

Clerks Report

Dear Councillors, old & new,

We have been very busy in the office with an increase in members of the public seeking advice, and I suggest it might be advantageous for Councillors to take it in turn to hold a “surgery” style drop-in for the public to directly engage with the new Council.

The Coronation picnic on Sunday 7th May was blessed with the only warm, dry day of the weekend. The bar run by the Clerk team on behalf of the Council sold out of ice cream and beer! The only hitch was the very long queue for the single ladies toilet in the Gardiner Pavilion and I would strongly advise hiring a welfare unit including a babies changing area for any future events.

The Jubilee Garden was freshly weeded, mown and red/white/blue ribbons were tied to the posts to celebrate the Coronation. This memorial to Queen Elizabeth II & celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III now requires border edging and quarterly maintenance.

I advise all Councillors to familiarize themselves with the role of a Councillor including the Code of Conduct, and legislation e.g. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Training is being planned to bring everyone's skills up to date.

I request that the Council takes the Civility & Respect Pledge as recommended by The National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and County Associations as well as our Internal Auditor. To date 1176 Councils have already signed up.

The Pledge

By signing the Pledge, your council is agreeing that the council will treat councillors, clerks, employees, members of the public, and representatives of partner organizations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles and that it:

- Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors.
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a dignity at work policy
- Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens
- Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local Local Council Award Scheme
- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate

Sarah Edmunds

CiLCA Qualified Clerk to the Council.

Title	A Report on the White Hill Burial Ground.
Authors	Assistant Clerk
Meeting	Goring-on-Thames Parish Council Annual Council Meeting – 15 th May 2023

1.1. To receive a summary of recent training and proposed burial ground regulations update

On the 21st April the Clerk and Assistant Clerk attended / hosted an ICCM Memorial Management Course. The Assistant Clerk has enquired as to local availability, as advertised courses were all far away i.e. Cambridgeshire, Cornwall etc. The ICCM confirmed that the Council would receive two spaces were we to secure a location and arrange local catering to be paid for by the ICCM.

We were unable to secure lunch catering please teas and coffees for breaks etc locally for the £10 quoted per head by the ICCM, and with the Clerk's permission the Assistant Clerk arranged the catering for the day. The direct total expense incurred for two staff members to attend a full days training, which was not refunded by the ICCM was approximately the cost of collecting the items needed from shops in Reading – circa £40. This far outweighed the costs of 2 people attending a course in either Cambridgeshire or Cornwall with the course costs (£140 each) and travel time and expense.

The course was informative on what the Council should be doing to ensure the safety of those visiting and/or working in the Burial Ground, how to sensitively handle issues relating to memorial management, and other cemetery / burial ground management items.

Noting the expert advice received from the trainer, who themselves manages over 150,000 plots in their local area. A new burial ground regulation document and updated forms are attached to this appendix for the Council's approve.

Updates include, but are not limited to:

- Adding a contact update form for the owners of the Exclusive Rights of Burial (ERoB)
- Reducing the time plot owners have to remove overdecoration etc.
 - It was commented that 6m will lead to more overdecoration of other plots.
- Adding that breakable items such as glass / china vases etc are not permitted.
 - We have to clear broken items regularly, particularly in winter and can cut users and animals in the Burial Ground
- Adding a section on actions to be taken when an unsafe memorial stone is identified.

1.2. To approve Memorial Bench application for Gardiner Recreation Ground

A request has been received for a memorial bench at the Gardiner Recreation Ground, opposite the pavilion. The bench is for a long term resident who's ashes have recently been interred at the WHBG, they were a cricketer and footballer for many years, and sports editor for the GGN.



1.3. To approve updated Burial Ground Regulations, including updated forms, new forms and memorial bench plan.

The Council has been receiving more and more Memorial Bench requests, to enable to Clerk team to approve an allocate these more efficiently, they ask for the “Memorial Bench Plan” as part of the new policy to be approved, families who make enquiries can select locations on a first come first served basis. Benches for people without a long term connection to the village will still be brought to full council for a decision.

1.4. To approve article regarding upcoming inspections and updating contact details and ask GGN and Genie to post.

Safety inspections will be carried out on all memorial stones in the White Hill Burial Ground.

Following training by the Institute for Cemetery and Crematoria Management, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council will proceed with a full inspection of all memorial stones for safety. We take our responsibilities for the health and safety of the public, staff, contractors, and all others who visit our graveyards seriously. And recent staff training has highlighted the need for periodic checks of graveyard memorial stones to ensure their safety for all who visit the White Hill Burial Ground site.

During the inspections, each grave will also be inspected for its adherence with the Burial Ground Regulations.

Where unsafe stones are identified, they will either be laid down, or “staked and banded” and a notice placed on the stone. Where overdecorated plots are identified a notice will be placed on the stone. In both instances the Council will attempt to contact the plot owner. For this reason, if you are a current plot owner please ensure the Council is aware of your current contact details, an update form is available on our website, or you can contact the Council directly on

WHBG@GoringParishCouncil.gov.uk

For over decorated plots, excess decoration will be removed after 4 weeks, and stored for 6 months. You can arrange collection directly on WHBG@GoringParishCouncil.gov.uk.

For unsafe headstones, after 6months of attempting contact, the stone will either be laid down permanently, or dug in to the ground to allow them to still be upright, showing the top 2/3 above the ground.

This is a large body of works, and sections will be addressed in order, starting with the Roman Catholic burials section.

Please note the memorial stone is the responsibility of the owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial. Any re-fixing of memorial stones must be completed to the latest standards by an approved memorial mason.

- 1.5. To approve purchase of ground anchors for all benches without at the Burial Ground, budget £100 per bench, to include fitting. Estimate this is applicable to not more than 5 benches, monies to be taken from WHBG EMR.**

A number of benches are being moved in to the walk ways, this results in damage to the grass and impedes access by our contractors. Going forward all new benches will be installed with anchors, and request budget from the maintenance EMR to fit ground anchors to all other benches.

- 1.6. To approve repair patches to WHBG Driveway, Budget £200**

Two noticeable potholes have formed on the Burial Ground driveway over the winter. Propose Clerk team install patches. Budget requested of £200 to purchase repair kit and adhesive spray, £200 is requested now, for future repairs this financial year should more holes be identified.



WHITE HILL BURIAL GROUND REGULATIONS

1. Introduction

- 1.1. White Hill burial ground is owned and managed by Goring-on-Thames parish council and supervised by the clerk to the council. **The public has no right of way on to or across the burial ground.**
- 1.2. Areas have previously been set aside for Church of England, Roman Catholic and other denomination burials. In each there are grave spaces for coffins and for cremated remains in caskets. There is no exclusive facility for scattering cremated remains. However, ashes may be scattered on existing graves, with the consent of clerk and the family.
 - 1.2.1. Once the plots in the current areas are all being used or previously reserved, the burial ground management will change to always using the next available plot, continuing from the current CofE designated section.
- 1.3. White Hill is a lawn burial ground. No planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs or other material of a temporary or permanent nature is permitted. In particular, in order to be able to mow and maintain the grass/lawn burial ground, the use of cages around the burial plots is not allowed. Also, all pots, vases, flowers, statuary, etc should be limited to the surface area of the plinth in front of the headstone. The intent is to keep the grass sections to be easily accessed for mowing and to maintain the overall appearance of a grass burial ground, but still allow individual, personal expressions of deceased loved ones.
- 1.4. There are regulations regarding monuments and inscriptions.
- 1.5. These regulations apply to public behaviour in the burial ground.
- 1.6. Fees are charged in accordance with the council's schedule applicable at the time of the burial or erection of a monument. Current fee scales can be viewed on the internet, at: www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk. Residency qualification for charges for both interment and memorials are based upon the last permanent address of the deceased and not the exclusive rights owner. A maximum of 5 years limit applies when moving out of the home address for residential care etc.

2. Arranging burials and cremations

- 2.1. Arrangements are usually made by a funeral director, who is responsible for ensuring that the applicant is fully aware of the contents of these regulations including memorials and inscriptions before seeking permission to carry out an interment. Clients may make their own arrangements subject to the approval of the clerk to the council who shall be the first point of contact and is responsible for ensuring that the applicant is fully aware of these regulations. The council office is normally open on Mondays to Thursdays except on public holidays. Burials and interments of cremated remains can normally be arranged at three working days' notice.
- 2.2. Notice of interment must be given to the parish council at its office on the form provided by the council. The person making the arrangements must sign the notice. Information from this form is used in the burial register. The register is kept available for public inspection at the council's office. A plan showing the location of each grave space is also available for public inspection.



- 2.3. Estimates of fees can be given on the telephone. All fees must be paid at or before the time of burial. An official receipt will be issued on request.
- 2.4. A burial can take place only in a grave space for which an exclusive right of burial has been purchased. Burial rights are purchased at the time of the first burial, usually by a family member. The exclusive right is for 99 years from the date of purchase. The policy of the council is not to permit advance reservation or purchase of burial plots.
- 2.5. Second or subsequent burials in a grave space can only be carried out with the permission of the burial rights owner. Families must keep the council informed of the current ownership of the burial right if it is transferred or passes by inheritance.
- 2.6. Ownership of an exclusive right to burial conveys no other legal rights over the grave space, which remains the Council's property.
- 2.7. Coffin grave spaces generally have room for two coffin burials and a number of caskets of cremated remains. A triple depth grave can accommodate up to three coffin burials. Cremated remains grave spaces have room for two caskets.
- 2.8. Grave spaces for first burials will be selected by the council in the appropriate site of the burial ground and marked approximately two days before the burial. The policy of the council is normally to allocate the next space in line.

3. Preparing the Grave

- 3.1. Goring-on-Thames parish council will be responsible for the excavation of a coffin grave to the required depth and for backfilling immediately after the burial ceremony. The grave may be opened the day before the burial but must be left safely covered in accordance with current health and safety legislation. No work may be carried out whilst burials are taking place.
- 3.2. The preparation of cremated remains plots may be completed by the funeral director, or by request by Goring-on-Thames parish council. Where Goring-on-Thames parish council is responsible for the excavation of a cremated remains plot, they will be responsible for backfilling immediately after the interment ceremony and after the mourning party has left the burial ground. The plot may be opened the day before the interment but must be left safely covered in accordance with current health and safety legislation. No work may be carried out whilst burials are taking place.
- 3.3. The first burial in a double depth coffin grave space shall be excavated to a depth of not less than 2000mm and the second burial to a depth of not less than 1300mm. When a grave is reopened for a second burial a minimum of 150mm of soil must be left between coffins. No brick graves or vaults are allowed.
- 3.4. A casket of cremated remains shall be buried so that its top is at least 300mm below ground level.
- 3.5. Only coffins made of perishable material will be used except with the prior approval of the council in special circumstances.
- 3.6. Surplus soil and chalk excavated from any grave will be disposed of by the parish council. At least 300mm of soil must be used to complete backfilling to ground level. A supply of topsoil is provided. The backfilling shall be well consolidated. A mound of soil not more than 300 mm high will be permitted to remain for a period of approximately twelve – twenty-four months following an interment. Then the grave space will be levelled and turfed or seeded. Thereafter the council will level and return the grave space whenever it is considered necessary.



- 3.7. The area around the grave must be left clean and tidy.
- 3.8. The council reserves the right to provide an identification marker if no memorial is erected within two years from date of interment.

4. Burials

- 4.1. Burials are permitted between 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on weekdays (excluding public holidays) and 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on Saturdays, unless the clerk to the council gives permission for some other time in a case of special emergency.
- 4.2. Arrangements for the conduct of any burial service are the responsibility of the relatives and friends of the deceased. The person making arrangements must inform the clerk of the name of a minister or other person conducting the service no later than twenty-four hours beforehand.
- 4.3. No extraordinary funeral procession will be permitted to enter the burial ground unless the council grants prior permission.
- 4.4. During a funeral a council officer may exclude from the burial ground anyone who is not a mourner or officially connected with that funeral, or who is behaving in an inappropriate manner.
- 4.5. Parts B & C of the registrar's certificate for disposal (green form) or the original certificate of cremation must be sent to the council's office within twenty-four hours of the burial. The minister or other person officiating at a burial shall complete a notice of burial having taken place and shall send it to the council's office within twenty-four hours.

5. Monuments

- 5.1. The council's written agreement to size, design, materials and wording of a monument and inscription must be obtained before it is erected. Written agreement of the council is also needed for additional inscriptions. To obtain the council's agreement and application signed by the burial right owner or the funeral director must be made to the council's office. It shall include a detailed drawing and description and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee. A monument installed without the council's written agreement or that deviates from the approved design, is subject to immediate removal.
- 5.2. Once an approved monument has been installed, all other markers are to be removed immediately.

6. Monument specification (see illustration below)

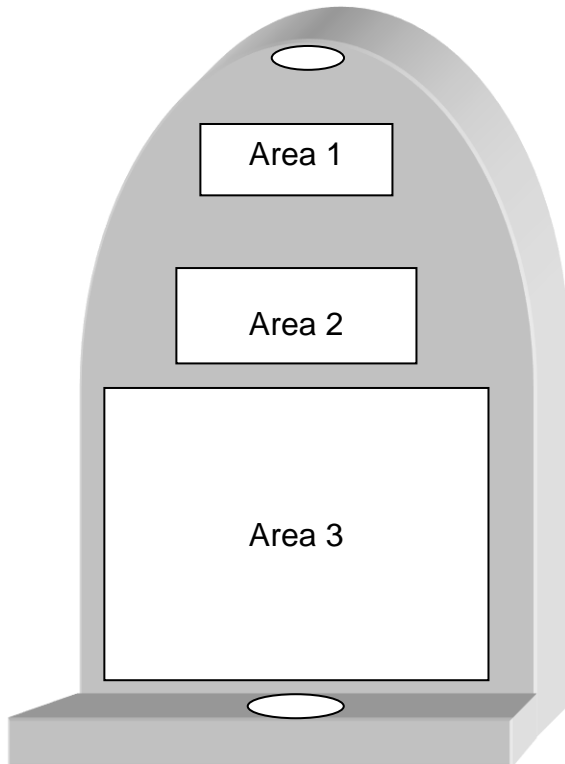
- 6.1. A monument must be dignified and made entirely of stone or wood and must be inscribed on the back in the bottom left hand corner with the grave number, no other inscriptions or markings are permitted on the reverse of the monument. Any cramps used in construction must be of non-ferrous metal. Loose stones, chippings and edgings are not permitted
- 6.2. For a coffin grave space only a head stone or cross is permitted. It must be positioned near the west (head) end of the grave space, in line with adjacent monuments, or where marked by the council. The maximum width permitted is 750mm and the monument shall be positioned centrally across the width of the



- grave space. No part of a monument may be more than 1200mm above ground level. The monument shall rise from a matching stone base, set level with the ground and not extending more than 450mm along the grave. The base may be pierced for a removable flower container.
- 6.3. For a cremated remains grave space, only a tablet set level with the ground or a “desk” tablet 75mm high will be permitted. This must not be greater in size than 450mm by 450mm.
 - 6.4. No maker’s name or other advertisement of any kind may be shown on any monument.
 - 6.5. No work to a monument may be carried out on a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday, nor after sunset or whilst a burial is taking place. If any damage is done to council’s land or premises, or another monument, the council will seek to recover the cost of repairs from the burial rights owner.
 - 6.6. The burial rights owner must ensure that a monument complies with the British Standard BS8415, specification on monuments within burial grounds and memorial sites, and that it is installed and maintained in accordance with the NAMM code of practice on the installation, inspection, management and maintenance of memorials, published by the [National Association of Monumental Masons](#). The council does not maintain monuments.
 - 6.7. If a monument becomes dangerous the council will immediately make it safe. In case of general disrepair the council will give notice to the burial rights owner, at his or her last notified address, that the monument must be repaired within six months. If the repair is not carried out or the council cannot contact the burial rights owner the council may remove the monument and seek to recover the expenses thereof from the burial rights owner.
 - 6.8. For unsafe memorial stones, if after the 6 months of attempting contact with the owner of the burial rights, not contact can be made, the stone will either be laid down permanently or buried upright in to the plot with 2/3 of the stone above the level of the ground.



Area 1: To contain a dignified simple and reverent sentence of factual content.
For example: "In loving memory of" or "In remembrance of".



Area 2: To contain the name/s of the deceased in a larger font, together with relevant dates

Area 3: Area for personal tributes of a solemn and dignified nature.

Footnotes:

- (a) Requests for engravings/carvings at the head of the stone, nicknames etc, may be considered at the council's discretion.
- (b) Special consideration will be given for memorials for children under the age of eleven (11) years.
- (c) A single ceramic photograph not more than 6 x 4 inches may be considered at the Councils discretion above Area 1.

The above principles will also apply to cremation tablets.

- This stone shape is an example only.
- Some other shapes are permitted within the overall dimensions.

7. Planting and wreaths

- 7.1. The council will remove any wreaths remaining on a grave more than three weeks following a burial.
- 7.2. After a grave has been levelled a holder to contain cut flowers will be permitted on a grave space if set level with the ground within 450mm of the eastern side of the base of any approved monument. The container must be removable.
- 7.3. No shrub may be planted on a grave. No glass case shall be placed on any grave. Artificial flowers or wreaths may be permitted on a grave. The council reserves the right to remove them if they become untidy.
- 7.4. No fragile vases shall be used, including glass and ceramics. The council shall dispose of any broken items upon inspection.

8. Behaviour in the burial ground

- 8.1. Public admission to the burial ground will be allowed daily between sunrise and sunset, only for the purpose of visiting graves. No activities inconsistent with this purpose are allowed.



- 8.2. All visitors must observe decorum in all respects. No one may sit, stand, climb upon or over or damage any monument, gravestone or tablet in the burial ground. No damage may be caused to shrubs, plants, trees, flowers or fences.
- 8.3. No one may prevent, interrupt or delay a funeral, should visitors to the burial ground witness any persons/vehicles preventing, interrupting or delaying a funeral or visitors attending the burial ground they should register a complaint with the Clerk of the Council with details.
- 8.4. Dogs are permitted only if on a lead.
- 8.5. No car, bicycle or other vehicle shall be driven from the access road onto the verge or other grass areas of the burial ground without the consent of the council and, if consent is given, shall not remain there longer than is necessary.
- 8.6. All vehicles when not in use shall be parked so as not to obstruct other vehicles or pedestrians.
- 8.7. No music is permitted, and the use of radio prohibited unless in connection with a funeral.

9. Review

This Policy document was approved for use at the meeting of the Parish Council on 15th May 2023, it shall be reviewed periodically.

Signed:

Dated: 15th May 2023

_____ Chair of the Council



Annex A - Standard letter for Historic Owners, to update them on the new regulations, if not in compliance

Dear [Registered Owner of Exclusive Rights]

We are writing to you because you are the registered contact for (name of deceased)'s burial plot at White Hill Burial Ground in Goring.

As part of the normal Council procedures and to address concerns raised by Councillors and members of the public, the Burial Ground Regulations were recently reviewed. In the main, the regulations are broadly appropriate, but in this review some issues were highlighted. To ensure the practices at the White Hill Burial Ground are similar to other locations, visits were made to other cemeteries and burial grounds, and guidance was sought.

In order to preserve a grass burial ground for all to be able to feel comfortable visiting loved ones graves, as well as finding the balance for reasonable ease for the Council to maintain it, a new section has been added into the Regulations to clarify some points:

1.3 White Hill is a lawn burial ground. No planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs or other material of a temporary or permanent nature is permitted. In particular, in order to be able to mow and maintain the grass/lawn burial ground, the use of cages around the burial plots is not allowed. Also, all pots, vases, flowers, statuary, etc should be limited to the surface area of the plinth in front of the headstone. The intent is to keep the grass sections to be easily accessed for mowing and to maintain the overall appearance of a grass burial ground, but still allow individual, personal expressions of deceased loved ones.

We have identified in a recent inspection that your plot has _____, which we kindly ask is removed. We will remove and safely store these items if you have not taken action within 4 weeks of this letter. If not collected, by arrangement, within 6 months the items may be disposed of.

If you have any questions or concerns about your loved one's plot, please contact the Parish Council by e-mail (WHBG@GoringParishCouncil.gov.uk) or by post. We are not able to change the policy, but we will do all we can to assist you in being easily able to comply.



Annex B - Standard letter to those not adhering to the Regulations:

Dear [Registered Owner of Exclusive Rights]

We are writing to you because you are the registered contact for (name of deceased)'s burial plot at White Hill Burial Ground in Goring.

In order to preserve a grass burial ground for all to be able to feel comfortable visiting loved ones graves, as well as finding the balance for reasonable ease for the Council to maintain it, the Burial Ground Regulations in effect when the plot was purchased included:

1.3 White Hill is a lawn burial ground. No planting of trees, shrubs, bulbs or other material of a temporary or permanent nature is permitted. In particular, in order to be able to mow and maintain the grass/lawn burial ground, the use of cages around the burial plots is not allowed. Also, all pots, vases, flowers, statuary, etc should be limited to the surface area of the plinth in front of the headstone. The intent is to keep the grass sections to be easily accessed for mowing and to maintain the overall appearance of a grass burial ground, but still allow individual, personal expressions of deceased loved ones.

We are writing to you to remind you of these regulations as at a recent maintenance inspection of the burial ground it was found that.....

We kindly request that this be removed within 4 weeks of the date of this letter, at which point, all remaining mementos, vases, statuary, etc will be removed to the office at the burial ground. If not collected, by arrangement, within 6 months the item may be disposed of. If you need a little longer to make the arrangements to remove or rearrange the items, please contact us so we can help you comply with this request.

If you have any questions or concerns about your loved one's plot, please contact the Parish Council by e-mail (WHBG@GoringParishCouncil.gov.uk) or by post. We are not able to change the policy, but we will do all we can to assist you in being easily able to comply.



Annex C - Memorial Permit Application (original document available on website)



**GORING-ON-THAMES
PARISH COUNCIL**

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO ERECT MEMORIAL / ADD INSCRIPTION

This form, together with drawings or plans drawing to scale and dimensions (inc. Height, width and thickness of plate, height, width and depth of base) figured thereon of the proposed Monument, Gravestone or Tablet, and a copy of the intended inscription, must be submitted to the Burial Ground Administration and approved before any such Memorial can be admitted to the burial ground.

All fees must be paid before admittance

The grave number must be inscribed on each memorial stone admitted.

All permits will expire 2 years from the date of issue.

Name of the deceased to whom the memorial stone is being erected.		
Date of Death of the Deceased		
Residential Status:	Goring / Non-Goring	Permit Applied For: New / 2 nd Inscription
Plot Number		Plot Type: Grave / Cremated Remains
Description of the Monument, Gravestone or Tablet (including dimensions):		Inscription:
<p>Note:</p> <p>(a) Requests for engravings/carvings at the head of the stone, nicknames etc, may be considered at the council's discretion.</p> <p>(b) Special consideration will be given for memorials for children under the age of eleven (11) years.</p> <p>(c) A single ceramic photograph not more than 6 x 4 inches may be considered at the Councils discretion above Area 1.</p>		
Memorial Material		
Anchor Type		



PLEASE READ THESE GUIDELINE CAREFULLY

1. No memorial will be allowed on a grave if the Exclusive Right of Burial has not been purchased.
2. The memorial application form must be fully completed including all the details of the proposed work and a diagram of the memorial. The application form must be signed by the registered owner or a person authorised by the grave owner to erect a new memorial or carry out work to an existing memorial.
3. It is the responsibility of the registered owner to ensure the continued maintenance and safe upkeep of the memorial. The Council recommends that memorial insurance be taken out to complement any warranty provided by the Memorial Mason. The Council is not responsible for making good any damage caused by circumstances over which it has no control.
4. For safety reasons, when a grave is excavated, the memorial may have to be removed from the burial ground by a Memorial Mason. The Funeral Director usually makes this arrangement in direct liaison with the family.
5. The Council has a duty to remove any potential danger from the burial ground and may therefore remove any breakable items, edging kerbstones or other unauthorised objects from any grave.
6. It is important that you notify the Council of any change of address or circumstances.

MONUMENT SPECIFICATIONS (SUMMARY ONLY, SEE BURIAL GROUND REGULATIONS FOR FULL DETAIL)

1. A monument must be dignified and made entirely of stone or wood and must be inscribed on the back in the bottom left hand corner with the grave number.
2. For a coffin grave space only a head stone or cross is permitted. It must be positioned near the west (head) end of the grave space, in line with adjacent monuments, or where marked by the council. The maximum width permitted is 750mm and the monument shall be positioned centrally across the width of the grave space. No part of a monument may be more than 1200mm above ground level. The monument shall rise from a matching stone base, set level with the ground and not extending more than 450mm along the grave. The base may be pierced for a removable flower container.
3. For a cremated remains grave space, only a tablet set level with the ground or a "desk" tablet 75mm high will be permitted. This must not be greater in size than 450mm by 450mm.
4. No maker's name or other advertisement of any kind may be shown on any monument.

DECLARATION BY APPLICANT

I declare that I have the authority to instruct these works. I have read and accept the Guidelines above.

Name of Applicant:	Address:
Telephone Number	
Email address:	Postcode:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

DECLARATION BY THE MEMORIAL MASON

I, the Memorial Mason, have read and understood the Council's Burial Ground Regulations and agree to abide by them. I am responsible for the settlement of Cemetery fees and charges.

Firm: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Annex D – Notice of Interment (original document available on website)



Gardiner Pavilion • Upper Red Cross Road • Goring • Reading RG8 9BD

Phone: 01491 874444 • 07516035604 • WHBG@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk • www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

Notice of Interment – White Hill Burial Ground

Complete Section A & B plus either C or D as applicable, please return to the Parish office giving 3 clear working days' notice.

Section A: The Deceased

First Name(s)

Surname

Date of Birth

Date of Death

Permanent Address at Time of Death

Postcode

Trade or Profession

Where Death Occurred (If different from permanent address)

Section B: The Interment

Day and Date

Time of Arrival at the Burial Ground

Officiant (if any)

Funeral director: Company; person; phone number(s)

Applicable Extract from the Burial Ground regulations:

- Burial rights are purchased at the time of the first burial, usually by a family member. The exclusive right is for 99 years from the date of purchase. The policy of the council is not to permit advance reservation or purchase of burial plots. If a plot is purchased without exclusive rights, there will be no right to erect memorials etc.
- Second or subsequent burials in a grave space can only be carried out with the permission of the burial rights owner. Families must keep the council informed of the current ownership of the burial right if it is transferred or passes by inheritance.
- Ownership of an exclusive right to burial conveys no other legal rights over the grave space, which remains the Council's property.
- Coffin grave spaces generally have room for two coffin burials and a number of caskets of cremated remains. A triple depth grave can accommodate up to three coffin burials. Cremated remains grave spaces have room for two caskets.
- Grave spaces for first burials will be selected by the council in the appropriate site of the burial ground and marked approximately two days before the burial. The policy of the council is normally to allocate the next space in line.



Section C: Burials

Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial or Reopen?		New Purchases Only: Type of Plot Required	
New Plot with Exclusive Right of Burial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Church of England	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reopen of an existing Burial Plot	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roman Catholic	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Non-Denominational	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coffin Dimensions		Reopen Only: Details of Plot Row & Number	
Length:	Shoulder Width:		
Details of the owner of exclusive rights of burial. (For New plots, the purchaser. For Reopens, the present owner or new owner if previous owner is the deceased)			
Name		Address	
E-mail			
Phone			

Section D: Cremated Remains

Purchase of Exclusive Right of Interment or Reopen?		New Purchases Only: Type of Plot Required	
New Plot with Exclusive Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Church of England	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reopen of an existing Interment Plot	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roman Catholic	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Non-Denominational	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plot Preparation		Reopen Only: Details of Plot Row & Number	
Plot to be prepared by:	Funeral Director <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Council <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details of the owner of exclusive rights of burial. (For New plots, the purchaser. For Reopens, the present owner or new owner if previous owner is the deceased)			
Name		Address	
E-mail			
Phone			

Declaration by Applicant:

I confirm the details contained in this form are accurate and will be used to populate the burial register.

I note that the mourning party should not arrive at the burial ground earlier than **15 minutes prior** to "Time of Arrival at the Burial Ground" in Section B. **30 minutes after** "Time of Arrival at the Burial Ground" in Section B are allowed for any graveside service, after which the plot will be back filled by the grave digger once the mourning party have departed, unless by prior arrangement.

Name of Applicant	Company if Applicable
Signature	Date

Office Use Only

Plot Fee	Interment Fee	Grave Digging Fee	Total Fees	Plot Number



Annex F – Change of Address Form, Owner of EROB



Gardiner Pavilion • Upper Red Cross Road • Goring • Reading RG8 9BD

Phone: 01491 874444 • 07516035604 • WHBG@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk • www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Owner of the Exclusive Rights of Burial – White Hill Burial Ground
Contact Details Update**

Complete all Sections and return to the Parish Office.

Section A: The Plot (s)

Plot Number(s) if Known.

[Text input field]

Name of the Deceased	Date of Death
[Text input field]	[Text input field]
[Text input field]	[Text input field]
[Text input field]	[Text input field]

Section B: Current Contact Details

Details of the owner of exclusive rights of burial.

Name	[Text input field]	Address	[Text input field]
E-mail	[Text input field]		
Phone	[Text input field]		

Section C: New Contact Details

Details of the owner of exclusive rights of burial.

Name	[Text input field]	Address	[Text input field]
E-mail	[Text input field]		
Phone	[Text input field]		

Declaration by Applicant:

I confirm the details contained in this form are accurate and will be used to populate the burial register.

Name of Applicant	[Text input field]	Company if Applicable	[Text input field]
Signature	[Text input field]	Date	[Text input field]



Annex F – Memorial Bench Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Goring-on-Thames Parish Council supports the needs and principles of allowing memorial benches within the parish and is mindful that these facilities are enjoyed by a wide range of people. Therefore, the Parish Council will ensure that the issue is managed and regulated for the mutual benefit of all.
- 1.2 It is the intention that the policy only covers broad common issues and is not meant to be exhaustive. The content of this policy will be revised as necessary to meet changing circumstances. This policy has been produced with the following guiding principles:
- To be respectful and sympathetic to those seeking to install a memorial bench
 - To establish responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of memorial benches.
 - To ensure that memorial benches are not out of place in the area in which they are situated

2. LOCATIONS

- 2.1. As a principle, Goring-on-Thames Parish Council will approve requests for memorial benches to be installed for those laid to rest in the parish, with a strong connection to Goring at the following locations:

2.1.1. Ferry Land Space

In the following locations or to replace damaged benches being removed.
(opposite current bench locations)



2.1.2. Rectory Garden

In the following locations or to replace damaged benches being removed.

- No more than 1 between each pair of trees, in line with the path.
- 3-4 around the perimeter.

2.1.3. Gardiner Recreation Ground

In the following locations or to replace damaged benches being removed.

- No more than 1 between each pair of trees around the perimeter, facing in to the field.

2.1.4. Sheepcot Recreation Ground



In the following locations or to replace damaged benches being removed.

- No more than 1 between each pair of trees around the perimeter, facing in to the field.
- Spaced sensitively along the North and South edges, no more than 5-6 on each side.

2.1.5. Bourdillon Field

In the following locations or to replace damaged benches being removed.

- Spaced sensitively along the North and South edges, no more than 2-3 on each side.

2.1.6. Burial Ground

In the following locations or to replace damaged benches being removed.

- 2-off Directly opposite current benches in CofE Sections
- 1-off looking over the Non-Denominational Burial Section.



- 2.2. In exceptional circumstances, memorial bench installation will be approved by the Full Council for people laid to rest outside of Goring or those without such a strong connection.

3. TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 3.1. The Parish Council will only permit memorial benches to individuals or, in exceptional circumstances, a historical event. Applications for memorials to pets will not be considered. Memorials will be limited to benches.
- 3.2. All applications for memorial benches should be completed on the official request form and be signed by the applicant. They will then be authorised by the Parish Council before installation.
- 3.3. The applicant will be responsible for all costs incurred including (but not exclusively) the purchase of the bench and plaque and the installation.
- 3.4. The text and style of the inscription on any memorial plaques shall be submitted to the Parish Council for approval or otherwise at the same time as application is made to site the memorial bench. Memorial plaques will be no larger than 175mm wide by



75mm high and shall be fitted in the centre of the upper most slat of the back of the bench. If not installed by the manufacturer, the plaque shall be installed with non-return security screws.

- 3.5. The Parish Council accepts no liability for damages caused to person(s) by memorial benches.
- 3.6. The Parish Council will consider each application on an individual basis. The Parish Council will attempt to accommodate the wishes of the applicant(s) but it may limit the number of memorials in a particular area. The applicant may request a particular siting for the memorial bench but the final decision will be that of the Parish Council.
- 3.7. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove or re-site memorial benches at any time.
- 3.8. The Parish Council should they need, to will notify the applicant in the event that the memorial bench is damaged. The applicant should ensure that the Parish council is in possession of current contact details.
- 3.9. The Parish Council will not be responsible for any maintenance of any memorial bench. However, if any maintenance is required, in the opinion of a proper officer of the Council, the applicant(s) will be informed and given a period of 4 weeks in which to complete the necessary works. Any maintenance carried out by a third party will be in strict agreement with the Parish Council at an agreed time
- 3.10. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any memorial benches that have been damaged and are in the view of the Parish Council beyond economical repair or have not been repaired within 4 weeks of the notification referred to in section 3.8 and 3.9 above.
- 3.11. The Parish Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorial bench from vandals, third parties or whilst the Parish Council carries out ground works in proximity to the bench.
- 3.12. Benches will be constructed of recycled plastic and prior to installation the design selected by the Parish Council to be in keeping with the intended location.
- 3.13. The Parish Council accepts no replacement liability for the plaque or the bench at the end of its useful life and will dispose of any such bench. Any replacements of benches or plaques will be the responsibility of the original applicant.
- 3.14. The Parish Council will undertake an annual assessment of all benches and reserves the right to remove any bench that is no longer considered safe and fit for purpose. In this event, the named person(s) on the application form will be informed. Any related inscribed plaque will be returned to the donor or disposed of if contact cannot be made.
- 3.15. The Parish Council will keep a record of donors and their contact details in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. It is the responsibility of the donor to provide the Clerk to the Parish Council with updated details in writing. Failure to do so could lead to the memorial bench being removed without further notice.
- 3.16. All memorial benches should be paid for by the applicant before the completion of the installation. An administration fee of £100 per 15 year period is due to the Parish Council prior to installation.



4. STYLE & COST OF BENCH

4.1. Permission will only be given for the following:

- Brown in Colour, Recycled Plastic Benches.

At the time of approval of this updated policy, the recommended benches are, Dale Commemorative Bench 1.5m, or the Commemorative Wirksworth Seat provided by TDP Limited, Derbyshire.

Costs will be confirmed at the time permission is granted, at the time of approval of this policy, approximately £750 to include ground anchors, delivery and brass plaque with engraving.

(original document available on website)



Old Jubilee Fire Station • Red Cross Road • Goring • Reading RG8 9HG
Phone: 01491 874444 • WHBG@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk • www.goringparishcouncil.gov.uk

Memorial Bench Application

Complete all sections, please return to the Parish Office

Section A: Contact Details of the Bench Owner (Applicant)

First Name(s)

Surname

Address

Postcode

Telephone

E-mail

By completing this form, the applicant agrees to be contacted by, and their details being kept by, GPC for this purpose.

Section B: The Bench

Location Requested

Plaque to be in the Name of:

Additional Inscription, including any dates (Please check this every carefully for errors, this cannot be corrected)

Applicable Extract from the Burial Ground regulations:

- The Parish Council reserves the right to remove or re-site memorial benches at any time.
- The Parish Council will not be responsible for any maintenance of any memorial bench.
- The Parish Council accepts no liability for damage to any memorial bench from vandals, third parties or whilst the Parish Council carries out ground works in proximity to the bench.
- The Parish Council accepts no replacement liability for the plaque or the bench at the end of its useful life and will dispose of any such bench. Any replacements of benches or plaques will be the responsibility of the original applicant.
- It is the responsibility of the donor to provide the Clerk to the Parish Council with updated details in writing. Failure to do so could lead to the memorial bench being removed without further notice.

Declaration by Applicant:

I confirm the details contained in this form are accurate and agree to the terms of the Memorial Bench Policy.

Name of Applicant

Signature

Date

Office Use Only:

Fees:

Approved by the Council:



Annual Report 2023

Clr Freddie van Mierlo, Chalgrove and Watlington Division

Liberal Democrat

Now 2-years into its first 4-year term, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the progress made by the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance administration since taking control from the Conservatives. Its vision is laid out in the 9 priorities adopted, that includes ‘putting climate at the heart of everything we do’. The IPCC’s ‘final warning’ to humanity in March this year, puts back into focus the importance of following through on this commitment – even in the face of rising opposition from conspiracy theorists, climate change deniers, and those who would wish to see a much-diminished role for the county council.

The County Council is responsible for delivering a range of services to residents of Oxfordshire, including adult social care, children’s services – including for children with special educational needs and disabilities, and of course, maintaining Oxfordshire’s highways and transport infrastructure, and a range of other services, including libraries, fire and rescue, and coroners’ services.

Adult social care is largest responsibility of OCC in terms of spend. Demand is growing due to our ageing population and an increase in complexity of needs. In Oxfordshire, we are seeking to manage this demand with a pioneering ‘Oxfordshire Way’, that aims to keep people active and independent for as long as possible in their homes and communities. As part of this, OCC has been promoting a scheme to empower small scale care businesses in the community to thrive. Support is provided to ‘micro-enterprises’ to navigate the paperwork and start out as a commercial enterprise. An all-age unpaid carers strategy review is also ongoing to better support this vital group in our communities.

Children’s services remain a challenge, particularly in the area of SEND. The service receives this year an inflation busting boost to its budget of 12.3% (£18.8m), which will provide much needed funds to improve the assessment of EHCPs in particular. The county was also successful in bidding for £5.2m to fund new residential homes for children with autism and children with adverse childhood experiences.

In transport and highways, the county is leading the way, alongside the Welsh government, by moving to 20mph as the speed limit for villages and towns. The newly adopted Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP5) is a radical change from the previous plan, and places an emphasis on active travel, public transport and reducing car journeys. Its ambitious targets to reduce car journey's by 25% by 2030 and 33% by 2040 will shape infrastructure decisions going forward, and be a powerful tool when developers seek massive car-centric developments (e.g., Chalgrove Airfield, Harrington). The freight strategy (which sits as part of LTCP5) is being developed further with inputs sought from communities on area weight restrictions and problem areas for HGVs. The strategy seeks to move non-local freight onto the strategic road network (M40, etc.), rather than use inappropriate local roads. Additional investment is being made in taking on stubborn highways flooding issues that will see more projects brought forward in 2023 and 2024 to take on problem areas.

As ever, I continue to advocate for projects and issues important to local communities and individual residents. Issues have ranged from road agreements, active travel, trees, road markings, flooding, children's services, and much more! In Watlington, key areas of focus have been representing the views of the community to the County on the Watlington Relief Road. I've also been delighted to see the progress made to bring the unoccupied property at 33 High Street back to life. The work done by Watlington Welcome and the parish council is testament to the power of local communities and unlocking their potential. Work continues in the background to cement the handover of the Charlotte Coxe Trust (owner of 33 High Street) to the parish council.

I have also been delighted to support a wide range of projects through the Councillor Priority Fund. The fund was renewed in February's budget on the same basis as previously (£15,000 over 2 years), with new applications opening in April 2023. Given the impact of inflation, and a last-minute rush that is delaying approval of applications, I again will favour projects that can be delivered early and start providing benefit to the community this year.

Housing developments also remain a concern for residents. While strictly speaking a district matter, the major road developments associated with Chalgrove airfield development, and the potential Harrington development bring in County level concerns. I continue to oppose both of these schemes, which would have a deleterious impact on the local environment and climate due to their remote and rural locations.

Finally, with Oxfordshire's growing population, the electoral commission has determined a review of current county council division boundaries is required. The election commission has agreed with a recommendation from council that the number of councillors be increased from 63 to 69, which would keep the number of electors per councillors roughly the same as they are now up to 2029. The increase in councillors will likely see the Watlington and Chalgrove division broken up into two separate divisions – with Chalgrove and Watlington being the major population centers in each of the new divisions. For me, this will be bitter-sweet, since I very much enjoy serving all the communities of the current county division, but it's wide geographic spread does make it extremely challenging, which will be somewhat alleviated by new boundaries.



Focus on Parishes with Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (Chalgrove and Watlington)

April 2023

Welcome to my monthly update. I share a regular update in the first week of every month. In the interests of transparency, I share this update publicly as well as with parish councils.

My recent meetings:

- 3rd March: Watlington Business Association, Watlington
- 7th March: Nettlebed Parish Council
- 9th March: Watlington Relief Road consultation, Watlington
- 13th March: Great Haseley Parish Council
- 14th March: Watlington Parish Council
- 16th March: Homes England (Chalgrove Airfield), Online
- 21st March: Swyncombe Parish Council
- 21st March: Nettlebed Annual Parish Meeting
- 28th March: OCC Full Council, Oxford

Upcoming meetings:

- 11th April: Watlington Parish Council
- 12th April: Little Milton Parish Council
- 17th April: Lewknor Parish Council
- 21st April: Watlington Annual Parish Meeting
- 26th April: Ewelme Annual Parish Meeting
- 27th April: Britwell Salome Parish Meeting

***** **OCC NEWS*******

OCC saves £5m with new NHS deal: OCC has reached a new deal with the NHS that will save OCC nearly £5m a year. OCC pools resources with the NHS in order to deliver social care and mental health services in a coordinated way. However, a review of how costs are apportioned to each organisation has meant OCC will reduce its liabilities in

the agreement. The agreement will allow OCC to focus funding on its responsibilities while also allowing OCC and the NHS to continue to cooperate into the future.

Suite of cost of living measures agreed for 23/24: A range of measures, totalling £9.5m, to support residents with the cost of living was agreed by cabinet for 2023/2024. The measures are funded mostly through national grants, but with £2.3m contribution from OCC. National government funding does not cover the full range of measures that councils are encouraged to take. The measures include, council tax support, practical support for those leaving hospital, and significant funding for children in receipt of free school meals during school holidays. A new Local Crisis Fund (administered by district councils) has also been established, which will support people during periods of financial crisis.

Freight strategy engagement: The county council is engaging with parish and town councils as it develops its freight strategy further. Parishes have been invited to input via LetsTalk. This is not a public consultation, but rather an opportunity for key stakeholders to input early, local knowledge on areas that would benefit from area weight restrictions and identify areas challenged by HGVs. The strategy seeks to keep HGV movements off inappropriate roads and keep them on the strategic road network (e.g. M40). Responses should be sent by 10th April

Boundary review: OCC has submitted to the boundary commission its suggestions for new county division boundaries (passed unanimously at Full Council). The Commission's [consultation](#) will close 9 May. The Commission will then develop its recommendations and consult on draft proposals 1 Aug- 9 Oct

***** **NEWS IN BRIEF*******

Gigahubs: The project to install broadband to community hubs is 50% complete

Councillor priority fund set to reopen: Applications to the fund will reopen in April

Future generations: A motion was passed at full council, asking the council to include in its decision-making processes consideration of the impact for future generations

Recycling centre closures for cleaning: Oakley Wood will close Thursday and Friday, April 20 and 21 for deep cleaning and maintenance. Full list of closures [here](#)

***** **GRANTS AND COST OF LIVING*******

£6.4m to help low-income households tackle energy inefficiency: OCC's climate team was [successful](#) in its application to the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). The money will be used for whole-house retrofit installations to at least 310 properties across Oxfordshire that are not heated by mains gas.

Sustainable Warmth Grants: Funding for residents without mains gas, and household incomes of less than £30,000 (or in receipt of means-tested benefits) is still [available](#).

Grants for care workers: Cost of living grants remain available for care workers, available from the Care Workers' hardship grant

*****20MPH SCHEME*****

Village	Decision Date	Installation
Berrick Salome	Approved	Installed
Britwell Salome	Approved	Installed
Chalgrove	Approved	Installed
Ewelme	Phase II	
Great/Little Haseley	Approved	Installed
Great Milton	Approved	Installed
Lewknor	Approved	Installed
Little Milton	Approved	Installed
Nettlebed	Approved	Installed
Pyrton	Approved	Installed
Watlington & Christmas Common	Approved	

*****PARISH ROUND-UP *****

Not all parishes are covered – below is a selection of the main updates.

Berrick Salome

- **Benson Relief Road:** Two issues have delayed the project – a flooding assessment and a land agreement. The flood assessment has been completed. Officers hope to complete the land deal by mid-2023, with construction to follow. However, land acquisition may delay the project further if the land transfer does not conclude by agreement.

Chalgrove

- **Airfield:** SODC and OCC councillors held a meeting with Homes England on 16th March. Homes England restated their desire to build a sustainable ‘market town’ in Chalgrove and plan to consult with stakeholders this year. Work to resolve the issues that led to them previously withdrawing their planning application is ongoing. As an OCC councillor, I made that OCC policies relating to car journey reduction targets need to be complied with
- **Mud from Ridgepoint development:** Complaints have emerged again of mud being dragged onto the road from the Ridgepoint development near the surgery. I have written to Ridgepoint, as have OCC officers to complain.
- **OCC objects to Obsidian planning application:** OCC has again objected to the planning application by Obsidian for land off Monument Road
- **11 bus timetable:** A revised timetable will start on 16th April.
- **Road repairs:** Surface dressing of B480 planned in 2023-2024

Cuxham

- **Highways:** I have alerted officers to an incident involving an HGV damaging a building in Cuxham. I have also pushed again for work to resolve drainage issues and potholes on the B480

Ewelme:

- **Road repairs:** Surface dressing of Benson / Brook Street is included in the 2023-2024 work programme

Lewknor

- **Bledlow Recycling Centre:** At the request of Oxfordshire councillors, a meeting was held with Buckinghamshire councillors. Buckinghamshire councillors agreed to look again at the costs involved in allowing Oxfordshire residents to use Bledlow. For comparison, the average cost to OCC of a visit to an Oxfordshire recycling centre is just £4.50. Councillors also pointed out that Buckinghamshire residents use OCC centres elsewhere in the county.

Watlington

- **Road closure & Charlotte Coxe Trust:** High Street will be closed 10th April, for a maximum of 5 days, to facilitate connecting 33 High Street to mains water.
- **20mph:** Limits for Watlington and Christmas Common were approved by the cabinet member for highways. An adjustment was made to the proposed limits for Britwell Road, where the 20mph extents were reduced to line up with Harmans Way (Watlington Relief Road), which is being built to 30mph specifications. This avoids a situation that would require motorists to go from 50 to 20 to 30. Should the parish wish to reduce the Relief Road to 20mph in the future, the situation could be reviewed again for Britwell Road.
- **Red Kite to Cuxham Road connection:** The footpath connecting Red Kite View to Cuxham Road is subject to 's278 road agreement' that needs to be progressed in order to open the path to residents. This includes an assessment of three silver birch trees on Cuxham Road that officers report need felling to fulfil an agreement made in 2018 as part of the development to make way for a footpath and bus stop. While I have expressed my opposition to their felling, the agreement made in 2018 is binding. I have requested as per OCC trees policy that 6 replacement trees are planted as near as possible, which will be done during the next planting season
- **Cuxham Road safety:** After two reports of residents experiencing falls into the Marlbrook on Cuxham Road from the pavement, officers have agreed to meet onsite with WPC to discuss options to reduce the risk of falling. A meeting will take place on 12th April.
- **Howe Hill temporary road closure:** B480 at Howe Hill will be closed on 23rd April from 9.30 to 15.30 for work to a pole. Diversion is around Benson and Nettlebed

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS APRIL 2023 FROM CLLR KEVIN BULMER

GENERAL OCC REPORT

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT SPARE SEATS SCHEME CANCELLATION

Dear Parents/Carers

WITHDRAWAL OF SPARE SEATS SCHEME ROUTES 2-WT05 and 2-WT08: The Baldons, Blackbird Leys, Garsington to Wheatley Park School

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) provide school transport where there are children who qualify for free school transport according to the Council's Home to School Transport Policy.

Prior to the Full Council meeting on 14 February, councillors were bombarded with emails from concerned parents and pupils alarmed by the administration's decision to withdraw the 'Home To School Spare Seats Scheme' in certain areas. At the Full Council meeting on 28 March, many concerned parents spoke passionately against the proposals. The Conservative Opposition then moved a motion containing the words *"This Council apologises unreservedly for its decision to send 'withdrawal' letters to parents under its Spare Seats scheme without parental or wider public consultation. The wording of its withdrawal letters caused significant anxiety and distress to parents in predominantly rural areas, with up to 235 children affected in the short term and as many as 1,384 students in the medium term."* The administration voted down the wording and passed a diluted motion, which Conservatives voted against.

OXFORD TRAFFIC FILTERS (THE FOUR SECTOR PLAN) MOTION

At the same council meeting, concerned residents and businesses had earlier spoken against the 'Traffic Filter' scheme that will divide Oxford into four sectors for traffic purposes, and questioned the consultation process. Conservatives then moved a motion to re-run the consultation but were voted down by the administration.

COST OF OCC'S COUNTY HALL CAR PARK REPAIRS

OCC has spent around £15,000 repairing the County Hall carpark. Shadow Cabinet Member for Highways Liam Walker said: *"I think residents will be frustrated as to why the car park outside county hall has been resurfaced whilst roads across Oxfordshire best resemble the surface of the moon in places. It's yet again clear that the coalition's focus is in the wrong place. They waste funds on projects like this, which could have fixed nearly 300 potholes instead."*



OXFORDSHIRE AWARDED £6.4M TO TACKLE ENERGY INEFFICIENCY

Hundreds of Oxfordshire households struggling with fuel poverty will benefit from energy efficiency improvements after the county was awarded £6.417 million by the government. The [Home Upgrade Grant \(HUG2\)](#) funding will deliver whole-house retrofit installations to at least 310 properties across Oxfordshire that are not heated by mains gas – instead heated, for example, by electricity, liquefied petroleum gas, coal or oil.

OXFORD ZEZ ANNIVERSARY: OCC RAKES IN £700K FROM TRAFFIC SCHEME

A scheme which charges motorists to drive through the city in an attempt to reduce emissions has raised almost £700,000 in fines in the year since it was launched. Britain's first Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ) began in Oxford in February 2022. The pilot scheme covers just a handful of city centre streets. Vehicles are charged between £2 and £10 per day depending on their emissions. There are discounts and exemptions for some road users. Zero emission vehicles, such as electric cars, can enter the pilot area free of charge. Initially warning notices were issued to drivers but from April 2022 OCC started handing out fines. Given the amount of money raised, critics are saying that the scheme has failed as a ZEZ, but succeeded as a cash generator. Controversial proposals are now being developed to extend the ZEZ to a wider area of the city. These measures are on top of the controversial Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) and the even more controversial 'Traffic Filter' proposals that will split Oxford into four sectors for cars without a permit.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES: SET FOR REFRESH IN MARCH AND APRIL

People planning to visit Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) during March and April are being warned about a series of short closures to enable deep cleaning and essential maintenance to take place. This includes jet washing the sites and structures, repainting lines and safety areas, as well as other general work to improve the customer experience. The closing dates are:

- Alkerton, near Banbury: Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 March
- Ardley, near Bicester: Thursday 23 and Friday 24 March
- Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt: Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 April
- Drayton, near Abingdon: Thursday 30 and Friday 31 March
- Oakley Wood, near Wallingford: Thursday 20 and Friday 21 April
- Redbridge, Oxford: Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 April
- Stanford, near Farringdon: Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 March.

More information can be found on OCC's [website](#), including details of nearest alternative sites during the closures.

HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES: DIY WASTE PRICES TO RISE

The cost to customers of disposing of DIY and other chargeable waste at HWRCs will rise this month. While most items brought to OCC's seven HWRCs can be left free of charge, DIY waste – items such as rubble, soil, fence panels, work tops and sinks – is legally classified as industrial waste and incurs a charge. From 1 April, all items currently charged at £1.50 will now cost £2. This covers most waste generated through home and garden renovations, including loft insulation, guttering, decking and fitted furniture. A list is available on the council's [website](#). The cost of disposing of bags of plasterboard will rise from £2.50 to £3.50, tyres from £5 to £6, but plasterboard sheets will remain at £10. Cash is not accepted, so visitors have to pay electronically before travelling. People who are unable to pay for items will not be permitted to deposit them. The Conservative Opposition is deeply concerned these measures will lead to an increase in fly tipping and will also present payment problems for those who do not have electronic payment facilities – contrary to OCC's 'Digital Exclusion' policy.

SPECIFIC OCC REPORT FOR GORING DIV

From my sick bed been writing emails to Highways on various highways issues, drains blocked and flooding and people not getting a response to there enquiries about flooding. Highways emergency nr did not help a nr of house holders and thames water and fire brigade kept passing the buck according to reports ive been getting, hopefully this has been resolved incase we get more rain.

The deteriorating condition of the highways (potholes seemly everywhere) is also a problem, the outbreak seems to have caught Highways by surprise and lack of investment (see the other occ priorities) has meant a unacceptable state of rural roads. I saw today the official mouthpiece of OCC administration is again asking for more government help, I and my colleagues can point to lots of schemes were the monies would have been better spent on the rural infrastructure. Too much as been spent on Oxford city and I make no apologies for banging on about rural highways.

Address: Councillor Kevin Bulmer, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

Email/Tel: kevin.bulmer@oxfordshire.gov.uk. 07803005680

Twitter: KevinBulmer@bulmer_kevin



Title	Correspondence Item
Authors	Chairman of MIGGS
Meeting	Goring-on-Thames Parish Council Annual Council Meeting – 15 th May 2023

Following the bumper uptake for the "last" Readibus trip, and a mild backlash at the ending of a service on which some people have relied to get to the bank, among other things, we have explored with Readibus the viability of a once-per-month service instead of twice per month.

We told Readibus that MIGGS would be happy to sponsor a monthly service on an experimental basis for six months provided we could rely on GPC as co-sponsor and the overall cost was acceptable.

This is a formal request to the council to join MIGGS in such a trial. The sixth month cost would be £350, to be shared equally between MIGGS and GPC. The trial would be evaluated after six months and we would decide jointly whether to extend the subsidy for a further six months or year.

We would not, of course, object if the council insisted on paying the full cost, which would be equivalent to the council's historical budget for Readibus support.

Notes:

1. We are not asking the council to give money to MIGGS. As in the past, our respective donations would be paid direct to Readibus.
2. Historically, the service was established on a monthly basis but was increased to 2x per month some time before MIGGS stepped in to save the service after OCC pulled out precipitously in 2013.
3. The trial service would run on the fourth Thursday of the month.
4. The last time I checked (Appendix N, 22 November 2022), the Readibus subsidy was still in the 2023/24 council budget.
5. MIGGS would put up some fresh posters and Readibus would contact its existing roll of users direct, by phone.

Chairman, MIGGS