



Minutes of the Brize Norton Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm at the Elder Bank Hall, Brize Norton		
<i>APM1/27</i>	<u>PRESENT</u> Cllr Goble – Chair, Cllr Bamber – Vice-Chair, Cllr Way, Cllr State, Cllr Jackson and Jo Webb - Clerk. PCSO Darryn Moulding - Thames Valley Police, Wing Commander Steve Jones - RAF Brize Norton, Cllr Overton – OCC and Cllr Pearson – WODC.	<u>ACTION</u>
<i>APM2/7</i>	<u>1 – APOLOGIES</u> Cllr Woodward, Robyn Jones – Brize Norton Primary School and Jackie Hampson - Brize Norton Village Pre School sent their apologies.	
<i>APM3/27</i>	<u>2 - MINUTES</u> The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 were agreed and signed.	Clerk to scan & post minutes to website
<i>APM4/27</i>	<u>3.1 - CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</u> The Chairman gave his report (Appendix A).	
<i>APM5/27</i>	<u>3.2 THAMES VALLEY POLICE – PCSO MOULDING</u> The top two issues in the local area have been identified as vehicle nuisance and anti-social behaviour. The anti-social behaviour is more located around Carterton and Shilton Park and is mainly 13-17 year olds.	
<i>APM6/27</i>	<u>3.3 RAF BRIZE NORTON – WING COMMANDER STEVE JONES</u> Wing Commander Jones gave his report (Appendix B).  <u>QUESTIONS FOR RAF BRIZE NORTON:</u> <b>With the additional security checks in place, there are difficulties with build up of traffic going into the main gate. Is there any opportunity to open up the back gates for entry?</b> There are no options to open up additional gates to enter RAF Brize Norton. There are five point security checks in place which have been reviewed and the process is speeding up.	

<p>APM7/27</p>	<p><u>3.4 - OCC REPORT - COUNCILLOR OVERTON</u> Cllr Overton gave her report (Appendix C).</p> <p><u>QUESTIONS FOR CLLR OVERTON:</u> <b>Why is the organisation of roads in the County such a big problem?</b> The problem stems from decision changes 10 years ago. Unfortunately, there is not the budget in place to make all of the necessary repairs.</p> <p><b>How are you going to vote on the abolishment of free parking?</b> The rumour of abolishing free parking is untrue and is not something that is planned.</p>	
<p>APM8/27</p>	<p><u>3.5 - WODC REPORT - COUNCILLOR PEARSON</u> Cllr Pearson gave her report (Appendix D).</p> <p><u>QUESTIONS FOR CLLR PEARSON:</u> <b>The plan for the East development was originally a maximum of 2500 homes. At the consultation, the developer stated it was 3000 homes.</b> The planners will have certain constraints including Cotswold natural landscape. The original figures given are estimates and exact figures will not be known until the planning application is submitted.</p> <p><b>Is there any progress on the relocation of the primary school?</b> The decision is currently with the Department for Education.</p> <p><b>The Monahan Way sports facilities are very poorly run.</b> The new play pitch strategy plans are being finalised and will be coming out very soon. A discussion took place around 3 months ago where it was discussed that Monahan Way could possibly be used for cricket only and the Brize Meadow pitches be used for football.</p>	
<p>APM9/27</p>	<p><u>3.6 - BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT</u> Head Teacher Robyn Jones sent her apologies and submitted a report which was read out (Appendix E).</p>	
<p>APM10/26</p>	<p><u>3.7 - BRIZE NORTON VILLAGE PRE SCHOOL REPORT</u> Jackie Hampson sent her apologies and submitted a report which was read out (Appendix F).</p>	
<p>APM11/26</p>	<p><u>3.8 NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE</u> Cllr Way introduced the new website and gave a summary of the features. Members of the public are encouraged to sign up for email alerts. The new website and emails will go live on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.</p>	
<p>APM12/26</p>	<p><u>4 - PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</u> None</p>	

	<p><b>GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b></p> <p><b>How long will it be before the pavilion is replaced?</b> There is a meeting this week to discuss the initial concept. The hope is that the planning application will be ready to submit at the end of 2026/early 2027.</p> <p><b>What size will the new pavilion be and will there be sufficient parking? Will it take business away from the Elder Bank Hall?</b> The footprint of the new pavilion will be slightly bigger than the existing pavilion with café, changing rooms and an upstairs viewing area. It will not be competing with the Elder Bank Hall as they will be two very different offerings.</p> <p><b>What is happening with the village pond?</b> We are in the process of having a survey carried out and once this is done, we can apply for grant funding to carry out the necessary work. It will be good for wildlife and great for people to get involved.</p> <p><b>The diseased Ash trees at the back of Chichester Place have been cut down; are there any plans to replace these?</b> The work was carried out by WODC as this land belongs to them. It is unlikely that they will be replaced in the immediate future as they will likely die again, the best option is to wait.</p> <p><b>Will any boundary reviews affect the pot of money allocated for the new pavilion?</b> No – the money is protected for this project.</p> <p><b>The Village Bash this year is being held on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July at 1pm and the theme is ‘Summer of Sport’.</b></p>	
APM13/26	<p><b>5 - DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:</b> The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2027.</p>	

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

**APPENDIX A: CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

**1) INTRODUCTION**

For those of you who may be attending for the first time, the purpose of the meeting is to give the Parish Council, and other local organisations, an opportunity to let you, our residents, know what we have been doing over the past year. The meeting is also an opportunity for you to have a say on anything you consider valuable to the residents of the Parish.

I would now like to introduce you to the members of the Parish Council. My name is Les Goble; I’m the chairman of the Parish Council. The vice chair is Nick Bamber, and the other councillors present are

Wendy Way, Emma Jackson, and Ady State, and not forgetting our Clerk, Jo Webb. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our newly elected District Councillor, Rosie Pearson, and our County Councillor Toyah Overton.

After my chairman's report, we will go straight into the local organisation reports. After the presentation by each local organisation, if you wish to ask them a question, please raise your hand and when asked to speak, state your name and which part of the village you live in before asking your question so that we are able to record the details for the Minutes.

After the local organisation's reports and questions, the Parish Council will then take any further questions from the floor. We will do our very best to answer them all but if we are running out of time, then please come and see one of us afterwards and we will answer your question or take it away for us to answer at a later stage. We aim to end this meeting around 9:30pm.

## 2) APOLOGIES

Councillor Chris Woodward Robyn Jones - Brize Norton Primary School. Jackie Hampson - Brize Norton pre-school.

## 3) APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Approve the minutes of our last meeting held on 13th May 2025. Do we all agree with minutes?

## 4) CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been another busy year for the Parish Council managing the day-to-day business of running the Council and the progress being made on various new projects. I would like to say thank you to all councillors and volunteers on our various committees for their hard work, and those who have helped deliver the Brize Breeze through every letterbox in the parish, one is due to be delivered this week!

Also, special thanks and congratulations to our Clerk, Jo Webb, who not only keeps the whole show running, but has just passed the qualification to obtain a Certificate in Local Council Administration, for short it's known as CiLCA. This provides her with a broad knowledge of all aspects of the clerk's work including roles and responsibilities, the law, procedures, finance planning, and community involvement. CiLCA is vital criteria for a council wishing to achieve the Local Council Award Scheme status and for the Council to claim General Power of Competence. I would also like to thank our Groundsman Gary Jarvis, for keeping the village neat and tidy.

Since our last meeting, we have welcomed back Ady State and Nick Bamber. There are currently 1,681 residents on the electoral register and as you will see, there are only six of us representing our community. We still have one vacancy on the Parish Council so if there is anyone here tonight who feels that they would like to join us, please speak to us after the meeting. If you are unable to join the Parish Council, there are many committees and groups that are always looking for volunteers, for example,

Public Art Committee, Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, Sports Club, and Village Pond Working Group.

### ELDER BANK HALL

The hall continues to be very busy, both during the day and the evenings and now includes the management of the meeting room which is not only used by the Parish Council but is becoming popular for small groups and third-party meetings. The management committee has six members so is well represented across the community. The hall is about to install a new security and on-line booking system which will be in place next month. This will make the hall management far more efficient for the committee. Really good news, the hall has been awarded Charitable Status so is able to apply for numerous grants. Many thanks to the management Committee for overseeing its continued success.

### SPORT IN THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council is really pleased with just how much our recreation ground was used over the winter months with a full schedule of fixtures from various junior and senior football teams. We now welcome Minster Lovel Cricket Club who will be playing here this summer. We will also have football training sessions taking place mid-week. Looking at the 2026/27 football season, the ground is fully booked with both junior and senior teams playing here again. It's wonderful to see the recreation ground take centre stage within the sporting communities, the revenue from these fixtures goes directly into the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and changing rooms. A huge thanks to Councillor Wendy Way for arranging the contracts with the various teams and ensuring the maximum usage of our recreation ground.

### NEW PAVILION

As I mentioned last year, following negotiations between Bloor Homes, West Oxfordshire District Council's legal and S106 teams, and Brize Norton Parish Council, we found a way to unlock some of the S106 funds to enable us to progress with the preplanning works for the redevelopment of this building. Unfortunately, it has taken a year for the legal agreements to be written and put in place but at long last, we have been informed that we can now apply for this funding. It will pay for architects, surveys, planning and building control applications, and the appointment of a project management team to oversee the project through to completion. We have initial meeting this week to start the process and we look forward to engaging with you soon to show you the different concepts.

### STATION ROAD PLAY PARK

Unfortunately, the play park is reaching the end of its useful life, but we continue to have a professional weekly safety inspection carried out. The Council has been working with HAGS (who provided the play equipment for Brize Meadow play park) and they have created a proposal to completely upgrade the

playpark and potentially change the tennis court into a Multi-Use Games Area. There will be a consultation announcement about this very soon. Many thanks to Councillors Wendy Way and Emma Jackson for progressing this project. This leads me onto funding.

### S106 FUNDS

At the same as writing three responses objecting to the Kilkenny Farm proposal, without prejudice, the Parish Council wrote a formal application for S106 funds. Although we didn't receive the full amount we requested, we were awarded £250,000.00, index linked, for upgrades to this hall to reduce its carbon footprint, new equipment for the play park, and part funding towards changing the tennis court into a multi-use games area. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until the 100 th occupation at Kilkenny Farm for 50% and the 250th occupation for the final 50%.

### ALLOTMENTS

We have 69 allotments, all of which are rented out to villagers. Many thanks to the Allotment Committee for overseeing this village asset. It is anticipated, that by September this year, we will also have access to the 26 allotments in Brize Meadow, all of which are reserved. At the appropriate time, we look forward to meeting with the allotment holders and setting up a separate allotment committee.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our Neighbourhood Plan was approved by the planning inspector last September and therefore we have a 'made plan' and the policies contained within it must be used in conjunction with WODC policies in relation to any planning proposals. This will give greater protection to Local Green Spaces and the sports pitches on Monahan Way. Many thanks to the NP Steering Group for seeing this through to its conclusion. However, as we learnt from the Kilkenny Farm proposal, WODC need to have a five-year land supply before their policies, and our NP policies, can be effective. We are due to review our plan in September this year.

### BRIZE MEADOW

We continue to liaise with Bloor Homes regarding the Mary Ellis Country park, especially the north side as they wish to hand over to the Parish Council ASAP. However, there are still some outstanding works for them to do before the Parish Council and WODC will consider that it's fit for purpose and can enter into a one-year maintenance period! We continue to produce a monthly report of outstanding items which doesn't seem to be getting any shorter, just less items in the north and more in the south.

## BRIZE MEADOW PLAY PARK

The Brize Meadow Play Park continues to be extremely popular the children (and parents!). The playpark receives weekly professional safety checks, and we continue to liaise with Hags, who installed the equipment, for any maintenance works that may be required. If you see any problems, could you please inform our clerk rather than just posting it on social media. Thank you.

## THAMES WATER

We continue to have monthly Q& A dialogue with Thames Water as well as attending the Bampton & District Flood Prevention Group every six months, which TW also attend. As you will have probably seen, TW have started works on increasing the size of the parking area at the Station Road SPS which will enable tankers to park off the road. TW are also considering installing a temporary sewerage treatment plant which will take some of the pressure off the pumping station, but this will require a permit from the EA as the treated water will discharge into Highmoor Brook. As I mentioned last year, the reason for these tankers is because the pumping station becomes overwhelmed in the event of heavy or prolonged rainfall, the cause of this lies within Shilton Park. Initially, TW thought it was groundwater infiltration, but due to the very high volumes of water involved, engineers now consider that there may well be cross connections between the surface and foul water systems. Remembering that there can be up to ten tankers operating from the SPS, this seems to be a reasonable assumption. We will continue to push Thames Water for a date when they will commence the remedial works so that we can stop having the tankers passing through our village. However, with the works commenced to increase the size of the parking area, I don't see it happening any time soon! We also continue to liaise with Bloor Homes and Nexus Lonestar to find out how TW will provide a connection for their proposed developments.

## ROADS

I'm sure we are all very aware of the very poor state of the roads in Oxfordshire and just how OCC are completely overwhelmed with the number of repairs that are required. Those of us that use Burford Road know just how bad this road was between Monahan Way and the A40, far too many potholes to put on Fix My Street especially as most of it was outside the 20mph speed limit! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Grain, our Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Senior Engagement Officer for Area Maintenance & Operations who responded to our email requests, supported by both our District and County Councillors, for urgent temporary repairs to be carried out. Most of the potholes have now been filled so the road is now much easier to navigate, let's hope they last! Likewise with Station Road, the situation was getting desperate, especially around the buildout by the chicane and one of the speed cushions. Unfortunately, the Fix My Street and potholes being marked up by a 'superuser' (this is where repairs should be carried out withing 28 days) were not being responded to by OCC. So once again, after some polite emails direct to Chris explaining the situation, supported by our County Councillor, it led to most of the potholes being fixed on a temporary basis. We are aware that some have been missed and others are not 'deep enough' to qualify for repairs, but at least we can now drive through the chicane a lot easier. We will continue to push for more permanent repairs. On a lighter note, recently, I reported a

pothole further down Station Road and it was fixed in two weeks. I put this down to the use of a tin of baked beans to show just how deep the hole was! Please remember, Fix My Street enables any of us to report issues to OCC.

### NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE

I would like to hand over to Councillor Wendy Way who will show you our new web site.

### ABUSE TO PARISH COUNCILLORS

It is with much regret that I report two cases where a member of the public has been extremely rude to a councillor and used appalling, foul language, one was so disgusting, it has been reported to the police. Councillors have a Code of Conduct on how we speak to members of the public and I would suggest that it's not unreasonable to expect that this is reciprocated when residents speak to us. I sincerely hope that this situation does not reoccur.

### FINANCES

The Council's finances are regularly reviewed and reconciled by officers and councillors. We are audited by independent professional internal and external auditors on an annual basis and not only are we fully compliant with governance regulations, we remain in a sound position to be able to meet the coming years financial requirements. We are also proud to note that not only have we been managing our normal 'everyday' precept funds, but we have also continued to manage the S106 funds for Brize Meadow Play Park, and now the funds to enable us to commence the design phase of our new Pavilion. Many thanks to Jo for her diligent work involved in reconciling the accounts and ensuring we receive our VAT refunds in a timely fashion, which ensures we are getting every available penny back into the council's bank account.

## **APPENDIX B: RAF BRIZE NORTON'S REPORT**

### **Opening Address**

On behalf of Group Captain Henton, and the Entire Force at RAF Brize Norton, I would like to thank the Parish Council, and all attendees here for this opportunity. Tonight, my aim is to provide you all with an update on Station activity over the past year, followed by a brief explanation of what we expect to happen over the next 12 months.

On Gp Capt Henton's behalf, I want to reassure you how seriously we take this annual opportunity to engage with you; our local community. I'm Wg Cdr Steve Jones and this is my third tour at Brize Norton. Over my six years here I have become fully aware just how dependent we are on your support as our community.

I am equally aware that you are the continuity that we depend upon as a local community; especially during stressful periods. I also know that you experience the late-night flying training, in addition to the

many traffic issues we have face. This has not been helped by the Airfield Operating Surface works that began earlier this year.

## **RAF Brize Norton Activity**

So, to begin; I'm certain you'll have heard that every year before now has been on record as being the busiest in history. 2025 broke all of the previous records and 2026 may also do the same pending any impact due to the AOS works. I will explain why this is a recent trend and the importance that this indicates at the end.

Concentrating on the past year, RAF Brize Norton has been at the heart of just about every major Defence activity that you will have seen or heard about in the press. We are the single Airport of Embarkation and Disembarkation for the UK, we are also the home to the Air Mobility Force that provide Air-to-Air tanker capability to our Quick Reaction Forces and move both freight and passengers around the world.

We are home to multiple Resident Units including the Tactical Medical Wing, No 1 Air Mobility Wing, the Air Dispatch Wing and five Reservist Units. Many of these are highly trained units that are held at extreme high readiness to deploy in the event of global crises.

## **Operations**

In the last year, we have moved over 13K passengers, 12M kgs of freight and conducted 16K aircraft movements. We have conducted this activity across multiple operations and exercises. What we cannot articulate is the often complex and unique nature in which this is delivered.

The UK continues its support to Ukraine, having conducted over 860 resupply missions and a further 280 Air-to-Air Refuelling sorties in support of NATO in the past 12 months. We carefully manage our Readiness State and we are actively engaged on operations daily, enabling the Air Defence of UK Sovereign Bases overseas.

One of the major events last year was the Air Mobility Forces support to the Carrier Strike Group which transited across the mediterranean on its way to the Far East. With events in the Middle East we were tasked with establishing of a Role Hospital in the region just incase the Carrier Group were targeted on their way out and back.

Right now, we remain heavily involved in operations in the Middle East, with the main focus currently being our Strategic Aeromedical Evacuation role based out of RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. Brize Norton itself helped recover UK personnel following the Iranian response to EPIC FURY, where we set up decompression and welfare briefs within 24hrs.

## **People and the Community**

We have a workforce of around 7000 personnel which includes almost 2000 Contractors and Civil Servants. Brize delivers support to all Defence Operations, and we deliver that support at extremely high tempo.

We have delivered a comprehensive community engagement programme over the year, combining ceremonial presence, volunteering, youth development and economic contribution, ensuring that we remain a visible, trusted and integral part of the Oxfordshire community.

## **The Future**

I mentioned earlier our Airfield Operating Surfaces Programme. This replacement of the AOS at Brize Norton will necessitate dispersal of the Air Mobility Force assets for 16 weeks during the runway replacement phase. This will run from 27 Jul to 13 Nov 26. The AMF will deploy Voyager aircraft to Prestwick Airport and C17 and A400M aircraft to RAF Fairford under MACE. We are planning a separate engagement session with the Parish Council which will include representatives from Volker Fitzpatrick and Station Operations. In addition, the Brize Development Team is progressing with a new baggage handling facility which is due to be ready by Sep 26.

Finally, 2027 will be the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary for RAF Brize Norton so we have just set up a planning committee to start drawing together the overall plan for the celebrations. We expect this to run for 90 days through Jun-Aug 27 culminating in our Families Day. If you don't mind we will be reaching out to the Parish Council so that we can arrange some community engagement activity so that we can all celebrate this landmark date together.

Hopefully that's given you a bit of flavour as to what we have been up to and the contribution RAF Brize Norton has made to operations worldwide.

## **APPENDIX C: OCC COUNCILLOR OVERTON'S REPORT**

Dear parish councillors and residents,

It's been just over a year now since I was elected as your County Councillor, for which I remain very grateful. Over the past year, I have worked to get the voices of Brize Norton residents heard within Oxfordshire County Council, and will continue to do so.

In a change from my usual monthly report, I am using the Annual Parish Meeting to summarise the key issues, projects and challenges affecting our community over the last year, as well as the work undertaken on behalf of residents. As this has been my first full year as your County Councillor, much of my focus has been on building relationships with officers, cabinet members, partner organisations and local groups so that Brize Norton and Carterton are properly represented in county-wide discussions and getting to grips with the issues and how to tackle them.

While some issues remain ongoing — particularly around infrastructure, flooding, highways and future development — I hope this report demonstrates the importance of continued local engagement and partnership working between residents, the Parish Council, District Council, County Council and community organisations.

I would like to thank Brize Norton Parish Council, local residents, community groups and local organisations for their continued support, advice and engagement throughout the year.

Best wishes,

Toyah

### **Supporting Residents & Community Engagement**

A major part of the role of County Councillor is ensuring that local residents are represented in discussions at County Hall and that local concerns are properly raised with decision-makers.

Throughout the year I have attended Parish Council meetings, community events, consultations, remembrance services, school meetings, local engagement events and advice surgeries across Brize Norton, Carterton and the wider area.

I have continued working closely with Brize Norton Parish Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, RAF Brize Norton, Charlie Maynard MP and neighbouring councillors to ensure that local concerns are being pushed forward.

Community engagement this year included:

- Attending consultation events regarding future development proposals around Brize Norton
- Speaking with residents about flooding, highways, road safety and sewerage concerns
- Supporting Remembrance events and military community events
- Meeting local businesses and organisations
- Attending youth engagement events such as Pizza & Politics
- Working with local schools and education representatives
- Visiting community facilities and speaking with local service providers

One of the strongest themes throughout the year has been the importance of partnership working. Many local issues, whether highways, flooding or school provision and development to name a few, cannot be solved by one organisation alone and require continued cooperation between councils, agencies and local residents.

### **Supporting RAF Brize Norton & Military Families**

As Oxfordshire County Council's Military Champion for RAF Brize Norton, supporting service personnel, veterans and military families has remained an important part of my role.

Throughout the year I attended meetings of the Oxfordshire Civilian Military Partnership Board and associated working groups, where recurring themes included:

- Difficulties accessing school places for military families moving into the area
- Awareness and implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant
- Support for veterans and serving personnel
- Transition support for military children
- Educational disruption caused by frequent relocations
- Mental health and wellbeing support

I joined the Civilian Military Partnership Education Working Group to help improve communication between schools, councils and military families. One issue repeatedly raised was that many schools are unaware that they are signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant and therefore do not always understand the additional pressures faced by service families.

I also attended events focused on supporting veterans and military families, including discussions around gambling addiction support and mental health provision.

Given the importance of RAF Brize Norton to our area, I will continue ensuring that military families are properly represented in county-wide discussions and that local services understand the unique pressures associated with service life.

### **Brize Norton Primary School Relocation**

The proposed relocation of Brize Norton Primary School has remained one of the most significant and sensitive issues affecting the village throughout the year.

Following the initial consultation meetings held by Oxfordshire Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) and Oxfordshire County Council, I continued engaging with residents, school representatives, OCC officers, cabinet members and Charlie Maynard MP regarding the proposals.

A major concern raised by residents has been the future of the existing school building should the relocation go ahead. I have consistently argued that the building should remain a community asset and continue serving local residents.

Throughout the year, work undertaken included:

- Meetings with ODST and school leadership

- Discussions with OCC Cabinet Members and officers
- Site visits with Charlie Maynard MP, other County Councillors
- Discussions regarding future community uses for the existing site
- Engagement with RAF Brize Norton around educational provision for military families
- Investigating whether the building could support other community or educational uses

The proposal has also highlighted wider issues around school sustainability, future pupil numbers and the long-term educational needs of the area.

At the time of writing, no final decision has been confirmed by the Department for Education at Westminster. I appreciate that the uncertainty has been frustrating for many residents, parents and school staff, and I remain committed to ensuring residents are updated whenever further information becomes available.

### **Housing Growth, Infrastructure & Planning**

The scale of proposed development around Brize Norton has been one of the biggest issues discussed throughout the year.

A consistent message from residents has been clear: infrastructure must come before development. I have repeatedly raised concerns around whether local roads, schools, GP services, drainage and sewerage infrastructure are capable of supporting the level of growth currently being proposed.

### **Kilkenny Farm Development**

The proposed 350-home development at Kilkenny Farm has generated significant concern, particularly around sewerage infrastructure.

Throughout the year, I worked with Charlie Maynard MP, West Oxfordshire District Council representatives and the Environment Agency to raise concerns regarding Thames Water's inability to provide the required sewage treatment capacity.

Particular concern was raised around proposals for a private sewage treatment solution. Discussions with the Environment Agency suggested that the development would not currently meet the required standards for permitting, although national government intervention remained a possibility.

Residents consistently raised concerns regarding:

- Existing sewerage capacity issues
- Flooding risk
- Long-term environmental impact
- Pressure on local infrastructure
- The ability of Thames Water to cope with future demand

### **Foxbury Garden Community Proposals**

The proposed Foxbury Garden Community development also prompted significant resident engagement.

I attended consultation events and spent time speaking directly with residents about the proposals. While many residents welcomed elements such as community facilities and improved transport links, there were also major concerns around:

- Flooding and drainage
- Sewerage infrastructure
- Pressure on local GP services
- Traffic generation
- Long-term sustainability

One notable theme was the strong support shown by many residents for the Carterton-Witney-Oxford railway proposals, with many seeing improved public transport as essential if development is to be sustainable.

## **New Astrop Proposals**

Towards the end of the year, proposals for the New Astrop development east of Brize Norton became another major focus.

I attended community engagement events where residents raised concerns around:

- Flooding and drainage
- Thames Water infrastructure
- Traffic management
- Pedestrian and cycling safety
- The proposed relief road
- Pressure on local services

While developers presented proposals intended to manage flood water and improve infrastructure, many residents understandably remain cautious due to existing infrastructure pressures and Thames Water's ongoing performance concerns.

### **Summary**

Across all development proposals, I have consistently argued that new housing must be supported by:

- Adequate drainage and sewerage infrastructure
- Safe roads and crossings
- School and GP capacity
- Sustainable transport links
- Genuine community engagement

## **Road Safety, Highways & Transport**

Road safety and highway conditions have been among the most common concerns raised by residents throughout the year.

### **Speed Limit Changes & School Safety**

One major focus has been improving road safety for children walking and cycling to school.

I supported proposals to reduce speed limits:

- On Monahan Way from 40mph to 30mph
- On Carterton Road from 40mph to 30mph
- In residential areas of Carterton through revised 20mph proposals

A key issue raised locally was ensuring that the reduced speed limit on Monahan Way extended far enough to include the Burford Road crossing area used by pedestrians and schoolchildren.

Both Brize Norton Parish Council and I argued strongly for this amendment, which required an additional consultation process. While this created delays, I believed it was important that the scheme was implemented correctly to maximise safety improvements and this process is now underway.

Throughout the year I also continued raising concerns around pedestrian safety, crossing points and active travel links between Brize Norton, Brize Meadow and Carterton.

### **Road Conditions & Highway Maintenance**

Residents have continued raising concerns about potholes, deteriorating road surfaces and long-term highway maintenance.

During scrutiny committee discussions and meetings with cabinet members, I repeatedly highlighted the impact of the previous 'managed decline' approach to road maintenance, combined with increasingly severe weather conditions.

I invited senior councillors and officers to visit the area to better understand the condition of local roads and the need for long-term resurfacing rather than repeated temporary repairs, though my offer has only been taken up by the outgoing Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Andrew Gant. I will be extending this offer to the new relevant member following an expected reshuffle around 20th May.

I also continued pressing for Brize Norton and Carterton to receive fair inclusion within county-wide highway investment programmes.

### **Flooding & Drainage**

Flooding and drainage concerns have remained a major issue, particularly following previous flooding incidents affecting properties within the village.

Oxfordshire County Council completed a Section 19 Flood Investigation Report for Brize Norton during the year. The report examined the causes of flooding and made recommendations regarding future mitigation and preparedness.

I strongly support continued work around:

- Drainage maintenance
- Flood preparedness
- Better coordination between agencies
- Sewerage infrastructure improvements
- Long-term flood resilience

Given the scale of proposed future development, ensuring that flooding risk is properly addressed remains extremely important.

### **Public Transport & Active Travel**

Throughout the year there were ongoing discussions around:

- The Carterton Mobility Hub proposals
- The Carterton & Surrounding Area Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
- OxRail and wider transport connectivity
- Bus infrastructure improvements
- Walking and cycling safety

Improved public transport and safer active travel infrastructure are essential if future growth in the area is to be sustainable.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work**

As Deputy Chair of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee and a member of the Education & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, I have spent much of the year scrutinising services affecting children, families and vulnerable residents.

### **Education & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

A recurring theme throughout the year has been Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision.

Committee work included scrutiny of:

- EHCP timeliness and delivery
- Communication between health and education services
- Inclusion and early intervention
- School attendance
- Safeguarding
- Support for vulnerable children
- Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) guidance
- Youth justice and prevention work

It was encouraging to see inspectors recognise progress being made around SEND in Oxfordshire, though challenges clearly remain both locally and nationally.

The committee also discussed:

- Reading attainment

- Youth engagement
- Rural isolation
- Support for foster carers
- Transition into adulthood for vulnerable young people

I consistently raised concerns around ensuring that rural communities are not overlooked within county-wide planning and support services.

### **People Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

Within the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee, work during the year included:

- Adult safeguarding
- Domestic abuse accommodation provision
- Health inequalities
- Rural service access
- Support for older residents
- Transition into adulthood services
- Care quality and consistency

Particular attention was given to ensuring that rural residents are able to access appropriate support and services.

### **County Council Decisions & Wider Oxfordshire Issues**

#### **Oxfordshire County Council Budget**

One of the most significant council meetings during the year was the approval of the 2026/27 County Council budget.

Despite significant financial pressures and reductions in national government funding, the budget protected key frontline services including:

- Adult social care
- Children's services
- Fire and rescue services
- SEND provision
- Highway investment
- Public health services
- Libraries and schools

Throughout the year I continued advocating for investment in highways, road maintenance and services supporting rural communities.

#### **Local Government Reorganisation & Devolution**

The year also saw ongoing discussions regarding Local Government Reorganisation and proposals for new unitary council structures.

Throughout these discussions, concerns were repeatedly raised regarding the potential fragmentation of county-wide services such as:

- Education
- Children's services
- Adult social care
- SEND provision

I have consistently argued that any future structure must protect the quality and consistency of services residents rely upon.

## **Thames Water & Utility Issues**

Thames Water's performance and infrastructure capacity remained a major concern throughout the year.

In March, residents across West Oxfordshire experienced a major water outage following a burst pipe. I spent time supporting residents at the bottled water distribution station and continued raising concerns around:

- Communication failures
- Compensation arrangements
- Infrastructure resilience
- The impact on vulnerable residents

At the same time, ongoing sewerage and drainage concerns continued to affect discussions around future development proposals.

Residents have made clear that confidence in Thames Water's ability to support future growth remains extremely low, and I will continue pressing for stronger accountability and infrastructure investment.

### **Looking Ahead**

While many of the issues facing Brize Norton and the surrounding area are complex and long-term, I remain committed to ensuring that residents are represented strongly at County Hall.

My priorities moving forward include:

- Ensuring infrastructure comes before development
- Improving road safety and pedestrian crossings
- Continuing to push for better road maintenance and resurfacing
- Supporting Brize Norton Primary School discussions and future planning
- Improving flood resilience and drainage infrastructure
- Supporting military families and veterans
- Ensuring rural communities are not overlooked within county-wide decisions
- Continuing strong scrutiny of major development proposals

I would again like to thank Brize Norton Parish Council, local organisations, community groups and residents for their continued engagement and support throughout the year.

Please continue to contact me with concerns, ideas and questions — local knowledge and community involvement remain essential in shaping the future of our area.

## **APPENDIX D - WODC CLLR PEARSON'S REPORT**

Hello – so a quick word about recent elections – I just want to say thank you to everybody who took part, and to reiterate that my job is to serve as a connection between residents and the district council, and that is all residents – however they voted, or whether they voted at all. So if you have any concerns or enquiries and you're not getting a clear answer from WODC, please get in touch. I'm really easy to find through the WODC website.

Numbers are 20-16 – 8 – 4 – 1 and we still have a West Oxfordshire Alliance, where party differences are put aside and we work collaboratively towards shared goals.

The past year at West Oxfordshire District Council has seen some real progress on local vision, against a backdrop of uncertainty, with Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon and our Local Plan behind schedule.

On the positive side, good and impactful work is being done on things like reducing the emissions of our waste fleet, decarbonizing our leisure centres, and working with partners including Low Carbon Hub and Oxfordshire County Council on Local Area Energy planning – trying to get more energy generated locally, often in community owned schemes. Overall, carbon emissions from WODC buildings and operations are going down, and the figures for this should be on the website from next month.

Also rolling out EV charging infrastructure – central govt and private sector funding  
Minimum of 1200 more public EV chargers in this financial year, including pavement ones. Including cable channels for where there is on street parking

Picking out one figure from performance service indicators - Missed bins fell to 39.62 per 100,000, remaining comfortably within target, and overall service performance has improved following recent measures.

On fly-tipping: In Q3, the team delivered its first stop-and-search with Thames Valley Police and HMRC, stopping 38 vehicles and issuing waste-carrier compliance notices, with more joint operations planned for 2026.

There is also good work going on in Nature Recovery, with the orchards scheme, and working with partners like Long Mead and the Wychwood Forest Trust to restore habitats and improve soils.

Access to Nature project, with teens and young families in Witney, Chipping Norton and Carterton

Youth programme – youth officer has been working with groups of young people

Food officer – looking for places where food banks can do more and become real food hubs with cooking facilities and making it easier for everybody to access nutritious affordable food.

### The Local Plan

Our Local Plan is due to be published in draft in July, followed by a 6-week consultation period. It is likely to have plans for 19,000 houses, which is the figure planners say we have to put in in order to satisfy the government's planning inspectors. This is really shocking, particularly since somewhere between 4,000 and 7,000 of these would be in sites around Carterton. A "Carterton area regeneration plan" is being worked on, to be published alongside the Local Plan. This is not just about new development, but also about infrastructure and town centre improvements.

BUT there are some things it's important to bear in mind, when you hear all this.

- 1) This includes a large number of houses which are already in the current Local Plan, such as Salt Cross, West Eynsham and Witney North. So this is not on top of developments you might have heard about before.
- 2) This is not something that is going to happen within the next few years – the plan goes until 2045 and very many of these sites will not even be considered for at least the next two or three years, with a much longer period before any spades in the ground. This does mean that, by the time anything like these scary numbers have been added to our housing stock, we will have better transport, whether a railway or some other form of mass transit, and improvements to the A40. Hopefully, Thames Water might have got its act together by then, too.

- 3) It is unlikely that this number will be built. We have to put it into the plan, in order to have a valid plan. But supposing birth rates continue to fall, economic growth in this region is less than anticipated, or even if the way people choose to live changes – the plan will be reviewed, at least every five years, and the housing need will be reassessed.

I do encourage you to engage with the Local Plan as it is a bit more of a holistic vision than you will get if you just look at the promotions of individual developers, which is what you are likely to see in the Oxford Mail or online. The draft plan cannot be published without accompanying documents, which will include:

Infrastructure Delivery Plan  
Environmental Sustainability Assessment

There will be a 6-week consultation when the draft plan is published. In order to prepare for this, you can look at the previous consultations, and the summary of responses.

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/1101kf2w/annex-a-preferred-spatial-policy-options-consultation-summary-report.pdf>

I've been on the Local Plan working group and have had quite a bit of input, focusing on the delivery of community benefit and necessary infrastructure, as well as particular input on food policies and light pollution, which are two particular areas of interest and research.

West Oxfordshire has urged government to rethink proposals that could weaken local planning powers.

The Carterton Area regeneration strategy will sit within the Local Plan.

I've attended all of the consultations, both for the West Oxfordshire Local Plan and for the individual developer proposals. [I also spoke against the development at Kilkenny Farm, which was nevertheless passed.] I do see it as part of my job to have an overview, so that these consultations on individual developments – where I have observed real distress – can be put in context.

CIL was introduced at the end of January – less restrictive in what the funds can be used for.

#### Local Govt Reorganisation

We've been promised we will know by July about the borders of the new unitary.

But what is at least as important is what will happen at the more local level.

Whether we have one, two or three unitaries in Oxfordshire, we need to make sure that the services of the District Council – things like business support, youth support, local nature recovery networks – are not lost in the larger council.

More particularly,

I've been on LPWG – lots of input on policies like access to local food, supporting local farmers and growers with our planning policies, CARWG, Const WG

Strategic planning

Kilkenny Country Park volunteers – hedgelaying, surveying for species, litter picking, sowing wildflower seeds

As part of that group – park run – only been once

Other activities outside the council itself – but overlap - Member of the Good Waste Charter steering committee – joint venture between WODC, CDC and the Cherwell Collective (a non-profit). Helping businesses and householders to produce less waste and promoting a circular economy.

Cotswolds National Landscape  
Wychwood Forest Trust

Make sure residents and businesses know about grants  
Make sure people know about consultations

Thanks to parish council – I would like to add my voice to the call for those interested in joining the parish council

## **APPENDIX E – BRIZE NORTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Apologies for my absence from the meeting, but I am pleased to share an overview of the past 12 months at Brize Norton Primary School, a year marked by continued growth, achievement, and a strong sense of community.

Brize remains an oversubscribed and highly sought-after primary school, with over 30 applications for just 20 Reception places this coming September. This sustained demand reflects the confidence families place in our provision, ethos, and outcomes.

This year we were proud to be awarded both the Platinum School Games Mark and the Platinum OPAL Award. These accolades place us within the top 5% of schools in England for play provision, recognising our commitment to high-quality physical activity, outdoor play, and the wellbeing of our pupils. We are currently undergoing reaccreditation for both awards, and all indicators suggest we are firmly on track to maintain these high standards.

Our children have enjoyed a rich programme of enrichment opportunities. Highlights include participation in Young Voices, where pupils joined thousands of others in an unforgettable musical celebration. Looking ahead, our older children are preparing for an exciting challenge — climbing Mount Snowdon, an experience that builds resilience, teamwork, and confidence.

A significant focus this year has been embedding pupil leadership across the school. We now offer a wide range of opportunities for children to develop their leadership skills, including roles such as Head Pupil, School and Community Council, Play and Sports Council, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, and House Captains, among others.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors received specialist training through the Princess Diana Anti-Bullying Programme, strengthening our commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment. Meanwhile, our School and Community Council have been active beyond the school gates, delivering gifts locally and sharing our core value of kindness with the wider community.

Teaching and learning remain at the heart of everything we do. This year our focus has been on strengthening our inclusive provision, ensuring every child can thrive. Staff have been developing their practice in adaptive teaching and applying principles of cognitive load theory to support more effective learning for all pupils. This work is already having a positive impact in classrooms and will continue to shape our approach moving forward.

In summary, it has been a year of achievement, ambition, and community spirit. Brize continues to be a place where children are nurtured, challenged, and inspired, and we are grateful for the ongoing support of the parish in helping us provide the very best for our pupils.

#### **APPENDIX F - BRIZE NORTON VILLAGE PRE SCHOOL**

Preschool remains as busy as ever. We have increased our numbers from 30>32 children per session to meet the high levels of demand. We are still turning people away. The majority of children attending preschool are from the old part of the village and Brize Meadow.

Over the Easter break we used an expansion grant given to us by OCC and preschool funds to replace the fencing in the garden as it was getting very old and breaking in areas.

After an epic 32 years Barbie is retiring from preschool in July. We held back on filling preschool from September in case we couldn't find a suitable replacement. We have now recruited an additional member of staff who joins us in September so our staff numbers will remain at 11. We have a few places available for September but are confident these will now fill quickly with our open afternoons in June.

We are very grateful for the additional area on the allotment we have acquired and this has allowed us to expand and enhance our outdoor learning provision. The children learn all about the life cycles of plants, frogs and growing and carrying for vegetables and spend time bug hunting. As always a big thank you to Charlie who helps us with keeping the allotment neat and tidy by keeping our grass cut.

As we head towards our last term of the year, 23 children will be leaving us and heading to a mixture of 8 different primary schools

We very much appreciate the support of the village, from the Elderbank Committee, Parish Council, Rev Roy and Wendy from St Britius Church, Ak Timms and for the donation we received from the Village Open Gardens Committee

## APPENDIX G - FINANCIAL REPORT



### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

#### GENERAL INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Balance at 1st April 2025		£ 93,137.37
Receipts		£ 114,931.37
Payments		£ 151,029.41
Balance of Business Premium Account	31/03/2026	£ 35,187.98
Balance of Community Account	31/03/2026	£ 21,851.35
<b>Total Funds in Bank</b>	<b>31/03/2026</b>	<b>£ 57,039.33</b>
Creditors Net		£ 4,517.24
Debtors		£ 1,082.75
VAT refund due (not including creditor invoices)		£ 1,496.23
<b>Reserves</b>		
BNPC Reserves		£ 10,205.58
Balance allocated reserves EBH extension		£ 1,842.91
Balance allocated reserves BM Play park		£ 26,069.52
Defibrillator Fund		£ 1,289.35
CiLCA hours not used to be carried forward		£ 622.00
.gov.uk website and emails		£ 766.00
Footpath repair		£ 2,500.00
Football clubs deposit held		£ 200.00
Allotment holder membership fees		£ 55.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 43,550.61</b>