

## **Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the meeting of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 7pm at Edward Feild Primary School**

*Meeting commenced at 7pm*

**Councillors present:** Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Clive Stayt, Cllr Nigel Simpson, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson (DC)

**To receive and accept apologies of absence from:** Cllr Merlin Smith, Cllr Suzanne McIvor,

**Other attendees:** The clerk and 7 members of the public.

**Declarations of interest:** Cllr Simpson declared interest in OUFC due to his role on CDC.

#### **Introduction of Councillors**

Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins was re-elected as Chair at the Annual Council meeting held tonight. Clive Stayt was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

**Chairmans Report** The Chairman circulated their report for people to read at the meeting. A copy of that report is here:

***Finances and services:** Over the past year parish council has once again enjoyed a stable financial position with a modest increase to the precept. The council has provided local services with these funds which include: maintaining parish-controlled play areas/ green spaces/ verges; ensuring local Fix My Street feedback is lodged with Oxford County Council; and encouraging volunteers to clean-up rubbish along local roads; and providing community notice boards/website/newsletters.*

***Meetings:** This year, parish council meetings have continued to be dominated by opportunities for the parish council to comment on planning applications to Cherwell District Council (CDC) and to consider how the parish might influence the spending of the associated "Section 106" funds that developers commit to spend on specific local projects such as sports and community facilities.*

***Five Parishes:** The Four Parishes Meeting has become the Five Parishes meeting with the addition of Shipton-on Cherwell parish to Kidlington, Yarnton, Begbroke and Gosford & Water Eaton. This CDC Area Committee exists to improve communication and co-ordination of responses to planning and other topics where consultation is sought from parishes. The group has continued to meet every other month to share parish responses to CDC on planning applications and to co-ordinate feedback and comments on Section 106 spending proposals. This group will become increasingly important in the coming years to ensure our parish community benefits from significant new housing development associated funds.*

***East-West Railway Development:** This year we commented on the consultation conducted by East-West railway who are planning electrification of the line and redevelopment of the Oxford Parkway station/parking facilities. We await the conclusion of the statutory consultation to know about next steps for this development.*

***Housing Developments:** The now published Cherwell District Council Local Plan 2025 has earmarked three significant developments in our parish referred to as PR6a (Bellway developers), PR6b (no developer announced to date) and PR7a (separated into two developments Hill and a*

*change of developer to Vistry). The parish council has repeatedly reached out to developers requesting updates over the past year but progress has been very slow given the workload at CDC of planning application review. Councillors are monitoring CDC planning processes for each application and submitting responses.*

***Stratfield Brake Working Party*** led by Kidlington Parish Council is reviewing management arrangements and facilities at the site. As Gosford & Water Eaton parish contributes to the running costs, we have participated in both user group meetings and management review meetings with CDC to evaluate sporting facilities at Stratfield Brake and make plans for changes in 2026.

***Gosford Hill High School Redevelopment*** Having supported the redevelopment of Gosford Hill High School which was approved by CDC planning in 2024, we await further progress from the Department of Education given the change in government.

***Oxford United Stadium Development*** (adjacent to our parish) Our objections to this development were submitted to CDC in 2024. CDC are expected to review the planning application in June 2025.

***Other Council Activities*** Councillors have attended and reported on a variety of local meetings this year. These include: the Kidlington Airport Committee, the Kidlington Environmental Committee, Traffic Management Committee and Thames Valley Police community liaison meetings. When possible we have submitted some highlights of council meeting to the Kidlington News to improve local communications. We have had some public participation in parish council meetings including feedback concerning housing developments plans.

***Thank you*** In addition to thanking all our volunteer parish councillors for their time and commitment over the past year, I would like to particularly thank Vice Chairman Clive Stayt and our Clerk Karen East who have diligently and cheerfully served the parish council throughout the year.

***Suzanne Wilson-Higgins,***

***Chairman***

**To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Proposed Cllr Nigel Simpson, Seconded Cllr Clive Stayt. All in favour to approve minutes.

**Matters arising from the minutes held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

None

**Accounts for year-end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

Council received the statement of the Parish Councils Accounts (full finance information available on the website and was circulated in the parish newsletter and a copy here):

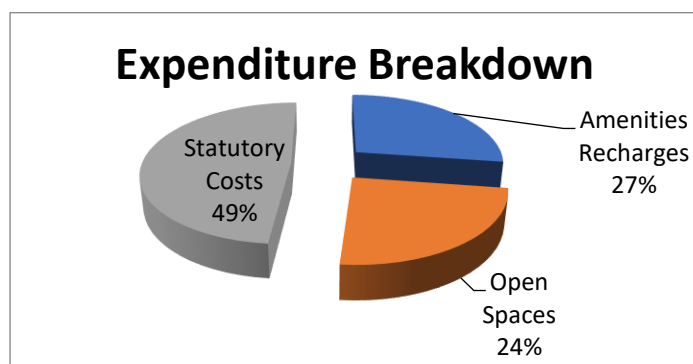
## **GOSFORD & WATER EATON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

### **FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2025**

The year close figure is an overspend of £834 in the revenue budget.

Below is an outline of our expenditure lines for 2024-25 with a levied precept of £76,221. Due to increase in statutory expenditures, the council had no choice but to increase the precept for 2025-26 by 6% to £81,174.



The closing bank balances of the council were £46,464.02 as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The funds are represented by:

<b>FUNDS REPRESENTED BY: Barclay Bank Accounts</b>	<b>£</b>
Unity Current Account	46,464.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,464.02</b>
<b>RESERVES REPRESENTED BY:</b>	
General Reserve	9,589.02
EMR Playground Maintenance	12,500.00
EMR Stratfield Brake Sinking Fund	13,375.00
EMR Litter & Dog Bins	2,000.00
EMR Street Furniture	2,000.00
EMR Planning & Legal	7,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,464.02</b>

It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts to 31 March 2025. Proposed Cllr Nigel Simpson, Seconded Cllr Clive Stayt.

### **Parish Report / Parish Matters**

The Chairs report covered the parish report, but Cllr Wilson-Higgins advised that we will be installing additional bins / dog bins along the link road following requests from local residents who walk dogs regularly along the route.

### **Planning Matters**

The Chairs report covered the planning matters.

Key things reiterated were that we have no confirmed building start dates and there is no planning confirmation for the OUFC stadium. Cllr Middleton advised that the

OCC planning committee expect to receive papers to discuss the planning application in July 2025. The council have heard today that OUFC has an extension to remain at the Kassam stadium until 2028.

### **Highway Matters**

The Chairs report covered the Highway matters.

### **Resolutions / Questions.**

Resident question was asked about whether S106 money will come to Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council. The Chair advised that Cherwell District Council controls the spend of S106 and we are pushing to ensure we have adequate expenditure to benefit the parish. As a Parish we will be requesting varying things for the expenditure. Cllr Middleton advised we do not have CIL money – for Cherwell District Council has S106.

Resident question came in raising concerns about the idea of parking / residents parking if the proposed OUFC stadium came into place. Cllr Simpson advised that if the planning application is approved there will likely be a minimum of 2km parking restriction area during matches. There is no confirmation or firm plans for residents / permit parking at this stage. The Chair confirmed that this parish council has objected to the stadium development.

Resident question asked how parking will be monitored. Cllr Simpson advised that if the stadium planning is approved part of the planning process would include confirming how this would happen.

Several residents mentioned that whenever there is an accident in the surrounding areas traffic is being diverted and is going through Cromwell Way and it is backing up to significant traffic. The resident asked if the County Council can support in having the Sat Nav diversion re-routed as it should not be including Cromwell Way. Cllr Middleton will ask the question of OCC. The Chair will raise this concern to the Traffic Advisory group.

Several residents raised that parents dropping children off are causing issues and have reversed into his drive 3 times causing damage to his wall. It is noted that this is a long-standing issue and there are also concerns of blocked driveways. The Chair will raise this concern to the Traffic Advisory group. The clerk will also send a note to the school to see if they can remind parents to be courteous. Residents are also reminded to report blocked driveways to non-emergency police as blocking drives is illegal.

A resident noted that cars are also parking over fire hydrants in Cromwell Way.

A resident noted that the pedestrian crossing traffic lights at the end of Frieze Way are nearly always green, but they are very close to the roundabout and could potentially cause an accident with people thinking the lights indicate its clear for the roundabout. Cllr Middleton will raise this to OCC.

A resident noted that on the upstream side of Gosford Bridge there is a huge tree stump and several trees ready to fall across the river. Concern is that if we have a

huge storm there could a lot of flooding if this is not looked at by the Environment Agency. The resident has reported this, but nothing has been done since original report in Sept 2024. Cllr Fiona Mawson (District Council) will raise this to the flood group.

A resident asked if we are willing to have flood wardens in our parish. Cllr Clive Stayt is our parish flood warden.

Residents raised concern that a lot of people are not observing the 20mph speed restrictions. The Chair has raised this through the traffic advisory committee.

**Any other business** None

*Meeting ends 7.45pm*