
GREAT SHEFFORD PARISH NEWS

OCTOBER 2025

After the long hot summer, the weather is more seasonal with an autumnal feel in the air and the leaves changing colour on many of the trees. The very welcome rain has brought our gardens and the countryside back to life with the grass and other some plants thinking it's spring - I have wallflowers flowering in my garden.

With winter on it's way, we have details from Lambourn Surgery of who is eligible for flu and covid vaccinations and how these will be carried out.

The Parish Council is now back to full strength with the appointment of Steve Bullock to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Eunice Tweedie. Minutes of the 1st September Council meeting can be found at the end of this news.

The very popular and traditional Harvest Supper is back in the Village Hall on Friday 10th October and we have details for tickets.

West Berks Council included what is known as The Old Football Field (yes, football was regularly played in the village for many years with a social club based team) in its preferred sites in the local plan published in June this year and an application for 16 houses on the site this has been submitted. This has been the subject of two residents meetings during September and will be discussed again at the Parish Council's meeting on Monday 6th October.

The Parish Council have organised another Community Litter Pick for Sunday 12th October and whilst on the subject of tidiness, the Churchyard tidy up at St Mary's is this Saturday 4th. Rev Mike has written an explanation about the funding (or lack of) of the Church.

Looking for something to do locally on Saturday evenings? The Social Club have an event every weekend during October.

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Linda Bowden

Editor

Village Calendar October 2025

Wednesday	1 st	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	2 nd	6.15 p.m..	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	3 rd	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	4 th	6.15 p.m.	Churchyard tidy, St Mary's
Saturday	4 th	8.00 p.m.	Race Night, Sports and Social Club
Sunday	5 th	10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion, St Mary's
Monday	6 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Monday	6 th	7.30 p.m.	Parish Council, Village Hall
Wednesday	8 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	9 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	10 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Friday	10 th	7.30 p.m.	Harvest Supper, Great Shefford Village Hall
Saturday	11 th	7.30 p.m.	Bingo & Raffle, Social Club
Sunday	12 th	10.00 a.m.	Community Litter Pick, Village Hall
Monday	13 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	15 th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	16 th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	17 th	9.30 a.m..	Craft Club, Village Hall
Saturday	18 th	8.00 p.m.	It's a Knock Out, Social Club
Sunday	19 th	10.15 a.m.	Café Church, St Mary's
Monday	20 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	22 nd	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	23 rd	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	24 th	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Sunday	26 TH	4.00 p.m.	Prayer & Praise, St Stephens, Shefford Woodlands
Monday	27 th	6.15 p.m.	Yoga, Village Hall
Wednesday	29 th	10.00 a.m.	Halloween Craft Morning, Village Hall
Wednesday	29 th	8.30 p.m.	Cheese Club, Social Club

Wednesday	29th	7.30 p.m.	Bellringing, St Mary's
Thursday	30th	6.15 p.m.	Pilates, Village Hall
Friday	31st	9.30 a.m.	Craft Club, Village Hall
Friday	31 st		Halloween at the Social Club

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Lambourn Surgery Patient Participation Group Newsletter, September 2025

Winter Vaccination Programme

Details of the National Winter Vaccination Programme have been announced.:

Winter viruses put enormous pressure on our health and care services, and the clinical view is that vaccination remains our most reliable defence, reducing serious illness, helping maintain service resilience, and protecting the most vulnerable in our communities.

Generally, the programme will start on 1st October.

Who's eligible?

Flu vaccine:

- Everyone aged 65+
- Children aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2025, primary school years Reception to Year 6, and some secondary pupils (Years 7-11) (from 1st September)
- Pregnant women (from 1st September)
- Anyone 6 months+ with long term health conditions (e.g. severe asthma, heart disease, diabetes, weakened immune system)
- Household contacts of people with severely weakened immune systems
- Carers receiving Carer's Allowance or caring for an elderly/disabled person
- Residents in older adult care homes

COVID-19 booster:

- 75 years and over
- Those aged 6 months to 74 with a weakened immune system due to health conditions or treatments
- Pregnant women
- Frontline health and care workers
- Immunosuppressed individuals (newly diagnosed or meeting criteria) can also request vaccination outside the seasonal programme via their GP or hospital specialist

Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine

- o People aged 75 to 79 (who will receive invitations via GP)
- o Pregnant women from 28 weeks, to protect infants— via maternity services or GP
- o Individuals with conditions increasing vulnerability to chest infections

Lambourn Surgery will be running vaccination clinics on Saturday 4th October - 8.30am - 3.30pm and Saturday 18th October - 8.30am - 2.30pm

You should not need to contact the surgery, eligible patients will be contacted to make an appointment by their preferred method of communication (Text, NHS App, Phone or Letter) .

Please do not phone the surgery.

Lambourn Pharmacy will also be offering Flu and Covid Vaccines from 1st October on Tuesday mornings and afternoons and Wednesday mornings. Appointments can be made via the National Booking Service or directly at the store.

The National Booking Service is now open for pharmacy appointments via the NHS website or by dialling 119.

Please Help Keep Everyone Informed Please be so kind as to share this newsletter with those who would not normally have access to electronic communications.

Thank you. You can contact the PPG via email; ppgchairpersonlambourn@gmail.com or in writing via the surgery office, addressed to the Chair of the PPG.

Alan Breadmore, Chair, Lambourn Surgery PPG

Welcome to our new Parish Councillor - Steve Bullock

Great Shefford Parish Council is very pleased to welcome Steve Bullock, who was co-opted onto the Council at a meeting on Monday 1st September, to fill a vacancy left earlier this year following the resignation of Eunice Tweedie.

Steve has lived in the village for 28 years and is already well known to many residents. He plays an active role in the local Speed Awareness Group, regularly taking part in speed monitoring and data collection to help improve safety on our roads.

When asked why he wanted to join the Parish Council, Steve said: *"I'd like to get involved and help with what goes on in the village."*

We're delighted to have Steve on board and look forward to working with him for the benefit of our community.

Please join us in giving him a warm welcome!



Mel Taylor
Parish Clerk

CRAFT CLUB

The Craft Club continued to meet during the summer school holidays and enjoyed a couple of workshops during this time. The first was to make a "memory book" for photos. This resulted from a gift I had received from an American friend who had visited us for a few days. It took me a while to work out how it was made but eventually I realised that the "binding" was actually envelopes stuck together and covered in decorative paper. The end results are very attractive although difficult to see just from photos.

The next workshop was quilling, but instead of coloured paper we used sliced up toilet roll inner tubes! This proved less fiddly than the paper version. Here are some of our finished "master pieces"! It just shows you should be careful what you throw away!!!



Best wishes from us all at the Craft Club.

Stevie

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH



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

The village now has seven active sites approved by the police for speed monitoring, Volunteers have carried out six speedwatch sessions since July resulting in 66 drivers being reported to Thames Valley Police for excessive speed.

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 annoys you - perhaps 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 takes approximately half an hour and then with the support of existing volunteers during active sessions.

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



Great Sheffield Under Fives

www.greatsheffordunderfives.co.uk



Our autumn term has got off to a great start. Hopefully, some of you will have visited our display in the Education Tent at Newbury Show; we had a fantastic display of artwork and photographs of the activities we offer.

We have welcomed new children, Brody, Wilf, Daisy, Florence and their families, have enjoyed printing with apples and have begun our weekly music lessons with Anouska.



Some children enjoyed junk modelling or making playdough, playing with the giant ball runs and the sand. Most importantly, the children are enjoying being back with their friends!

Each afternoon we learnt outside and experienced a range of weathers. We enjoyed the village park which gives children the

opportunity to develop core strength and balance - did you know these are key skills needed to write? We also raced across the fields, walked past the orchard and watched a digger near the river. The children commented upon the swifts gathering and darting around in the sky before their flight to Africa. There is always so much to see outside, and our children are fortunate to experience that EVERY DAY.



Our Monday morning Baby & Toddler group has been busy with new families coming along with the young children. Debbie and Kathryn welcome everyone and provide a caring, inclusive session with refreshments, activities and music.

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

Denise Herrington

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Local Lottery, season 2024-2025

Welford Park Cricket Club and Great Shefford Under Fives would like to thank everyone who was kind enough to purchase a ticket in the draw for this year. We thought we would publish an up to date schedule of all the winners so far in case you have missed all the lucky winners this year. The winners are listed below:-

Christmas / New Year Draw - December 2024

£150 Adrian Clark £100 Kirsty Philips £50 Jeremy Nickson

Draw 1 - December 2024

£50 Dot Channing Williams
£25 Ian Herrington
£15 Carrie Pettman
£10 JP De Chazal

Draw 5 - April 2025

£50 Penny Cowley
£25 Melinda Webb
£15 Dominic Armstrong
£10 Annebel Brown

Draw 8 - July 2025

£50 Caroline Pettman
£25 Penny Cowley
£15 Matt Lawson
£10 David Johnson

Draw 2 - January 2025

£50 Adrian Bean
£25 Steve Holden
£15 John Fletcher
£10 Ian Herrington

Draw 6 - May 2025

£50 Roger Thornton
£25 Sara Hewitt
£15 Ben Myers
£10 Geraldine
McCaughrean

Draw 9 - August 2025

£50 Jim Carter
£25 John Fletcher
£15 John Westbrook
£10 Dominic Armstrong

Draw 3 - February 2025

£50 JP De Chazal
£25 Beryl Jonesds
£15 Ian Herrington
£10 Mike Brook

Draw 4 - March 2025

£50 Lily Brown
£25 Dot Channing Williams
£15 Ed James
£10 Mary Girdler

Draw 7 - June 2025

£50 Myrle Povey
£25 Carrie Scarrott
£15 Adam Reeves
£10 Bruce Bucknell

If you have not purchased a ticket before it will be coming up to 'renewal time' shortly so there will be an opportunity for you to purchase your first number or maybe increase your numbers in the draw for £15 a ticket. As you can see there are 12 monthly draws with prizes of £50, £25, £15 & £10 with special Christmas / New Year draw prizes of £150, £100 and £50.

Details regarding renewal or getting hold of a new ticket will be published in the next parish newsletter.

Many thanks to everyone for your continuing support of these two organisations.



NEWS FROM THE WEST DOWNLAND BENEFICE

Dear Friends,

Bit of a departure from my usual style of article this month but there is something significant going on across the West Downland Benefice this month and I wanted to share something of our vision!

Supporting Our Village Churches: A Community Legacy Worth Preserving

Our parish churches stand at the heart of our communities. The ancient stones bear witness to generations of village life. Whether you attend Sunday services or simply appreciate its presence as you pass by, the church remains one of our most cherished community assets. This October, the West Downland Benefice is launching a stewardship campaign, and we're asking everyone to consider how they might help ensure this precious heritage remains for future generations.



The Reality of Church Funding

Many people assume the Church of England is wealthy, perhaps imagining vast coffers filled from centuries past. The reality is quite different. Our parish churches receive no funding from the government, and contrary to popular belief, they don't receive significant money from the Church Commissioners or central church funds. Instead, each parish church relies almost entirely on the generosity of its local community to survive.

Every year, our churches face substantial running costs: heating and lighting bills, insurance, maintenance of the building and churchyard, and contributing to the ministry costs that provide pastoral care throughout our benefice. These expenses continue regardless of how many people attend services, and they're rising year on year along with everything else.

More Than Just a Building

While not everyone in our villages worship regularly, most recognise the church's vital role in community life. It's where many were married, where children are christened, and where we gather to say farewell to loved ones. The church provides a peaceful space for reflection, hosts community events, and offers pastoral support during difficult times. It's a constant in our changing world, connecting us to our history while serving present needs.

The building itself is also a significant part of our village's character and heritage. Property values often reflect the desirability of living near a well-maintained church, and many visitors come specifically to see our historic building.

Your Church Needs You

This October, we're inviting everyone who values having a church in our community to consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme. Whether you give £5, £50 or £500 a month, every contribution makes a real difference. Regular giving helps us plan ahead with confidence, knowing we can meet our ongoing commitments and reach the needs of the communities we serve..

If you pay tax, Gift Aid increases your donation by 25% at no extra cost to you. A £20 monthly donation becomes £25, and a £40 donation becomes £50 through this government scheme.

Securing Our Future

Supporting your parish church isn't just about maintaining a building - it's about preserving a living piece of our community for your children and grandchildren. Together, we can ensure these treasured assets continue to serve our villages for generations to come.

To find out more about the Parish Giving Scheme or to discuss other ways you can help, please email stewardship@westdownland.co.uk and we will send details on ways you can give. Thank you so much for reading this and considering supporting our historic churches.

With my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev Mike". Below the signature is a small handwritten "x".

Office Contact Details

www.westdownland.co.uk

Email office@westdownland.co.uk

Telephone 07954 117093

Harvest Supper



Friday 10th October 7:30pm

At Great Shefford Village Hall



Delicious home cooked meal.

Social Club bar open.

Tickets £15



Everyone is welcome

Please call or text 07867 934 387

Email denise.herrington@btinternet.com

Funds raised will support and maintain our historic parish churches

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

Here's an update from us at CSF for September



Marvellous Music...

We have started our musical teaching and learning experiences. With Robins and Kingfishers enjoying the singing, games and dancing delights of 'Pantomimus' with Danielle,



and Owls and Red Kites beginning their experiences of brass instruments with Mr Williams introducing the trumpet and the trombone! We look forward to hearing more of the music children are learning to produce and enjoy!

Newbury Show...

We have all been busy using our crop of fruits from 'outside the classroom' to inspire our creativities in writing, art, crafting and cooking in preparation for the Newbury Show.

We must share a HUGE thank you to Mrs Liddiard, Mrs Emmerson and Mrs Harris who volunteered to set up and present all our efforts in preparation for the public visiting over the weekend and also returned all the wonderful artwork and writing back to school to be displayed in our KS2 library area. Rascal was very happy to see our school represented in the Education tent at the Newbury Show. I hope, if you were at the show, that you were able to go and find our display of learning inspired by 'outside the classroom'.



Schools in the UK will soon need to give more lessons on democracy, how voting works, and how the country is run. This is because the voting age for the general election is being lowered to 16. Many agree that young people need to be ready to make informed decisions. At first, these lessons will be for children aged 14 and over, but the plan is to begin teaching these issues from 11 years of age, so everyone has plenty of time to learn.

PTFA news and updates...

The PTFA AGM will be on Friday the 10th October – exact time and location to be confirmed.

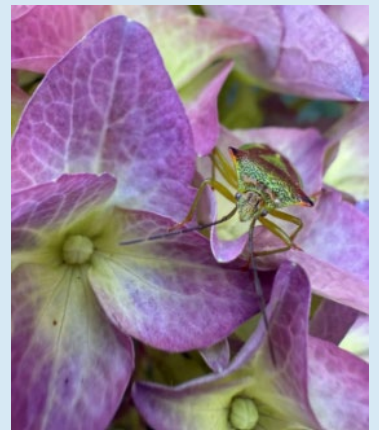
Please also see the diary dates for PTFA dates coming up.

Sing & Celebrate Worship...

Our whole school worship brought us together again to share achievements of the week.



We were able to celebrate lots more green community leaves this week which have been given to children in recognition of the Christian value of Community that they have demonstrated, such as; care and kindness to others and working together. We were also so happy to be able to celebrate...



* William's player of the week trophy at his first football session!

* Everly's amazing photo of the beetle in the flowers has been awarded another prize, as the runner-up position in the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust Children's and teens photography competition! Amazing!



shortbread bake at the

* Nancy and Elizabeth's success in the Newbury show horse competition arena.

* Elizabeth's win with her decorated egg at the Newbury show!



* Alfred's success with his painted eggs and Newbury show!



We were also able to celebrate Mrs Stephens, Mrs Buckingham and Miss Carter, who were able to complete the 'Moonshine Walk', walking over 13 and a half miles in in about 4 and a half hours! Through their sponsorship these amazing ladies

have raised nearly £1000 for Cancer Research. If you would like to donate please click on the following link...

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/emmas-giving-page-326818130>



Great Shefford Sports & Social Club

Visit us:

Wednesday 7:30pm - 11:00pm

Friday 7:30pm - 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

Find us:

At the back of the village hall.

Upcoming events to add to your diaries:

- Saturday 4th October - Race Night! First race at 8pm
 - Visit the club to sign up as horse owners and jockeys
 - Book a table by popping into the club or find us on Facebook. BBQ available.
- Saturday 11th October - Bingo & Raffle
 - Doors open 7:30pm - Eyes down 8pm
- Saturday 18th October - It's a Knockout!
 - Registration by 6pm, Play at 8pm
- Wednesday 29th October - Cheese Club
 - Around 8.30pm - 9pm, bring a piece of cheese along to share in a sociable nibble
- Friday 31st October - Halloween
 - Details to be announced

Opening Hours: Due to the sun taking a rest for the next few months, we are too. Friday evening opening will now be from 7.30pm.

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!

FARMING NEWS

With Ash taking a well earned break for this edition and with Harvest Festivals and Suppers coming up, it is appropriate to reflect on this year's harvest.

For gardeners it has been a difficult year, with hot dry weather, if you weren't able to water, the lack of rainfall prevented plants reaching their full potential - I had plentiful raspberries and strawberries, but they were too small to be worth picking, however once the long hot summer broke, the root vegetables (beetroot, carrots, etc) had plenty of energy from the sun and filled out nicely.

Friends with a vineyard had plenty of grapes, but the yield exceeded their sold forward forecast (many crops are sold in advance at a fixed price, which enables the purchaser to balance demand and supply), they ended up with far in excess of the tonnage anticipated, with the over supply having to be sold at a reduced price.

For the arable farmers (those growing crops such as Wheat, Barley, Oilseed Rape) it has been a very difficult year, both financially and physically. Those on the chalk soils (and this area has large acreages of chalkland), yields have been average, but for those on the sandy, gravelly soils also found in this area, yields of both grain and straw were down 25% and more, partly due to the lack of rain, but also that many were planted in poor seedbeds because it was so wet last autumn, herbicides needed to prevent competition from weeds, couldn't be applied so competed for moisture and nutrition as well. On the brighter side, the dry, early harvest meant expensive to run drying facilities were unused and there was a much earlier end to harvest, with many finished by the end of July, with mid September more the norm. This enabled a stale seedbed (loosening up the ground to encourage the germination of weed seeds) to be created, ready to be sprayed off prior to planting for the 2026 harvest, which many have now been able to do, just in time for the rain at the end of this week. This for many is six weeks earlier than last year, but with men and machines ready and last year's problems still fresh in memories, they have gone ahead.

The normal supply and demand rules are sadly broken this year, with prices for commodities lower as most are based on world markets, with Trumps trade deals influencing the closure of UK Bioethanol plants, which took some 1.2 million tonnes of UK wheat.

The livestock sector has also been badly affected with a much reduced yield of grass crops used not only for grazing, but harvested and made into winter feed in the form of silage, hay and haylage. Many were forced to start feeding this to hungry animals, leaving them potentially short for the coming winter. Happily when the rain did come, the grass has grown, but probably too late for many to use to replenish the winter stocks.

These shortages don't just affect the farming community, with many sellers of bedding and bulk feed for horses and pets saying only regular customers will be supplied, thatching straw not reaching it's full potential, the maize and cereal crops grown to feed the anaerobic digester plants (those big white or green "sausages" you see on field edges), meaning a reduction in material to produce electric and gas. One dairy farm just over the border in Wiltshire, had no grass growing due to lack of rain, no grass to make silage or for grazing and so was forced to purchase and haul silage from Taunton to feed to his cows and was only able to acquire this because another farm had sold its dairy herd.

Farming is in a sorry way - inheritance tax is only part of the problem, how many businesses would invest heavily for little or no return on their capital? The countryside you see around

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you is because it is managed by farmers who also turn out without charge to clear fallen trees, blown snow, haul water for the firemen fighting wild fires on the Yorkshire Moors etc.

If you haven't watched Clarksons Farm, I would urge you to do so, there is much to learn about the hardships of farming (and the countryside) from this series.

Linda Bowden

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GREAT SHEFFORD ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Are you aware that there are allotments just outside the village - within walking distance?

This small site has a few half plots available for residents of the Parish or those living nearby for which there is a modest rental charge of £15/annum plus £5 for membership of the Society. Now is the ideal time to take on a plot as you have all winter to cultivate it ready to start sowing in the spring as soon as the ground warms up.

Water is available on the site and other plot holders are always willing to give help and advice if needed. The existing plot holders have been pleasantly surprised by the yields produced, despite the lack of rain, certainly my beetroots, leeks and carrots grew rapidly with the arrival of the rain using the energy they had stored up from the long periods of sunshine.

If you would like to know more, or just have a look round, give Paul Akers (Chairman) a call on 07977 585971 or Linda Bowden (Treasurer) on 07850 643952.

OCTOBER 2025



**Minutes of a meeting of Great Shefford Parish Council held on
Monday 1st September 2025 at 7.30pm
at Great Shefford Village Hall**

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

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)
1 member of public

2025-09/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jessica Copcutt.

2025-09/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Turner declared an interest in agenda item number 9 (2025-09/09), application 25/01267/CERTP – Apple Tree Cottage, Station Road, as a neighbouring property.
Councillor Armstrong declared an interest in agenda item number 9 (2025- 09/09), applications 25/01601/FUL & 25/01602/LBC – Swan Inn, Newbury Road, as the proprietor.

2025-09/03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2025.

2025-09/04 OPEN FORUM

- i. There were no public questions.
- ii. District Councillor Clive Hooker was not present to provide a report.
- iii. A request had been received from a local resident to 'raise awareness of residents' responsibilities not to cause nuisance or pollution from bonfires'.

It was agreed to add the following information to the parish website:

There are no laws against having a bonfire but there are laws about causing a nuisance.
There are no set times in law which specify when burning may or may not take place.
Smoke, or the smell of smoke from bonfires, can cause a statutory nuisance.

When having a bonfire make sure you:

- only burn dry material
- never burn household rubbish, rubber tyres, or anything containing plastic, foam or paint
- never use old engine oil, methylated spirits or petrol to light the fire or encourage it to burn
- avoid lighting a fire in unsuitable weather conditions - smoke hangs in the air on damp, still days and in the evening - if it is windy, smoke may be blown into neighbours' gardens and across roads

2025-09/04iii OPEN FORUM continued

Further advice can be found at: <https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/smoke-and-bonfires/> and <https://www.gov.uk/garden-bonfires-rules>

2025-09/05 COUNCILLOR CLIVE HOOKER – MEMBERS’ BID

District Councillor Clive Hooker was inviting applications for Members’ Bid funding to support community projects. Applications may be made for up to 60% of the total project cost, with the Parish Council required to contribute the remaining 40%.

RESOLVED to confirm the Parish Council’s application for the installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign on Hungerford Hill, to replace the unit previously removed as faulty. Anticipated cost £5,086 (60% grant = £3,051, 40% GSPC = £2,034).

2025-09/06 CO-OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Councillors considered an application from Steve Bullock, for the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Councillors discussed with Mr Bullock his interest and reasons for wishing to join the Parish Council.

RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Steve Bullock to serve on Great Shefford Parish Council.

Councillors welcomed Steve to the Council and he took a seat at the table but did not vote on any matters.

2025-09/07 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Following discussions at previous meetings, the following update from West Berkshire Council Highways Officer, Gareth Dowding, as noted:

“The proposal for a zebra crossing was discussed with the Portfolio Holder and we have been asked to investigate additional pedestrian warning signs first before looking at a crossing assessment.

I believe the main reason for this is because a zebra crossing with Great Shefford would require street lighting to be provided, which has its own additional issues.”

Councillors appreciated that additional warning signs would be investigated and would welcome the installation, however, remained concerned that these may not be visible without street lighting.

RESOLVED to pursue a site meeting and to obtain indicative costs for the installation of street lighting at this location.

2025-09/08 RISK MANAGEMENT

Councillors reviewed a draft Risk Management Strategy 2025/26, comprising of a Risk Register and Risk Assessment.

RESOLVED to adopt the Risk Management Strategy 2025/26, as presented, and to prepare a ‘checklist’ to ensure all actions were undertaken.

2025-09/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Updates on new planning applications and decisions since the last meeting were noted, as detailed at the end of these minutes.

2025-09/10 FINANCE**RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

Payee	Amount	Invoice reference / date	Description
Tactical Facilities Management	£253.86 (£211.55 + VAT)	SI-3916 24.07.2025	Waste removal & Litter Picking – July 2025
Tactical Facilities Management	£217.01 (£180.84 + VAT)	SI-3993 24.07.2025	Monthly grounds maintenance – July 2025
Tactical Facilities Management	£217.01 (£180.84 + VAT)	SI-4097 24.08.2025	Monthly grounds maintenance – August 2025
Tactical Facilities Management	£253.86 (£211.55 + VAT)	SI-4169 24.08.2025	Waste removal & Litter Picking – August 2025
Westcotec	£6,103.20 (£5,086 + VAT)	17017 22.07.2025	Speed Indicator Device – installed on Wantage Road. £2,232 to be reclaimed from WBC for Members' Bid award
M Taylor	£43.47		Parish Clerk's expenses reimbursement (ID holders + lanyards, push pins for noticeboard, lever arch file + dividers, No Dogs signs, 1 st Aid kit + dog foul bags)
M Taylor	£658.60		Parish Clerk's Salary – August 2025 (inc Income Tax reimbursement of £176.20)

RESOLVED to ratify payment of £1,297.26 to M Taylor for the Parish Clerk's Salary for May, June & July 2025. Payment authorised and processed by Councillors Armstrong and Freeman. Delay in payment due to HMRC PAYE registration process.

Council noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. In accordance with the terms of the Parish Clerk's contract of employment, the award had been implemented, increasing the rate for LC1 SCP17 from £15.58 per hour to £16.08 per hour.

Councillors reviewed a budget report for the period 1st April 2025 – 31st August 2025. The forecast overspend was discussed and noted, along with the requirement for increased play area maintenance budgets in future years, due to aging play equipment. It was agreed to investigate estimated costs for replacement play equipment, and to prepare draft future budgets, including a comparison of precepts of similar sized local councils.

Insurance quotes for the year commencing 1st October 2025 were considered.

RESOLVED to renew the Council's insurance with Ecclesiastical, via Clear Councils broker, at a cost of £1,141.24 [for 1-year] but to seek a reduction by entering into a 3-year agreement¹.

¹ Post meeting note: £1,111.03 for year 1 of a 3-year agreement

2025-09/10 FINANCE continued

The Parish Clerk provided an update on the long-running dispute with SSE regarding street lighting overcharges, advising that the previous complaint handler had left and transferred the matter to a colleague who, after initial communication, had not responded to recent emails. It was agreed that as this complaint had been running for over two years, to refer the matter to the Ombudsman.

2025-09/11 PLAY AREA AND RECREATION GROUND REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

- i. Council noted the first Sovereign Compliance Report following an inspection on 14th July 2025.
- ii. Councillors considered a report from the Parish Clerk regarding repairs and maintenance.

RESOLVED to note the Parish Clerk's comments and recommendations and to approve expenditure of up to £2,500 for essential repairs.

- iii. Council noted that instruction had been issued to Tactical Facilities Management to undertake weed removal around the safety surfacing of play equipment at a cost of £125, to be funded from the 'grounds maintenance reactive' budget.

2025-09/12 VILLAGE MATTERS

i. Traffic calming and speed awareness

Things were going very well. Three new sites had recently been approved, including Church Street heading towards Lambourn, and Newbury Road by the telephone exchange.

In a recent session on the Wantage Road, 18 of 150 vehicles were recorded speeding, and an additional 18 were recorded as being 10% over the speed limit.

Council acknowledged the work of all the SpeedWatch volunteers and thanked them for their efforts.

Council agreed to acknowledge Claire Coard for her key role in several community activities, such as regular speed monitoring and tackling dog fouling, and to recognise her contribution with a small thank-you gift.

ii. Forthcoming roadwork notification

There were no forthcoming roadwork notifications at the time of the meeting.

iii. Village signage

Council reviewed costs for 'No dogs' signage for the recreation ground and agreed that the off-the-shelf signs were adequate and Councillor Coard would erect these at the entrance.

Councillor Coard suggested installing a noticeboard at the entrance to the recreation ground to alleviate notices on the vehicle access gate and it was agreed to obtain a cost.

2025-09/12 VILLAGE MATTERS continued

iv. Community Clean Up Day – 1st August 2025

Councillor Turner provided an overview of the volunteer community clean- up day on Friday 1st August 2025. It was agreed to host twice a year, with the next in spring 2026, and to try a Saturday, 2pm – 5pm, to see if that attracted more participants.

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

A meeting with Thames Water representatives was held recently, and good communication continued. Lots of work that had been identified had been successfully completed, and further work had been identified. A bulletin was due to be published in the coming days.

vi. Village Events

Date of next community litter pick – Sunday 12th October 2025, 10am – 12pm, meet at the Village Hall.

Councillor Turner reported that she was scheduled to meet with the Sports & Social Club to confirm details for a Halloween activity on 31st October and the Christmas tree lighting event on 29th November.

It was reiterated that the Halloween activity was not a Parish Council event, but the Parish Council would support the Sports & Social Club.

The Parish Council would provide mulled wine and mince pies for the Christmas event, and arrange the Christmas tree, funded from the Council's 'Events' budget. The Sports & Social Club would arrange the barbecue, movie, games etc.

vii. Village Communications – Website, Facebook etc

The new website was still work-in-progress but nearing completion. Councillors' formal Council email addresses were imminent.

viii. Future Councillor 'Meet & Greet'

At the Halloween and Christmas events.

2025-09/13 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

- a) A concern raised at the last meeting, regarding tree roots pushing up the surface of the footpath linking Station Road and Wantage Road, behind Mill Cottage, was reported to West Berkshire Council and the following response was received:

"We have inspected your enquiry and have assessed that no further action is required at this time. Reported defects that do not meet our investigatory levels are not forgotten and can be recorded on our system for possible future works. We continue to check highway condition during planned safety inspections to ensure that defects have not worsened to the point where they now pose a hazard to highway users."

Council noted the response.

- b) A hedge-line at the junction of Newbury Road (from Boxford) and Hungerford Hill was impeding the sight line of traffic emerging onto Hungerford Hill.

2025-09/13 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS continued

- c) Residents had reported finding discarded used needles by the river and had been advised to report to the Police. It was agreed to seek advice from the Neighbourhood Police Team.
- d) Recent comments on social media regarding the railings on the corner of Newbury Road and Hungerford Hill were noted.

2025-09/14 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

There was nothing at this time.

2025-09/15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th October 2025 at 7.30pm.

Subsequent meeting dates for 2025/26: 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 9.34pm.

Application No.	Address	Details	Status	GSPC response
25/00567/FUL	Land East of The Old Post House Newbury Road Shefford Woodlands	Erection of an Agricultural Barn with storage	Approved	Nil
25/01267/CERTP	Apple Tree Cottage, Station Road	Erection of a single storey side extension, 3m (L) and full width of house with pitched roof. Erection of porch canopy	Split decision Porch – lawful permitted development Single storey extension – planning permission required	Nil
25/01601/FUL & 25/01602/LBC	Swan Inn Newbury Road	Alterations and renovations to the existing building, demolition and single-storey replacement of part. Associated external works	Awaiting decision	** see below
25/01631/COND	Shefford House Newbury Road	Approval of details reserved by condition 5 biodiversity, 9 CEMP and 10 LEMP of planning permission 24/02716/HOUSE	Awaiting decision	Nil
25/01642/AGRIC	Newtown Lodge Farm Shefford Woodlands	To determine if prior approval is required for a proposed steel portal framed general purpose building	Awaiting decision	Nil
25/01738/PIP	Land west of Barndown House Baydon Road Shefford Woodlands	Permission in principle for residential development (including demolition of existing buildings) comprising the erection of a minimum of 2 and maximum of 2 dwellings	Awaiting decision	Support

****** The Parish Council fully support this application and are looking forward to having the community brought together again in their local, which has been an integral part of the village for years.