

Present	Mr C Broad	Chair
	Dr J A Berry	
	Mr A Candelent	
	Mr F Dumbleton	
	Mr J King	
	Dr J E Berry	Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Dr M Hansard, Mr M Urso-Cale, and Cllr D Dewhurst, Cllr H Gascoigne, and Ms S Povolotsky.
2. **Declarations of Interest** None
3. **Minutes of the last meetings** (3rd February (Planning); 19th February 2025 (PC) were agreed and signed as true records.
4. **Actions from previous meetings**

Person	Action	Update
DD	Check the Crown's eligibility for Vale Rural Enterprise Grant and provide details.	Ongoing
Clerk	Check with RBL regarding their preferred position for Harwell memorial art project and submit PC comments on planning application.	Completed - RBL did not request change and would like to keep original design position.
Clerk	Clerk to source new PC board and Chris Broad to request donation towards its cost from the Crown.	Ongoing.
DD	Check whether the S106 'Art' funding from Pegasus Close had been used or if it could be combined with CF 'Art' funding	Ongoing
Clerk	Follow-up funding for Chilton School Art Project.	Completed.
Clerk	Complete administration processes for Internet Banking	Ongoing
Clerk	Discuss options for higher level of interest for Parish Council's Business Account with Matt Hansard.	Not yet started. Interest rates will decrease by 0.1% in April
Clerk	Obtain quote(s) for maintenance actions identified for CF Toddler Area.	Quote obtained from Sawscapes. Expensive so awaiting alternative quote from Infinity Playgrounds.
Clerk	Progress replacement gate for CF Toddler Area.	Quote accepted, need to schedule work.
Clerk/CC	To identify location for CF's dog poo bin and install.	Ongoing, suitable bin identified. Lee has agreed to install, will be added to TFM contract for emptying.
Clerk	To follow-up existing/new tenancy of Lower Paddock.	Assured by existing tenants they will be out by end March 25.
FD/JK	Attend training for becoming SuperUsers of Fix-my-Street	FD has completed training.
Clerk	To upload appropriate Newsletters on Parish Council website.	Completed

Ongoing actions are included in the Summary of Actions in Section 16.

5. **Open Forum**  
Four members of the public attended with particular interest in the planning application for the Moderna security fence and any updates on Harwell Campus stakeholder engagement on developments and safety issues.  
The Chairman noted he had recently met with Harwell Campus and they felt there was good communication with the Parish Council on issues.
6. **District Council Report**  
Cllr Gascoigne and Cllr Dewhurst had sent a report prior to the meeting which had been circulated to all members. No responses received regarding outstanding actions.
7. **County Council Report**  
None.

## 8. Planning

### (i) Applications considered by the Council

**P25/V0269/FUL**, for development work at the following location: Land to the north of Frome Road Harwell Campus. The application was for the installation of perimeter fence, CCTV and two security kiosks. The details of this application were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Several initial questions were raised by Councillors which the Clerk had discussed with Steven Roberts (SR), at Carter Jonas (Agent):

1. *When were the security risks identified? (National Protective Security Authority (NPSA) Guidance says should be identified at planning stage and not at a later date).*

SR explained that the original planning application was submitted by the Harwell Partnership not Moderna as Moderna were working to a tight timetable securing the government partnership contract. At this stage Moderna advised the Harwell team that the service area at the rear of the building needed to be secure but the car park area at the front of the building could remain open. SR said he found the situation 'very frustrating' and felt 'Moderna hadn't got a grip on their security requirements'. Although they do operate in other locations.

2. *Did the level of threat posed by anti-vaccine protest really require such a major security fence?*

SR explained that COVID had heightened the anti-vaccine narrative, but he was not aware of a specific evidence base on anti-vaccine protests. The requirement resulted from specific consultation with Thames Valley Police who were concerned that they would not be able to police the site properly in the event of trespassers or protesters if there was not a secure boundary. SR had been in some of the meetings with TVP.

3. *Had there been any consultation with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC)?*

SR said he was unaware of any consultation with CNC. More broadly, the Clerk discussed the lack of stakeholder engagement with the Parish Council and local community and how unhelpful this had been, likewise with Harwell Campus over the Moderna development. SR said he would take up with Jason Stafford and with Moderna. He offered to arrange a meeting between Parish Council and Moderna and in the meantime was happy to answer any further questions.

Following extensive discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would object on the following grounds:

- There is no evidence base presented or justification to support the requirement for the security fence.
- The fence is not in keeping with the overall visual impact of the Harwell Science campus. The Moderna buildings are located right at the front of the site which is designed as an open and accessible campus. Other secure areas e.g. remaining nuclear site and the SRC complex are located at the back of the site. It is recalled that Moderna specifically chose this open location at the front of the site.
- The application is completely contrary to previous assurances, made in the original planning application, that this area which is adjacent to the war memorial and includes the historic catapult area would not be adversely impacted. The proposed fence would visually impact this area.
- The application refers to consultation with Thames Valley Police (TVP). It is understood there has been no consultation with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) who are based on the Harwell Campus. Although the CNC do not have any official jurisdiction on the campus outside the fenced nuclear site, they do regular patrols covering the whole campus and at times have been asked by TVP to investigate incidents in the nearby Chilton village.

**P25/V0381/S73**, for development work at the following location: Land at Upper Farm Road Chilton. The application is for a variation of condition 7 (Drainage Details) on application P16/V3061/FUL to change the condition so that revised drainage drawings can be part of the permission. (Erection of three detached dwellings and two semi-detached dwellings with associated landscaping, parking and access).

It was agreed that the Parish Council could not approve this application without further information about why this change in drainage is required. The application is unclear and no specific reasons are provided.

**P25/V0441/D**, for development work at the following location: Land west of Building R113, Land south of Road Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Didcot. The application was for: Demolition of chemical store structure and associated walls creating external storage area; welding bay building and associated walls; concrete blockwork bin store and plant enclosures. This application had a short response time and demolition had already been approved by Vale.

**P25/V0479/S73**, Lime Tree Farm, Dene Hollow, Chilton, Didcot, OX11 0SP: Removal of condition 3 (occupancy restriction) on application ref. P87/V1194 (CHI/2308/13).

Currently there is a requirement for the house to be considered part of the adjacent business. The condition relates to the property/land originally being considered as a farm. Under the circumstances the executors are wishing to remove this condition so the house can be sold separately.

It was agreed that the Parish Council were happy to approve the application with the following conditions:

- The paddock in front of the property is currently classified as agricultural land and should remain designated as agricultural land.
- The public right of way footpath that diagonally crosses the paddock should be retained.

**Actions:** Clerk to respond as agreed to planning applications; Follow up regarding a stakeholder meeting with Moderna once planning applications completed.

- (ii) Applications determined by the Vale  
**P25/V0441/D**, for development work at the following location: Land west of Building R113, Land south of Road Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Didcot. Demolition Approved.
- (iii) Other planning issues.  
 No updates on Enforcement notices'

## 9. Finance

### (i) Financial update

#### (a) Expenditure £ - Cheques

89. Nurture Landscapes Invoices 1SW549608	2,323.78
90. Tactical Facilities Management Ltd Invoice SI3035	335.09
91. JE Berry Expenses (Chronicle £165.60 + Defibrillator pads £143.88)	309.48
92. JE Berry Salary (February)	655.25
93. OALC Membership renewal	357.89
94. Spanglefish annual fee	78.00
95. Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, Membership renewal	49.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,108.49</b>

#### (b) Income £

SA Clothing Bank	12.48
Miss Heather Lee Paddock Rent	73.67
Patsy Boot LR Paddock	450.00
PCC (Chronicle)	55.20
Allotments (Cheques 1@£31.31 +1@£10.34)	41.65
Allotments (BACS)	70.34
Interest	191.95
	-----
	<b>895.20</b>

#### (c) Balances £

Treasurers Account	500.00
Instant Access	47,727.08
Business Account	199,435.86

- (ii) **Allotments** - Annual payments had been collected. All but one allotment allocated for 2025. The unallocated allotment at Lower Road is badly overgrown with brambles and has been rejected by 4 potential hirers. It was agreed to get it cleared. Landscape Group had provided quote of £255+VAT. Previously the PC paid £500 for similar clearance. Approval to proceed with clearance given. **Action:** Clerk to progress.
- (iii) **Banking** - Clerk had written to Lloyds Commercial Banking requesting balance used for our 'process funding and creaming arrangement' is increased to £4,000, as suggested by the bank to avoid cheques being bounced due to insufficient funds in the Treasurers Account. The Interest rate on our main business account will decrease by 0.1% to 0.9%. The instant access account will similarly reduce to 0.8%. The administrative process for the use of internet banking is not yet completed.
- (iv) **New Mandates** required for BlackRock and CCLA Investments to allow change of Clerk's name and address and any changes in signatories.
- (v) **Church Letter** - PC was requested to include a letter in last Chronicle requesting financial support. It was felt inappropriate so declined. Discussed and agreed not appropriate in current form. Suggested PCC distribute with their Easter services card. **Action:** Clerk to respond to PCC.

## 10. VHMC Report

Chris Broad provided a short update. No significant issues to report.

## 11. Play Equipment Inspection

- (i) Nurture had removed the 3 boulders from the Toddler Play Area free of charge as they can use them elsewhere. Sawscapes had quoted £195+VAT.

- (ii) Sawscapes to replace double maintenance gate with child friendly pedestrian gate without sliding lock, revised cost reduced to £1,995 +VAT. Date for work awaited.
- (iv) A quote had been provided by Sawscapes for maintenance of CF Toddler Play Area:
  - Grass mats (under Swing, Tower & See-saw) - £1,870
  - Seesaw seats (replaced with HDPE) - £200
  - Slide picket (replaced with softwood) - £125
 An alternative quote was also being sought from Infinity Playgrounds who are based in Newbury and work for many local councils including West Berks, Reading, Didcot, Henley and Wokingham Borough Councils.

## 12. Maintenance of Open Spaces

- (i) In July 2024, the Council agreed to the installation of a new dog poo bin by the allotments, Chilton Fields. It had been suggested by resident that an alternative location might be by CF Junior Play Area. PC approved purchase of a Glasdon Origin Curve bin made from recycled materials with capacity 110 litres, at £540 + liner/fixing kits. See: <https://uk.glaorigin.curvesdon.com/litter-bins/outdoor-litter-bins>
- (ii) Lower Road Paddock - Patsy Boot has advised they have hired contractors and will be clear by end of March. Note she paid quarterly rent at beginning of March. Currently 3 expressions of interest from potential hirers.
- (iii) Two ornamental street lights dating back to DWH marketing suite/show homes have started to work when ground very wet. Trying to establish where cable originates. Not on SSEN's lighting circuit. DWH investigating. **Action:** Clerk to continue to follow-up.

## 13. Highways Maintenance

- (i) Frank Dumbleton and Josh King have been nominated as SuperUsers of Fix-my-Street and been invited for training. Frank has completed training.
- (ii) Newbury Road - Clerk had reported flooding issue and requested installation of a 20mph speed limit directly with the 20mph team at OCC.
- (iii) Adoption of Chilton Fields roads. The Approving Engineer from the Highways Agreements team, OCC, requested an update from David Wilson Homes, and he replied, 'We issued the letter of support at the end of January 2025 and David Wilson Homes are now in the process of completing the AP1 to submit to Land Registry to resolve the land gap. It is likely going to be a good few months before we get an outcome either way'.
- (iv) OCC had sent 4 Traffic Regulation Notices relating to planned work on Hagbourne Hill and in the village in Townsend, Church Hill, Main Street and Lower Road. Work planned:
 

Surface Dressing work	27th April - 1st May,	09:30-15:30
Surface Sealing work	8-11th May,	04:00- 18:00

## 14. Correspondence

- Harwell Parish Council copy of e:mail sent to OCC - *already circulated*
- OCC Flood Management - grants for small-scale works to reduce flooding - *already circulated no suggestions proposed.*
- Sarah Purdie, Citizen Advice explaining reorganisation into Citizens Advice Oxfordshire
- Denise McElroy - requesting new bus shelter at Main Street with seat/bench. *Frank to follow-up.*
- Eldon Stevenson Weal - flooding in Downside - *forwarded to Harwell Campus who had sorted issue.*
- Barbara Hately, concerned that footpath across field, RHS of the Bargeway is not being maintained. *Has been problem previously. Suggest it is used and Clerk to contact John Richardson.*
- Further correspondence re ornamental street lamp with Tom Douglas, Noor Cooper (Harwell Campus and Ant Edgely DWH).
- Communications VWH - fly tipping, empty houses, local area energy plans.
- OALC - Monthly Update
- NALC Chief Executive Bulletin (weekly)
- NALC Events Newsletter
- SLCC - weekly news digests.
- Thames Valley Alerts
- Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber, updates
- Rural Service Network - monthly bulletin.
- CPRE Update, March 2025

**Actions:** FD to investigate ownership/replacement of bus shelter to provide seating; Clerk to contact John Richardson - maintenance of footpath across his field.

## 15. Dates for future meetings

Date of Annual Parish Meeting is Monday 19th May and the next Parish Council meeting, Monday 9th June 2025. Both meetings will take place at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Future Meetings - room bookings had been made for the revised list of dates. It was agreed that those scheduled for the Community Room would be moved to the Village Hall as the Community Room was not available until 8:30pm.

## 16. Summary of Ongoing / New Actions

Person	Action
DD	Check the details/eligibility for Vale Rural Enterprise Grant.
Clerk	Clerk to source new PC board and Chris Broad to request donation towards its cost from the Crown. <i>On hold.</i>
DD	Check whether the S106 'Art' funding from Pegasus Close had been used or if it could be combined with CF 'Art' funding
Clerk	Respond as agreed to planning applications
Clerk	Follow up regarding a stakeholder meeting with Moderna once planning applications completed.
Clerk	Complete administration processes for Internet Banking
Clerk	Consider options for higher level of interest for Parish Council's Business Account with Matt Hansard. <i>On hold.</i>
Clerk	Progress new mandates BlackRock and CCLA to allow change details
Clerk	Respond to PCC regarding their letter requesting funding.
Clerk	Obtain quote(s) for maintenance actions identified for CF Toddler Area.
Clerk	Progress replacement gate for CF Toddler Area.
Clerk/CC	Identify location for CF's dog poo bin and install.
Clerk	Follow-up existing/new tenancy of Lower Paddock.
Clerk	Accept Landscape Group quote to clear allotment & secure new tenant.
JK	Attend training for becoming SuperUser of Fix-my-Street
Clerk	CF ornamental streetlamp - intermittent light - follow up
Clerk	Contact John Richardson - maintenance of footpath across his field
FD	investigate ownership/replacement of bus shelter to provide seating

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.