Parish Council Meeting
Monday, 7th September 2026, 7.30pm
Minutes

Present: Alison Sercombe (Chair), Toby Newman (Vice Chair), Councillors Richard Barrett, Andrew Cooper, Fay Fox, Paul Gregory, Peter Ramsdale, Lucy Thomas, John Wolstenholme, Richard Street, Paul Wilmott and Ashley Buttress

In attendance: Locum Clerk, Assistant Clerk, County Councillor Tim Bearder, District Councillor Peter Ramsdale. One member of the public was present.

#67/26-27 Apologies for absence: The Council accepted apologies from Councillor Anthony Shepherd.

#68/26-27 To co-opt to fill three vacancies: The Council resolved to co-opt Ashley Buttress as Parish Councillor. Cllr Buttress signed the Declaration of Acceptance form. There is another applicant who was unable to attend and will attend next month's meeting.

#69/26-27 Declarations of interest/Dispensations:

- Cllr Newman – The Merry Bells; Wheatley Park School
- Cllr Thomas - Wheatley Park School
- Cllr Barratt – The Merry Bells
- Cllr Ramsdale – Wheatley Rugby Club; Wheatley Playing Fields Trust
- Cllr Fay Fox – The Merry Bells
- Cllr Wilmott – Wheatley Rugby Club; Wheatley Playing Fields Trust
- Cllr Sercombe -- Wheatley Windmill
- Cllr Buttress – Wheatley Primary School

#70/26-27 The minutes from the Parish Council meeting of 06.07.2026 were agreed and duly signed.

#71/26-27 Public participation & questions (maximum of 30 minutes in total 5 minutes per person): There were no representations.

#72/26-27 County Councillor report: The County Councillor noted that Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) has been put on hold for the time being for further review. It is not currently known what constitutes the review.

The County Council is beginning to look at budget setting for 27/28.

i. The County Councillor sent a further report. See Attachment 1.

ii. Update on Kelham Hall Drive alley blocked pipework: There was no update.

iii. It was as noted on the agenda that there is a delay with the 20mph speed limit works at Old London Road and Holton which are to be completed by September 2026.

#73/26-27 The Council received a report from the District Councillor (See Attachment 2.)

Other comments were:

- The District Councillor is still concerned about blocked drains at Holloway and Church Road. It was noted there is a pile of mud at Old Road/ Keydale Rd from recent rain. He will speak to the Waste Team about road sweeping, following the Asst Clerk's communication.
- Repair to the culvert on High Street is planned. There is budget but there is no date as of yet.

#74/26-27 Committees

i. **The Council received the minutes/recommendations from the following committee meetings:**

. Staffing Committee meetings of 06.07.2026, 05.08.2026, 24.08.2026. It was noted that the Council is now back to full strength with the grounds maintenance team.

. Planning Committee meetings of 08.07.2026 and 12.08.2026

. Open Spaces Committee meeting of 20.07.2026.

. The Council resolved to adopt the Tree Policy agreed by the Open Spaces Committee.

#75/26-27 Scheme of Delegation: The Council noted the following decisions made under the Scheme of Delegation:

i. Upgrade boiler quoted by F Church to a Worcester boiler and fitter with a 10-year warranty: £188 + VAT

ii. Payment to Glow Company for solar lights at the Memorial Ground: £590 + VAT

iii. Payment to South Oxfordshire District Council for the building regulation fees for the structural work at the Pavilion: £363 + VAT.

iv. To proceed with Keely Construction for the structural column repair at the Pavilion: £3945 + VAT. Note: Approximately £1200 was spent by Keely without prior approval. The expenditure was needed, but the Clerk will speak to the contractor about the process.

#76/26-27 Clerk Report:

i. Solar Lights at the Memorial Ground: The solar lights have been installed at the Memorial Ground.

ii. Saturday surgery update: Saturday surgeries are paused and can be revisited should requests be received.

iii. Newsletter deadline -- 10.09.2026
iv. Wheatley Artisan Market – 19.09.2026, 9am – 1pm. The Parish Council will provide refreshments and LT, RS and the Chair will assist.
v. Wheatley Christmas Fair – 27.11.2026, 2pm – 8pm
vi. Councillor Development Day – Sunday, 27.09.2026: 9:30 at Littleworth Field and Merry Bells
vii. Church Road Recreation Ground: There are some issues with the new equipment which are being worked through with the contractor.
viii. Tree survey/works update: Arbor Tree Specialists Ltd is working on tree surveys throughout the village. It was noted that a branch has come down at Farm Close Recreation Ground and the tree may need to be felled. A branch has come down and caused damage to a property at the Memorial Ground. The tree surgeon is looking at the health of the tree and the Council is working to communicate with the resident. The tree surgeon noted that there has been a deterioration of general tree health due to the recent drought weather.
ix. Update on Storage Container planning application: The application is ready and the Locum Clerk is waiting for the District Council to assist with technical support in submission.
x. Update on weeding in the village: Weed spraying has been taking place in the village by a contractor and the grounds team has been carrying out weeding by hand.
xi. SODC Deep Cleanse- 03-09/11/2026: The Assistant Clerk is working to organise a deep cleanse by SODC of areas in need in the village.
xii. Bus shelter – The Assistant Clerk noted that the roof repair at Church Road, King and Queen bus shelter is delayed until 17th September.
xiii. It was noted that the Church is asking grave owners to remove ornaments on graves within St Mary's Churchyard.
xiv. It was noted that the newsletter editor is stepping down and there will be an advert in the next newsletter.
xv. The Locum Clerk has met with the new PCSO who will be holding 'have your say' days on 23.10.2026 from 11:00 – 13:00 and 19.12.2026 from 17:00 – 19:00 outside of the Merry Bells.

#77/26-27 External Audit Report 2025/2026:

i. The Council received the External Audit Report for 2025/2026. The Council noted the following comment:

The council has confirmed that it has not fully met its Financial Regulation in respect of advertising the award of a major contract. Quotes were sought from three contractors in accordance with the Financial Regulations. These were then provided to the council to discuss and award the final contract. We understand that due to not having a qualified clerk at the time, the awarded contract was not placed onto 'contract finder' which is a requirement of the council's Financial Regulations. Therefore, the council should have responded 'no' to Assertion 3.

The Council accepted this comment and noted that at the time there had not been a Clerk in place and will ensure this process is followed in future.

ii. The Council noted the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2025/2026.

#78/26-27 The Council considered following for the 2026/2027 internal audit:

i. The Council resolved to proceed with the appointment of April Skies Accounting to complete the 26-27 internal audit at a cost of £545 + travel.

ii. The Council noted the independence of April Skies Accounting from the Council.

#79/26-27 NJC Pay Award: The Council note the 2026-2027 NJC pay award for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk which will be backdated to 01.04.2026.

#80/26-27 Joint Local Plan 2045 (JLP2) Scoping Consultation: The Council resolved to delegate a response to the Planning Committee. The consultation closes on the 29th September**.**

#81/26-27 Fencing quotes: The Chair resolved to move this to the confidential session.

#82/26-27 Screening of The People's Emergency: The Council resolved for the Chair to speak to Sustainable Wheatley about a screening in the village. The Council believes this is important for residents but is more appropriate for a village organisation to host**.**

#83/26-27 Local Government Reorganisation: See minute reference #72/26-27.

#84/26-27 Reports from working groups and village organisations: The Council noted the following:

i. Communications Working Group: None
ii. Cade Hut Working Group: See minute reference #89/26-27
iii. Community Events Working Group: The Chair noted Assistant Clerk is doing a great job in planning Council events.
iv. Wheatley Pavilion Maintenance Working Group: It was reported that structural and plumbing works have been carried out. Some further plumbing works will be carried out at the upper Pavilion.
v. Wheatley Neighbourhood Plan Working Group: A meeting needs to be scheduled.
vi. Littleworth Rd Field Working Group: The Group is meeting on the 16th September.
vii. Traffic Working Group. See Attachment 3.
    a. Cllr Ramsdale noted that there is interest in organising a speedwatch group and the Traffic Working Group is looking for a volunteer to run it.

b. They are investigating a mobile speed sign. They are discussing traffic issues on Church Road and will be asking and Oxfordshire County Council officer to come up with some ideas.

viii. Youth Council Working Group: There is not a formal group as of yet.

ix. Thames Valley Police Working Group: The Group had a productive meeting with Thames Valley Policy Working Group.

x. Flood Advisory Working Group: Discussions on flooding issues are in progress

xi. Sports and Leisure Working Group: The Group noted that more response is needed on the Sports and Leisure Survey. This will be re-launched. The Chair will speak to Holton Parish Council about engagement with the Sports and Leisure Working Group.

#85/26-27 **Reports from community groups:** The Council noted the following:

i. Howe Trust (Wheatley): See Attachment 4.

ii. Good Neighbourhood Scheme: There is no report.

iii. Maple Tree: See Attachment 5.

iv. The Merry Bells: There is a new lock on front door which now requires a code for access.

v. Wheatley Playing Field Trust (WPFT): See Attachment 6.

a. The Council nominated Cllr Willmott as the 3rd Parish Council trustee to the WPFT.

vi. Wheatley Charities: There is no report.

vii. Wheatley Windmill Preservation Society: There is an open day on Sunday the 13th September. They are investigating the possibility of a tea shack.

#86/26-27 **Items of information without decision**

a. **Correspondence:** The Council noted the correspondence since the previous meeting.

#87/26-27 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 5th October 2026, 19:30, The Merry Bells Hall. **The deadline for agenda items for the meeting is the 23rd September.**

#88/26-27 **Confidential items:** The Council resolved to exclude members of the public from the following agenda items due to their confidential nature.

#89/26-27 **Cadet Hut:** The Chair noted that Oxfordshire County Council is amenable to WPC purchasing the Cadet Hut. The Council resolved to investigate the purchase. The Council noted that the survey results showed that the most popular option for the Cadet Hut was that of a venue for youth provision

#90/26-27 Littleworth Rd Field: The Council resolved to sign the lease.

#81/26-27 Fencing quotes: The Council resolved to proceed with Richard Taylor Landscapes at a quote of £12,500. It was noted that the quote may need slight adjustments now an OS map has been provided.

The meeting closed at 21:23.

Attachments: Note: All attachments created by the authors and not the Parish Council.

Attachment 1

Councillor Update to Parish Councils

August 2026

Let to right Freddie van Mierlo MP, Cllr Peter Ramsdale, District Councillor for Wheatley and Cllr Tim Bearder, District Councillor for Forest Hill and Holton and County Councillor for the Wheatley Division

Dear Clerks, Chairs and Councillors,



Please find below a summary of recent updates from our Councils and partners.

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2. Pond Progress
3. Stanton St John Quiet Way: Progress Update
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5. Planning Decisions: Briefing for Town and Parish Councils
6. Joint Local Plan 1: Examination Update
7. Joint Local Plan 2045: September Scoping Consultation
8. £270,000 Councillor Community Grant Fund Opens

9. Performing Arts Grant Fund
10. New Online Council Map
11. Temporary Restrictions on Fridge and Freezer Disposal
12. August Bank Holiday Bin Collections
13. Support for Local Businesses
14. The Big Conversation on Care
15. Free Electric Blanket Safety Testing
16. Untaxed Vehicle Pilot Seizes First Vehicle

1. Resident Surgeries in Forest Hill and Stanton St John

It was really good to join our local MP Freddie van Mierlo MP for resident surgeries in two of his most northerly villages. Fair to say we came away with plenty of casework to get through, covering a range of local and individual issues.

Nothing really beats face-to-face contact and constructive conversations with the people we represent. Thank you to everyone who came along to both of the fully booked sessions, raised an issue or simply stopped for a chat. We will be following up the cases raised with the relevant councils and organisations.

You can see how the rest of his Summer Tour went and perhaps spot your village from the air in his short social media video about the events: https://www.face-book.com/reel/1617056906815707

2. Pond progress



Work to create some flood alleviation ponds in Wheatley continues at the time of writing the parish have the lease for the Primary school playing field ready to sign, the county council are about to transfer £100,000 grant to the project, the District Council and Environment Agency have agreed their contribution in principle creating a pot of nearly £800,000. The Shotover Estate have broadly welcomed the plans which have been modified following some concerns from the parish. Detailed plans are now been drawn up. The best case scenario now is spades in the ground spring next year once planning has been secured which obviously leaves us with a slightly worrying El Niño-enhanced winter to get through before we can enjoy some fully enhanced protection.

3. Shepherd's Pit Quiet Way: Progress Update

Officers have finalised the design and the ETRO is made being. M-Group have come back and, having spoken to the depot regarding delivery timelines and such, the earliest they can get out is w/c 21st Sept. We did push for it to be earlier so the scheme could be tested over the summer but with the lead-in times for making the signs, the gates etc. this is the best they can do. The speed limit reduction is going to CMD on Thursday 3rd Sep so that should be in soon too.

3. Islip Bridge

Residents and motorists are being made aware of a 10-week roadworks project, including a bridge closure, in Islip later next month to improve the long-term traffic situation in the area.

From 21 September, Oxfordshire County Council will be carrying out traffic signal installation and improvement work to Islip Bridge to keep it safe, improve pedestrian access and reduce unsuitable through-traffic in the village.

4. Local Government Reorganisation: Government Decision

The Government has now announced its preferred structure for local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. This is a major change for local government and will ultimately replace the existing district and county council structure with new unitary authorities responsible for the full range of local services. For us here in the south, **the decision is to create a Greater Oxford Council, a Ridgeway council, which will include most of South Oxfordshire, the Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire and A North Oxfordshire council.**

My entire county division will be in Greater Oxford with the exception of Tiddington Albury and Milton Common which will be in the Ridgeway. This decision is completely bonkers and will increase our council tax, the cost of council activity, create extra complexity and reduce financial resilience - exactly the opposite of the stated aims of LGR! It was very clearly done to maximise the potential for housebuilding in the City's Green Belt which is contiguous with the new authority boundaries. Worse still the Government plan to bring in a "centrally controlled" Development Corporation that will remove planning powers from local people and accelerate this house building. As you can imagine I have serious concerns.

5. Planning Decisions: Briefing for Town and Parish Councils

Major national changes to the way planning applications are decided are due to come into force on 31 October 2026 through the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions. These changes will mean more applications are determined by planning officers and will significantly reduce the circumstances in which ward councillors or Town and Parish Councils can secure consideration by Planning Committee.

To help local councils prepare, South Oxfordshire is holding an online briefing for Town and Parish Councils on **Thursday 10 September, from 5.30pm to 7.30pm**. I would strongly encourage parish representatives to attend. If you cannot join live, the session will be recorded and shared afterwards. To register, email planning.admin@southandvale.gov.uk .

6. Joint Local Plan 1: Examination Update

The first Joint Local Plan continues through its independent examination. Three days of hearings took place in July, covering issues including the plan period, settlement hierarchy, cross-boundary infrastructure and how South Oxfordshire and Vale will monitor and deliver the housing needed by Oxford.

Importantly, the councils' current evidence is that there is already sufficient housing supply in the plan to meet identified needs, so the possible changes to the plan period being considered do not in themselves create a need to identify additional development sites. Further examination work will continue before the Inspectors provide their conclusions.

7. Joint Local Plan 2045: September Scoping Consultation

At the same time, Government regulations require us to begin preparing the next Joint Local Plan, known as JLP2. The first stage is a Scoping Consultation running from Tuesday 8 September to Tuesday 29 September 2026. This consultation is not about choosing development sites or commenting on detailed policies; it is an early opportunity to say what issues the new plan should address and how communities should be involved as it develops.

With more planning decisions expected to be delegated to officers in future, getting involved at the policy-making stage will become increasingly important. I would therefore encourage Town and Parish Councils and residents to engage early, particularly on the issues that will shape the character, infrastructure and sustainability of future development.

You might ask why South and the Vale are starting work on a local plan when the current one is still going through inspection and the new one will be instantly out of date when the new authorities take over in 2028. The answer is that Government is forcing us to.

8. £270,000 Councillor Community Grant Fund Opens

The latest round of South Oxfordshire's Councillor Community Grant is now open, with £270,000 available across the district to support projects that benefit residents and help create healthy, thriving communities. This is a useful opportunity for local voluntary and community organisations to secure funding for practical projects in their area.

The deadline for applications is midday on 4 December. If you know of a local organisation or project that could benefit, please encourage them to look at the criteria and apply. I am also happy to hear from groups in the ward that are considering an application.

Read more: South Oxfordshire grants

9. Performing Arts Grant Fund

South Oxfordshire District Council's Performing Arts Grant Fund is open, with £60,000 available to support local theatre, music and dance projects. Community and voluntary organisations, Town and Parish Councils and other eligible not-for-profit groups can apply for grants of between £500 and £5,000, with applications open until midday on Wednesday 30 September.

The fund can support new or expanded performing arts activities, workshops, performances and partnership projects. The aim is to help more residents take part in the arts, develop local

talent and reach people who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities. If you know a local group with an idea, please encourage them to take a look at the scheme.

Read more: Performing Arts Grant Fund

10. New Online Council Map

South Oxfordshire's new interactive public mapping system is now live. Residents can use it to search a wide range of publicly available information in one place, including planning applications, Tree Preservation Orders, land owned by the council and other geographic information.

This should make it much easier for residents and parish councils to understand what applies to a particular site or area without having to search across several different systems.

Read more: South Oxfordshire Council website

11. Temporary Restrictions on Fridge and Freezer Disposal

Temporary restrictions have been introduced for disposing of fridges and freezers at Oxfordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres and it is probably all collects may have to stop. This is not an Oxfordshire-specific problem: three specialist UK processing facilities have closed over the last year, reducing national capacity by around a third. Some councils have stopped accepting these appliances altogether, and Oxfordshire is introducing limits to try to keep a service available but will probably have to follow other councils and stop entirely.

The County Council has asked Government to intervene to increase national processing capacity, and the restrictions will be reviewed as capacity improves.

12. August Bank Holiday Bin Collections

Residents are reminded that waste and recycling collections will run one day later than usual following the August Bank Holiday, from 31 August to 5 September. Please check your collection date and make sure bins are presented in time.

13. Support for Local Businesses

South Oxfordshire's Economic Development team provides free information and support to local businesses, including regular updates on funding, skills programmes, networking opportunities and other business support. The team's free fortnightly Business Support Newsletter is a useful way for local businesses to keep up with opportunities available across the district.

If you run a business locally, or know someone who does, I would encourage you to make use of the service and sign up for the updates.

Business Support newsletter

14. The Big Conversation on Care

The Government has launched a national conversation about the future of adult social care and the proposed National Care Service. Residents are being invited to share their views on issues including who should receive support, how care should be funded, the role of families and unpaid carers, and what a better care system should look like.

The consultation will continue into 2027 and is an opportunity for people with direct experience of care, either personally or through supporting a family member, to help shape future national policy.

15. Free Electric Blanket Safety Testing

Oxfordshire residents can access free electric blanket safety testing this autumn. Electric blankets can develop faults that are not always visible, so the checks are particularly useful for older blankets or those that have been stored for long periods.

Local sessions include **Didcot on 5 October**, with a Thame date also expected to be confirmed. Places need to be booked in advance, so residents who use electric blankets are encouraged to take advantage of the free service.

16. Untaxed Vehicle Pilot Seizes First Vehicle

Great news, we are now live with our untaxed vehicle pilot in South Oxfordshire. The policy to take these powers from the DVLA to provide additional support to the local community where these problems persist was introduced by Cllr Tim Bearder and supported by Cllr Ramsdale.

The first vehicle was removed at the end of August morning from Collett in Didcot. Collett is one of our hot spot areas for abandoned, untaxed and all round problem areas for parking,



waste crime and anti-social behaviour.

This will be a great addition to our tool kit in Envirocrime and we will be looking at areas in our villages where we can make use of the powers.

Attachment 2

District Councillor Update
Peter Ramsdale
September 2026

Flood Alleviation.

SODC is now in the final stages of discussions with the Environment Agency regarding the business case. A number of minor concerns raised by the Environment Agency have been addressed, and SODC is now awaiting final sign-off.

SODC has also had a positive meeting with the Shotover Estate. The Estate is happy for SODC to prepare the Heads of Terms and pass these to the respective solicitors so that the legal and contractual arrangements can progress.

SODC will share revised plans and drawings with Wheatley Parish Council. These proposals reduce the footprint of the attenuation pond on Littleworth Field. The new design incorporates a two-stage basin and, while maintaining the same gradient, reduces the overall footprint by approximately 5–10 metres horizontally. There may also be an opportunity to incorporate a pedestrian/jogging path around the edge of the pond. This will be discussed at the next Open Spaces Committee meeting.

As part of the scheme, SODC will need to provide approximately 10% biodiversity net gain in relation to trees that need to be felled. The current drawings therefore show indicative locations for replacement trees. The final locations will be agreed with the Parish Council, with particular consideration being given to planting around the play area to provide additional shade.
Alison has asked that the design considers incorporating a cycle/pump track. This could potentially be constructed using spoil generated from the excavation of the site, including material from the amphitheatre pond area.

The current timetable is for work on site to commence in **March/April 2027**.

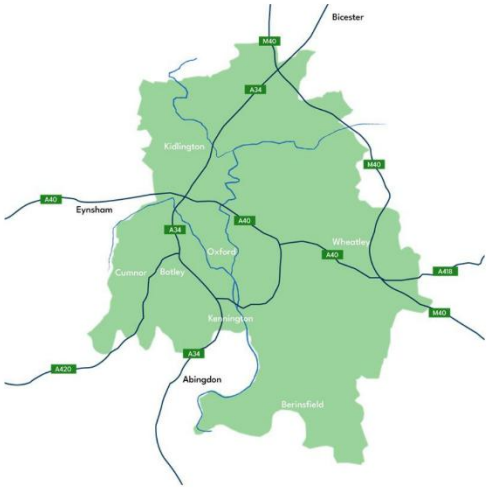
Littleworth Business Park

The Parish Council is now holding regular multi-agency meetings involving Oxfordshire County Council Highways, Trading Standards, South Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Health and Planning teams, and Thames Valley Police.

This coordinated approach is already producing positive results. In particular, the paint spray shop that had been causing significant nuisance to local residents has now been shut down. SODC now has powers to take action against untaxed vehicles. The first notices have been issued on vehicles in Littleworth, which has already resulted in a long-term parked untaxed vehicle being removed. This should help to alleviate some of the parking pressure in Littleworth. The multi-agency group is continuing to consider further actions to address the issues raised by residents.

Local Government Reorganisation: Government Decision

The Government has now announced its preferred structure for local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. This is a major change for local government and will ultimately replace the existing district and county council structure with new unitary authorities responsible for the full range of local services. For us here in Wheatley, the decision is to create a Greater Oxford Council, which will include Oxford City and villages and towns in, or near the existing green belt.



We believe that the decision, made by central government, is driven by plans to greatly expand Oxford including building over 45,000 new houses and expanding research and commercial facilities.

Greater Oxford is likely to have around 75 councillors compared to Oxford City's existing 48 and elections for the new authority will take place next May, with it coming into operation the following year.

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Business Support newsletter

Attachment 3

Wheatley Parish Council - Traffic Working Group

Subject	Attendees	Date
Meeting of the Traffic Working Group	Peter Ramsdale, Chair, Traffic Working Group and Wheatley Parish Council Paul Willmott, Wheatley Parish Council Alan Pope, Wheatley Resident, The Sidings Jack Siviour, Wheatley Resident, High Street Louella Sharky, Wheatley Resident, Mulberry Drive Richard Barrett, Wheatley Parish Council Tim Bearder, County Councillor Val Churchill, Park Hill	20/08/2026
Location	Merry Bells	

Item	Minutes/Actions	Action Owner

Speed Watch	Five residents and councillors have volunteered to be involved in Speed Watch. We need to find a group coordinator to lead the initiative. A volunteer would be most welcome! PR has spoken to TVP and the next step is for volunteers to register online. TB said that Eynsham have set up a successful scheme and he suggested a visit. **TB to send PR details**.	**TB**
Parking Update	**Enforcement** TB explained that the tender for the new Parking Enforcement company has been delayed. The new company is now unlikely to take over until the end of 2026. The existing company is visiting Wheatley at times and enforcement effort is focused on the High Street. PR reminded the group that residents can report illegally or irresponsibility parked cars to OCC and TVP. **PR also asked that the group emails him with evidence of illegal parking and he will forward it to our Community Policiy Team.** The Community Policing Team is coming to Wheatley to meet residents on the 19th **December** and 23rd October from 5 pm to 7 pm. **PR encouraged the group to meet them to express concerns about parking.** SODC now have powers to remove untaxed cars from the public highway. These can be reported at: https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/neighbourhood-services/abandoned-vehicles/ **High Street Parking** The group discussed increasing concerns regarding parking on the High Street, particularly outside the shops, where residents are experiencing difficulty finding spaces when visiting local businesses. It was suggested that intermittent enforcement may be contributing to vehicles remaining in these spaces for extended periods. PR noted that the Merry Bells car park and the SODC (King and Queen) car park are often underused during quieter periods and in the evenings. While it is recognised that the Merry Bells car park is primarily for people visiting the Merry Bells and library it was agreed that visitors to the High Street should be encouraged to use this car parks, when visiting the Merry Bells, parking for longer periods and overnight. It was agreed that this message would be promoted through the village Facebook pages and the Wheatley newsletter. **Action PR** **Other Parking Issues**	**All** **All** **PR**

Park Hill.

Since the closure of the A40 laybys going into Oxford, there has been incidents of overnight parking by lorries and even a camper vans on Park Hill. This is causing significant inconvenience to residents and increasing the risk of accidents, particularly for vehicles travelling up Park Hill.

The possibility of introducing yellow-line restrictions on the right-hand side of Park Hill when travelling towards Oxford was discussed. It was agreed that this would be added to the requested parking restrictions register for future consideration**.**

Mullbery Drive

There are still incidents of people parking across driveways. Vehicles are parking on both sides of the road at the bottom of Mullbery Drive resulting in limited space for vehicles, including emergency services, to get up the road. PR suggested residents contact 101 and speak to the police if parking is impeding emergency vehicle access.

Littleworth

Traffic problems in Littleworth continue, particularly congestion through the village, which frequently causes delays to the number 46 bus. Tim Bearder is working with OCC officers to investigate potential solutions to improve the situation.

There is also significant amount of on-street parking generated by garage businesses on Littleworth Business Park. As noted above, the introduction of the new vehicle removal scheme for untaxed vehicles is expected to help alleviate this problem.

Parking outside the CoOp

There are ongoing problems with vehicles parking on the zigzag markings outside the Co-op. It was noted that drivers could potentially receive three penalty points for this offence; however, the markings are now badly worn, which may make enforcement or prosecution difficult.

Vehicles are also regularly being parked at the entrance to Farm Close Road, close to the priority access traffic signs, and are obstructing the pavement. This is causing significant difficulties for vehicles entering Farm Close Road and the obstruction of the pavement is also dangerous for pedestrians.

Incidents of this nature should be reported to the police via 101. However, it was recognised that, as vehicles are generally parked for relatively short periods, it may be difficult for the police to attend in time to take enforcement action.

The issue of irresponsible and illegal parking should be highlighted again through the village Facebook pages and weekly newsletter.
Action: PR

	Funding For Additional Parking Schemes At the moment the County Council does not have funds for these. Councillors are continually seeking funding for more schemes.	**PR**
20 MPH Limit	PR reported that the new vehicle-activated speed signs have now been installed and have been well received by residents. The 20 mph speed limit has been in place for over 12 months and is generally considered to have contributed to a reduction in vehicle speeds around the village. At the previous Traffic Working Group meeting, the location of the vehicle-activated signs was discussed, and it was suggested that a mobile speed sign could be useful to enable signs to be deployed at locations where speeding remains a concern, such as London Road. **PR to discuss the possibility of purchasing a mobile speed sign with the full Parish Council.** The 20mph speed limit works at Old London Road and Holton to Wheatley – these are both with the contractor and hopefully should be complete by the end of September.	**PR**
HGVs	HGVs travelling through the village, despite the 7.5-tonne weight restriction, is still a problem. TB reported that number plate recognition cameras (ANPR) are planning to been installed in Watlington to identify vehicles breaching the weight restriction. It was suggested that a similar system could potentially be considered for Wheatley and may be partly self-funding through fines imposed on offenders. **PR to discuss with TB** **NB** Following the Traffic Working Group meeting, PR witnessed a large five-axle articulated lorry becoming stranded at the bottom of Ladder Hill/Station Road. The vehicle was unable to proceed either up the High Street or past the Sun, and Holloway Road had to be closed while the lorry was redirected. This was the second such incident PR has encountered in the last month. Although a 7.5-tonne restriction is in place, the relevant signage starts in Cowley and drivers may be unaware it applies to Wheatley, when approaching from Ladder Hill. PR suggests that a warning sign should be installed at the Cuddesden turning, advising large HGVs that they cannot drive through the village and should turn around. Action: **TB/PR to discuss additional HGV warning signage.**	**PR and TB** **PR and TB**
Restoration of Road Markings	PR noted that a number of white road markings around Wheatley have become badly worn. Examples are the traffic priority markings on the High Street, which are becoming increasingly difficult to see and the zig-zag lines outside the Co-Op.. The group was asked to identify other locations where worn road markings should be refreshed, particularly where this would improve traffic management or pedestrian safety around the village.	**ALL**

	Action: All – Provide PR with details of locations where road markings would benefit from being refreshed.	
Sign Posts	Alan Pope felt that the existing signposts on Holloway and at the top of London Road are potentially confusing and would benefit from being reviewed and reconfigured to provide clearer information for drivers. Alan agreed to send photos and a more detailed explanation to PR to enable the matter to be considered further. PR said he'd make another request to SODC to have the signs to their Car Park replaced.	**Alan Pope** **PR**
Items for discussion	TB discussed the possibility of introducing a bus gate on Church Road, making the road access only from Friday Lane to Holloway, except to buses and authorised vehicles. This could significantly reduce congestion and improve pedestrian safety while allowing the existing bus services to continue operating. PR agreed to discuss the proposal with the Parish Council and seek its agreement to investigate the feasibility of the scheme further. **Action: Peter Ramsdale**.	**PR**
	Any other business: None	

	Traffic Improvement Register	
Item	**Description**	**Status**
New Parking Scheme	**Park Hill** Completion of yellow lines. **Church Road** Review of parking spaces and white lines by St Marys Church. **Parking Bays Outside Shops** Changes being proposed to OCC	**Completed** **Completed** **Completed**
Park Hill	Repaint white lines and arrows and implement two-way sign.	**Completed**
Park Hill	Parking restrictions on both sides of the road.	
Fairfax Gate	Further parking restrictions	
Kings Arms	Parking restrictions on pavement by junction	
Mullbery Drive	Yellow lines at the Crown Square end of the road.	
Ambrose Rise	Parking restrictions at junction and on corner	
Littleworth	Parking restrictions to relieve congestion.	
Church Road	Make the road access only with a bus lane camera	
Old London Road	Make the road towards Wheatley access only with a bus lane camera	
Bell Lane	Change direction of flow of traffic	
Holloway/London Road	Improve signposts.	

Attachment 4

HOWE TRUST & ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

UPDATE FOR WHEATLEY PARISH COUNCIL
24th August 2026

1. **Grassland and Ponds**

The ponds have low water levels due to the drought but two still have some water which is extremely valuable for local wildlife. Ducks and Herons are regular visitors as well as badgers, foxes and both roe deer and muntjac.
Ivan and Jacqueline Wright of Shotover Wildlife are leading an insect and grass survey project which our volunteers are carrying out together with the help of their team. The survey aims to establish what species exist currently on The Howe and compare them to what was found in the ecological survey of 2010. We will then continue to use this data to track the effectiveness of our land management for biodiversity gain work going forwards.

2. **Trees and hedges**

Weeding (removing sticky willy and bindweed) continues in the newly laid Windmill Lane hedges. 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 have asked Tim O'Connor to carry out a special tree safety inspection asap, (also including our ash trees) and remedial work will be carried out should the need arise.

3. **Grant Applications**

Work on the new steps and handrail path is expected to be completed by the end September.

4. **Benefaction/Gifts**

A further, 2nd request for funding was received from the local NHS social prescriber and £350 agreed to support the additional villager in need.
It was agreed that a villager who has approached the trust wishing to install a commemorative bench in Daltons Wildlife Field can do so. We hope to encourage more requests of this nature to help provide more seating for visitors.

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

The next guided walk is in September.
Work on our digital Walkers' Guide to the Howe is now at final draft stage with interviews complete and photographs taken. Some amends to our Howe Trust map illustrations are being commissioned and Gaz Combes has agreed to write an introduction.

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.
The trust has recently filled a young volunteer position for social media, which is aimed at building our Facebook and Instagram presence. It is hoped that this will not only help reduce the workload of the trustees but will also give support to local young people who need to boost their CV with work experience.

6. **Trustees**

There remain 2 nominative vacancies.

7. **Other**

Basic seating continues to be made using waste pallets to enable volunteers to rest during sessions.
Additional resting benches will be made from hardwood throughout the autumn and placed around the Howe for visitors' use.
An audit on the water troughs across the Howe paddocks and allotments is about to be started, as a preventative measure. Any resultant remedial work will be carried out by a paid contractor and is likely to include elements such as install of new isolation valves, replace corroded ballcocks, make replacement wooden lids etc.
Likewise, the trust is about to carry out a review of 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: August 24th, 2026

Attachment 5

The Maple Tree

Summary report to Wheatley Parish Council: August 2026

Maple Tree update

- During the school summer holidays we have run a full programme of activities, which has included some outreach visits to neighbouring villages. All have been well-attended. We are also running our popular "Ready for School" sessions, aimed at 4 year olds who are about to start primary school.

Finance and fundraising

- We have finalised our Annual Report and Accounts for 2025-26, and exceeded our budget target for the year by just over £2,000. Our expenditure for the year was £92,181. Over 93% of this was spent directly on delivering services to local families, with the remaining amount on income generation activities. Over 40% of our income was generated through grants from OCC, SODC, Parish Councils and other organisations. Please contact us by email if you would like to receive a copy of the report.

- We will be holding our annual Family Fete on Friday 25th September and then looking ahead to fundraising in the lead up to the Christmas period, which will include a stall at the village fair and a Christmas tree sale.

Attachment 6

Wheatley Playing Field Trust

As a result of the lack of rain for many weeks now, coupled with very high temperatures, all pitches are unplayable. Users have been informed of this and the remarking of pitches and erection of posts will not be done until the field is fit to play on again. Owing to the weather conditions, the RFU has postponed the start of the season until September 21st.

As reported previously, repairs to the wooden framework of the lower pavilion are being carried out during Wheatley Park School's summer break. At the same time, significant plumbing work is being completed. These works will help prolong the life of the pavilions.

Drainage work has also to be carried out, particularly around the lower pavilion which sits in the lowest part of the playing field. The changing rooms will remain accessible and so it can be conducted during term time. To accommodate this, the training grids and football pitches will have to be moved.

The Trust is delighted to have been awarded a grant from the Football Foundation towards the purchase of new, full size portable goals. These goals are easily moved on wheels allowing realignment of the main football pitch. This will result in less wear and tear of the pitch, especially the goalmouths.

Paul Willmott
Chairman, Wheatley Playing Field Trust