



Changes at the Household Waste Recycling Centre (the Tip)

Oxfordshire County Council have changed the way we can use the Tip from 14th January. 2026. The principal changes are:

- Before going to the tip, you will need to book in.
- People can book 30 minutes before their visit (subject to availability) or up to two weeks in advance.
- When going to the tip, you need to take proof of address with you. This is intended to help charge people who do not live in Oxfordshire to use the Tip.
- Full details are at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/book-recycling-centre-visit>.

Your Parish Council were not consulted on this onerous change.

Calling all local village tradespeople

We are keen as a Parish Council to get as much done in the village by local people as is practicable. Our Parish Clerk is always keen to add names to a list of people we can call on to undertake tasks for the Parish Council. These range from electrical work, hedge cutting, strimming, playground repairs, fencing etc. We will pay reasonable rates. If you have an interest, please do register with our clerk (details below)

Tree Planting at the Community Woodland & on Church Green

Once again, many thanks to Jude Bond and her amazing team of helpers who have now planted circa 600 tree whips in the Community Orchard to create a new hedge adjacent to the A417. If you are able to help with future planting or with the maintenance of our Community Woodland and Orchard please do contact Jude Bond jude.bond444@icloud.com.

The Parish Council would also like to gratefully thank Wild Oxfordshire (www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk) for generously donating the trees, stakes and guards. The Parish Council also thank the William-Cuss family for donating a new tree which has been planted on Church Green to replace the diseased tree that had to be cut down.

Parking on Highway Verges and Village Greens

Please can we make another plea that everyone avoids parking on all grass highway verges and particularly the Village Greens. As we move into late winter and spring we can all see the damage caused by vehicle ruts. Please park considerately. If accessing your own property to park, a dropped kerb application should be made to the County Council to provide safe access.

Village Wayfinder Trail

We have recently submitted a planning application in relation to the siting of the stones that will form our Wayfinder Trail. We have reviewed and considered all of the comments submitted by members of the public in relation to this. The Parish Council would like to stress that none of the cost of the Wayfinder Trail is being met from Precept/Council Tax. The money to fund public works of art is part of developer contributions in relation to housing developments in the village. The planning permission(s) granted by Vale of White Horse District Council determine that these funds must be spent on Arts Projects in the village. If the money is not spent within 5 years the money is returned to the Developer. It was in response to this 'use it or lose it' grant funding that your Parish Council has created the concept of a Wayfinder Trail. We have aimed to consult with parishioners on their views and the artist involved worked with the village school to develop the ideas within. We firmly believe that this project will be an asset to our community for many years to come.

Thames Water Verge Repairs

The Thames Water repairs to the highway verge in High Street are most unsatisfactory. The Parish Council are pushing Thames Water to re-instate the verge at the previous level.

Council Tax Precept for SITV Parish Council

Every year, the Parish Council reviews our financial commitments in order to determine and set an appropriate budget and by consequence the parish precept, which is included within your Council Tax. We have historically done our utmost to keep the precept as low as possible, whilst aiming to maintain a high standard of services to local residents. By way of example, in the financial year ending March 2025, we secured significant sums from other sources (for example grants), allowing us to spend over £110k within the village against a total precept charge of just £30k.

At the Parish Council meeting in January, taking into consideration our estimates for the forthcoming financial year, it was agreed that, with careful management, the Precept would be set at £33,408, the impact for a Band D dwelling within the village would be less than 90p. Of course, this is against a backdrop of increased pressures from inflation, cost of materials and wage increases for staff/contractors.

Of course, the Council Tax that we all pay adds in more substantial costs from District, County and Policing but we thought that it would be useful to see what your Parish Council is spending. Below is a comparison with the Precept from other some other Parish & Town Councils in our area (for the year to April 2026):

Tax base	Precept £	Parish / Town Council	Parish tax Band D £
334.8	£ 7,500	Buckland	£ 22.40
1,110.00	£ 32,000	Stanford in the Vale	£ 28.83
246.2	£ 8,000	Longcot	£ 32.49
1,032.20	£ 49,000	Watchfield	£ 47.47
366.2	£ 22,337	Letcombe Regis	£ 61.00
244.9	£ 16,522	Childrey	£ 67.46
1,815.90	£ 127,000	Kingston Bagpuize & Southmoor	£ 69.94
5,619.40	£ 446,574	Wantage	£ 79.47
124.4	£ 10,259	Kingston Lisle	£ 82.47
375.4	£ 32,000	Uffington	£ 85.24
499.9	£ 56,635	East Challow	£ 113.29
1,560.20	£ 201,484	Shrivenham	£ 129.14
3,494.60	£ 519,423	Grove	£ 148.64
3,484.70	£ 579,233	Faringdon	£ 166.22

Parishioners will no doubt be pleased to know that your Parish Council spent almost £100,000 more in the village than it raised through Council Tax. We raise the rest of the money through grant applications etc. We do not borrow money and have no debt.

New Quarry Shellingford

This is currently going through planning at County Council. There will eventually be up to an additional 100 HGV vehicles per day on the A417. We have responded to the consultation outlining a number of concerns, particularly in relation to traffic management and the road network which we believe the County Council should address. Full details can be found at <https://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Planning/Display/MW.0119/25/#undefined>

New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council were pleased to co-opt Michelle Horrobin as a new Councillor to fill an existing vacancy. Her details, and those of your other councillors are below.

Monthly Parish Council Surgeries

The Parish Council has now trialled monthly surgeries in the village café for 6 months. On most occasions no parishioners have attended.

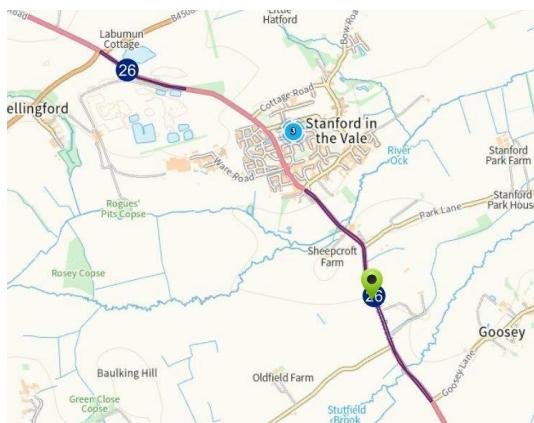
We have therefore decided to hold ad-hoc surgeries about every 6 months instead. Details will occur in future newsletters

Parishioners are reminded that there are opportunities to ask questions of the Parish Council every month (except August) at Parish Council meetings. These are always on the first Wednesday of the month (unless this is a Bank Holiday) and start at 1930. Normally these are held in the main Village Hall. Exceptionally in February, the Parish Council Meeting will be held in the School – full details can be found on our website every month. Alternatively, please do contact your Parish Clerk or any of your Councillors whose details are below.

Extract from a detailed report from our County Councillor – Lee Evans

Resurfacing the A417

After multiple attempts to get the road repaired resulting in short-term patching which soon failed, I am very pleased to be able to say the A417 by Stanford Mill and the Shellingford cross-roads is on the list to be resurfaced in the next financial year.



This is a big step forward for improving the roads in our area - and, when it happens, will make a real difference to the A417. But this isn't yet 'job done', for a few reasons.

There are still issues with drainage on the road, which need addressing, and the resurfacing isn't due until the next financial year, when there needs to be more urgent action this winter.

Water on the road – A417 near Stanford Mill

Residents have been in touch about issues with water on the road by Stanford Mill.

I raised this as an urgent issue with the highways team, and contacted Thames Water about it, too.

At the time of putting this report this together, I'm waiting for updates from both.

Additional Information

Your Member of Parliament is Olly Glover (Lib Dem): olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk

Your County Councillor is Lee Evans (Cons): lee.evans@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your County Council is Lib Dem controlled. They are responsible for schools, roads and footpaths, transport and travel, recycling facilities, children's services and adult social care; see: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your District Councillor is Sue Caul (Lib Dem): sue.caul@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Your District Council is Lib Dem controlled. They collect Council Tax and are responsible for planning, rubbish & waste services, leisure facilities, housing, benefit management and running elections; see: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Your Parish Council by convention does not operate along party political lines. All councillors are unpaid volunteers. Our Parish Clerk is employed for 20 hours per week (normally Monday, Wednesday & Friday). Contact Details are:

Kevin Middleton (Chair)	kevinfo Middleton@gmail.com	01367 718395
Peter Lewis (Vice Chair)	plewis.sitv@gmail.com	07941 500442
Bryan Burls	bryanburlsatoxford@gmail.com	07904 593627
Mike Foulkes	mjfoulkes57@gmail.com	
Michelle Horrobin	mhorrobin3@gmail.com	
Simon Howes		07875 249265
Mark Isaacs		01367 718719
Bob Kent	bob_kent@btinternet.com	07501 250407
Jason Page	jpage1970@gmail.com	
Sean Silk	sean.silk@btinternet.com	07795 540360
Parish Clerk (Claire Lewis)	clerk@stanfordinthevalepc.co.uk	07710 760894

The Parish Council lobbies District & County Councils over issues in the Parish and scrutinises and comments on Planning Applications & Local Plans. The District Council decides most Planning Applications.