
GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

After a busy but hot, June, village activities have slackened off, however the Social Club are encouraging all to become involved in a tug of war competition in the Recreation Ground, during with they will be providing a bar and burgers, so something a bit different, that most can get involved with, even if just cheering your favourite team on and also introducing an It's a Knock Out competition at the Club.

There is a vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council, details on page 3 - remember Rev Mike's comment last month about 'getting involved'.

The minutes of the June parish council meeting are at the end and include mention of a proposal for a pedestrian crossing in Church Street.

For those who use the Lambourn Surgery, please follow this link to the Surgery website to get an important update on how prescriptions should be ordered, collected, etc. Note repeat prescriptions can no longer be ordered by telephone, can still be ordered by placing a slip in the post box or pharmacy box at the surgery, but the preferred method is either by using the NHS App or Systemonline (speak to staff re the latter). [New and Repeat Medications](#)

Something I did not know, but others may do, so apologies for my ignorance, Rev Mike explains the differences between Priest, Deacon and Bishop and why he is referred to as a Deacon rather than a Vicar! The Benefice will be welcoming a new curate to assist Rev Mike next month.

Families in the village and the locality are so lucky to have two exceptional educational facilities on their doorsteps, with both the school and the Under 5s providing so many varied outside activities for the children, details of which are reported.

If you have an article which you think other readers would like to see, please send it to: gtsheffordnews@gmail.com by 25th July.

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Linda Bowden

Editor

Village Calendar July 2025

Wednesday	2 nd	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	3 rd	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	4 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	5 th	10.00 a.m.	Churchyard Working Party, St Mary's
Sunday	6 th	10.30 a.m.	Communion by Extension, St Mary's GS
Monday	7 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Monday	7 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall
Wednesday	9 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	10 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	11 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	12 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo & Raffle, Social Club
Monday	14 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	16 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	17 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	18 th	9.30 a.m..	Craft Club, Village Hall
Sunday	20 th	10.15 a.m.	Café Church, St Mary's
Monday	21 st	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	23 rd	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	24 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	25 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Friday	25 th		Articles for August Parish news to be received
Saturday	26 th	7.30 p.m.	It's a Knock Out - Social Club
Sunday	27 th	4.00 p.m.	St Stephens, Shefford Woodlands
Wednesday	30 th	8.30 p.m.	Cheese Club, Social Club
Wednesday	30 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	31 st	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Thursday	31 st		Welford Park CC Biannual Match v The MCC

● YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU! ●

Become a Parish Councillor Join Great Shefford Parish Council

Do you care about your community? Want to make a real difference where you live?
Now's your chance to get involved.

BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR

As a local Councillor, you'll become a **voice for your community** – helping shape decisions, support local projects, and improve the lives of residents. Local Councillors are champions of their communities, investing time and energy to create positive change.

What do Parish Councillors do?

Local Councillor responsibilities fall into three main categories:

- **Decision-making** – influencing and setting direction on local matters
 - **Monitoring** – ensuring services are delivered effectively
- **Getting involved locally** – supporting residents, groups and businesses

Why get involved?

- ☒ Address local issues
- ☒ Work with district and borough councils
 - ☒ Progress important projects
- ☒ Help shape the future of Great Shefford

Whether you're passionate about the environment, facilities, planning, or simply want to give back—your voice matters.

Interested?

For more information on how to apply, contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@greatsheffordparish.gov.uk

Make a difference. Be the change. Serve your community.
#GreatShefford #ParishCouncillor #MakeADifference

We hope you have all had a wonderful June and have been enjoying the bouts of warmer weather we have been having.

With the sunshine, there are always challenges to face and beating the heat and this year has been no exception! If any of you have been by the centre recently, you will have seen an army of fans and paddling pools all ready to help keep our animals cool.

As we move into July, we have some really exciting events coming up. Our next £1 sale is expected to take place mid-July, where for one weekend we will deck the barn out in treasures galore for you to find a bargain for just £1!

Then following shortly on from that, we are pleased to say we will be back at Shaw House Summer Fair this year, once again running their dog show. Join us on Sunday 20th July at Shaw House Newbury, for a fantastic fun-filled day out and the chance to walk away with some paw-tastic prizes for you and your pooch!

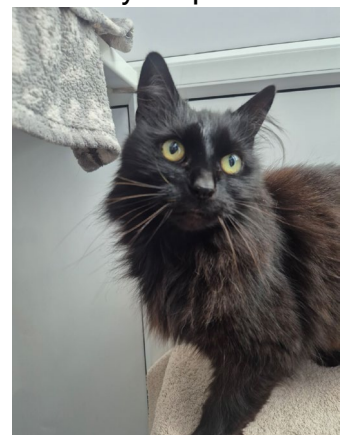
Don't forget to also mark your calendars for Sunday 27th July, where we will be hosting National Human Animal Bond Awareness Day (NHABAD) in collaboration with Street Vet, celebrating the amazing bond between pets and their owners, in addition to offering free support for our community. Come along and join us, along with some fantastic charities and local businesses! You'll have access to support for pet owners who might be feeling the squeeze from the cost-of-living crisis. We'll have free nail clipping, canine physio demos, microchip checks and microchipping, general pet advice, a pet food bank, and so much more. Hope to see you there!



Looking back at June, it was a wonderful month for rehoming, including saying farewell to Hallie, who arrived back at our centre in January. When she first came to us, she was quite nervous around people, but thanks to the incredible dedication and patience of our animal care team over five months, Hallie has made such amazing progress. Today, she's happy to go on walks, loves receiving affection, and has finally found her forever home with her best friend Hunter. We don't often get the chance to see two rescue dogs' bond so closely, so witnessing these two go home together was truly a special and heartwarming moment!



Still looking for their forever home is the beautiful Kitty! Despite being 15 years young, Kitty has so much life and love left to give. This affectionate girl loves head scratches and is very vocal about it too! Unfortunately, Kitty has yet to receive a single application, despite being under our care since the beginning of May. We have everything crossed that we can help find this lovely girl a home soon! To find out more about Kitty, head over to our website at www.nawt.org.uk/rehoming/cats/



As the Summer is our busiest time of year, we are also urgently on the lookout for more wonderful volunteers to help us foster animals! If you're interested in lending a

hand, please contact Sarah at s.hardwick@nawt.org.uk.

And don't forget to follow us on Facebook (@nawt.berkshire) to stay in the loop with all our latest updates and news!



COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



This scheme is operated under the umbrella of Thames Valley Police by volunteers who have undertaken online training.

The village now has four active sites approved by the police for speed monitoring. Volunteers operate in teams of three, with equipment loaned by the TVP Police and Crime Commissioner. Monitoring is only permitted within 20, 30 and 40mph speed limits.

We are looking for additional volunteers, particularly those available during the "rush hour". Have you recently moved to the village and looking to get involved in the community? Are you retired and have some time available in the day when you could support this scheme?

or maybe the speeding vehicles through the village annoy you - rather than just complaining on social media, you could do something to actively help by becoming a volunteer? We are permitted to operate 7 days a week, during daylight hours, so plenty of opportunities outside work or family commitments to take part, even one hour a week, would be a great help. Training is done initially on-line and then with the support of existing volunteers.

Linda Bowden, Group Co-ordinator can answer any questions you may have and explain the scheme further, she can be contacted on 07850 643952.

NEWS FROM THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

Dear Friends,

On the 5th July this year I will be celebrating 10 years since my ordination as Deacon in the Church of England. I was ordained with 6 others in Winchester Cathedral and, as we left the church, one of my Psalm Drummer colleagues handed me my Djembe and we praised God together as everyone left the cathedral through a choir of drummers! It was joyous!

You may or may not know that, in the Church of England, there are only three orders of ministry: Deacons, Priests and Bishops. Everyone who wears a collar is a Deacon. A servant-role that we are reminded of whenever we renew our vows each Easter. A year later, my first set of ecclesiastical "Training Wheels" came off as I was Ordained Priest. This is most common for clergy. There are relatively few people who remain as a Distinctive Deacon. For a small number of clergy, the invitation is made to become a Bishop. I think I can confidently say that this is not in my future!!



Everything we then do as a Deacon or Priest (or even as a Bishop) is a Job Title. I am the Rector of the West Downland Benefice because I live in the Rectory. If I lived in a Vicarage, I would be the Vicar!

When I was first ordained, the first Job Title I was given was my "Title Post". This was Assistant Curate at St Peter's Church, Yateley. This was my role for the first three years of my ordained ministry, firstly as a Deacon and then as Priest.

This is the adventure that Matthew Clark is about to begin with us here in the West Downland Benefice. On 5th July 2025, Matthew will be ordained Deacon in Christ Church Cathedral and serve his Curacy here. He will be picking up all aspects of ordained ministry over the course of his time here as he prepares to go and be the incumbent wherever God calls him next. I hope you will join me in making Matthew welcome. If you are able, please do join us at 4pm on Sunday, 6th July for his welcome service in St James Leckhampstead.

With my love and prayers,

Rev Mike
x

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News from Chaddleworth St Andrew's and Shefford C.E. Primary Schools

Here's an update from us at CSF for June...

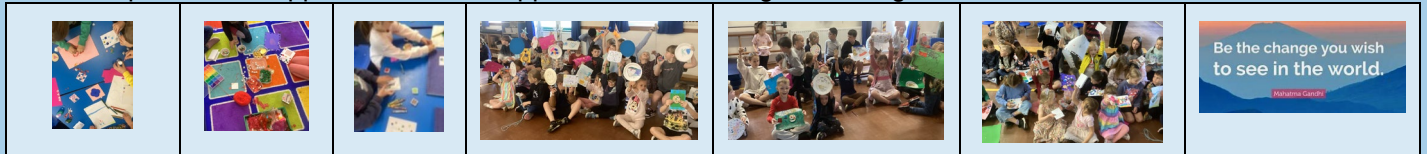
Kindness workshop...

We were so lucky to be able to welcome Greig from the 52 Lives School of Kindness to lead a kindness workshop for us all.

We began the day together enjoying an interactive kindness presentation finding out about how important kindness is for ourselves and the people we share kindness with...



We were then challenged with a kindness task that we completed in our house groups. We were able to take time to think about kindness we experience and how we could show appreciation for that. Our creativity included making cards of thanks, pictures of happiness, words of appreciation and thoughtful craft gifts....



What a wonderful reminder of the importance of kindness and the ways it can help so many.

A Huge thank you to Greig and the 52 Lives charity for sharing their time and inspirational message with us!

Sporting achievements...

Over half-term Quinn attended the British Cheerleading Association Allstar Nationals 2025 Competition. She competed against 11 other team's in her age category. Quinn's team Mini Madness, placed 3rd, meaning they are the third best team for her age group out of the whole country! What an amazing result and Quinn's first ever competitive performance.



Our class worship Bible story focus...

We shared the story of Jonah and the whale and enjoyed the story presented as a song too - [Jonah and the big fish](#)

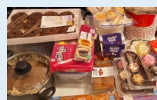
BIG question

'When have you been thankful for the opportunity to pray to God?'



Red Kites cake sale...

The Red Kites team would like to say a huge thank our fundraising sale. There was an incredible spread doughnuts, cookies, brownies and jam tarts and they of bakers and helpers - and your generosity - we're delighted to announce that we hit our fundraising goal and raised a massive £156!



you to everyone who came and bought cakes at with lots of homemade cakes as well as went down a storm! Thanks to our brilliant team



The daily mile...

This week Mrs Brown was excited to announce the re-introduction of our 'daily mile'! But, why



are we doing it? Children's fitness is not only crucial for their health but it is also incredibly important for their mental health and wellbeing and the aim of The Daily Mile is to improve the physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of our children – regardless of age, ability or personal circumstances. It will ensure that every child every day is exposed to physical activity and we hope that this will not only improve their physical health but also their mood, behaviour and general wellbeing.

Smoothie bike...

Cooking club were excited to take a turn on the smoothie bike this week! Choosing their fruits, vegetables and juice of choice to whizz up their own smoothie designs- delicious! With thanks again to Hungerford Food Community for lending us this equipment.

Sporting achievements...

Again we were able to celebrate sporting achievements. Eleanor shared that at her netball presentation evening she was awarded the title of 'Best Defender' for her under 11s team. She was given a water bottle and key chain as a prize. Well done Eleanor!

Charlie and the Chocolate factory...



Owls brought to the Corn Exchange stage their final performance of Roald Dahl's story of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and what a performance it was! Everyone looked amazing (thank you for the costume support from families), everyone sounded amazing and each child's stage presence was superb! I know your families are incredibly proud of you, as are Mrs Chapman, Mrs O and all the school staff that were able to watch.

As soon as the professional photos are with us we'll share them with you too!

Let's celebrate...

The Christian values of community and perseverance were evident in achievements shared in our worship... Quinn proudly described the reasons she received her trophies from Wantage Town football club. Hollie described the tasks that won her rosettes from the Berkshire show, 2nd place for her corn dollie and 3rd place for her gingerbread man bake. Well done!



Let's celebrate...

Quinn has been busy recently and has just been offered a place for the Oxford United Academy under 10 girls football team for the 2025/2026 season! Fantastic! Quinn also had Cheer success to share where her group, Mini Madness, were placed 2nd at the Future Cheer International competition. Amazing!



Girls Rugby... KS2 girls braved the heat and took part in the Girls Rugby Festival at Hungerford Rugby Club and wow they made us proud! The Christian values of community and perseverance shone through, with TREADS taken in their stride too. Walking away with a medal each, the girls have made us and themselves incredibly proud. (we're sure the power of the ice lolly also helped!) Well done! *Miss Carter*

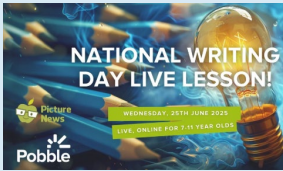


Cricket festival....

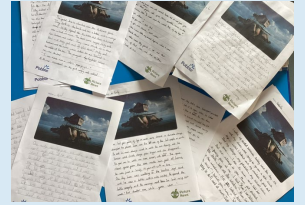
8 very excited year 5s and 6s children joined 15 other teams at Falkland Cricket Club. We played matches that involved everyone bowling overarm and taking a turn to bat. Through our 3 games we improved our sporting skills and tried our very best. All the children showed great sportsmanship, well done! *Mrs Oberholzer*



National writing day...



Red Kites were invited to join a special Pobble 365 Live Lesson to mark National Writing Day 2025. The creative writing session inspired everyone to get creative with words and produce a piece of writing they were proud of. What a wonderful way to celebrate the power of writing and explore thought-provoking ideas! Well done Red Kites!



We are all very excited that the Summer Reading Challenge is up and running again this year! Chenoa, our West Berkshire Assistant Librarian, came to join us and share that the theme of this year's challenge is Story Garden, which is all about inspiring children's imaginations and exploring the connection between storytelling and nature, through the power of reading. From 1 July, children aged 4-11 years can visit a library to sign up for the free Summer Reading Challenge. The Summer Reading Challenge is a great way for children to keep up their reading skills and confidence over the summer holidays and prevent the common holiday 'reading dip'.



We were so excited this week to repurpose delivery packaging for playtime creativity in the sunshine! Our imaginations went wild with paper fashion, box vehicles and artistic creations galore!



Great Shefford Sports & Social Club

Current Opening Hours:

Friday 5:30pm - 11:00pm

Saturday 12:00pm - 4:00pm & 7:30pm - 11:00pm

Sunday 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Contact us:

Email: greatsheffordsocialclub@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61567726790943>

Phone (Sandra): [07748403778](tel:07748403778)

The Great Shefford Sports & Social Club is located behind the Village Hall on Station Road in the heart of our village. We are a friendly, committee run club and we are working hard to develop events for our local community to enjoy in addition to opening extended hours for our members as often as possible.

It's a Knockout!!

We are starting a new event from Saturday 26th July to be held on the last Saturday of each month - a knockout format competition using one of the games available within the club for a modest entry fee of just £2 and winner-takes-all!!

Upcoming events to add to your diaries:

- Saturday 12th July - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm
- Saturday 26th July - It's a Knockout!
- Wednesday 30th July - Cheese Club. Around 8.30pm - 9pm, bring a piece of cheese along to share in a sociable nibble
- Saturday 9th August - Bingo & Raffle - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm
- Wednesday 27th August - Cheese Club. Around 8.30pm - 9pm, bring a piece of cheese along to share in a sociable nibble
- Saturday 30th August - It's a Knockout!

Additional events will be publicised via Facebook and posters around the village.

If you haven't been to the club before, we would love you to welcome you for a drink and/or our upcoming events. If you have any comments, suggestions and/or questions about GSSSC please contact us & we look forward to seeing you at the club soon!

News from Welford Park Cricket Club

Mike Brook has been playing for Welford Park since 2008 and has recently made his second comeback from retirement. During that time he has scored 2,741 runs. At the age of 68, if you asked him what he most enjoys about the game he'd most likely say; "The relief when it's all over." In contrast, the Welford Park Under 13s are full of boundless enthusiasm. In June they notched up their first ever Berkshire League victories in back to back fixtures against Theale & Tilehurst.

In the away match on June 8th the juniors won by an impressive 98 runs. Tristan Greenslade top scored with 21 runs and there were three wickets apiece for Tejas Kaler, Liam Edwards and Finley Angus.



Chalk and cheese? Welford Park Under 13s after their victory at Theale and Mike Brook. Mike is the one on the right (but hopefully you guessed that).



The return match on June 16th was a much closer affair. Batting second, Theale & Tilehurst required seven from the last over and five singles later all results were possible as Seb Jones prepared to deliver the final ball. It was the record crowd of the season (for some reason it seems that people prefer to watch their children than their Dads). The crowd hushed in tense anticipation. For many of us in such a situation the weight of the twin imposters would weigh too heavily upon us. Not so young Seb! He calmly ran in to bowl and knocked the stumps over! Cue elated celebrations at another Welford Park Juniors victory!

In senior cricket, both Saturday XIs have also notched first victories in the their new league. On May 31st the 2nd XI won at Shinfield. Marc Greenslade led the attack with 4-27 as Shinfield were bowled out for 138. In response Anbarasan Chakkaravarthy (36) and Pushparaj Nagarajan (26) took The Park close to victory and Marc Greenslade finished it off with a rapid 9 off 5 balls.

The 1st XI had a longer wait but victory came at home to Eversley on June 14th. A partnership of 108 for the fourth wicket between Majid Saeed (97) and Will Herrington (64) helped the team to a total of 256. In the Eversley response wickets fell at regular intervals and they were 128-8 after 32 overs but the ninth wicket was hard to get and it was eventually the father and son team of Ian and Will Herrington who finished it off in the 42nd over.

And are you wondering how Mike Brook's comeback went? Probably not, but I'll tell you anyway!. He top scored with 23, an experience he described as "almost enjoyable".



Mark Greenslade (right) receives the player of the match award for his performance at Shinfield

Looking ahead, in addition to the regular fixtures there are two special matches on the card. On Thursday July 31st it's the biannual match Vs The MCC and on Sunday August 10th the memorial match in respect to Paul Bowers who was associated with the club for many years as player, umpire and treasurer and is sadly missed.

Contact

To contact the club about participation in any of these activities it's: Ian Herrington: lanherro810@gmail.com 07879 204696.



Great Sheffield Under Fives

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk



We are now enjoying the last few weeks of the academic year and are packing in lots of fun **Pre-School** activities. In the hot weather



we kept cool outside by paddling in the river, using small nets to catch small shrimps and floating leaf boats downstream. We've also played in the woods, climbed small trees, played hide and seek, built dens and enjoyed our own imaginary games. Our indoor space is very cool in the summer, so



we've enjoyed lots of creative activities, role play, mark-making and games.

The term has been busy with visitors and day trips. Rev. Mike visited us to play nursery rhymes on his guitar; he had all the children in fits of giggles with the wrong words! The Education Officer from Newbury Agricultural Society brought along Buttercup the cow and Clover the goat to teach the children where milk comes from and they all had a

turn
at



milking!

We invited all our Pre-School families to Bucklebury Farm Park for the day; everyone loved the tractor ride to feed the deer, playing indoors and outside plus meeting the goats, pigs, donkey, pigs and rabbits. Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising which enabled us to pay for this wonderful family day out. Our second day trip was to



Welford Park; we based ourselves at the beautiful cricket club then walked down to and around the Welford House grounds. The children loved the garden art giraffes, the clear river running under the bridges, the woods and the bamboo tunnel. We ate our lunch back at the cricket club then played sport games and had stories. Now we are getting ready for the end of term and sports day.

Our “drop in” Monday **Baby & Toddler group**, run by Debbie and Kathryn, has been busy with many new parents, carers and their very young children. This runs on

Monday mornings from 9.30 - 11am for £3 including refreshments for all so please come along with your little ones.

We do have Pre-School spaces in September so if you would like to know a little more about the fabulous opportunities we can offer your pre-school child, please do get in touch via the website.

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk

Best wishes,

Denise Herrington



PUB TALK



A quick update from the Swan on the River, Great Shefford.

It was hugely exciting to see that the Swan has indeed returned to the river and was photographed looking very at home surrounded by the growing cygnets.

We are now nearly 3 months into the renovation and as suspected there are a few extra issues that need addressing, not least that planning still feels a long way off. Fortunately work can still progress in certain areas and window frames are being painstakingly repaired and much of the bar area can be refurbished without any further permissions. In addition to this we have used the last couple of months to uncover some surprises. Some of these are exciting little reveals of the building's past, such as former hessian lined walls in the upstairs rooms and a totally original roof structure - fragile, but repairable.



Others are a structural headache, such as cracks in the Southwest corner through which sunlight can be viewed. Some propping up will be required. The structural engineer is on it but again it will take time.



We are quite pleased the garden is now ready for a complete makeover having been cleared of all the clutter and terrace repaired. This is going to be a wonderful space with a full reconnection to the river!

We will keep you posted as things progress.....

All the best for now from Miranda and the pub team

FARMING NEWS

This month we have been busy shearing the sheep, an essential agricultural practice with roots tracing back thousands of years. Beyond being a cornerstone of the wool industry, sheep shearing is critical for animal welfare, ensuring sheep stay healthy, comfortable, and free from issues like overheating or parasite infestations. It helps the sheep in many ways.



Excessive wool traps heat, which can lead to heat exhaustion or heatstroke, overgrown fleece can weigh the animal down impairing its movement dense wool creates a breeding ground for parasites like blowflies, leading to conditions such as flystrike, which can be fatal.

A professional shearer can typically shear a sheep in under two minutes, though speed is balanced with the animal's welfare.

Professional sheep shearers travel globally, following shearing seasons from country to country. Their work requires significant physical strength, endurance, and technical skill.

This week should see the end of the black barn build also, the last of the concrete was poured a few days ago so we have somewhere to store our winter forage.



Grass, as you may have noticed, is thin on the ground this year so we are making as much hay as we can but yields are a third of last year's harvest. Like any supply and demand product prices will be high this year and carrying through the winter.

Until next time.

Ash



Minutes of a meeting of Great Shefford Parish Council held on Monday 2nd June 2025 at 7.30pm at Great Shefford Village Hall

Present: Councillor Piers Storey (Chairman)
Councillors Miranda Armstrong, Tony Coard, Jessica Copcutt,
Louisa Freeman, and Carol Turner

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)

2025-06/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2025-06/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

2025-06/03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2025.

2025-06/04 OPEN FORUM

- i. There were no members of public present.
- ii. District Councillor Clive Hooker was not able to attend the meeting.

2025-06/05 ACCOUNTS 2024/25

(a) Internal Auditor's Report

RESOLVED to adopt the Internal Auditor's Report 2024/25 (appendix I).

(b) Parish Council Accounts 2024/25

1 Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2025

RESOLVED to adopt the financial papers for the year ended 31st March 2025 (appendix II).

2 Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2025

RESOLVED to confirm certification as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 (appendix III).

RESOLVED to adopt the Annual Governance Statement - Section 1 of the Annual Return (appendix III).

RESOLVED to adopt the Accounting Statements - Section 2 of the Annual Return (appendix III).

(c) Confirmation of period of publication of public rights

RESOLVED to confirm that the period for Exercise of Public Rights shall be 1st July 2025 to 9th August 2025 and that notice shall be published on the Parish Council's website and village noticeboard.

2025-06/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Updates on new planning applications and decisions since the last meeting were noted, as detailed at the end of these minutes. Councillor Copcutt advised that a revised application had been submitted in relation to 'Land east of The Old Post House, Newbury Road, Shefford Woodlands'.

2025-06/07 FINANCE

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payee	Amount	Invoice reference / date	Description
Tactical Facilities Management	£217.01	3557 26.05.2025	Monthly maintenance – May 2025
Tactical Facilities Management	£253.86	3624 26.05.2025	Waste removal & Litter Picking – May 2025
C Connell	£130.00	2137 30.05.2025	Internal Audit 2024/25
M Taylor	£TBC		Parish Clerk's Salary – May 2025 ¹

RESOLVED to ratify payment of £4,506.24 to Infinity Playgrounds Ltd for remedial repairs to play equipment approved by Council in March 2025 (minute reference 2025-03/19). Payment authorised and processed by Councillors Freeman and Storey to meet payment deadline of 29th May 2025.

2025-06/08 VILLAGE MATTERS**a) Traffic calming and speed awareness**

It was felt that there had been a significant reduction in the number of speed monitoring sessions being conducted and Councillor Copcutt would suggest some dates and times to the Speedwatch group. Councillor Armstrong offered to undertake training to become a Speedwatch volunteer.

Councillor Coard to complete the requested site survey questionnaire ahead of installation of the replacement Vehicle Activated Sign on the Wantage Road.

Councillor Freeman was continuing to pursue installation of a pedestrian crossing to aid access to the bus stop. Councillors were disappointed that the request had to be determined on a 'child versus traffic' ratio rather than a safety issue. The question of whether the A338 should have street lighting had also been raised.

b) Dog signage – recreation ground

It was agreed to purchase 4 x new signs to discourage dogs from the recreation ground.

¹ Due to issues accessing HMRC's PAYE software, the Clerk's salary for May 2025 was not available at the time of the meeting. It was agreed to approve the payment, subject to circulation of the Clerk's payslip when processed

2025-06/08 VILLAGE MATTERS continued

c) Flood Alleviation Scheme and SAGLUV (Sewage Action Group for the Lambourn Upper Valley)

The Flood Alleviation construction work was complete and Lambourn Valley Flood Forum had sent a note of appreciation. It was agreed that Councillor Freeman continue to represent the Parish Council on the SAGLUV group, with Councillor Coard also attending meetings.

An update from SAGLUV was imminent and would be published on the website.

d) Village Events

i. Community Litter Picking

Attendance at the community litter pick on Sunday 1st June had been low but it was acknowledged that this had clashed with the Church Service (held on the 1st Sunday of each month). It was agreed to reassess dates of future community litter pickers and revise as necessary. Potentially working with Girlguiding/Scouting groups for badge work.

Lots of dog foul had been present and it was agreed to put up posters to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their pet, potentially working with schools to design a poster. Additional bins may be considered in the future.

ii. Christmas Tree

All dates for the Christmas tree and lights switch-on had been agreed as follows:

Friday 21st November	Tree delivered
Saturday 22 nd November	Tree erected
Week of 24 th November	Tree decorated
Saturday 29 th November	Turning on of the lights event

It was agreed to seek sponsorship for the Christmas tree.

iii. Halloween

Councillor Turner suggested a Halloween event to follow Trick or Treating. Details to be considered further, but potentially a barbeque and hot chocolate. Could include litter picking and speed awareness activities. Council was supportive of the event.

iv. Hymns and Pimms, St Thomas' Church

A reminder of Hymns and Pimms event at St Thomas' Church, East Shefford on 14th June, 2pm – 4pm.

e) Village Communications – Website, Facebook etc

The Parish Council's branding guidelines to be incorporated into the design of the new website.

Any communication for the village Facebook page to be sent to the Clerk for upload from the Parish Council's profile.

f) Future Councillor 'Meet & Greet'

Community litter picking activities and proposed Halloween event, as above.

2025-06/09 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

It was noted that following notice of the casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor, following the resignation of Eunice Tweedie, as the Returning Officer at West Berkshire Council had not received any requests for an election, the Parish Council was free to fill the vacancy by co-option.

2025-06/10 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

No matters were raised.

2025-06/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th July 2025 at 7.30pm.

Subsequent meeting dates for 2025/26: 8th September, 6th October, 3rd November, 5th January, 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April and 11th May.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Application No.	Address	Details	Status (at time of meeting)	GSPC response
24/01903/HOUSE	Rowan House Wantage Road	Proposed single-storey side and rear extension with associated alterations and proposed detached car port	Awaiting decision	Nil
24/02156/FUL	East Shefford House	Part retrospective installation of solar panel	Approved	Nil
25/00567/FUL	Land East of The Old Post House Newbury Road Shefford Woodlands	Erection of an Agricultural Barn with storage	Awaiting decision	Nil
25/00672/NONMAT	3 The Old Railway Station Station Road	Revised windows and door configuration on north and west elevations	Approved	Nil