

TACKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2025 held at Tackley Village Hall

Present: Councillors Liz Marshall (LM) Chair), Andrew Lines (AL) (Vice Chair), Angus Paxton (AP), Richard Holland-Oakes (RHO), Sue Lygo (SL), Steve Hill (SH)
County Councillor Andy Graham (AG), District Councillors Genny Early (GE) and Tim Sumner (TS).
Cherie Carruthers (CC) (Clerk to the Council)
4 Members of the public

24/115:Public Participation: None.

24/116:Apologise of absence: Cllr John Gibbins (JG), were noted.

24/117:Declaration of interest: LM in items 12.i – a family member is a recipient of a payment.

24/118: Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17th February 2025 were approved as a fair and true record: Proposer SL, seconder RHO. Agreed.

24/119:Clerks Report:

- **Crecy Hill Dog bin:** CC has asked Publica to relocate bin, no response yet.
- **Sandbag Store:** It was agreed that shed with no door would be sufficient. CC to source
- **External Audit Certificate for Open Spaces:** R Strachan had sent through contact. CC to action.
- **Noticeboard replacement:** Extra quotes outstanding.
- **Path Roman Way to Playing field:** obtain a quote to put a path in and cut the corner of grass area off, so it is not slippery when its muddy and wet. CC to action.
- **Conifer Tree trimming:** ask the school to trim back the conifer tree that is blocking the new streetlight up the path to the school. AL as school rep will ask this.
- **Housing Needs Assessment:** Surbey delivered and consultation underway. Closing date 31st March.

24/120: Update on Cllr training: CC updated that following the Councillor training it was suggested that the PC trial the Actions Register, populated by CC – this was agreed. In addition, the legal requirement for gov.uk email address and domain was noted, CC will contact Mary McIntyre regarding costs for hosting a PC website and gov.uk email addresses. Look at other companies.

24/121:S106 Feedback forms: CC updated that 134 responses had been received (not including recent ones in post box), collating into table form for review. AL will send out reminder for completion.

24/122:To consider District Council matters.

TS: Headlined portfolio:

- Windrush in Witney 50 years celebrated. Good projects, making centres more wellness – all ages, abilities and capabilities.
- Parking undertaking report due out in June checking the utilisation of parking is correct
- Heritage; taking a robust approach to ensure the sites are protected and looked after

GE: Following the Thames Water's High Court case, £3 million further loan was approved, Charlie Maynard MP, was present, took it to appeal and been heard over last week, outcome was that the appeal was lost. Court did not address the operational issues, just allowed to continue to rack up debt. The hope is that they will be put into special administration.

- WODC had a development control meeting for BWSF, spoke to the issues raised by BW, it was advised that they need to scale up on renewables quickly, and the scheme does not deal with mitigation properly. Existing improvements previously proposed by WODC had not been considered by the developers. A robust representation gone back to the Secretary of State.
- Local Plan timetable 2041 – slightly pushed back to end of May for consultation, but still on track for other stages in 2026.

24/123: To consider County Council matters. AG updated the following from County:

- **Devolution:** 3 options for Oxford Councils to put forward to minister's this week:
 1. the proposal that Oxfordshire becomes a county wide unitary.
 2. 2 tier unitary being CDC, WODC and Oxford then SO, Vale and West Berks
 3. Oxford cities proposal is for Greater Oxford, 3 tiers – CDC, WODC then SO, Vale and west Berks and Oxford cityMinister will decide which one best fits, financial structure, services structure and local voices is heard.
For Parish & Town Councils no changes are envisaged – apart from what additional responsibilities parishes wish to take on.
Real terms – district & county will be abolished in approx. 2 years.
Proposal end of Nov agreed Jan 2026.
- **Woodstock GP surgery:** meeting in 2-weeks' time, Doctors, Blenheim, WODC S106 officers and ICB will be agreeing the footprint, and the location will come next. Likely although not definite is Banbury Road will be the agreed site. MP Callum Miller chairing meeting.
- **S106 Officer Kim Lederer** overhauling the whole of S106 and the processes to try and get ahead of the game. Will be in touch soon, to see how we can work better together.

24/124: Planning:

- i. [Installation of five masts of varying height with satellite antennae within a redome, along with associated ancillary works to include access and fencing](#)



Whitehill Satellite Earth Station Old Whitehill Tackley Kidlington Oxfordshire OX5 3AU
Ref. No: 25/00504/PNT | Validated: Wed 26 Feb 2025 | Status: Under consideration
No Comment

[Demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey extension and addition of rooflights to existing garage](#)



Swallows Barn 1 Rousham Road Tackley Kidlington Oxfordshire OX5 3BB
Ref. No: 25/00351/HHD | Validated: Fri 14 Feb 2025 | Status: Under consideration
No Comment

24/125: Parish amenities:

- i. **Notice Boards** – under Clerks report min ref 24/119.
- ii. **Nature spaces update** – please see attached report in appendix A
The Parish Council would like to thank Rachel Strachan for her immense amount of work undertaken on the Nature Places within the village, she will be sorely missed and her time irreplaceable with volunteers alone.
The next steps are to contact Wild Oxfordshire or Toby Swift from Wychwood, to see if they can help complete the Management Plan.
AL asked if the nature spaces receive any other income other than the PC, LM confirmed it does not. He asked “Will the vacancy be advertised for filling”, unknown at this stage as it is currently not paid. CC to contact OCC and see if Crecy Hill will be kept as a Wildlife site and maintained as such if it management was returned to OCC.
AL proposed purchasing flowers to thank Rachel Strachan, seconded by SL - all in favour.
- iii. **Green Space Tenders update:** 4 responses, 2 disregarded, 2 considered. It was agreed that CC will speak to **Green Scythe** to ensure they invoice how the tender requires, if so, then accept their tender.
- iv. **Moles at Allotments** – Jan Reid, updated the meeting that she had engaged with plot holder re the moles – 16 responses:
4 plot holders would like pest control
7 do not want cull

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2 plot holders not affected so remain neutral

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3 plot holders not contactable.

There are pro's of having a moles, as pointed out by one plot holder, and volunteers are very happy to use topsoil and fill in the divots.

Jim Pitts noted that the damage had already been done, something further needs to be done, terrain is uneven and problematic, the mower will not cut the grass.

LM asked Jan how the mowing was – JR was not easy to do, raked the hills and one person do the mowing. It takes time and effort.

AL advised of the 3 principals of the arguments. 1 is that it is inhumane to cull the moles, 2, they eat grubs and keep them at bay, 3, pest control is proven to be ineffective, as it attracts other moles. There is also a Policy argument that the PC have a Biodiversity Policy and the extermination is averse to the policy. Legal objection we have public space insurance which is void if we use traps inside the allotment.

Need to come up with an answer to sort accessibility again.

Another solution is that a contractor mows the grass paths – with a weighted roller, CC to ask Green Scythe to have a look and get a price for adding a cut into the scheme.

AP & SH left the meeting : 20:40pm

24/126: To consider matters of finance and policies:

- i. Ratification of Payments – invoices to be emailed beforehand: It was approved that the following payments were ratified and the impact the payment would have on the budget and reserves. Proposed: AL, seconded: RHO: **APPROVED**

Gross Amount (£)	VAT Value (£)	Payee	Details	Power
867.53		Clerks Pay	Feb Salary	LGA 1972 S111
50.00		B Marshall	Feb bin emptying	LGA 1972 S112
906.00	151.00	Greenscythe	Feb Green Spaces maintenance	Open Spaces Act
93.68		Bunkers Hill Nurseries	Whips for Heath hedge	Open Spaces Act
59.99	9.99	C Carruthers	Reimburse Notice Board	LGA 1972 S112
27.75		C Carruthers	Tackley's % of food costs at training day 1.3.25	LGA 1972 S112

24/127: Next Meeting Agenda Items:

- Section 106 feedback
- Litter at playfield

Next meeting: 21st April 2025 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 20.52pm.

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Signed as a true record of the Tackley Parish Council Meeting held on 17th March 2025.

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Date.....