

CHARLTON-ON-OTMOOR PARISH ANNUAL MEETING CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR - APRIL 2025-MARCH 2026

The Parish Council is again very grateful for the parish clerk Samantha Hatwell during the past year, also, for being the Council's active point of contact for the various organisations, and local authorities.

Year 2025 to 2026

The community spirit has continued to be active during the last year, and we thank those who have organised events in the community, all very much appreciated by the community.

New Councillors

The Parish Council needs new members and currently has vacancies for two, should you be interested please speak to the Parish Clerk, or any of the present councillors. Alternatively come along to any of the Parish Council meetings, you will be most welcome. Dates and times are advertised on the noticeboards around the village.

Planning and Village Development

The Parish Council received various planning applications to comment on, most of which relate to tree works in the conservation area, plus some small extension to existing buildings.

We are pleased to report that, after ten months planning permission has been granted for the development of the "Bus Garage" site to provide six new dwellings, 2no two-bedroom 2no.three-bedroom, and 2no.four-bedroom.

Allotments

The take up of allotments is still popular and at the time of writing there are plots vacant, should anyone wish to take one, then please contact the Parish Clerk.

Dogs Fouling Footpaths and Pavement Parking

Again, as in previous years, dogs fouling the footpaths, and parking on footpaths continues to be cause for complaint from people in the village. Both being a nationwide issue that has featured many times on daytime TV and highlights a limitation in our present laws, and enforcement agencies.

Not cleaning up after your dog and proper disposal is a very anti-social act, as well as a health hazard, for which the offenders can be fined.

There have been times when unfortunately, due to dog pooh bins not being emptied, has resulted in dog walkers dumping their pooh bags on the ground. In this situation, you must take your waste home, leaving dumped bags on the ground is classed as fly tipping.



Local Flooding

Many of the ditches in the village and surrounding area have been cleaned out, whilst this may not resolve the problem of local flooding, it will greatly assist in reducing the impact.

Household Waste Recycling Sites

From January this year, to visit any of the Oxfordshire waste recycling sites you will need to book your visit, this can be done online, or alternatively by telephone via 01865 519800. This phone number is for all Oxfordshire County Council services.

For the visit you will need also to provide proof of your Oxfordshire address.

Playing Field Bottle and Can Banks.

With glass bottles and jars now being collected at the roadside in your blue bin, the bottle banks are scheduled to be removed from the playing field.

Speed Limit in the Village and Community Speed Watch

The 20mph speed limit within the village and other residential areas throughout the UK are now established. It is disappointing there are still drivers who ignore not just the 20mph, but also exceed 30mph. The Community Speed Watch is still awaiting additional volunteers who can join the team. The time involvement is generally no more than 2 to 3 hours, 6 times a year or less. The scheme is run by community volunteers and Thames Valley Police, independent from the Parish Council. Anyone who would like to volunteer to take part, and join the group, please contact the Parish Council for more details.

Finance

The Parish precept for 2026-2027 has increased by a small amount per household, however with the rate of inflation the council spending will require some careful management to maintain the same level of services.

Our thanks go to those villagers who help with grass, and hedge maintenance plus street cleaning, without their participation the precept would need to be much higher.

Old Cemetery

The Parish Council would like thank Brian Butler for the care he has given to the old cemetery, continuing with the good work previously carried out by Eric Cooper.

New Cemetery

Spring and summer 2025 there were a delightful display of wildflowers in the wooded area of the cemetery.

The Parish Council extend thanks to the individual local businesses who have helped with the new path and maintenance works to the ditch, and culvert adjacent to the cemetery boundary along New Pond Lane.



Village Community Works by Others

The Parish Council wish to thank all those individuals who carry various "housekeeping" tasks around the village, hedge and grass cutting to litter picking, especially the teams of youngsters who also get involved with the litter picking. The parish council very much appreciate the young individuals who have tasked themselves with the regular removal of rubbish and litter from the ditches, and the individual who carried out the "weeding" and sweeping the roadside gutters throughout the village.

Parish Council WEB Site

The Parish Council WEB site is continuously being updated and can be viewed on www.coopc.co.uk.

Oxfordshire Highways Maintenance

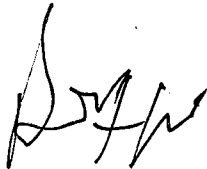
It is disappointing that the new initiative of communication with highways at Oxfordshire County Council introduced last year, is not functioning as intended. The volume of repairs needed is no doubt one of the main causes of this initiative failing.

We still await some of the items scheduled over the next year or so to be started, they are the replenishment of the white lines, full repairs to the kerb granite sets, and the parking area opposite the school.

Finally

I would like to thank the other councillors, and parish residents for their support during the past 12 months.

Bryn Walker



Chairman
Charlton-on-Otmoor Parish Council