaid) which was intended for the Reading Room French Doors - £1676.00

VEG will be looking to the village as to how these funds are to be spent.

Further details will follow in the next few weeks regarding organising a village meeting / collating suggestions etc.

CIO Trustees report

Playing Field

The Bucket Swing has been installed, and we hope the children are enjoying using it.

The wooden climbing frame failed the last safety inspection so cannot be used and has been cordoned off. The date to dismantle the climbing frame was postponed due to Sally Woodgates funeral and a further date needs to be organised.

The area behind the pole barn will be cleared in the next few weeks in readiness for the planting of the Willow Den on 9th March.

Reading Room

Thermal and sound insulation has been installed, a new ceiling created, new lighting installed, a new fire alarm and extra power points have been fitted in the main room.

Decorating will start on Saturday: the foyer, main hall, kitchen, back room and toilet will be painted.

The mullioned windows are going to be repaired and the stone cleaned.

Options regarding the step into the RR are being explored to level the step with the floor in order to reduce the draft under the door.

A heating survey is being conducted on Friday 16th January with a view to upgrading the current heaters and installing a room thermostat (this may prove too expensive and not cost effective).

New blinds will replace the previous curtains which can no longer be used due to the change in the ceiling height.

A television will be installed above the fireplace. We hope that this will encourage people to meet in the RR for sports events and film evenings for adults and children.

We plan to purchase new chairs which will fold up on a rack and can be stored easily.

Our insurance has advised a change of locks and installation of a key safe which will be carried out over the next couple of weeks. Entry to the RR will be gained by accessing the key safe; the number to the key safe will be provided by the Trustees; the key safe number will be changed after use of the hall.

Next steps being explored are upgrading the kitchen, rear of the hall and toilet area.

All changes and improvements to the RR are being taken to encourage use of the RR for the village.

Reading Room Garden

The Reading Room Garden will be getting a much-needed tidy up Friday 16th January 2026. Work will be carried out by BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd. Widening the entrance into the RR Garden is being explored.

Reading Room Flat

The current tenant has decided to leave. The process of finding a new tenant is underway. The flat will continue to be managed by Waymark.

In May the government will be introducing changes to renters' rights which will mean that landlords will no longer be able to have a contract with a fixed rental term. This could potentially mean that there is a higher turnover of tenants in the flat and could potentially affect the income that we gain from the flat.

There is no definitive advice or timeline regarding the proposed EPC ratings that will affect rental properties. It is an area that we remain aware of but due to lack of information from the government we have not acted on yet.

Littleworth Big Run

Following the positive feedback after last year's run, the next run has been planned for Saturday 18th April. We really hope that all the village will support the run- we cannot make it happen without your support. All the money raised goes towards managing and improving the playing field for all.

Faringdon United Charity report

Faringdon United Charity is an amalgamation of several smaller charities including one from a Littleworth benefactor and so Littleworth nominates a trustee and one from Little Coxwell, so they too have a trustee. The Littleworth trustee is currently Sarah.

Faringdon United Charity operates to help those in need (both financially and educationally) in Faringdon and the surrounding area. It covers Faringdon, Little Coxwell, Littleworth and the parishes which adjoin those three parishes, i.e. Buckland and Longcot. This is the Area of Benefit

The charity accepts applications from organisations like The Pump House Project, the Day Centre and schools as well as from individuals. Grants may be awarded for a number of years i.e. to support a community venture; or for a single project; for a one off purchase such as beds for a family who can't afford to buy them; or uniform for a child who's family is struggling to provide it. Applications for individuals are required to be submitted by a professional body, such as health care workers, social workers, schools or another charity who know the individuals and can confirm that there is a genuine need. The organisations or individuals must be based, serve the community or live within the Area of Benefit. At Christmas Aldi gift vouchers are given to needy families within our Area of Benefit via The Food Bank or The Pump House Project etc

Larger grants are considered by all the trustees, but smaller grants of less than £1500 are considered by one of the two sub-committees. Sarah leads one of these sub-committees and usually deals with applications related to schools and education.

The criteria (from when the charity was formed) are for those in need and for the education of boys and girls, which is very outdated and the trustees are currently working to amend this to make it more suitable for the 21st century.

Littleworth Church report

Over the summer we have, as outlined to the last Parish Meeting, continued to beautify the Chancel area, and our gratitude to everyone who has made this possible. Thanks to Keith Boswell, the painted panels are restored to their original position behind the altar where they look fabulous, and as we lose daylight we are enjoying the mass of tealights lit for each evening service. We have comfortable new chairs, heaters and screens to create a cosy smaller space, and a good chinwag after each service with coffee and biscuits or a glass of something, depending on the time of day! We are so very grateful to Avril (Lay Minister) and her husband John for adopting Littleworth as their own; their positive and cheerful presence shines through.

We were so sad but so privileged to hold Sally's funeral in November. While she lived just over the parish boundary, Sally was a stalwart supporter of all and every Littleworth activity and we were very glad to be able to host the funeral to the best of our ability, with our thanks to all those who helped in every way. Sally was a regular and very active member of the congregation - she baked cakes, organised the cleaning rota, delivered the Village Voices newsletter around the 28 houses of Barcote, made puddings for Harvest lunch, lent benches for the bar at the fete, she made jam and chutney and her Delia Christmas Puddings were the highlight of many an Autumn Supper and Auction. Over and above this, from 2022 she kindly accommodated 11 of the pews in her barn, which are currently removed under temporary permission (work to make this permanent is still ongoing).

In December we enjoyed hosting Suzanna's Little Stars Christmas concert, a poignant adjunct to our remembering of Sally - definitely there in spirit, supporting her family with pride. This was followed by the 'Carols, Crib and Candlelight' carol service, led by Avril, Midnight Mass led by Father Sebastian, and the first Christmas Day service for many years which again was well attended, again led by Avril.

In secular matters, we have welcomed the addition of the pool table! Thank you to Keith for sourcing it and members of the 'Male Voice Choir' who fetched it, and to those who gave towards buying its mobility mechanism. It's proving popular with our young villagers - especially immediately after services when the boring grown-ups are nattering - and their friends, as is the table tennis, badminton and table football. The church building is open and available to all, as well as being the setting for our fortnightly services, and it is great to know it's well used, especially after school.

In the meantime, we are as always so grateful to the many individuals who help run the church - whether daily opening and closing, maintenance or cleaning, or simply 'keeping an eye' - which we are glad keeps it very much of the community which it serves.