

Minutes from Littleworth Parish Meeting

15 May 2025

Present: Mark Coleman (Vale of White Horse District Council), Tony Woodward (Chairman) Neil Dawson (Clerk) Alice Margey, Adrian Pickett, Fiona Pickett, Nikki Radcliffe, Julia Smith, Simon Thomson, Mike Wilson, Dave Mackay, Ruth Mackay, Leah Baigel

Apologies: Imelda twine, Lee Evans (Oxfordshire County Council), Keith Boswell, Sarah Hyland.

Agenda Item	Outcome / Action
1. Minutes from Parish Meeting on 12 Dec 2024	Minutes approved
2. Matters arising - A420 safety highway ops update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chairman confirmed the work on the 'damaged curb' within the village has been fixed. The repair to the road Littleworth to Thrupp (Fix My street report:7440072) had not began. Park farm entrance - no action but Chairman and Clerk will continue to 'press' the council. South bound bus stop - safe crossing. No outcome as of yet however Charlie Maynard (MP) is continuing to be been engaged by the Chairman on this issue. 	
3. Reports from District and County Councillors <p>Vale of White Horse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devolution and local Government reorganisation recommended removal of County and District Councils and the establishment of 'Unitary' Councils. Interim proposals submitted, with preferred Vale option of two unitary council model. If approved, elections to take place May 28. Local Government Boundary Commission has decided not to lay electoral changes order in parliament, the commission will advise the Vale if this changes. Climate fund 2025/26 is now open and will closed 30 June 25. Local 'not for profit organisations can apply for a share of £100,000 fund <p>Oxfordshire County Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent council elections resulted in Mr Lee Evans (Cons) being elected in our area, he expressed his thanks to the other candidates. Early priorities include fixing road surfaces and making junctions safer (aware of the safety issues around Littleworth bus stops and is looking for pragmatic solutions). Mr Evans will be available on 31st May @ 1130 hrs in Littleworth for a 'street surgery' for those who can make it. 	
4. Proposal and election for 2025-26 Parish Chairman and Clerk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman - Current Chairman stood down during the election, but was promptly re-elected by those attending the meeting. He did confirm that Parish Chairman/Clerk posts should ideally be held for a maximum period of four years. And this year (his 5th) would be his final year, and requested any volunteers to shadow him. Mr Simon Thomson has volunteered. Clerk- Current Clerk has completed his term and was thanked by the Chairman and meeting attendees for his efforts. Mr Neil Dawson (who has been shadowing the Clerk position for 9 months) was duly elected. 	

<p>5. Receive and approve accounts for 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual internal report- complete by Steph Clinkard (with thanks from Chairman and Clerks) no issues found. • AGAR governance statement - approved. • AGAR accounting statements - copies of Littleworth balance sheet circulated to meeting attendees - approved. • Certificate of Exemption (to be signed to be Chairman) - approved. • Exercise of public rights - from 15 June to 28 July. 	
<p>6. Parish Reports</p> <p>Footpaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church pathway is not being currently maintained, Chairman is aware. <p>Neighbourhood Watch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little 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. <p>Speedwatch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Mr Dave Mackay. • Eight drivers were reported, mainly school run drivers. • Average speeds were generally in the high teens showing that the majority are showing respect for the village community. <p>Allotments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues reported but some rain would be appreciated. • Likely to be available later this year 'one half' of an allotment area. Interested? Contact Mr Keith Boswell. <p>Village Events Group (VEG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The loss of Clare was remembered, she will always be a member of the VEG group. • Thanks to all who were involved in Clares funeral arrangements. • Thanks to all who helped with VE Day celebrations and to those who attended. • Look out for new Coffee morning updates on the village newsletter. • The VEG group are looking for volunteers to help the group. <p>Church update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avril Coleman has return after knee surgery. • The Chancel is currently being used for services. The second-hand chair from Shrivenham Church are to be replaced. • Three decorative metal panels are to be repositioned on the back wall. • Heating and screens are to be provided in the Chancel area. • Thanks to all who help run the Church, in whatever capacity. <p>Faringdon United Charity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Hyland is the Littleworth trustee. • Amalgamation of small local charities helping those in need (financially and educationally). • Larger grants are considered by all the trustees, but smaller grants of less than £1500 are considered by one of the two sub-committees. • Eligibility criteria in need of an update, trustees are working to amend. <p>Old School Playground:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency fund for future repairs (pot holes) now at £5000. • Parking and bins - no issues. 	

<p>6. Parish Reports continued:</p> <p>Reading Room and Playing Field CIO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big run very successful with 150 runners and a total of £1768 raised. This money will be used for new playground equipment. • Reading room - hot water/new toilet installed in the summer. Waiting on quotes for insulation. • Concern was raised about the timing of the tree felling and the impact on wildlife - birds nests- the Trustees were comfortable with the specialist contract decision on timing. • Donations for tree cutting will be accepted. 	
<p>7. Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ribbon planning - Mr Dave Mackay asked that the meeting consider the inclusion of the following statement in to the meeting minutes: <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>“That the meeting agree that the parish should strenuously reject any future planning application that applies to any development that would extend the current ‘ribbon development’ of the village in contravention of current VWHDC local plan 2031”.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was agreed by the majority of meeting attendees. • Cutting of grass on the playing field - the Chairman asked that grass cutting be collected to allow games to be played safely. • Last weeks CPR + defibrillator training was well attended and very useful. The village has now eight sets of CPR kits for use by those who have been trained (for practice). • Reminder that the Swindon bus top (South) is the responsibility of the Parish to maintain (this includes cleaning- volunteers required). The Oxford bus stop (North) is looked after by a contractor. <p style="text-align: center;">Next Parish meeting planned for Thursday 11th December 2025 in the Reading room.</p>	<p>Parish clerk to clean Bus stops over next few weeks</p>