

Paper to be approved.
Meeting of the Longcot Parish Council
on Thursday 3 April 2025 7pm
held in St Mary's Church Hall, Longcot

In attendance.

Council members.

Andi Cunningham, Chair, Neil Campbell, Alan Rich, and Tina Brock, Clerk.

District Councillor. DC Katherine Foxhall

Visitors. One resident.

42/25 Apologies for Absence.

John Barneby (prior commitment) and Amy Cooper (prior commitment). These apologies were noted.

43/25 Variance of business. None.

44/25 Declarations of interests. None.

45/25 Minutes of the Parish Council held on Thursday 27 February 2025.

Council resolved to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chair.

46/25 Public Participation. None.

REPORTS

47/25 County Councillors report. None.

48/25 District Councillors report.

DC Foxhall and Patel.

Ward Overview

Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee

Kat attended the most recent FATAC meeting on Monday 24 March. Potholes on the A420 around Acorn Bridge were discussed again, and I asked that OCC investigate drainage of the puddle on the eastbound lane of the A420 in the dip between the B4508 Highworth Road junction and the new Cross Trees roundabout.

In addition, the meeting discussed a request from a member of the public to consider reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph on the section of Faringdon Rd between Shrevenham and Watchfield past the golf club. It was advised that such a request would be looked at more favourably with support from the relevant parish councils.

Tuckmill Meadows

We are continuing to support the volunteers at Tuckmill to liaise with officers and help ensure that the S106 grant money can be allocated in the most cost-effective and timely way possible. We're really pleased to hear that the livestock fencing is to be installed imminently!

Wicklesham Quarry Planning Application

Viral has continued to consider new information coming into OCC regarding the planning application for Wicklesham Quarry. We now expect the application to be considered by the County Council planning committee on 16 June 2025 and Viral is planning to attend to speak on behalf of our ward:

Council News Local Government Reform

The proposal from Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire for a new Ridgeway unitary council has been well publicised through council communications. The county council has submitted the outline proposal for the Ridgeway Council and North Oxfordshire Council to the government, alongside two other options being developed in Oxfordshire, which include a single Oxfordshire unitary council. More information is available here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-districtcouncil/introducing-ridgeway-council-part-of-a-two-unitary-council-option-for-oxfordshire-and-westberkshire/>

Kat spoke to Cabinet to ask again that our council leaders make sure that our health services which draw largely from Swindon are taken into account during local government reform. With thanks to Dr Campbell at Elm Tree for sharing his thoughts and expertise on this matter. We welcome all comments from residents and parish councils on these proposals.

Garden Waste Bin Permit Scheme

The new garden waste permit scheme is now live, and customers should have received a sticker permit for their bins to identify them as fully paid-up garden waste customers. We

have heard that this rollout has been working well, full information here:

www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/gardenwaste

Local Elections on 1 May

County council elections will be held throughout Oxfordshire on May 1. One change relevant to this ward is that Little Coxwell will now be included in the Shrivenham Division, rather than Faringdon. The final bill that went to parliament and the updated boundary map is here:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/allreviews/oxfordshire>

Information about how to register to vote, or apply for a postal vote is here:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/local-democracy-andelections/elections-and-voting/current-and-upcoming-elections/county-council-election-thursday-1-may2025/>

Funds

Connected Communities Fund

As we reported last month, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action have launched a fund to support local grassroots projects that create opportunities for older people and adults with additional needs and promote socialising and building meaningful connections in the community. Up to £5,000 per project is available, with applications being accepted until the funds are all allocated. For full eligibility criteria and how to apply:

<https://ocva.org.uk/connected-communities-fund/>

Climate Action Fund

The next round of the Vale of White Horse District Council's Climate Action Fund will open to applications in May this year.

Local 'not for profit' organisations and town/parish councils can apply for a share of the £100,000 Fund, with up to £10,000 on offer for individual projects (minimum request of £250). The funding is aimed at community projects that help to address climate change and nature recovery, alongside increasing awareness and knowledge of the importance of climate action and inspiring others to get involved.

The fund has previously supported projects such as the installation of public electric vehicle charging points and solar panels, as well as a sustainable eating course. It has also funded professional ecological advice to create a community woodland and a boardwalk at a nature site to allow visitors access without damaging important habitats. To inspire you, please see the attached leaflet with details of some of the brilliant projects we have supported.

Full details of the Climate Action Fund and how to apply are available on the Climate Action Fund page on our website. Please also review our Climate Action Fund application guidance.

Other News

New ash dieback advice for local authorities The Tree Council has published a second edition of its Action Plan Toolkit for Local Authorities which may be of help to parish councils. New case studies include the development of communications strategies, dealing with waste timber, as well as the impacts of ash along highways and in Sites of Special Scientific Interest. More information here: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/new-ash-dieback-guidance-for-local-authoritieslaunched/>

49/25 Chairs report.

The Topographical survey of the railway bridge had been completed and shared with VWHDC and Oxfordshire County Council.

COUNCIL

50/25 Biodiversity Policy

Council resolved to approve the policy.

FINANCE

51/25 Financial Regulations 2025.

Council resolved to approve the amended regulations.

52/25 MRH Services.

Council resolved to approve the increase in play equipment service inspections to £55.50 per quarter an increase of £5.50.

53/25 Payments of Accounts.

Table 1 List of receipts received.

Statutory Power	Receipts received	Description	Total
LGA 1982 s150	VWHDC	1 st half of precept	£4,000.00

Council resolved to authorise the payments. Neil Campbell and Alan Rich signed the invoices as proof of authorisation.

Table 2 List of expenditure.

Statutory Power	Payments due:	Description	Total
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile phone Feb	£18.00
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	Allotment water	£9.57
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile phone Mar	£18.00
EP291 LGA 1972 s111	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 package	£84.99
EP292 Open Spaces 1906	Brunel Surveys Ltd	Topographical survey of railway bridge – funded by grant	£1,202.00
BACS LGA1972 s111	Lloyds Bank	Bank charges	£6.47
EP293 LGA 1972 s142	Abbey Hill Studios	Website maintenance	£262.00
EP294 LGA 1972 S112	Inland Revenue	TAX Jan-Mar	£200.00
EP295 LGA 1972 S112	T Brock	Mar salary	£266.60
EP296 LGA 1972 s134	Longcot Churchwardens	Room hire	£17.00
EP297 LGA 1972 S111	The Net Result	Payroll and end of year	£118.00

Bank balances as of 28 March 2025:

Current account £4,651.66.

Deposit account £13,070.25

DC Foxall left the meeting.

PLANNING

54/25 Submitted planning application(s). Noted.

Table 3 List of submitted planning applications.

Ref.	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P24/V2670/HH	1 Priory Mead, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7TJ <i>Single storey rear extension and new ground floor side facing window. (As clarified by a revised drainage strategy rec'd 20/3/2025.)</i> Supports.

HIGHWAYS

55/25 Update on any matters. None

PLAY AREA & TRACK

56/25 Mower Maintenance.

The mower has been serviced.

57/25 Play area.

Nothing to report.

58/25 Track.

Nothing to report.

59/25 Update on other current matters. None

ALLOTMENTS

60/25 Update on any matters. None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

61/25 Next meeting of the Parish Council.

TBC

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed.....Date.....2025