

Minutes of the Fyfield and Tubney Parish Meeting held on Thursday 13th March 2025.

1. Present.

Mrs. Penny Budgen – Chair.
Dr. Dimitrios Hatzis.
Mr. Nicholas Keene.
Mr. Alan Woodward.
Dr. Stephen Fraser – Clerk.

Mr. Mark Coleman – VofWH Councillor.

One member of the general public.

2. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from

Mrs. Claire Cable-Alexander.
Dr. Sarah Stanhope.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

These were signed as a true record by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising.

1. Parish Web Site .

The Clerk reported slow progress and that the site was incomplete. However, he intended to go live with it in its current state shortly, marking the home page as ‘Under Development’. He would welcome constructive criticism.

2. Fyfield Bus Stop Lighting.

The Oxford bound light has had a number of failures but now appears to be working.

The inside shelter lighting is awaiting a site visit and a subsequent quotation.

3. Village Deep Clean.

Despite regular requests for when the requested 2024 priorities would be performed, no sensible response had been received. As the request for the 2025 Deep Clean priorities were expected soon, it was decided not to pursue this issue further.

5. District Councillor’s Report.

Mr Coleman reported that the District Council boundary changes would not be enacted in Parliament whilst the region was under consideration for some form of unitary council.

At the moment there is no consensus across Oxfordshire as to what form a unitary authority would look like. The Vale and South Oxfordshire would prefer to associate with West Berkshire but much will depend upon how the rest of Oxfordshire aligns. An interim plan should be submitted to government by the 21st March and a full proposal by the 28th November. Once approved by the Secretary of State, a shadow authority would run for 12 months before coming into force in its own right.

The Vale has submitted its Joint Local Plan in December 2024 and it will be evaluated against the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 rather than the higher housing numbers in the NPPF 2024. However, if the new LP policies would provide benefit, then they could supersede the old policies despite not being approved. In these circumstances, Neighbourhood Plans become much more important.

6. Proposed Hills Quarry & Tubney Action Group.

The council has received no update since the last meeting.

7. Flooding Issues;

1. Digging Lane.

Mrs Budgen has been liaising with all the relevant players and a plan of campaign has been agreed. However, work can only take place once the current flood levels have receded. All work should be completed by June and St. Johns college has agreed to pay.

2. Netherton Road.

This has been done and the culvert headwalls have been rebuilt.

8. Actions from Neighbourhood Priorities Statement.

Public Space/Play Area.

St. Johns college and the farmer are not prepared to release land for this to proceed.

9. Highways Issues.

1. Abingdon Road SID poles.

OCC has been contacted with a view to moving one or two poles to provide better charging locations.

In the meantime the Clerk had received the two additional batteries and charger. He would seek assistance from Tubney residents when changing batteries.

2. Abingdon Road Potholes.

This has been a running battle with OCC to escalate the remediation of the worst potholes that seem to cause grief to motorists on an almost daily basis. Mrs Budgen and the Clerk placed warning barriers in the worst two holes, probably illegally, but this has kept drivers out of danger. Some work was done early in the week but the worst holes were ignored, despite being marked.

We took the opportunity of the meeting with Gordon Kelman to obtain his help in escalating the issue.

3. Abingdon Road Flooding.

Mrs Budgen and the Clerk had a meeting on site with Gordon Kelman, OCC Drainage, to discuss the issue of flooding at No. 9 Abingdon Road. He confirmed that the gully at their entrance was piped across the road into either a soak-away or a pipe running south east alongside the road. Irrespective of which, the pipe was blocked and would require excavation to either rebuild a working soak-away or to clear the access to the south east pipe.

The pipe runs into a ditch near the entrance to the golf club. This is heavily silted and overgrown and will need clearing to enable surface water to soak into the ground. This is the responsibility of Frilford Golf Club and Dr Hatzis would contact them to effect the clearance.

4. Kerb/Pavement at entrance to Manor Farm.

Mrs Budgen was still pursuing this issue.

10. Church Community Space.

This was now in a state that could be used though a lot of work still needed to be done and fund raising continues.

A number of events were being planned to make the village aware of the facility. Mrs Budgen floated the idea that the council could sponsor a produce show around harvest time.

Mr Woodward compared this to the show held by the Appleton Gardening Club of which he was a member. He would pass on their programme for information.

11. Memorial Garden.

Planting was now in progress.

12. Planning.

The following applications have been returned with No Objection.

- P24/V2606/HH Thatch Farm Cottage, Tubney

No response was submitted to the following application.

- P24/V2698/FUL Exagen Development Limited

13. Lioncourt.

David Wilson Homes were in the process of carrying out water table and drainage analysis that may have impact on the Digging Lane flooding. Nothing further to report.

14. Finance.

The Clerk reported the following transactions since the last meeting.

• Precept Account brought forward.	£6,856.23
• Tubney Action Group	£1,000.00
• Easyspace SSL Hosting	£43.48
• Available Precept	£5,812.75
• CIL brought forward	£21,301.57
• Two SID batteries and charger.	£312.58
• Available CIL	£20,988.99

The Clerk reminded council that they had allocated £450.00 towards a study for supplying water to the Fyfield allotments. The original cheque had been returned and we were awaiting a request from the allotment charity. Mr Keane would contact Lauren Small and try to expedite the survey.

The Clerk stated that the Financial Year ends 31st March 2025 and he would then be into the annual audit. He had approached Mr Kidd, of Wootton, to perform the internal audit.

15. AOB.

Mr Woodward reported that a drain near to the cottages on the A420 was sunken and causing noise and vibration whenever run over by a lorry. He would determine the exact location and the Clerk would pass this information on to OCC.

There being no other items, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:40pm.

Next Meeting Thursday 8^h May 2025.