BLADON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Bladon Parish Council held on Thursday 9th July 2026 at 7.30pm at the Church Room, Church Street, Bladon

Present:

Councillors Rev. C Fletcher (Chair), Ms S Cresswell, Mrs A Vine

District & County Councillors WODC Cllrs Massie & Poskitt

Clerk Mrs K Howe **Members of the Public** 0

044/26	**1 – To receive apologies for absence** Apologies were received from Cllr S Watkinson and OCC Cllr Graham.
045/26	**2 – To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda** No interests declared
046/26	**3 – Public Participation/Forum** There were no members of the public in attendance
047/26	**4 – To approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 11th June 2026** **Decision** It was **agreed** unanimously that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th June 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
048/26	**5 – To receive reports from members of West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council** There was no report from OCC Cllr Graham as he was not in attendance. The report from WODC was circulated at the meeting. Cllr Poskitt advised that the aim is for the Local Plan consultation to start in mid-August and within the plan is a section covering Woodstock and Bladon. Cllr Massie said that she had asked for the A4095 to be taken into account with the A40/A44 plans. Cllr Vine raised a concern that the Salt Cross planning application does not appear to have any consideration of the effect on Bladon of the traffic that the development will generate. Cllr Fletcher provided a brief update on the Botley Solar Farm community benefit negotiations. The plan was for any contributions to be paid/managed by a 3rd party, such as Grantscape, but WODC have said that was not a possibility and the contribution will be held by WODC to the benefit of parishes substantially affected, and WODC will decide on how the contributions are spent. Cllr Creswell asked about how Botley Solar Farm plans to offset the carbon it would be creating. It was suggested that the Clerk could contact PDVP to ask **Action** The clerk to contact PDVP to ask for an explanation regarding their plan for offsetting carbon

049/26	**6 – Planning** To consider a response to the following planning application: 26/00720/OUT – Land at Frieze Farm, Frieze Way, Gosford, OX2 8JX – Outline Planning Permission all matters reserved except access for multi phased (severable) Innovation District development accommodating up to 290,500sqm of gross external floorspace [Note discussion here] **Decision** It was **agreed** that the Council's response to application 26/00720/OUT would be delegated to the clerk to compose and would cover the Council's concerns about the impact of the development's traffic on the A4095.
050/26	**7 – Transport/Highways** a) OCC Quiet Lanes Project – Discuss options for Bladon and agree on any actions During the discussion, it was confirmed that Bladon is not one of the pilot areas. The possibility of proposing Cassington Road as a quiet lane was discussed, but it was raised that this could increase traffic through Bladon, as people use the road to bypass Bladon when travelling to Yarnton and the A44. Cllr Fletcher suggested that the council request a speed reduction on the road, as it is currently the national speed limit. As part of the road is in Cassington Parish, the council should approach Cassington PC to see if they would support the idea. **Action** The Clerk to contact Cassington PC to seek their opinion. b) Cycle Path Overgrown Verges – Discuss options and agree on any actions Cllr Vine raised the issue of the overgrown vegetation falling onto the cycle path and causing a safety issue when bikes and pedestrians are passing each other. The Clerk informed the meeting that OCC have scheduled the cutting of verges in Bladon for the last week of July. The Clerk was asked to request a quote to trim back the vegetation along the cycle path. **Decision** It was **agreed** that the Clerk would request a quote from P Howe for the work, and it would be approved using the delegated approval limits.
051/26	**8 – To receive any updates on any nature/environment issues and agree on any actions** Cllr Fletcher provided an update on a recent Evenlode meeting, and he was happy with the plans Blenheim Estates has for the area around the Evenlode. The Clerk informed the meeting that the grant application to TOE for the nature area beside the War Memorial had been submitted.
052/26	**9 – Year-End** To note the change in the period of Electors' right to inspect the accounts, from Monday 15th June to Friday 24th July 2026, to Tuesday 16th June to Monday 27th July 2026 The change in dates was **noted**

053/26 **10 – Finance**

a) To approve payments due

Decision

It was **agreed** unanimously to **approve** the payments in the table below: -

Payee	Description	Amount to be Paid	Vat to be reclaimed
P Howe	Inv June 26 - Sports Day Line Marking	£50.00	n/a

b) To note the recurring payments and payments made under delegated powers(*) between 1st June and 30th June 2026

The payments in the table below were noted: -

Payee	Description	Amount to be Paid	Vat to be reclaimed
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge Apr 26	£8.35	n/a
*J Olds	Inv JO307 Internal Audit Charge for 25'26	£270.00	n/a
*Stevens Landscape Management	Inv 0480 Village Maintenance Contract May	£830.40	£138.40
K Howe	Reclaim Expenses - Mobile SIM (June 26)	£5.00	£0.83
Sheild Maintenance	Inv 10304 Monthly litter bin emptying (May 26)	£91.01	£15.17
PATA	Inv 25/1178/PPS Payroll Service Apr-June 26	£40.35	n/a
K Howe	Salary June 26	£1,284.44	n/a
OCC Pension Fund	LGPS June 26	£364.47	n/a
HMRC	PAYE Apr-June 26	£672.52	n/a
Unity Trust Bank	Service Charge May 26	£6.77	n/a

c) To note the income received between 1st June and 30th June 2026

The income in the table below was noted: -

Payer	Description	Amount Received
Unity Trust Bank	Interest - Instant Access Acc	£364.86

d) To approve the Bank Reconciliation as at the 30th June 2026

The bank reconciliation was circulated before the meeting**.**

Decision

It was **agreed** unanimously to approve the Bank Reconciliation for 30.06.2026 with a balance of £115,860.75 of which £13,523.28 held in the Unity Trust Current Account and £102,337.47 in the Unity Trust Instant Access Account, and for Cllr Vine to sign the reconciliation

e) To note the Budget Monitoring Report for the period up to 30th June 2026

The budget monitoring report was circulated before the meeting (Copy **Annexe A**).

No questions were raised, and the report was **noted**

054/26	**11 – To approve the purchase of 4 pallets of softwood woodchip, each pallet containing 60 x 60lt bags, and to approve the quote for labour to move and spread the woodchip** a) 4 pallets of woodchip at a cost of £1,315.44 inc VAT & delivery b) Labour of £300 **Decision** It was **agreed** unanimously to **approve** the ordering of 4 pallets of woodchip at a total cost of £1,315.44 inc VAT, and also the quote of £300 from P Howe to move and spread the woodchip.
055/26	**12 – To approve the quote of £200 for tidying of hedging and bushes in the cemetery border** **Decision** It was **agreed** unanimously to **approve** the quote from P Howe of £200 for the tidying of the hedging and bushes in the border in the cemetery
056/26	**13 – To approve the renewal and payment of the Clerk's membership to SLCC at a cost of £200** **Decision** It was **agreed** unanimously to **approve** the renewal of the Clerk's SLCC membership at a cost of £200 and to **approve** the £200 payment to SLCC
057/26	**14 – To approve the membership and payment to the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association at a cost of £50 for April 25 to March 26** **Decision** It was **agreed** unanimously to **approve** the renewal of the council's OPFA membership at a cost of £50 and to **approve** the £50 payment to OPFA
058/26	**15 – To review and re-adopt the following policies (copies provided):** a) Standing Orders b) Financial Regulations c) Code of Conduct **Decision** It was **agreed** unanimously to **approve** the re-adoption of the following policies:- Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.
059/26	**16 – To receive an update on current workload/projects (report to be circulated)** A report was circulated at the meeting. **Action** The clerk to contact Blenheim for an update on the timetable for the wall repair (war memorial meadow wall)
060/26	**17 – To raise matters for discussion without decision, or items for the next meeting** Cllr Cresswell informed the council that she had contacted the school about the possibility of the children drawing pictures that the council could use on 20mph signs. The clerk said they would contact OCC to check the process for the Council installing signs.

Meeting closed at 8.32 pm

Annexe A

BLADON PARISH COUNCIL — **Financial Year Ending 31 March 2027**

	Revised Budget £	Spend as at 30th June 2026 £	Forecasted Spend £	Total Spend as at 31st March 2027 £	Variance £	Comments
Expenditure						
Staff Expenditure						
Basic Pay	17,819	4,305	12,914	17,219	- 600	Forecast does not include any inflation pay awards or salary increases
National Insurance	1,922	458	1,373	1,831	- 91	
Pension	3,867	857	2,570	3,427	- 440	
PAYE	-	-		-	-	
Staff Pay	**23,608**	**5,619**	**16,857**	**22,477**	**- 1,131**	
Mileage	100	-		-	- 100	
Home Working Allowance	312	-	312	312	-	
Training	300	165	135	300	-	
Staff Other Costs	**712**	**165**	**447**	**612**	**- 100**	
Total Staff Expenditure	**24,320**	**5,784**	**17,304**	**23,089**	**- 1,231.10**	
General Expenditure						
Mobile Phone	-	13	38	50	50	
Accounting Software	444	444	-	444	-	
Subscriptions & Software Other	254	141	-	141	- 113	Spend is Office 365 & Parish Online
Website Domain & Hosting	340	-	340	340	-	
Website Other	-	-	-	-	-	
ICT Costs	**1,038**	**597**	**378**	**975**	**- 63**	
Room Hire	475	45	430	475	-	
Memberships	705	110	595	705	-	
Councillor Training	300	-	-	-	- 300	
Chairs Allowance	250	-	-	-	- 250	
Newsletter/Leaflets	150	-	-	-	- 150	
Donations	500	-	-	-	- 500	
General Expenses	125	47	-	47	- 78	
Admin & Other Costs	**2,505**	**202**	**1,025**	**1,227**	**- 1,278**	
Audit	633	270	363	633	-	
Payroll	187	40	147	187	-	
Insurance	1,976	2,022	-	2,022	46	
Other	92	24	72	96	4	Expenditure is bank charges
Legal & Professional Services Costs	**2,888**	**2,357**	**582**	**2,938**	**50**	
Total General Expenditure	**6,431**	**3,156**	**1,984**	**5,140**	**- 1,291.20**	

Maintenance Expenditure						
Green Waste Disposal	64	-	64	64	-	
CM - Grass & Hedge Maintenance	2,124	418	954	1,372	- 752	Includes quote for cemetery border
CM - Other	500	-	-	-	- 500	
Cemetery Maintenance	**2,688**	**418**	**1,018**	**1,436**	**- 1,252**	
VM - Grass & Hedge Maintenance	1,854	270	683	953	- 901	
VM - Other Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	
VM - Winter Prep	-	-	-	-	-	
Litter Bins Emptying & Collection	726	184	683	867	141	
VM - Repairs	770	-	-	-	- 770	
Village Maintenance	**3,350**	**454**	**1,366**	**1,820**	**- 1,530**	
RG - Grass & Hedge Maintenance	6,228	1,137	1,715	2,852	- 3,376	
RG - Weed & Pest Control	1,224	31	62	93	- 1,131	
RG - Other	-	-		-	-	
Play Equipment Maintenance & Repairs	2,000	146	1,624	1,770	- 230	Forecast includes woodchip top up
MUGA Maintenance & Repairs	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	
Rent	10	-	10	10	-	
Safety Inspections	374	-	374	374	-	
Recreation Ground Maintenance	**10,836**	**1,314**	**4,785**	**6,099**	**- 4,737**	
Total Maintenance Expenditure	**16,874**	**2,186**	**7,169**	**9,355**	**- 7,519.28**	
Project Related Expenditure (The budgets for most of these projects are from the reserves or funded by grants)						
Projects	4,875	-		-	- 4,875.00	
Village Projects	**4,875**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**- 4,875.00**	
Total Project Expenditure	**4,875**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**- 4,875.00**	
Total Expenditure	**52,500**	**11,126**	**26,457**	**37,583**	**- 14,916.58**	(-) underspend or (+) overspend against budget

Income						
Precept	52,500	26,250	26,250	52,500	-	
Cemetery Fees	-	-		-	-	Income will be moved to reserves at year-end
Contribution from 3rd Parties	-	-		-	-	
Bank Interest	-	365		365	- 365	
VAT Reclaim	-	-		-	-	
Total Income	**52,500**	**26,615**	**26,250**	**52,865**	**- 364.86**	(-) overachievement or (+)underachievement against budget
					-15,281.44	Estimated underspend