



## Annual Parish Meeting Meeting Minutes for Monday, June 9, 2025.

**Present:** Cllr Alison Sercombe (Chairman), Ast Clerk, and Councillors Andrew Cooper, Paul Gregory, Paul Willmott, Richard Barrett, Daniel Masters, Lucy Thomas, Daniel Masters, Toby Newman, Tim Bearder (OCC), David Bell (SODC), Andrew Busby (SODC),

**Apologies:** WPC Cllr Street, WPC Cllr Shepherd, Peter Ramsdale (WPC & SODC)

**Members of the Public/ Online:** roughly 51/ 0

**The meeting opening at 19:30 and closed at 21:00**

### Item

**1 WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR**

**2 TO RECEIVE MINUTES FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22nd APRIL 2024** – were approved by those present and duly signed by the Chairman, as a true record of the meeting.

**3 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, CLLR SERCOMBE**

Gave a brief presentation on the work of Wheatley Parish Council in 2024 and the projects planned for 2025 and beyond. Points covered included:

- Wheatley Parish Council Structure
- Income & Expenditure
- Highlights
- Future Projects

**4 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL CLLR RAMSDALE**

Cllr Ramsdale sent his apologies, and Cllr Bearder covered SODC updates on his behalf.

Joint Local Plan- Currently with Inspector

SODC reserves- £50m (£20m accounted for affordable housing)

**5 UPDATE FROM OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CLLR BEARDER**

Gave a summary of Oxfordshire County Council.

Cllr Bearder is the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.

Unitary Council work continuing with 3 proposals being made.

Traffic congestion in Oxford- Congestion charges being considered.

## 6 PRESENTATION OF SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORT 2025

Presented by Tim Bearder (OCC), David Bell (Senior Engineer SODC), Andrew Busby (Head of Development & Corporate Landlord SODC).

Recommendations completed and with the Environment Agency

- Looking to hold water back and stop it coming through the village (Littleworth Field, Shotover Estate, & increase culvert size under High St)
- Economic recommendations
- Swifter gulley clearance
- Culvert investigation on High St, may happen in Sept 2025
- Continue to work with the Wheatley Flood Group
- Property's doing own work to protect their properties.

## 7 OPEN FLOOR AND Q & A Topics raised:

### **Pavements-**

Q- Pavements in Wheatley need to be accessible for all (mobility scooters, prams).

Answer- Cllr Bearder, Speeds have been reduced, funds are not available for new pavements.

### **Littleworth Apron-**

Q- Littleworth Apron parking issues.

Answer- Cllr Bearder, Land ownership is being investigated along with Wheatley Parish Council and other agencies are also involved.

### **Parking-**

Q- Parking on pavements and corners, which need double yellow lines.

Answer- Cllr Bearder, The Traffic Working Group will be looking at other areas of concern in the village.

### **Highways Repairs-**

Q- Ladder Hill, road needs resurfacing and outside Co-op by the crossing is steep.

Answer- Cllr Bearder, It's not on the schedule of work to be completed at present. It's a County wide issue, £45m needed to cover Highways, but only £11m allocated.

**Flooding-**

Q- Has the Culvert been inspected

Answer- Culvert has been jetted but not surveyed, which County Council will need to do and is on the recommendations.

Q- Wheatley has had three major flooding incidents (2008, 2012, 2024) and each time the Fire Brigade lifted manholes in Crown Square and the water disappeared, is there a blockage there?

Answer- We are aware of a restriction in Crown Square, a Thames Water foul water pipe goes through the Culvert.

Q- Wheatley Brook from Crown Square to the River Thame isn't mentioned in the report.

Answer- Ownership is mixed, anyone who's land it goes through has ownership and are responsible to keep it clear. Some was surveyed but not all. Culverts under Highways are the responsibility of the Highways.

Q- Funding available

Answer- Environment Agency, gave funding in 2024, may not get this year but will apply again for next year. Some may be available from District Council.

Economic report to be finished by end July which can assist with funding applications.

Q- Flood modelling report, when will it be finished?

Answer- This is part of the report for the Environment Agency. It could be shared to the Parish Council after the end of July.

Q- Some drains have been cleared, but not all have been done. Who is responsible to check.

Answer- Cllr Bearder, on FixMyStreet you can click on the drains to see when they were last flushed. If you do have concerns then you can report on FixMyStreet and advise Cllr Bearder so he can chase.

Q- Leaves also need clearing when they fall in Autumn

Answer- Maintenance is needed of these areas and can be highlighted on FixMyStreet.

Q- Flooding on Keydale Road, and a possible blocked culvert

Answer- Oxford County Council have flushed the culvert, properties have also built in gardens which has impacted drainage.

Q- What are the easiest and quickest things to do

Answer- Property prevention measures can be found on the [Oxfordshire Flood Tool Kit](#) on Oxfordshire County Council website.

Q- Can buildings downstream, which have impacted the Wheatley Brook, be told to repair the brook?

Answer- Residents have a right to take civil action if they feel there is a case, it's not a Council matter.