

# TACKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of ANNUAL Parish meeting held on 11 May 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), John Gibbins (JG), Karen Snow (KS).  
Cherie Carruthers (CC) (Clerk to the Council)  
Tim Sumner (TS) (WODC)  
6 members of the public were also in attendance.

**25/129 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Andy Graham and DCllr Genny Early were noted.

**25/130** Minutes of meeting held on 19 May 2025 meeting signed as true and fair record.

**25/131 The Chair of Tackley Parish Council's report:** LM verbally read her report, she will also publish this in the newsletter.

Welcome to everyone here and thank you for coming along to our Annual Parish Meeting of 2026

Your Councillors have been busy on various projects and issues in the village, as ever.

The rail bridge continues to be a source of concern for many. Recently we have learned how long the crossing will be closed for and subsequently trains not stopping while travelling southbound during this time. Network Rail's and GWR's solutions for passengers is thoroughly unhelpful and disruptive. The bridge itself is also a problem, with the promised shorter towers with an alternative lift mechanism being switched back to the cheaper towers requiring the winding mechanism to be above, therefore taller. Residents have now also been informed that materials required for the build will be brought in along Nethercote Road rather than by rail at night or using the track from Whitehill. These are the three main points on which we will be fighting for change to reduce disruption to residents.

WODC's spatial consultation featuring Area U on Rousham Road is a concern for many residents in Tackley. The field on Rousham Road is well known for its winter wetland areas and its role in mitigating flooding further down the village, and we hoped that our comments on why the land itself is unsuitable and all the other reasons why Tackley cannot sustain any further development would bring WODC to the conclusion that Area U would not be used. However, the subsequent meeting we had with Bluestone Planning on behalf of the landowners, OCC, caused much concern as they have already come up with a basic plan. Quite obviously from the plan they had never been to the village to see the field or seen the Water Catchment Study that OCC themselves, commissioned. We will continue to strongly fight against potential development here and in the meantime also develop a proposal to use the land for Biodiversity Net Gain which would also help hold back more flood water in winter. If anyone is interested in helping with that, please get in touch with Cllr Karen Snow.

On a more positive note, regarding flooding, the culvert which drains the water which has previously caused flooding between the Green and the pub, has mostly been cleared. Thanks to the OCC team and landowners involved in this work.

As ever, the village is full of many people who make good things happen.

Mary McIntyre for her tireless work on the village website, Tackley notices and freecycle.

Martin Edwards, who continues to edit the newsletter for the village.

The shop team who does an incredible job of providing for the needs of residents.

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The village hall committee who are working hard on raising money to build a much-needed extension on the village hall, with the tireless help of the Pop-up Pub team.

The organisers and volunteers of the Tackley PALs who clear up the mess of the few who don't seem to be able to take their own rubbish home!

The Nature Spaces committee and volunteers who do so much for the environment and biodiversity in and around the village.

There are so many other clubs and activities in the village it is hard to mention everyone but I'd like to thank all volunteers in the village for providing companionship, entertainment and education to all ages from Silver Threads to Toddler Group, Book Club, WI, Gardening Club, History Group, Tackley Car Scheme, Bell Ringers, McMillan Cancer Fundraisers, Craft Club, Wheelers, the Walking Group and the Horse Show committee. Anyone who volunteers to help run these groups is amazing. Thank you to you all, it is part of what makes Tackley such a special place to live.

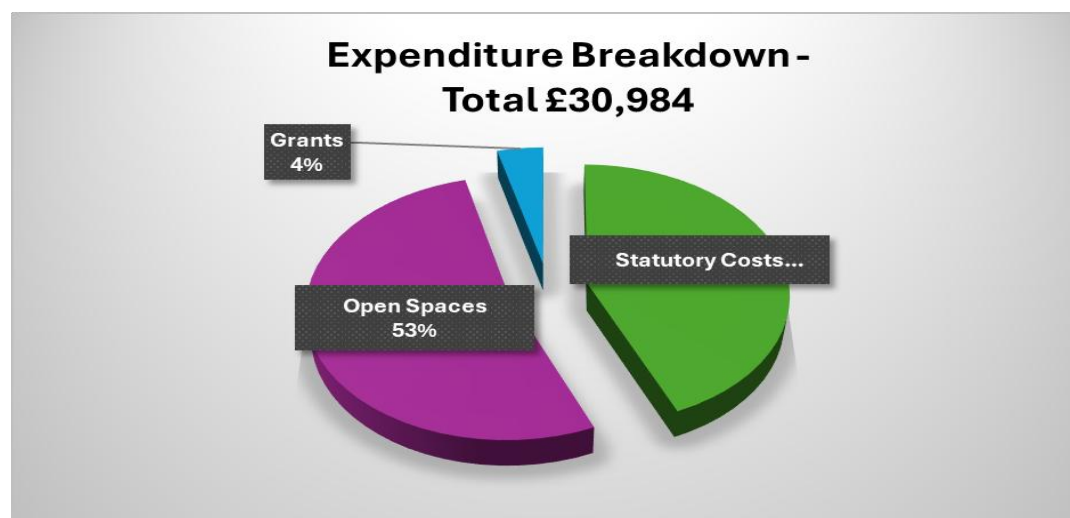
Finally, I'd like to thank my fellow Councillors and our Clerk, Cherie Carruthers, for the time they put into meetings and the all the work done between. We sadly said goodbye to Steve this year, but we are delighted to welcome Cllr Karen Snow to the team.

### **25/132 Clerks financial report:** CC circulated and updated with the following report:

The Members and Officers of the Parish Council have worked hard to keep all running costs down without any effect on service to the parishioners.

We have closed the year with an underspend of £2,037, this is due to some work being delayed with tree works and some savings on Heath maintenance.

Below is an outline of our expenditure lines for 2025-26 with a levied precept of £32,039. At the Council's budget setting meeting it was agreed that there would be a 2% increase in the precept for 2026/27, this was below the rate of inflation and required to cover statutory costs.



The closing bank balances of the council were £10,572.84 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. The funds are represented by:

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FUNDS REPRESENTED BY: Unity Trust & Barclay Bank Accounts	£
Community Account	8,940.06
Business Reserve Account	1,632.78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,572.84</b>
RESERVES REPRESENTED BY:	
General Reserve	9,772.84
EMR Tackley Choir (holding funds)	650.00
EMR Nature Spaces (Tackley Horse Show donation)	150.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,572.84</b>

**25/133 County Council report:** None.

**25/134 District Council report:** Cllr Tim Sumner updated:

The village subject to plans and pressures from WODC's proposed spatial consultation and the PC and DCllr's have been hardworking for a change to these plans. Cllr's and residents have worked together to bring the interests of village for improvement.

WODC have been renovating and decarbonising their leisure centres moving towards a wellness hub. The Council believes in communities; and brining everyone back together and these centres can act as a focal point for people to meet.

**Question for TS:**

Amanda Geday asked TS for support in bringing the dangers of the Gibraltar Point junction, B4027/A4095 intersection, crossroads at Bunkers Hill to the attention of OCC and Highways.

There have been 7 accidents at this year alone, very serious accidents, are highways waiting for there to be fatality before they act. Lower Whitehill is not sign posted and does not show there is a crossroads there. There are no road signs indicating a danger junction, no white lines or road markings. The layout of the road needs to be reconsidered.

LM advised there also needs to be a change in speed limit and white lines on road. TS has recently dealt with an OCC Highways Officer and his happy to reach out to them.

**25/135 Head Teacher Tackley School:** Karen Ward updated that the school has had a successful year. 118 children on role. There has been an upward trend in early years, which is now is very strong.

Lucky to have wonderful staff who know the community and the families. The school is working hard to develop a curriculum that is relevant and ambitious, including online safety with the hope of improving outcomes for children.

Maths is a big focus; they have invested in specialist maths teacher 3 days a week. Also have Cotswold Art in school helping to develop a good art curriculum.

Breakfast and after school clubs are flourishing. A main need is how they support the community and the children with emotional needs and wellbeing issues. An option is an Emotional Literacy Support worker, who can use the cabin and specialises in a variety of needs.

Received a generous donation from village shop for PE equipment and they are grateful to community for support long with the wonderful; PTA, church governors and people helping.

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**25/136 Village Hall:** CC read out the section of April's PC minutes where Julie Farren (Chair of the Village Hall Cttee) updated the following:

- Solicitor transferring the Village Hall from an incorporated charity to a Charity Incorporated Organisation. She requested a letter from the PC as landlords, to confirm that we are aware that the transfer is happening. An email confirming this has been done.
- The PC needs to apply to WODC for the S106 money, once received they will supply a letter of intent to the VH, CC to email WODC and copy Julie Farren in.
- Architects are at the structural engineer stage of the proceedings; this will feed into detailed plans and the tender.
- 50 Year anniversary booklet delivered to all houses.

**25/137 Village Shop report:** Tony Perry verbally updated the meeting – summary below:

Trading year £365,000 Turnover, £2,300 before tax profit, they have made more donations this year. CIC can make donations to UK registered charities school PTA & VH, as there is concern from the Management Cttee that all their surplus cash will be soaked up by Village Hall extension. Also supported the Toddler and Movement groups to pay hall hire fees.

New shop manager, Kylie who has passed their probation. The number sausage rolls sold this year is 9228.

Unfortunately, the shop suffered a break in attempt. Thank you to staff, volunteers and customers of the shop that make it happen.

**25/138 History Group representative:** Charmian Knight updated:

The group is doing well with the past 7 evening meetings well attended. Neil Wilson's Great Return about Tackley Church bells was very successful. The Open meeting had approx. 50 people come along and put out all their private collections and the history groups collections.

The group has been going for 50 years and built up a good resource centre. They are in the process of curating these artifacts and revising the catalogue to digitise it on a website so people from abroad can view the items.

Focus remains on the mission to bring back the mosaic; it is a whole community gift. To raise awareness a story board has been erected in the lobby of the VH, this is to remind everyone of the whole story.

There is hope that some of the S106 money will be devoted to the project, currently the part set aside for art is for a newly designed installation, the current concept, is to commission a new mosaic which will incorporate the old part of the mosaic.

**25/139 Nature Spaces Committee:** LM updated that an aim in the year was to try and improve the hedge line along Foxhill, the working group have planted a few new whips in places and in shady places holly whips, Greenscythe continue to cut the paths, which has worked really well and keeps the main paths open through the bracken for people visiting. A grant application to TOE to restore the pond has been submitted and awaiting determination.

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**25/140 Railway User Group:** AL updated that Network Rail were holding a community drop-in session between 4-7pm on 14 May 2026, regarding suspension of the service, with no alternative provisions, when the new bridge is being built, and the bridge design.

The group have been busy monitoring numbers of people using the early and late trains, NR gave the PC an average user figure and spread it out over the day, possibly to avoid putting on alternative transport for those slots.

Monitoring of the bus usage is also underway to prove this is not fit for purpose as an alternative method of travelling south to Oxford. A set of data is being prepared to put to GWR to charter that they must put on alternative transport to allow usage of their service.

The group have put together a list of questions for NR to answer, why are they taking so long, why the suspension of parking on Nethercote Road for 55 dates, this is not feasible.

Amount of money it is costing is formidable; but it will secure the access to the train within this village is a positive.

**25/141 St Nicholas Church representatives:** SL submitted the below report on behalf of the church:

Reverend Harriet Orridge and two other members of congregation do a school open the book once a week, and school has a service once a week in the church. One the oldest members has passed away and sadly lost Geoff Hunter, numbers are dwindling. The mission to bring the church into the community.

**25/142: Police Community Support Officers report:** None.

**25/143 Matters from the floor:** None.

**25/144: Any other matters:** None.

Meeting closed at 8:05pm

Signed as a true record of the Tackley Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2026.

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