

Minutes from Littleworth Parish Meeting (AGAR) 21 May 2026

Present: Lee Evans (County Councillor). Tony Woodward (Chairman) Neil Dawson (Clerk) Alice Margey, Adrian Pickett, Simon Thomson, Ceri Thomson, Julia Smith, Tricia Nelmes Sarah Hyland Jill Woodward.

Apologies: Keith Boswell, Dave & Ruth Mackay, Nikki Radcliffe, Mike Wilson, Imelda twine, Leah Baigel.

Agenda Item	Outcome / Action
1. Minutes from Parish Meeting on 15 January 2026	Minutes approved
<p>2. Matters arising</p> <p>Road repairs Thrupp road - Good outcome so far with 2/3 repaired however ongoing discussion with OCC highways intervention team (who think the remaining cracking does not meet the required levels for repair). Review likely for Sept 2026.</p> <p>Park Farm entrance - The addition of a gully to catch the spring waters coming out of the bank opposite Park Farm and pipe it straight into the culvert running down the road towards the open barns. Planned for this year date tbc.</p> <p>South bound bus stop - Issue is acknowledged by all stakeholders (see OCC County Councillors report) especially given the increase in local development increasing traffic. However funding remains the issue.</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. Proposal and election for 2026-27 Parish Chairman and Clerk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman - Current Chairman stood down during the election, and was thanked by all in attendance for his years of outstanding service to the Parish. Mr Simon Thomson was proposed and seconded as the next Parish Chairman, and was duly elected by those attendance. • Clerk - The current Parish Clerk has volunteered to conduct another year in post, and there being no other volunteers was duly re-elected to the post. 	

<p>5. Receive and approve accounts for 2025/26</p> <p>Annual internal report- completed by Steph Clinkard (with sincere thanks from Chairman and Clerk) no issues found.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGAR governance statement - Procedures remain extant - approved. • AGAR accounting statements - copies of Littleworth balance sheet circulated to meeting attendees. Consideration of current and community balances and the need for future investment for ongoing Old school Playground repairs. The sum of £1500 from Parish Precept to be placed into community account this year - approved. • Certificate of Exemption (signed by Chairman) - approved. • Exercise of public rights - from 03 June to 14 July 2026. 	<p>Budget (precept) approved</p>
<p>6. Parish Reports</p> <p>Footpaths - See attached report.</p> <p>Allotments -See attached report</p> <p>Neighbourhood watch & Speedwatch - See attached report.</p> <p>Village Events Group - See attached report.</p> <p>Playing Field & Reading room update - See attached report.</p> <p>Faringdon United Charity - See attached report.</p> <p>Church - See attached report.</p> <p>Old School Playground - See attached report</p>	
<p>7. Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish allotments - Recently the Parish Clerk has received a request from OCC Resource Directorate for rent arrears for use of the Parish allotments, dating back to 2005. 3 year reviews were supposed to have taken place by the OCC and it was requested that the Clerk sign three different 'memorandums' acknowledging rent increases from 2018, 2021 and 2024. • Correspondence is ongoing, the Parish position as regards the increase for 2024 (£125 per year) is that this should be taken from 2027/28 (noting that the Parish has already paid £55 for 26/27). • County Councillor is aware and will be asked to engage if required. <p>Post meeting Note - Following the County Councillors intervention, no retrospective increases are now being sought. However, the Parish will be charged a total of £125 as from 29th March 2027.</p> <p>Next Parish meeting planned for December 2026 (date/timing tbc) in the Reading room.</p>	

Vale District Council report (to date no report received)

County Councillor Report

Littleworth Big Run

I wanted to kick off this report by congratulating the team behind the Littleworth Big Run. And to say well done to everyone who took part. I felt rather lazy, to be honest, as I stood on the finish line clapping people through after their 5km or 10km run. Perhaps I'll be on the other side of the rope next year!

Councillor Priority Fund support for the Reading Room

I was delighted to sign-off on £500 from my Councillor Priority Fund going towards the improvements made to the Reading Room here in Littleworth.

It's important to say that the money isn't my money - it's all of our money, really, which we pay in Council Tax and then Councillors have up to £10,000 (over two years) to support groups and activities in their local area. But I'm determined that all of the funds made available to me are used to support projects across the Kingston & Stanford division and I was very pleased to support a request from Littleworth.

Road Improvements around Littleworth

In recent weeks, we've seen some improvements to road surfaces around the area. Fighting to secure these (and other) improvements to our roads has been my top priority as a County Councillor. In particular, road improvements are underway (and should soon be completed, where not already) on:

- Buckland Road between St George's Road and Tadpole Bridge
- The A420 between Buckland and Hinton Waldrist
- The A417 between Stanford in the Vale and Goosey Lane
- Goosey Lane between the village and Northmead Lane
- The A415 between Kingston Bagpuize and Kingston Bagpuize Business Park

Many of these improvements were urgently required and I am glad to see them done. My one frustration with these recent roadworks is that the Council advertised overlapping road closures on key roads and diversion routes. For example, Tadpole Bridge and Radcot Bridge were both said to be closed at the same time recently. In practice, this wasn't the case, but it wasn't obvious to the public which road to use when. I've fed this back to the Council and will be having further discussions about how the Council organises road closures (which are, to be frank, necessary if we want to see roads improved) so they cause the least inconvenience for people.

There are other roads and sections of road I am working on getting the Council to fix and I will continue to do whatever I can to improve the condition of local roads.

Specific issues on A420 by Littleworth

I'm aware of two particular issues with the surface of the A420 by Littleworth: missing sections of road surface between the village and Faringdon; and a badly damaged drain just the other side of the Snooty Mehman. I've escalated both of these issues with the County Council and asked for them to be repaired ASAP.

Overgrown hedges

At the previous meeting, residents raised with me issues about overgrown hedges interfering with the pavements on the A420 by Littleworth.

Subsequently, I spoke to the Council about this and Council officers have twice been out to take a look. After discussions with representatives of the Parish Meeting, it was agreed that the Council would write to the owner who, I believe, has taken action.

If there are any remaining issues, please just let me know.

Safe Access to Bus Stop at Littleworth

I'm continuing to do whatever I can to get the Council to support, and fund, safer access to the A420 (Swindon-bound) bus stop from Littleworth. As a reminder, so far:

- The relevant County Council officer has agreed in principle that there should be a crossing on the A420 at Littleworth.
- This issue has become a standing item for the Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee (FATAC), to ensure it doesn't fall off anyone's agenda.
- The County Council officer involved has agreed to look at opportunities for funding in the next cycle of bids.

We are now approaching the key moment in the year when funding bids are prepared. I've had several discussions recently with officers about the best opportunities for Littleworth. They appear to be the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the Western Vale Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

I'll report back ASAP as soon as I have any update.

Opposing the new rules for the tips

Ever since they were announced, I have had severe concerns about the County Council's new rules for the tip. As a reminder, these rules say we need to book a 15 minute slot, fill in a five page booking form, and take proof of address with us when we want to go to the tip. And so earlier this year, I brought a motion to Full Council to scrap the rules and go back to the old tried and tested - and popular - system.

When I put the case for scrapping the rules, I am pleased to say I won cross party support for the motion, including from Conservative, Independent and Labour Councillors. However, because the Liberal Democrats had a majority on the Council, they could - and did - vote me down. Therefore we will continue to have these rules for using the tip - for now.

In my view, this is a major set-back for common sense Council services in our area. But the fight will go on and I'll now work with colleagues on the Council to try and make the rules for using the tip easier. My key requests of the administration will be to simplify the booking form, increase flexibility for residents, and to think again if these rules lead to more fly-tipping in rural areas. And if I ever get the chance, I'll try all over again to go back to the old system of visiting the tip as and when we need it.

Changes in County Hall

Finally, there's been some change at County Hall recently that I wanted to update you on. Firstly, the Liberal Democrats have lost their overall majority on the Council. This is unlikely to have any impact on who runs the Council, however, as they remain the largest group.

Secondly, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Andrew Gant, recently resigned from his role. I had a great many disagreements with Cllr Gant, but I of course wish him all the best for the future. I will be doing all I can to persuade the new Cabinet member of the importance of safer roads and improved public transport in the Kingston & Stanford division.

I sit as part of a group of Conservative and Independent Councillors called the Oxfordshire Alliance. In the coming year, I'll be serving in the Shadow Cabinet for the group as the Shadow Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation. In that role, I'll be doing all I can to try and ensure value for money for all of us in Oxfordshire as well the efficient and effective use of Council resources for residents.

Keeping in touch

As and when I can, I'll continue to come along to support events going on in the village. If you are putting on an event, please do feel free to invite me (if you like!). And if you see me around the village, I'd be delighted to have a chat.

Unfortunately, however, I'm unable to make it this year to the Littleworth Fete & Dog Show on 7th June.

If you want to find out more about my work as your County Councillor, please visit my website at www.LeeEvans.uk.

And if there is anything I can do to help please get in touch on lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk, 07724 601 096 or via [Facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/LeeEvansOxfordshire).

All best wishes,

Lee

Cllr Lee Evans
Conservative County Councillor for the Kingston & Stanford Division and

Parish Footpaths report

Happily, there isn't much for me to report, the footpaths are largely in pretty good shape at the moment. The one across towards Faringdon has been properly given a wide width which is much appreciated. Everything is pretty fast growing at the moment so it will be interesting to see if the field paths are all maintained as they should be.

Allotments

Annual rent received from tenants (see AOB). Mr Keith Boswell stated that there was the availability of an additional small plot should someone wish to take it.

Speedwatch Report

The number of operating days, this time four sessions, were again restricted by lack of volunteer operators. If you could possibly give an occasional assistance it would be much appreciated, training is provided. Contact Dave Mackay.

Five drivers were reported since the last report.

Please note that the police require that any incidents of abusive behaviour from vehicle drivers or passengers towards Speedwatch operatives, whether at the time of Speedwatch Session or subsequently, be reported to them. This will be done, in order to protect team members.

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.

1st April 2026	34 vehicles	Mean 9mph	Max 21mph	Reportable 0
21st April 2026	25 vehicles	Mean 14mph	Max 25mph	Reportable 1
23 rd April 2026	38 vehicles	Mean 17mph	Max 31mph	Reportable 2
30 th April 2026	35 vehicles	Mean 17mph	Max 27mph	Reportable 2

Neighbourhood Watch.

No local crime to report for the last six months.

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

Coffee Mornings:

We are delighted with the ongoing success of these and VEG would like to thank everyone who has supported the coffee mornings, in any way, as they only work because of the generosity of help and support from the village. And we thoroughly enjoy hosting them!

Village Funds:

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the wonderful suggestions as to how these funds might best be spent. VEG will keep the village updated with developments as and when.

CIO Trustees report

We have had a fruitful few months.

Work on the Reading Room is now complete, with only a few finishing touches left to add. We have already begun advertising the space and have received several bookings. We were also very grateful to receive a donation of £500 towards the work from Councillor Lee Evans.

The willow den was installed in March and is already beginning to look lovely. Over the summer we plan to continue developing that area, including adding picnic benches so visitors can make the most of the beautiful views across the valley.

The old play equipment, which was condemned in the autumn, has now been removed. Topsoil has been added to the area and we will be sowing grass seed in the coming weeks.

Last month's Big Run was a great success. The runners particularly enjoyed the new course, with many commenting on how beautiful the area is. We are extremely grateful to everyone in the village who helped with refreshments, marshalled the route, or came along to cheer the runners on.

We are also exploring ways to improve the kitchen and toilet facilities in the Reading Room. We will update the village once plans and quotations have been received so that options can be discussed and considered.

Faringdon United Charity report

The charity has agreed to continue its ongoing grants to organisations such as The Pump House Project, The Place, YoCO, COGS, The Bromsgrove Day Centre and Faringdon Community College. Support for schools is also ongoing with many referrals received from schools for families in need of financial assistance. We have also received applications from various other organisations requesting financial help for individuals within our Area of Benefit.

The charity is currently reviewing it's application process etc in order to make itself more visible and accessible to those organisations who may wish to apply, both for themselves or for individuals who fulfil our criteria. We are also working on updating our constitution to make it more applicable to life in the 21st Century, to reflect for example, that often requests for educational grants are for adults who may need to retrain and not just for children.

Sarah Hyland

Littleworth Church report

Since January's Parish Meeting, we're glad to report that our new heaters have been very effectively deployed for winter services, Avril writes a short piece for the Village Newsletter in advance of each fortnightly service and our congregation is beginning to build – and coffee (and games), or an evening glass of wine afterwards inevitably takes longer than the service!

This week was the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of Gainfield PCC, of which Littleworth Church is a part, at which the two Littleworth churchwardens were re-elected for another year, and we will be officially sworn in by the Arch Deacon at Witney Church on 5th July.

We're looking forward to the Fete and Dog Show in a couple of weeks on Sunday 7th June, with particular thanks to Jean for all her help in advance, and everyone who has offered to help on the day. This is followed by Ray Burley's Classical Guitar concert in the church on Saturday 20th June – £10 early bird tickets are available until 7th June. After that we'll be looking forward to the Barn Dance and the Harvest Festival in September!

As always, we're glad to see the church building being used for activities other than services, whether formal or regular get-togethers or just a game of table tennis after school. We are very grateful to Keith Boswell, with help from Chris Gurney, for repairing the bell last month, which can now chime for services and other events, having been silent since VE Day last year.

With, as always, our thanks to everyone who helps care for the building – cleaning, flowers, repairs, caring for the churchyard, opening and closing – we all share a pride in keeping our church at the heart of the community

Alice & amp; Jill
Churchwardens

Old School Playground

Old school Playground Trustee (Parish chairman position) confirmed works completed to renew worn patch's. However, due to fundamental structure of groundworks i.e. built as children's play area, not for mixed vehicle usage, further work is very likely to be needed in the future. Therefore, an ongoing fund should be maintained to bear any future costs. Ideally, and subject to agreement from all annual amounts to be taken from Parish Precept.