



# Parish Council Meeting

## Agenda for Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, 19:30

**To: All Members of Wheatley Parish Council**

**Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Parish Council Meeting to be held at the Merry Bells, 89 High St, Wheatley on Monday, 1st June 2026, at 19:30 for the purpose of transacting the following business.**

**Members are reminded to declare an interest for relevant agenda item.**

**The meeting is held in public, who are welcome to come along. There will be an OPEN SESSION when questions may be taken from the public.**

**Copies of documentation and meeting links are available from the parish office, [clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@wheatleyparishcouncil.gov.uk) or 01865 875615.**

**Signed: *Allison Leigh*, Locum Clerk to the Parish Council  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

- #28/26-27 Apologies for absence**
- #29/26-27 To co-opt to fill two vacancies**
- #30/26-27 Declarations of interest/Dispensations**
- #31/26-27 To consider [minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 11.05.2026](#)**
- #32/26-27 Public participation & questions (maximum of 30 minutes in total 5 minutes per person)**
- #33/26-27 To receive a report from the County Councillor (see Attachment 1)**
- #34/26-27 To receive a report from the District Councillor**
- #35/26-27 Committees**
  - i. To receive minutes/recommendations from the following committee meetings:
    - a. [Open Spaces Committee meeting of 18.05.2026](#)
    - b. Any recommendations from the Open Spaces Committee
      - i. Update on the roof at St Mary's Close Alley
- #36/26-27 Scheme of Delegation: To note the following decisions made under delegated power:**

## Parish Council Meeting Agenda for Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, 19:30

- i. Insurance: The Chair, Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair of the Finance Committee have proceeded with Clear Councils for the insurance from 1/6/26 – 31/5/27 at a cost of £1647.12.
- ii. Dog bin price increase: The cost of the waste collections carried out by Shield has increased to £3.00 per dog waste bin per collection and £3.50 per standard general waste bin per collection.
- iii. Table tennis net: Purchase of replacement net at a cost of £217 (including VAT).

### **#37/26-27 Sports and Leisure Proposal:**

- i. To consider the proposal
- ii. To consider setting up a working group and choosing a date for its first meeting
- iii. To consider the draft Terms of Reference for the Sports and Leisure Working Group
- iv. To consider the draft survey
- v. To consider any other next steps

### **#38/26-27 Clerk Report:** To have an update on the following:

- i. RoSPA attending for annual inspection in July
- ii. VAS installation update
- iii. Cadet Hut consultation
- iv. Newsletter deadline for August/September: 16.07.2026
- v. Play and Activity Day – 04.07.2026: 11am-3pm at Wheatley Playing Fields
- vi. Wheatley Artisan Market – 19.09.2026, 9am-1pm
- vii. Wheatley Christmas Fair – 27.11.2026, 2pm-8pm

### **#39/26-27 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR Supporting Documents**

- i. **Final Internal Audit Report 2025/2026:** To note the [Final Internal Audit Report](#)
- ii. **Bank Reconciliation as of 31.03.2026:** To agree the [bank reconciliation for the 2025/2026 financial year](#)
- iii. **Explanation of Variances between 2024 2025 and 2025 2026:** To agree the [explanation of variances for the 2025/2026 audit](#)
- iv. **Reserves:** To agree the [reserves as of 31.03.2026](#)
- v. **Balance sheet as of 31.03.2026:** To agree the [balance sheet for the 2025/2026 financial year](#)

## Parish Council Meeting Agenda for Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, 19:30

- vi. **Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/2026:** To note the [Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/2026](#)
- vii. **Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026:** To respond to the statements and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2025/2026.
- viii. **Annual Accounting Statements 2025/2026:** To consider and sign the Annual Accounting Statements 2025/2026
- ix. **Notice of Public Rights:** To note the dates of notice

**#40/26-27 Expenses Policy:** To consider the updates expenses policy to include the new mileage increase from HMRC as of 5/4/26

**#41/26-27 Reports from working groups and village organisations:** To note any reports received from the following:

- i. Communications Working Group
- ii. Cade Hut Working Group
- iii. Community Events Working Group
- iv. Wheatley Pavilion Maintenance Working Group
- v. Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
- vi. Littleworth Field Working Group
- vii. Traffic Working Group
- viii. Youth Council Working Group
- ix. Thames Valley Police Working Group
- x. Flood Advisory Working Group

**#42/26-27 Reports from community groups:** To note any reports received from the following:

- i. Howe Trust (Wheatley): See Attachment 2.
- ii. Good Neighbourhood Scheme
- iii. Maple Tree
- iv. The Merry Bells
- v. Wheatley Playing Field Trust: See Attachment 3.
- vi. Wheatley Charities: See Attachment 4.
- vii. Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society: See Attachment 5.

**#43/26-27 Items of information without decision**

- a. **Correspondence:** To note any correspondence received

**#44/26-27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 19:30, The Merry Bells Hall

**The deadline for agenda item for the July meeting to be sent to the Clerk is Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

Attachment 1

## Spring Update for Parish Councils

### REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TIM BEARDER

Oxfordshire County Councillor (Wheatley Division) | South Oxfordshire District Councillor (Forest Hill & Holton Ward) | May 2026

#### County Council Leadership Election

**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** I am incredibly proud and honoured to share the news that I have recently been elected as the new Leader of Oxfordshire County Council. Stepping into this role is a significant responsibility, and I am fully committed to steering our county towards a sustainable, fairer, and more prosperous future.

I want to thank all the local parishes and residents whose continued feedback drives my work at County Hall. You can watch the full announcement video, acceptance remarks, and outline of the administration's vision on the official county council news portal:

Watch the Video: <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/tim-bearder-becomes-leader/>

#### Council Annual General Meetings & Governance

**SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** **SODC AGM Update:** Following our recent Annual General Meeting, there are no changes to the Cabinet lineup at the District Council, ensuring consistency in our strategic directions. However, we have successfully elected a new Chair of the Council: **Andrea Powell**, the Green Party Councillor for Benson and Crowmarsh. I encourage all local parish councils to invite Andrea to your upcoming community events and initiatives. For her municipal year, she has chosen to champion and raise funds for two fantastic causes: *Style Acre* and *Cycling without Age*.

**SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL** **Key Council Motions:** Two significant motions were debated and passed at the full council meeting:

- **Opposing the Abolition of HealthWatch:** The council voted to formally oppose any moves to abolish HealthWatch, firmly standing up for its crucial role as the independent voice of patients in our healthcare system.
- **Socio-Economic Duty Adoption:** We have voluntarily adopted the Socio-economic duty (under Section 1 of the Equalities Act 2010). This effectively gives a statutory footing for SODC to proactively consider socio-economic disadvantage alongside the nine other legally protected characteristics during strategic decision-making and equality impact assessments.

Residents can now stay closely informed as all full SODC council meetings are being live-streamed and archived for public viewing both during and after the sessions via the council's website.

**Attachment 2**



**UPDATE FOR WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**1. Grassland and Ponds**

The ponds in Tombs continue to develop vegetation and have plenty of life inc frogs, and newts. An egret and a family of ducks with ducklings have also been enjoying the habitat. In Dalton the new pond has been partially planted up, but most of the vegetation will come naturally. Local scouts and brownies have planted wildflowers they grew over the winter, and a domed willow structure for children to enjoy has built by volunteers. Ragwort will be assessed, and in Cripps, Shepherds and Sheldon and creeping thistle control will be carried out via a hired brushcutter at end June.

**2. Trees and hedges**

Weeding (removing sticky willy and bindweed) continues in the newly laid Windmill Lane hedges, where an encouraging range of native hedgerow wildflowers are also flourishing – including Red Campion, White Campion, Honesty, Comfrey and Green Alkanet.

**3. Grant Applications**

We have been successful in our grant application to Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE) to improve the design for accessibility and replace the Howe Close steps as well as creating a new compacted gravel path with a handrail between the top and bottom stages. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the summer.

**4. Benefaction/Gifts**

A gift of £5,000 (plus gift aid) has been received from a local donor. This is to help the trust purchase a replacement mower in 2027.

**5. Outreach, Communications and Information Gathering**

The guided walk in April was very well attended with ore than 20 people coming along. More dates for June and September are in the diary and on our website for 2026 and will be promoted via the village newsletter and Facebook. A guide to the Howe and additional informative boards which will be available digitally via QR codes and in a printed form by end of 2026. The visitor number system has now been installed.

**6. Trustees**

There remain 2 nominative vacancies. An email was sent to WPC on 20<sup>th</sup> January regarding the suggestion of considering appointing a ‘Young Trustee’ who could be supported by an additional councillor as a trustee.

**7. Other**

Charles (John) Parry (retired chief fire officer for Oxfordshire) carried out a fire risk assessment and his advice this has been circulated to the AA committee.

**Maggie Fyffe, Chair - The Howe Trust**  
**May 26th 2026**



# Parish Council Meeting

## Agenda for Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, 19:30

### **Attachment 3**

Wheatley Playing Field Trust

Report to Wheatley Parish Council

May 26<sup>th</sup> 2026

Last month brought about the close of a busy winter sports period, with over 200 football matches played by all ages between 7 and adult, plus 5 nights a week training session for footballers, including women's over 30's and rugby.

Owing to a decline in numbers, only one rugby match was played last season, but numbers for training and the gym are still strong. There is a lack of players in key positions needed for league participation.

The annual Wheatley FC football tournament took place over the weekend of 16/17 May and attracted some 800 young players from across the county.

Despite the heavy early spring rains, which forced many cancelled fixtures, the fields have stood up well to heavy use thanks to the extended remediation work programme including decompaction over the Easter holidays.

Off the field Wheatley FC have been trialling use of the clubhouse at weekends for teas and refreshments, but take up from spectators has been low.

Oxfordshire Fire Service have used the buildings over several late evenings to carry out search and rescue training in unfamiliar properties.

Having reached agreement with Wheatley Park School to use the clubhouse during the school day, the social area has successfully been used by the NHS for an away day seminar.

Paul Willmott  
Chairman, Wheatley Playing Field Trust



## Parish Council Meeting Agenda for Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, 19:30

### **Attachment 4**

There were 7 successful applications for education grants lodged with Wheatley Charities in 2025, each worth £200.

The application posters for 2026 have been distributed to Wheatley Park School and are also on village notice boards as well as the WPC Facebook page. Application forms are available from myself or the school and must be returned by the end of August.

### **Attachment 5**

This year, the society is celebrating 50 years since the start of the plan to restore Wheatley Windmill to working order. To mark the occasion there are displays in Wheatley Library and the window of the Centre of English Studies in High Street. There is also an exhibition in the church which will be there until 15th June. Part of the exhibition shows the history of the restoration summarised in 39 photographs. The other part is a the result of a competition in our local schools to produce an art work featuring the windmill, with the winning pictures mounted on display panels and all the other pictures or collages mounted around the church. We are grateful to the parish council for giving us money to pass on as prizes in this competition