

HINTON WALDRIST PARISH COUNCIL

E-mail: parishclerk@hintonwaldrist-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 8th January 2026 at 7pm

In attendance: Councillors Martin Taylor (Chair), Justin Davenport (Vice Chair), Andrew Bloomfield (AB), Melvyn Smith (MS), Stephanie Stott (SS)

Present: Joanne Broughton (Clerk), Mark Coleman (District Councillor)

25/80: Apologies for absence: County Councillor Lee Evans, Councillor Peter Evans

25/81: Co-option: Andrew Bloomfield was co-opted onto the parish council. One councillor vacancy remains.

25/82: Declarations of Interest: None

25/83: Public questions and statements: No members of the public were present.

25/84: Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the meeting of the 4th November 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record.

25/85: 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.

Clerk to send Cllr Bloomfield copies of the reports. **Action: Clerk.**

25/86: Actions: The Council considered actions from the previous meeting not otherwise on the agenda.

- Noticeboard – The Chair has circulated quotes for a new noticeboard and the cheapest quote of £1,005 plus vat from The Parish Notice Board Company was approved. Clerk to inform the supplier. **Action: Clerk.**
- Clerk's contract – The contract for the new Clerk has been amended to include the working from home allowance and was approved by all Councillors.

25/87: Finance:

a. Payments and receipts:

Payments authorised

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Item</u>
17/12/25	Martin Taylor	£125.00	Locum Clerk Wages
08/01/26	HW Village Hall	£20.00	Room Hire

Receipts since the last meeting: None.

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b. **Grant request:** The Council resolved not to donate to Citizens Advice at this time.

c. **2026/2027 Budget:** The Council resolved a budget for 2026/2027 of £10,500.
The Council resolved a precept for 2026/2027 of £10,500.

25/88: Training: Clerk to check for suitable course for Cllr Bloomfield and assign him a Council email address. **Action: Clerk.**

25/89: Planning: There were no new planning applications.

25/90: Publications and correspondence: The Council considered the correspondence.

- Email from Cllr Lee Evans confirming that the proposed changes to speed limits on the A420 and several nearby roads, including Spring Hill, Pinewoods Road and parts of Charney Road have been approved. Clerk to post on website. **Action: Clerk.**
- Notification from OCC of road closure at Buckland/Pusey, A420 (from B4508 to Buckland Road) 16th to 17th February. Clerk to post on Facebook and website nearer the time. **Action: Clerk.**
- Notification from OCC of road closure at Stanford in the Vale, A417 Faringdon Road (from High Street to Goosey Lane) 17th to 19th February. Clerk to post on Facebook and website nearer the time. **Action: Clerk.**
- Email from OCC with Minutes of Parish Transport Representatives meeting held on 11th November 2025.
- Invite from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to a Neighbourhood Planning Event on 28th January.
- Email from OCC containing communications toolkit for the new booking system at Household Waste Recycling Centres.
- Email from OCC Highways Department introducing a new Highways Asset Response Team (HART) requesting suggestions for essential maintenance tasks they can perform in the village. Cllrs Smith and Stott volunteered to meet with them for a village walkaround. Clerk to arrange date with OCC. **Action: Clerk.**
OCC advised the Clerk to report a sunken drain cover, which is a potential trip hazard, on FixMyStreet. Cllr Smith to send photo to the Clerk. **Action: MS, Clerk.**
- Email from South and Vale regarding Thames Water's reservoir consultation that closes on 13th January 2026. Clerk to post on website. **Action: Clerk.**
- Email from member of public requesting restoration of right of way to footpath. Cllr Taylor to respond that the Parish Council has no responsibility for footpaths and advise them to speak to Oxfordshire County Council. **Action: MT.**

25/91: Allotments: Cllrs Taylor and Davenport met with Savills in November to discuss the future management of the allotments. Following a discussion, the Council agreed a response for Cllr Taylor to send to Savills regarding proposals for the allotments space. **Action: MT.**

25/92: Matters for report: The Clerk has spoken to South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) about the defibrillator who confirmed that a new battery and pads will be required soon. The Clerk has included the cost for these in the budget for next year. Clerk to place order and check if the defibrillator is on the asset register. **Action: Clerk.**

25/93: Date of the next meeting: The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 3rd

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Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 8th January 2026 at 7pm

March 2026 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 8th January 2026 at 7pm

Attachment 1

Vale District Council – Member for Thames Ward Report to the Hinton Waldrist Parish Council – 8 January 2026

Disabled Facilities Grant

Disabled or vulnerable residents can apply to the Council now for a Disabled Facilities Grant to make their homes safer and easier to live in. The grant provides up to £50,000 for essential adaptations such as ramps, stairlifts, level-access showers, heating or insulation improvements, and more. Details about how to apply for the grant are available at this link: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/housing/help-with-improving-your-home/>

Winter Advice and Resources

As the colder months approach, the Vale has created a helpful guide to support residents through winter. The guide includes advice on keeping warm, support available through the Vale's community hub, steps to take during extreme weather, tips to prevent damp and mould, as well as information about council services.

The Vale works closely with its tenants to keep homes safe, dry, and free from damp and mould. Under Awaab's Law, which is now in effect, social housing providers are required to respond quickly to reports of damp and mould. They are committed to meeting and wherever possible, exceeding these standards to help ensure all their homes remain safe and comfortable. More information may be found here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/winter-in-the-vale/>.

South East Strategic Option (SESRO) consultation

Thames Water has commenced its statutory consultation for the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO). All consultation materials and a link to their online survey will be available during the consultation period, which ends 11:59pm on 13 January 2026, at www.thames-sro.co.uk/SESRO/statcon2025. In addition to the online survey, Thames Water is hosting community drop-in events; details of these events are available via the above link.

The Vale has created a document with useful SESRO FAQ as this is an important topic for some residents. The document is available at the end of this report.

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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Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 8th January 2026 at 7pm

SESRO Consultation – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What's happening right now?

A: Thames Water (TW) is carrying out a statutory public consultation on its plans for a major reservoir to the south west of Abingdon. This has so far been referred to as SESRO (South East Strategic Reservoir Option) but TW is now beginning to describe it instead as the White Horse Reservoir.

The Vale has repeatedly expressed its opposition to the reservoir through council resolutions and responses to previous consultations, and this position is also made clear in the policy IN7 in the Joint Local Plan which has been submitted for examination.

Q: How long is the consultation open for?

A: It runs to 13 January 2026. More details can be found on the website at <https://thames-sro.co.uk/public-consultations/south-east-strategic-reservoir-option-sesro-statutory-consultation-2025/>

Q: Who will decide whether the reservoir goes ahead?

A: This is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) and the decision will be taken by the Secretary of State following an examination process led by planning inspectors from the Planning Inspectorate. TW will seek a Development Consent Order (DCO) which is a form of planning permission for large infrastructure projects.

Q: Will the councils be responding to the consultation?

A: Yes! Our Senior NSIP Officer, Tom Bradfield, is collating detailed and comprehensive responses, one to come from each district. Although the reservoir itself will be in the Vale, the Draft Order Limits (red line boundary) do extend across the border into South Oxfordshire at the Thames near Culham, so accordingly both South and Vale are designated as host authorities for this NSIP. There would be some impact on South Oxfordshire where there is a planned intake and outfall link to the Thames at Culham as well, and officers are reviewing the submitted material to ascertain whether there would be any flooding impact further downstream. Tom is also in contact with colleagues at the county council.

Q: Can individual members make their own responses?

A: Of course. TW will need to take all responses into account. You might have points you wish to make in addition to what goes in the council responses.

Q: Why has the red line boundary increased in scope?

A: The land requirements for SESRO are extensive and complex, and may yet change again. Please refer to the TW factsheet on land and property here for their explanations: <https://thames-sro.co.uk/media/fwpjymvo/land-and-property-factsheet.pdf>

You can see the latest maps in the TW map book here: <https://thameswatersromedia.blob.core.windows.net/live-media/documents/Map%20Book.pdf>

Q: Should residents be concerned about the safety of the reservoir?

A: TW will be required to ensure that the reservoir is safe. Please refer to their factsheet here for latest information: <https://thames-sro.co.uk/media/zitjgrj/reservoir-safety-and-operation-factsheet-3.pdf>

Q: If the reservoir goes ahead, how can we be sure that the proposed benefits will be delivered?

A: Officers have worked very hard with Thames Water to attempt to secure benefits for the local community including nature, recreation and flood alleviation. We are also doing our best to support the local economy through community employment schemes. The best way to secure these benefits will be to ensure that TW makes formal commitments at the DCO stage.

Q: What happens next?

A: After the close of the consultation TW must consider all of the responses and publish their findings. TW will have to prepare a consultation report to submit with their DCO application, which will include a summary of the responses received. It must also include a description of how the application has been influenced by the responses and, where relevant, an explanation of why some of the suggestions were not followed. The current project timetable is as follows:



**Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the
8th January 2026 at 7pm**

Attachment 2

**Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Report
Cllr Lee Evans
January 2026**

Happy new year!

I'm sorry I can't be with you for this meeting, but please find below an update on what I've been up to in recent weeks.

HINTON WALDRIST PARISH COUNCIL

E-mail: parishclerk@hintonwaldrist-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 8th January 2026 at 7pm

Any questions or queries, I'd be very glad to hear from you. (Contacts details at the end.)

Financial contribution to Village Notice Board

Further to Peter's emails, I wanted to confirm that I would be very happy to allocate £500 from my Councillor Priority Fund towards the cost of replacing the village noticeboard in Hinton Waldrist.

Joanne – thanks for your email re issues accessing the Priority Fund website. I've asked a member of the relevant team to get in touch with you.

As soon as the application is visible at my end, I will approve it.

Changes at the Tip

The County Council is bringing in changes to the way in which we use our tips from 14th January. The principal changes are:

- Before going to the tip, we 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, we will need to take proof of address with us. This is intended to help charge people who do not live in Oxfordshire to use the tip.

Personally, I think these changes are unnecessary and I've opposed them repeatedly in County Hall. They will make it harder for Oxfordshire residents to use tips - which are one of the things we pay our Council Tax for – and I'm also concerned about the impact on fly-tipping in a rural area like ours.

In the last Council meeting before Christmas, I asked the Council's political leadership about people who live in Oxfordshire but forget their proof of address and therefore get charged. I suggested that if someone can subsequently provide proof of address they should be reimbursed any charges. I think that is perfectly reasonable, but the Council leadership has refused to give that commitment.

I also asked a question specifically about the tip in Stanford in the Vale. I explained that having staff at the entrance of the tip to check people had booked in and had their proof of address could easily lead to *more* queues at the site. Worse, those queues could end up spilling out onto the A417 and blocking the road. The Cabinet Member assured me this had all been taken into consideration. Well, if this does end up happening, they cannot say they were not warned!

I'll be keeping a close eye on our tips in the coming weeks and raising any issues directly with the Council. If you come across any issues, including an increase in fly-tipping, please do let me know.

Lane Rental Scheme

Reducing the length of roadworks, and the subsequent inconvenience caused to residents, is something I am very keen to see happen. I've previously raised this issue in County Hall and expressed specific concern about the length of roadworks on the A417 through Stanford in the Vale and on Faringdon Road in Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor.

We all know that sometimes roadworks are inevitable. And so I don't want to appear unreasonable when work on our roads is required. But when it is, I think the Council should be doing everything it can to ensure roadworks are over and done with ASAP.

Recently, the Council has confirmed that it will start charging utilities companies, among others, when they do work on busy roads at busy times under a *Lane Rental Scheme*. This money will then be invested back into our roads.

Minutes of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 8th January 2026 at 7pm

Currently, there are tight criteria for which roads are included and whilst some key roads in the area are in scope (e.g. the A420) lots of others – including Faringdon Road in KBS and the A417 – are not.

I've asked to meet with a Council officer to go through the most important roads in our division, alongside the criteria for inclusion in the scheme, to see what could be done in the future to reduce the duration of local roadworks.

A420 Road Surface

If you have travelled along the A420 between Buckland and Hinton Waldrist recently (i.e. the bit by Pusey Wood) you will have noticed an increasing number of potholes on the road. The County Council is aware of them and they should be repaired soon.

But on a road as busy as the A420, used by so many HGVs, temporary patching of potholes only lasts so long. So I am pleased to say that the Council has agreed to resurface this stretch of road in the next financial year.

I'll provide an update on the timescale once I know more, and I'll continue to push for more and better road repairs across our local area at every opportunity.

Potholes on Pinewoods Road

The potholes at the bottom end of Pinewoods Road have been a frustrating and recurring problem. I've raised the issue several times with the County Council.

Before Christmas, I was told that some of the potholes I reported did not meet the criteria for repair. This was implausible. So I sent in some more photographs and the Council subsequently agreed to an emergency repair for some (done before Christmas) and to repairing others later this month.

Ultimately, I think this section of Pinewoods Road will need proper resurfacing if these potholes keep recurring. The issue is on my radar and I'll do what I can to get it sorted.

A420 Road Safety Improvements – Charney Road/Pinewoods Road

In November, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport Management approved a series of changes to speed limits on the A420, and nearby roads, by the Charney Road and Pinewoods Road junctions.

These are the proposals I've been working on with Council officers for some time and have raised previously.

The existing 50mph stretch of the A420 will be extended to include both the Charney Road and Pinewoods Roads junctions. (Around a mile of National Speed Limit dual carriageway will remain up to the A415 roundabout.) Several nearby roads will go from National Speed Limit to 40mph, including Pinewoods Road.

I was at the meeting and spoke in favour of the changes, following consultation results which showed the overwhelming majority of local residents in favour of reducing these speed limits. However, I was clear that this alone will not solve all the problems on the A420 and I set out several further improvements that we need to see, including better guidance on who has priority at the crossing.

I'm currently waiting on a timeline for the changes to come into effect and will report back once I know more.

A420 Road Safety Improvements – Buckland Road Junction

I recently used one of my questions at Full Council to raise the Buckland Road junction of the A420. Prior to the meeting I had asked, in writing, for the Council to confirm whether the current volume of traffic on the road means the road design is not safe, as I believe is the case. I'm sorry to say I was fobbed off in response. And so I stood up in the chamber and asked again - only to be told they would reply to me in writing.

I've now received the written response, which said:

"Officers have reviewed the junction and confirm it is included in the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) collision problem site list, with 4 slight injury collisions in the 5-years 2020-2024 (and one recorded in Jan - Sep 2025). The

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collisions are varied in type with no obvious pattern. Additional signage was installed at the junction last year and officers are continuing to monitor collision statistics."

I don't consider this non-committal (and out of date) response satisfactory and I'm not willing to let vital issues of road safety in our area be overlooked by the Council. I will therefore be doing whatever I can to get a proper review of the Buckland Road junction and making the case for all necessary action to make the A420 safe.

Ten Foot Bridge

Over recent months, I've been working with residents in Hinton Waldrist and other villages to try and get the Environment Agency to repair and re-open Ten Foot Bridge.

There's been lots of back-and-forth, plenty of highs and lows, and even a bit of farce along the way! At one point, we were told the bridge could be closed until next September.

Happily, the Environment Agency has now said the necessary equipment has been ordered and agreed to take them to the site, for repair, by boat. Based on this report, I'm hoping the work will be completed early this year - and will keep pushing for that. I'll report back as and when I have a further update.

Resurfacing the A417

Improving the road surface on the A417 is a key priority for me. In particular, I want to see major improvements by Stanford Mill and the Shellingford cross-roads.

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.

I'll continue to work on these problems and do whatever I can to make sure the Council fixes our roads and makes the A417 fit for purpose.

Quarry at Shellingford – 'Call In'

As you may know, a planning application has been submitted for a new quarry in Shellingford.

I've met with Council Officers about the proposals to make sure I understand what the process for considering this application looks like. I've also met with residents in the village to listen to their views.

My role in the application is very limited. However, one of the things I can do is 'call in' the planning application to ensure it is decided by the Planning & Regulation Committee, as opposed to Council employees. (FYI, I do NOT sit on the Planning & Regulation Committee and I will have no role in deciding the planning application).

Due to the scale of the application and the level of public interest, I have decided to call the application in. Calling in the decision helps, among other things, give more opportunity for discussion and scrutiny of decision-making.

I'll also be submitting a response to the planning application this month, which I will share publicly.

You can find out more about the application on the Oxfordshire County Council Planning Portal.

I hope the above update is of use. If you have any questions or queries, or if there is anything I can do to help in the village at the moment, please just let me know.

All best wishes,

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Lee

Cllr Lee Evans
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