

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 25 April 2025**

**Present:** Cllr C T McCarthy (Chairman) Cllr K Jones  
Cllr S K Dexter Cllr J Leggott  
Cllr W R Ackers Cllr F D Parnell  
Cllr R Batstone Cllr J M Stock

**In attendance:** County and District Cllr J Hannaby and three members of the Public

**Clerk:** Mr G M Mundy

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors M Charlton, J Goodman, Karann Rowland, G Smeddle and D Rolfe.

**2 Report of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 26 April 2024**

It was **MOVED** the Chairman and **RESOLVED** unanimously

**“that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.”**

**3 Report from the Parish Council Chairman**

Cllr C T McCarthy read out his report as per the attached appendix 2.

**5 Questions from the public**

Mr Brian Day asked how this meeting was advertised given that there are only three members of the public in attendance. The Chairman responded and said that whilst the Parish Council organise the meeting, it is not a Parish Council meeting and is a legal requirement.

The Clerk added that the meeting is advertised in the normal manner; by means of posters on the Village Notice Boards, on facebook, on other forms of social media and by word of mouth.

Elisabeth Green said that she had seen the notice shared on a different facebook page, so word is getting out there.

There being no further questions, the Chairman thanked those members of the Public and Councillors for attending and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Confirmed: 25 April 2025

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Chairman

**GROVE PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
25 April 2025**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

	INCOME 2024/2025 (Actual)	EXPENDITURE 2024/2025 (Actual)	BUDGET 2025/2026 Income (Forecast)	BUDGET 2025/2026 Expenditure (Forecast)
	£	£	£	£
Environmental Services	6,620	23,786	6,000	62,000
Leisure and Recreation	4,181	75,394	4,100	55,500
Finance and General Purposes	439,896 *	364,054 **	55,627	467,650
Precept	482,268		519,423	
Opening bank balance	226,994		74,351	
Closing bank balance		226,994		74,351
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£1,159,959</b>	<b>£690,228</b>	<b>£659,501</b>	<b>£659,501</b>

Note(s):

\* Includes £350,345 in earmarked s106 receipts

\*\* Includes £28,134 in earmarked s106 expenditure

**Please note that these figures are still subject to audit**

G M Mundy

Clerk and RFO

9 April 2025

**Report by the Parish Council Chairman – Councillor C T McCarthy**

Good evening and welcome to Annual Parish Meeting.

During the last 12 months, the Parish Council has continued to support local good causes. A total of **£22,300** worth of grants were made to local organisations by the Parish Council;

- £8,050 to the Sweatbox Youth Centre,
- £8,050 to GroW Families baby group,
- £3,000 to the Vale Community Impact,
- £1,600 to The Abingdon Bridge Charity,
- £600 to The Grove Day Centre for the Elderly,
- £500 to Grove Rugby Football Club,
- £500 to the Church Street and Newbury Street PPG

The development forum for the Grove Airfield development (Wellington Gate) and the Crab Hill development continues to meet at least four times per year. The forum meetings enable the Parish Council to hear the latest information on these housing developments in Grove and in Wantage and challenge the developers when issues arise.

The first of thirteen new sports pitches arising from the Wellington Gate development on the Western Side of the Denchworth Road (together with temporary changing facilities) have now finally been handed over to the Parish Council. A further planning application for the remaining sports pitches has been submitted, and those pitches should be available in two years.

The building of the new St Johns Academy Secondary School (off Liberator Lane) is well under way and is scheduled to open in February 2026. The plan is that those year 7 students attending from September 2025 will be schooled from empty classrooms in the St Johns Primary School.

Occupations of new dwellings arising from the Wellington Gate development now stands at over 750.

The first play area on the Wellington Gate development (off Allen Close) will soon be ready to be handed over to the Parish Council along with the first parcels of the Runway Park.

The planning application for the Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) has been passed by the planning authority and works on that will start soon. The first of three allotment sites (located just off the Denchworth Road) has also been passed by the Planning Authority and works on that will also start very soon.

The Parish Council currently have two vacancies for Councillors following the resignations of Leon Foster-Hill and Phil Ware. On behalf of the Council and the parish of Grove I would like to place on record, my thanks for their time and contributions to parish council business.

If you or you know of anyone willing to stand as Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk in the coming days and weeks.

In May 2024, the Parish Council hosted an event on the Recreation Ground to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-Day landings. My thanks go to the Wantage Silver Band for the music and to Grove Rugby Club for opening their bar.

A very big thank you to all of our volunteer litter pickers. They meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of every month and go all around the village to pick up rubbish that has not been put in the bins. If you or if you know of anyone that would like to join the group, please contact the Parish Clerk and he will ensure that your details are passed on.

A big thank you to my Vice Chairman Stephen Dexter and fellow Parish Councillors who have supported me as Chairman this year.

Thank you to both the office staff and the grounds staff for all the work they have done during the last 12 months.

Thank you.

Parish Councillor C T McCarthy

Chairman  
Grove Parish Council