

HINTON WALDRIST PARISH COUNCIL

[E-mail: parishclerk@hintonwaldrist-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@hintonwaldrist-pc.gov.uk)

Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 4th September 2025 at 7pm

In attendance: Councillors Martin Taylor (Chair), Melvyn Smith (MS), Peter Evans (PE), Stephanie Stott (SS) and Justin Davenport (Vice Chair)

Present: Allison Leigh (Clerk), Mark Coleman (District Councillor)

25/50: Apologies for absence: County Councillor Lee Evans. It was noted that Judith Willis has resigned from the Council.

25/51: Declarations of Interest: The Vice Chair declared an interest in 25/59 in case planning applications P25/V0989/HH and P25/V0885/LB were discussed.

25/52: Public questions and statements: No members of the public were present.

25/53: Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 1st July were agreed and signed as a true record.

25/54: Reports from County and District Councillors:

Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

The District Councillor was in attendance and provided a report. See Attachment 1.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)

The County Councillor was not in attendance but provided a report. See Attachment 2.

25/55: Actions: The Council considered actions from the previous meeting not otherwise on the agenda.

Noticeboards: The Chairman circulated information. The Council would like to account for this in the 25/26 budget.

Allotment maintenance: The Council will explore this in the 26/27 budget as the precept will increase. The Chairman will write to Savills regarding the mowing of/tidying of the brambles at the allotments.

25/56: Clerk Vacancy: The Council will work on a job description and contract and begin a recruitment process. The Chair will email OALC to post notice. The Chair has circulated draft content and would like this on the next agenda for agreement.

25/57: Finance:

- a. **Local Government Services Pay Agreement:** The Council noted the increase backdated to 1/4/25.

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b. Payments and receipts:

Payments authorised

Date	Payee	Amount	Item
30/6/25	Unity Trust Bank	6.00	Service Charge
31/7/25	Unity Trust Bank	6.00	Service Charge
18/8/25	HMRC	1.20	PAYE
4/9/25	Allison Leigh	30.50	Clerk expenses – September
4/9/25	HW Village Hall	20.00	Room hire
30/9/25	Allison Leigh	168.70	September salary

Receipts since the last meeting:

Date	Payee	Amount	Item
30/6/25	Unity Trust Bank	10.48	Bank interest
5/8/25	HMRC	233.63	VAT return

c. Bank Reconciliation: The Council agreed the bank reconciliation of 31/7/25. See Attachment 1.

d. Donation request form Home Start: The Council resolved not to donate to Home Start due to the fact that they are not currently supporting anyone else in the village.

25/58: Training: No training courses were requested.

25/59: Planning: The Council noted the following withdrawal:

P25/V0989/HH and P25/V0885/LB
The Lodge High Street Hinton Waldrist SN7 8RN
Side extension, new porch, internal remodelling, new windows, new garage.

25/60: Policies:

- Donation policy: The Council resolved to adopt the amended version of the Donation Policy.
- Scheme of Delegation: The Council resolved to adopt the Scheme of Delegation with one amendment.

25/61: Publications and correspondence: Noted.

25/62: Matters for report: The Council would like the following on the next agenda:

- Employment contract
- 26/27 Budget
- Litter pick

The Council would like the clerk vacancy and councillor vacancy in the Village Voices.

25/63: Date of the next meeting: The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday the 4th November 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

25/64: Confidential items: No members of the public were present.

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25/64: Quotes for the 25/26 internal audit: The Council resolved to proceed with Jane Olds as the internal auditor for 25/26 for £210.00.

The meeting closed at 7:55pm.

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Attachment 1

Vale District Council – Member for Thames Ward Report to the Hinton Waldrist Parish Council – 4 September 2025

Annual Canvass update

The Vale is currently conducting its electoral register annual canvass – that is the requirement to contact residents each year to ensure they check that their details on the register are up to date. Nearly 30,000 letters have already gone to households whose details the council either does not have, or they know are not up to date. Around 17,000 households have not responded, and they should now have received a reminder letter on 29 August.

More than 135,700 electors (62% of households across the districts) should receive an email asking them to confirm there are no changes to their details or asking them to make changes online. Anyone who does not respond to that email (by 3 October), or who has not registered an email address, will receive a green letter in October. Residents are encouraged to respond by email as it avoids having to send a letter to them, saving printing and postage costs. The email will go out from Monday 8th September from elections@southandvale.gov.uk with the subject line “South & Vale District Councils - Annual Electoral Register Check”.

Emergency Alert test

The UK government is testing the Emergency Alerts system on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm. Compatible mobile phones and tablets will receive an alert, make a loud siren-like sound, and vibrate. Residents will **not** need to take any action. The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there is a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather conditions. Regular testing ensures the system is functioning correctly, should it need to be used in a life-threatening emergency. More information is available here: gov.uk/alerts.

Charlie Maynard MP visit to Hinton Waldrist

It was unfortunate that no one was available to meet with Charlie and me last week as we walked through the Thames Ward. The main topic of discussion in the other wards was road safety along the A420. Buckland PC also raised the prolonged closure of the Tenfoot Bridge. We understand that there are funds available to repair the bridge, but the Environment Agency has gained approval to extend the bridge's closure to enable a further structural assessment to be made. Cllr Lee Evans (OCC) has been working to try and get clarity about the situation and to have the bridge reopened.

Yours,
Mark

Cllr Mark Coleman
Lib Dem Member for Thames Ward
Vale of White Horse District Council Deputy Leader
Member for Finance
Armed Forces and Veterans Champion

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Attachment 2

Cllr Lee Evans Report for Hinton Waldrist Parish Council *September 2025*

Safety on the A420 – Pinewoods Road Junction

As Parish Councillors will remember, one of my top priorities is improving safety on the A420 at the Pinewoods Road and Charney Road junctions. I've been encouraging residents (via Facebook, leaflets and Village Voices) to share their thoughts and feedback on the plan to improve the safety of these junctions (by extending the 50mph zone to incorporate both junctions and by redesigning the lanes). The response so far has been overwhelmingly positive.

The next stage is to receive the formal proposals from the County Council. As soon as I have these, I'll share them with the Parish Council and would welcome any feedback.

Safety on the A420 – Kingston Bagpuize Roundabout

I recently requested, and have now had, a meeting with Council officers to discuss safety elsewhere on the A420. One of the areas that stood out as an accident 'hot spot' was the Kingston Bagpuize roundabout, especially the section between the A420 coming from Faringdon and the A415.

I've asked Council officers to look at the recurring causes of these accidents so that we can consider what could reduce the likelihood of accidents in the future (e.g. new lane design, reduced speed limits).

Potholes in Pinewoods Road

A resident in the village got in touch about potholes on Pinewoods Roads. I'm currently escalating these with the County Council to try and improve the condition of the road surface.

Road signs on A420 by Pinewoods Road

Following a recent accident, the traffic signs on the island by Pinewoods Road and Charney Road have been knocked over. I've raised the issue with the County Council and asked for them to be repaired/replaced ASAP.

Traffic issues around Longworth Primary School

After concerns were raised with me recently about road safety, I have emailed the headteacher at Longworth Primary School to request a discussion around road safety issues near the school. (I am working on similar issues with the headteacher at John Blandy Primary School in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor). We are currently looking at dates to meet, at the school, in September. I'll report back to the Parish Council after the meeting.

Ten Foot Bridge

As we discussed previously, Ten Foot Bridge, the Victorian foot bridge over the River Thames near Duxford, has been closed since 2024. After some back-and-forth, the Environment Agency confirmed they have the funds to repair the bridge. Since then, I've been pushing for a timeline for the repairs to be completed.

Frustratingly, the Environment Agency has been non-committal on dates for the repair, and I've recently been told they have requested another 12-month closure of the bridge. I think this is totally unacceptable.

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I've raised my concerns with the County Council and the Environment Agency, and to try and keep things moving forward I've tabled a question at the Full Council meeting next week (see below). Separately, I've asked what legal routes the Council has that it can use to get the bridge repaired and re-opened. I've also put in a Freedom of Information request to the Environment Agency to try and get some clarity on the causes of the delay.

All in all, it's frustrating news. But this is something I'm determined to get sorted, so I'll keep on pushing until we get the bridge repaired and re-opened.

Salt Bins

I am told the County Council will soon be considering new locations for salt/grit bins in the area. If you have any suggestions, please do let me know.

Gully Cleaning

The Council is currently undertaking a full gully cleaning programme across the division. However, this is behind schedule and I have concerns about whether this will be fully completed before the (really) bad weather returns.

Therefore, if there are any gullies in the Parish that are of particular concern, please do report them via FixMyStreet (I will monitor this to ensure I can escalate them, if necessary) or let me know and I will make sure they are reported.

Upcoming Full Council Meeting- Questions

As Parish Councillors may know, at every meeting of the County Council, Councillors can ask up to three questions of the ruling administration. At my first proper Council meeting, I asked about the A417, unspent developer contributions and services for young people with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.

I've now submitted my questions for the next Council meeting- on tips, roads and Ten Foot Bridge. Should it be of interest, my questions are:

1. The experience of someone using a local tip, or household waste recycling centre, is set to get worse. Later on this year, the County Council will introduce a new system that requires residents to book in before they can dispose of their household waste at a tip. On top of that, the Council has undertaken a consultation on reducing the availability of tips, with no option for residents to say they would like to continue with the current opening hours. What assessment has the Council made of the impact of the booking system, and of reduced opening hours, on fly-tipping – including in rural areas like the Kingston & Stanford division? Thank you.
2. Different types of roads require different levels of attention and repair, as the Council's existing policies recognise. One of my concerns is that road defects which may be tolerable on some roads can have intolerable consequences on others. For example, on residential roads with high volumes of bus or HGV traffic, relatively small defects in the road can lead to noise and vibrations being experienced in people's homes. What assessment has the Council made of whether bus routes and HGV routes through residential areas (for example Faringdon Road in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, or the A417 through Stanford in the Vale) should have a lower threshold for repairing road defects to ensure that the road's use by heavy vehicles does not have a detrimental impact on local residents and their properties? Thank you.

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3. I want to record my thanks to Council staff who have worked with me on foot bridges in my division, including Ten Foot Bridge. Recently, the Environment Agency confirmed that funding was available to repair Ten Foot Bridge, an historic crossing point over the River Thames which has been closed since 2024. However, no date has yet been given for the work to be undertaken. Will the Cabinet Member join me in calling on the Environment Agency to repair and re-open Ten Foot Bridge at the earliest possible opportunity, and use whatever powers the County Council has to secure this outcome? Thank you.

I'll happily share the answers I receive, if of interest.

Upcoming Full Council Meeting – Motions

Separately, as I know many people in and around Hinton Waldrist take an interest in issues concerning Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (S.E.N.D.), I wanted to let you know that I plan to speak in favour, and vote in support, of a motion at the next Full Council meeting to reinstate the dedicated Cabinet Member for S.E.N.D. Improvement. This was something the Council had until May, and in my view should continue to have until we are confident that S.E.N.D. services in Oxfordshire have significantly improved and have independent verification of that from Ofsted.

I hope the above update is of interest. As ever, any questions or queries, or if there is anything I can do to support the Parish Council or the village, please do let me know.

All best wishes,

Lee

Clr Lee Evans
Conservative County Councillor for the Kingston & Stanford Division
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Attachment 3

Bank Reconciliation

Date

1st July 2025

Date

31st July 2025

	Unity Current Account			1044.31
	Unity Instant Access Account			5010.48
	Cheque no			
minus	payments not cashed			144.80
				144.80
equ	balance C/F			5909.99

Opening Balance	4914.36
Add receipts for period	2685.48
Less payments for period	1689.85
Equ closing balance	5909.99