Paper to be approved.
Meeting of the Longcot Parish Council
on Thursday 5 November 2026 7pm
held in St Mary's Church Hall, Longcot

In attendance.
Council members.
Andi Cunningham, Chair, John Barneby, Neil Campbell, Alan Rich, and Tina Brock, Clerk.
County Councillor. Emma Markham.
District Councillor. Katherine Foxhall.
Visitors. Lisa Warne, CEO Westmill Energy – Wind and solar Co-operatives.
107/26 Apologies for Absence.
DC Viral Patel (prior commitment). This apology was received.
108/26 Variance of business. None.
109/26 Declarations of interests. None.
110/26 Public Participation. None
111/26 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2026.
Council resolved to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chair.

REPORTS
112/26 Report from County Councillor.
CC Markham submitted a written report.
Consultations
Have your say on our plans for buses across Oxfordshire until 17th November. We are pleased to inform you that the public consultation for 🚌 OxBus 2040: Plan for Bus 🚌 is now live on Let's Talk Oxfordshire! View the documents and complete the survey online by clicking HERE or by scanning the QR code.

Updates
Thames Valley Mayoral Authority. Leaders from across the Thames Valley are progressing plans to pursue a mayoral strategic authority, this would include Swindon, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire.
Local Government Reorganisation has been restarted; there will be another consultation and awaiting final approval. The elections have been pushed back to May 2028, and District council elections will still proceed in May 2027.
Emergency briefings
I will be attending the people's emergency briefing on Wednesday 18th Nov at 19:00 in St Andrews church, with a second screening on Saturday 21st at 13:30. Free tickets are available here: People's Emergency Briefing Film Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite I also plan to attend the emergency briefing in Letcombe Regis on 29th Nov at 17:00 in the village hall.
I'm speaking on a motion to council on 3rd November 2026 on the important of ecology to food and farming to ensure this is protected.
Visits
I will be observing Remembrance Day services with Watchfield (09:30), Shrivenham (10:15), Longcot (10:50), Bourton (12:00), Fernham (15:00).
I will be attending a site visit to WestMill with the local MP and other councillors on Friday 13 November 2026.
Emma Markham informed council

- that new signage would be installed along the road between Longcot and Shrivenham which has subsidence issues. There is no budget to re-surface, but it is being monitored.
- The Community Speed Watch data is sent to TVP who will send a letter to those drivers speeding.
- She would chase up the hedgehog signage.
- There would be no diversion through the village during the Coxwell works.

113/26 Report from District Councillor.
DC Foxhall and Patel submitted a written report.
Shrivenham Golf Course Planning Inquiry.

Viral and Kat attended most days of the three-week planning inquiry, and along with County Cllr Emma Markham, we addressed the Inspector about our concerns regarding: loss of a community facility and sports facility; the shocking and ongoing sewage discharges from the treatment works that will pollute the site; highways concerns; loss of green space; effect on the Tuckmill Nature Reserve; loss of a settlement gap between the villages; and the ignoring of the Shrivenham Neighbourhood Plan and Vale Local Plan. Many residents spoke brilliantly on behalf of the community, and we hope that the Inspector will reject the plans.

100 houses at land North of Townsend, Cozens Gr, and Buckland Dr, Shrivenham- P26/V2692/O

We reported on this last month, as an update the application determination deadline has been extended to the end of November and the public consultation now extended to 12 November 2026.

P25/V1646/FUL Old Hayes Solar Farm, Coleshill – new consultation period.

After an extremely long and frustrating delay, the applicant has submitted revised plans, and a new consultation period has opened until 2 December. We will be looking closely at the new information to see whether substantial concerns about flooding, biodiversity, highways, connection route, and a lack of community benefit have been addressed. We are also taking very seriously the cumulative impact of solar projects locally, particularly given the recent proposals for a West Oxfordshire Energy Park nearby.

Shrivenham, Application to reduce EV charging commitment.

Retail Unit Bingham Turner Way Shrivenham - P26/V4547/NM

This was a planning application submitted under section 96A (non-material amendment) by the developer, and if approved would have seen the provision of 8-EV chargers + trunking for future capacity reduced to a single EV charger for the whole site. A section 96A does not require any public consultation as it is expected to be a policy compliant change.

Having considered this application, Viral asked officers to reject it as an invalid non-material amendment, as reducing agreed infrastructure directly conflicts with OCC highways and Vale policies.

Following our intervention the developer's agent has withdrawn the application and is now expected to submit under section 73, which unlike a non-material amendment is subject to public and parish scrutiny and can be brought to planning committee under the new delegation scheme in this case.

Shrivenham has a severe shortage of public EV charging points, stripping away previously approved provision is unacceptable.

Muck store and house - Great Coxwell (P26/V2641/O & P26/V2144/FUL)

Significant concerns have been raised by residents regarding these two applications. The consultation period is still open, and we strongly encourage residents to submit comments. To make representations as impactful as possible, if a specific planning concern has already been covered, we suggest keeping your submission brief by simply noting your agreement or disagreement with the relevant points made by the Parish Council.

We have discussed these schemes with planning officers, who confirmed that due to the technical nature of agricultural developments, specialist agricultural and planning officers will assess the proposals. As a result, we should anticipate a longer determination timeline to allow for this.

Council News

New Planning "Call-In" Rules from 1 November

Under new rules laid down by central government, the old "call in" process whereby councillors could bring applications to planning committee has been replaced by a National Scheme of Delegation that is much stricter about what can and cannot be brought to committee. The key message is that parish councils and residents should continue to take all opportunities to respond to planning consultations to make their voices heard, and to get in touch with us if you would like to know whether a particular application can be proposed for committee.

Local Government Reorganisation

We previously reported that local authority reorganisation into unitary councils was on hold, however on 29 October 2026 the minister Jim McMahon announced LGR for some counties would resume, and this included Oxfordshire.

The government has indicated it intends to proceed with the 3-Unitary proposal from Oxford City for Oxfordshire, which will create North Oxfordshire, Greater Oxford & Ridgeway.
As Chair of Vale Scrutiny committee, Kat is currently working with Cabinet members and senior officers to ensure that the financial implications of this decision are discussed publicly at the next meeting of the committee on 30 November. Issues we are raising include that the financial calculations for the three-unitary model were made by Oxford City without input from Vale officers, and the concerns about West Berkshire's financial position that we know many residents hold.
Assuming everything progresses, we expect District elections in May 2027, and shadow unitary elections May 2028 ready for vesting day in 2029, this will mean district councillors elected in 2027 will only serve 2 years before Vale ceases to exist.
We will update further as we know.

Devolution to Strategic Mayoral authority

In a last-minute agreement between ministers and leaders of all 13 councils in Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Swindon, last week's budget included provision for progressing the Thames Valley Mayoral Strategic Authority.
Further details will follow; however, unlike the previous proposal that excluded an elected mayor, and consequently offered no meaningful devolution or funding from central government, the current model would establish a full strategic authority with dedicated financial backing.
We have raised grave concerns regarding the democratic accountability and governance of this model, notably:

• The £5,000 candidate deposit, which creates an undemocratic financial barrier to standing for election.
• Sweeping executive control, with elected mayors able to appoint unelected board members on six-figure salaries and dictate major public spending with little to no local scrutiny.

114/26 Report from the Chair.

On 28 August 2026, Council contacted Waymark, the estate agents marketing the remaining properties at Oak View, to make them aware of the building-related concerns that had previously been brought to the Council's attention by the occupants of No. 4 Ock View. These concerns included a balcony that had reportedly slipped and required temporary support, inadequate window ventilation, issues relating to joists, potentially dangerous electric gates, and other building-related matters.
As all the properties were constructed at approximately the same time, Council considered it important that the selling agents were made aware of the reported issues, so that prospective purchasers could be appropriately informed of any potential concerns. This was particularly relevant given that the developers had gone into liquidation, and the receivers were now responsible for selling the remaining properties and may not have been aware of the development's history.
Council made clear that these matters related to reported concerns and that there was no assumption that the same issues necessarily affected the remaining properties. However, the Council wished to ensure that all known information had been brought to the attention of the selling agents, in the interests of transparency and to help protect prospective purchasers.
The matter was noted for the record to confirm that the Council had taken steps to pass on the information available to it.

FINANCE

115/26 Section 106 funding.

Council resolved to accept the terms and conditions of the funding release and confirmed that Andi Cunningham and Neil Campbell were the authorised signatories.

116/26 Lloyds Bank.

Council noted that the accounts had been closed and £19,39.99 had been transferred by Unity Bank.

117/26 Internal Auditor.

Council resolved to approve expenditure of £250.

118/26 Quarter 2 Financials.

i. Council resolved to approve the bank reconciliation as of 30 September 2026.

ii. Council resolved to approve the budget.

119/26 Estimates 2027/2028.

i. Council resolved to approve the estimates.
Estimated expenditure £8,300.
Estimated income £8,302.

ii. Council resolved to set the precept 2027/2028 at £8,100.

120/26 Payments of Accounts.

Table 1 List of receipts received.

Statutory Power	Receipts received	Description	Total
LGA 1982 s150	VWHDC	1st half of precept	£4,050.00
LGA 1982 s150	VWHDC	2nd half of precept	£4,050.00

Table 2 List of expenditure.

Statutory Power	Payments due:	Description	Total
BACS LGA1972 s111	Lloyds	Bank charges – Sept	£4.25
SO LGA 1972 S112	Staff costs	Aug	£549.00
UT013 LG (misc prov) Act 1976 s19	MRH Services	Repairs to goal posts	£57.50
SO, UT014 LGA 1972 S112	Staff costs	Sept	£542.60
SO LGA 1972 S112	Staff costs	Oct	£282.65
BACS LGA1972 s111	Unity	Bank charges	£7.00
UT015 LGA1972 s111	Net Result	Payroll Jul-Sept	£88.50
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile phone	£20.54
DD Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908	Castle Water	Allotments	£8.68

PLANNING

121/26 Submitted planning application(s).

Council would submit the following comments.

Table 3 List of submitted planning applications.

Ref.	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P26/V4591/HH	4 Ock View, Longcot, Oxon SN7 7HS *External alterations to existing garage, comprising the installation of roof-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, new garage doors to existing open bays, and a personal door within an existing opening.* **Support.**

DC Foxhall left the meeting.

HIGHWAYS

122/26 OCC Deep Cleanse Service.

The team would be visiting Longcot Parish on 9 December 2026 to 11 December 2026, to litter pick sweep and remove weeds and moss on pavements.

123/26 OCC 20mph scheme.

Council would feedback that the scheme had received positive comments from residents.

124/26 Traffic calming measures.

The Council had received an offer of funding from a benefactor to cover the surveys, associated posts, and the supply and installation of a solar speed indicator device on Kings Lane and Fernham Road. The Council expressed its sincere thanks to the benefactor for their generous offer.

The Council had previously been awaiting the outcome of the roadworks at Great Coxwell to assess any potential impact on traffic through the village. However, it now appeared that the roadworks had not had a significant impact on the village.

125/26 Other issues reported. None.

PLAY AREA & TRACK

126/26 New play equipment.

The section 106 application had been approved and the order for the play equipment had been placed.

127/26 Track.

Nothing to report.

ALLOTMENTS

128/26 Tenancy meeting.

A meeting would be arranged for the end of March 2027 to collect the rent, missing contact details, map of plots with numbers and names and issue Tenancy Agreements.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

129/26 Next meeting of the Parish Council.

TBC

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed….....Date….....2026