



Parish Council Meeting Agenda for Monday, 5th October 2026



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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, 5th October 2026, at 19:30 for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Members are reminded to declare an interest for relevant agenda

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 or 01865 875615.

**Signed: *Allison Leigh*, Locum Clerk to the Parish Council
30th September 2026**

- #91/26-27 Apologies for absence**
- #92/26-27 To co-opt to fill two vacancies**
- #93/26-27 Declarations of interest/Dispensations**
- #94/26-27 To consider [minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 07.09.2026](#)**
- #95/26-27 Public participation & questions (maximum of 30 minutes in total 5 minutes per person)**
- #96/26-27 To receive a report from the County Councillor**
 - i. County Councillor report.
 - ii. Update on Kelham Hall Drive alley blocked pipework
- #97/26-27 To receive a report from the District Councillor**
- #98/26-27 Committees**

i. **To receive minutes/recommendations from the following committee meetings:**

- a. Planning Committee meeting of [09.09.2026](#)
- b. Open Spaces Committee meeting of [21.09.2026](#)

#99/26-27 Membership to the [National Allotment Society](#): To consider a membership at a cost £70/year (+VAT)

#100/26-27 Clerk Report:

- i. Solar Lights at the Memorial Ground
- ii. Saturday surgery update
- iii. Newsletter deadline – 05.11.2026
- iv. Wheatley Artisan Market
- v. Wheatley Christmas Fair – 27.11.2026, 2pm – 8pm
- vi. Church Road Recreation Ground
- vii. Tree survey/works update
- viii. Update on Storage Container planning application
- ix. Update on weeding in the village
- x. SODC Deep Cleanse: 03.11.2026 – 09.11.2026

#101/26-27 Reports from working groups and village organisations: To note any reports received from the following:

- i. Communications Working Group
 - a. To consider a Terms of Reference
- ii. Cadet Hut Working Group
- iii. Community Events Working Group
- iv. Wheatley Pavilion Maintenance Working Group
- v. Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Working Group
- vi. Littleworth Road Field Working Group
- vii. Traffic Working Group: See Attachment 1
- viii. Youth Council Working Group
- ix. Thames Valley Police Working Group
- x. Flood Advisory Working Group
- xi. Sports and Leisure Working Group

#102/26-27 Reports from community groups: To note any reports received from the following:

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

- vii. Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society: There is no update.

#103/26-27 Future proposal papers: To consider that all future proposal papers acknowledge the impact to the Council's 2027 – 2031 Strategic Objectives

#104/26-27 Request for feedback on 20mph schemes - South Oxfordshire

#105/26-27 Items of information without decision

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

#106/26-27 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Monday 2nd November 2026, 19:30, The Merry Bells Hall. **The deadline for agenda items for the meeting is the 21st October.**

#107/26-27 Confidential item: To resolve to remove members of the public from the following agenda item due to its confidential nature

#108/26-27 Confidential item: Drainage quotes for the Pavilion: To consider quotes received

Attachment 1

Traffic working Group Report 29th Sept 2026

OCC is looking for feedback on the 20MPH scheme, and I'd like to provide my view on how we respond.

The 20mph speed limit was introduced in Wheatley almost two years ago and residents were quite vocal about it and, as with any change, some people did not welcome it. However, as time has gone on, I believe that the vast majority of Wheatley residents now support the 20mph speed limit and almost everyone I speak to around the village welcomes it.

We reviewed the 20mph speed limit at the last Traffic Working Group meeting, and it was unanimously supported by the group.

Research by the UK Transport Research Laboratory has shown that every 1mph reduction in average urban speeds can result in a six percent fall in the number of casualties. It's also been shown that you are seven times more likely to survive if you are hit by a car driving at 20mph, than if you are hit at 30mph. If a child suddenly steps in front of a car, you are much less likely to seriously injure or kill them if you keep to a 20mph limit.

Whenever I travel around Wheatley, including along Ladder Hill and London Road, I try to judge the speed of vehicles. My impression is that speeds have reduced significantly. I would estimate that the average speed along London Road is now nearer 25mph, compared with perhaps 35mph previously. There will always be drivers who exceed the limit, but again, I believe the numbers are reducing. This is supported by OCC research that shows speeds in Oxfordshire have reduced by @ 4 mph in built up areas, accompanied by an 18% fall in deaths and serious injury on our roads, Before the 20mph limit was introduced, two surveys were carried out, and on both occasions, residents were more supportive of a 20mph limit than opposed to it. The proposal was subsequently reviewed by the Traffic Working Group before being recommended for implementation and ultimately voted on by the Parish Council. I therefore do not believe that another survey on the 20mph speed limit would serve much useful purpose. My view is that, if another survey were undertaken, the residents who are most directly affected by traffic speeds would be particularly likely to support retaining the 20mph limit. These include residents of Ladder Hill, Littleworth, Westfield Road, Farm Close Road, Old London Road and Park Hill. I think this would also include parents whose children walk from Wheatley Park School into Wheatley and drivers who need to pull out safely from Church Road onto London Road by the King's Arms.

My proposal is that the 20mph speed limit is debated by the Parish Council, considering

the evidence and the experience of the past two years and reach a view on whether the 20mph limit is working. If the consensus of the Parish Council is that the 20mph speed limit is beneficial to the village, then I believe that this should be formally communicated to Oxfordshire County Council and I'd be happy to do that.

Attachment 2



UPDATE FOR WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL 28th September 2026

1. Grassland and Ponds

The grassland is recovering well from the drought though very little rain has meant the pond levels are still extremely low.

2. Trees and hedges

Weeding the hedges is the main focus for winter 2026/7. Likewise, our volunteers are removing tree guards from more mature trees who no longer require protection from deer. The long drought has had an impact on many of the larger, more mature trees on The Howe. We are continuing to monitor these affects and are awaiting Tim O'Connor's advice re remedial work required on Ash and other trees.

3. Grant Applications

Dry conditions delayed the start of work on the new steps and handrail path, but this commenced on 28th September.

4. Benefaction/Gifts

A request for funding was received and approved from a local mother in financial need. A commemorative bench has been installed in Daltons Wildlife Field. We hope to encourage more requests of this nature to help provide more seating for visitors.

5. Outreach, Communications and Information Gathering

The Walkers' Guide is now complete and will be published and posted on the website by end October. The trust has researched the health and environmental risks associated with amateur pesticide and weedkiller usage and has therefore developed proposals for guidelines for volunteers and allotment holders which will be discussed at the next allotment association meeting.

6. Trustees

There remain 2 nominative vacancies.

7. Other

Work is about to start on The 2026 Christmas Hamper Campaign. Remedial work continues on the water troughs across the Howe paddocks and allotments. This work is being carried out as a preventative measure and includes elements such as installing new isolation valves, replace corroded ballcocks, make replacement lids etc. Likewise, the trust is in the process of talking to contractors regarding repairing the surface on the main track going through the allotments to see what the best solution is to address some of the larger potholes and level issues.

Maggie Fyffe, Chair - The Howe Trust: September 28th, 2026

Attachment 3

Wheatley Good Neighbour Scheme **Report for the Parish Council 29.09.26**

WGNS has continued to meet the needs of lonely adults living in Wheatley, Littleworth and Holton.

We have volunteers who visit people in their homes, currently about 10 clients. We transport to the URC Sunday teas, the URC monthly lunch club and the new Bingo club at Wellford Gardens. We have a number of volunteers who regularly help at the Lunch Club serving, clearing and providing cakes.

We also provide one off assistance such as mending a curtain rail, getting shopping and recently 5 volunteers helped Sarah Rudd at the surgery to clear out a flat and fill 2 skips.

We had a very successful AGM in June where volunteers were given the opportunity to feedback to the committee. The consensus was that everything was running smoothly. We discussed getting involved Garsington and Great Milton outings and agreed to promote these to our clients and volunteers.

We have a new dedicated WGNS phone (07983 119925) which is being monitored by committee members.

Our Summer Tea Party, held at Jane Fanning's garden this year, catered for some 35 clients and volunteers and was a very jolly event.

We are currently planning our Christmas party for early in December. We currently have enough funds to cover this but will need to look at funding next year.

Deborah Bale
Chair and Co-ordinator of WGNS

Attachment 4

Maple Tree update

Summary report to Wheatley Parish Council: September 2026

Our autumn programme of sessions continues and we will be open for families (including school age children) during the half term break.

We are extremely sorry to have to report that, during the summer a group of young people broke into the Maple Tree garden and took, and subsequently vandalised, a set of brand new trikes. We had received grant funding to purchase the trikes. We did obtain some CCTV still from Wheatley Nursery showing the perpetrators and we reported the matter to the police. Disappointingly, the police have advised that they did not have enough evidence to pursue the case. It is shocking and upsetting to think that a small number of young people in our village would behave in this way. We are now looking at the cost of installing some kind of surveillance equipment.

We are maintaining our excellent relationship with local health visitors, who are running clinic from our premises.

We still have vacancies for 2 or 3 new trustees on our board and are particularly interested in talking to anyone who is interested in fundraising.

Finance and fundraising

Our annual Family Fete on Friday was a lovely community event. Whilst not a large fundraiser, it was enjoyed by families and we raised over £500.

The Maple Tree – 28 September 2026. If you would like any further information, please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk

Attachment 5

Wheatley Playing Field Trust

Summary of Annual Report

The Wheatley Playing Field Trust Annual Report 2025-2026 highlights a successful year in which the Trust continued to provide and enhance sporting and community facilities at Holton for local residents, sports clubs and Wheatley Park School. Demand for the site remained strong, with over 200 football matches hosted and regular football and rugby training sessions taking place throughout the year. A major highlight was the youth football tournament in May, which attracted around 800 young players from across Oxfordshire and reinforced the site's importance as a centre for grassroots sport.

A significant focus of the year was the maintenance and improvement of the ageing pavilion buildings. Structural surveys identified essential repairs, particularly to the lower pavilion, and a programme of works was developed in partnership with Wheatley Parish Council and Wheatley Park School. Further investment was also directed towards plumbing, heating and drainage improvements to improve reliability, reduce costs and support the long-term sustainability of the facilities.

The Trust continued to manage challenges affecting the playing fields, including periods of extreme wet and dry weather, while maintaining safe and playable pitches. A successful grant from the Football Foundation enabled the purchase of new portable football goals, helping to improve pitch management and playing conditions.

Beyond sport, the facilities were used for community events, training activities and educational purposes, including NHS seminars, Fire Service training and Wheatley Play

Day 2026. Looking ahead, the Trust's priorities include completing pavilion repairs, improving drainage and infrastructure, supporting participation in sport and implementing a long-term strategy to ensure the facilities continue to serve the community for future generations.

Paul Willmott
29th September 2026