

## Clerks Report – Jan 2026

### Financial Report & Banking

Details of payments this month are below– all payments will be paid by bank transfer.

Statutory salaries for clerk and RFO, HMRC, pensions already approved and set up – All to be made via online banking and in line with budget. These are set up by the RFO to be clicked in the approvals list.

*Other immediate payments – budgeted and approved in annual budget:*

West Kidlington venue Jan - £85

Clerk office expenses (Dec) £52.95

Ady Podbery Invoice 5482 £66.60

Stratfield Brake January Management fee £985.50

Stratfield Brake December Management fee £985.50

Zurich insurance renewal £1,444.37

Invoices to support payments are provided alongside the finance report. PAYE figures to be listed as £confidential in published minutes.

There may be further payments to add at the meeting.

### Planning

#### Illegal dump

Update on progress in addressing the illegal waste site in Kidlington.

In December, the government agreed that the Environment Agency would fund the removal of the waste from the site. This follows close partnership working between Cherwell District Council, the Environment Agency, Oxfordshire County Council, and other local bodies, which concluded that the risks posed by the site are significant and that urgent removal is the only effective way to mitigate them.

The Environment Agency has now awarded a contract, through an urgent procedure, for the removal of the waste. Government ministers have stated that this removal activity is likely to commence in February.

As part of early enabling works to prepare the site, a small number of trees were removed this week to allow safe access for contractors and equipment. These works were carried out on behalf of the Environment Agency, with the appropriate notices in place, and each tree removed will be replaced locally with two new trees.

Partnership coordination and risk management have continued over the Christmas and New Year period, with input from a range of teams and services, including waste management, regulatory planning and enforcement, fire and rescue, and property.

The most recent period of flood risk has now passed, and the Environment Agency has confirmed that its protective barriers successfully contained the waste on site. Ongoing temperature and pollutant testing continues, including monitoring of the River Cherwell, with no issues identified.

A further update for local members and parish councils is planned for later this month, and we will be in touch with more details in due course.

In the meantime, the Environment Agency has confirmed that:

- Results of forensic testing to identify the origin of the waste are expected at the end of January to support the ongoing criminal investigation.
- As a result of this and similar illegal activity nationwide, reforms to waste permitting and enforcement are being developed, including changes to carrier and broker regimes (to reduce the number of organisations that can handle waste) and the introduction of digital waste tracking to standardise waste types, quantities, and disposal destinations.

The Environment Agency will continue to update its dedicated webpage: <https://engageenvironmentagency.uk.engagementhq.com/thames-regulated-industry-sites> with the latest information and monitoring data.

### Other

Solicitors have been asked to prepare options on the Stratfield Brake leases – whether the council can pull out if too expensive at any point. This will cost in the region of £700 to prepare and is in line with the legal budget we have.

Although not in our parish, I think it should be noted that the verge of Bicester Road from the north, from the roundabout to our boundary needs trimming back. We have been told in the past that the Gosford Link would be cleared back every five years. But it is more than five years since the Bicester Road was last cleared, and our entrance sign board has been obscured for most of that time. This is reported to OCC.

Although we, as tenants of the field by Beagles Close, have not yet been given a time for release of the land for development, developers would like to start this spring. We need to ensure that the assurance given that no access would be permitted from Water Eaton Lane is upheld. The developers must start by opening

the proposed new access from Gosford Link, or from the Vistry entrance, past the Cemetery.

We need to emphasize the requirement for a local Fire Service depot to be able to respond to any call within the timescales set out. As we found just before Christmas, with a very quick response to a call to an electrical fire in my son's garage, next door. All is now under control, with a generator supplying electricity to the house, while waiting for the mains supply to be re-connected.