

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2026 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

Present: Cllr W R Ackers (Chairman) Cllr S Dexter
Cllr R Batstone Cllr D Rolfe

In attendance: Judith Verdon (Letcombe Brook Project Officer), Simon Julian (Resident)

Clerk: MR G M Mundy

Prior to the start of the meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of former Parish Councillor Jean Elisabeth Nunn-Price MBE who had passed away recently

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Deputy Clerk E L McKivitt and Parish Cllr AP Harker.

2 Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting

No declarations were made.

3 To sign the report of the meeting held on 4 November 2025

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

“that the report is signed as an accurate record of the meeting”

4 To receive any matters arising from the previous meeting

(a) Item 6(a) – Letcombe Brook Project. The Clerk informed the committee that this matter will be further discussed under item 6(a) on the agenda.

(b) Item 8(a) – Transport matters. The Clerk informed the committee that due to work Mr Holding was unable to attend this meeting.

(c) Item 9(b)Speed limits consultation. The Clerk informed the committee that she has notified Andy Sweeney (OCC Officer) of the committee's decision.

The Clerk added that the County Council would put the consultation up on their website and could deliver paper copies to the parish council, library etc.

The Clerk further added that it would be good if the parish council could add it onto its website and to share any County Council communications that are circulated.

With the agreement of the Committee, the Chairman brought forward item 9 on the agenda.

The Chairman agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr Julian to address the committee.

9 Highway matters

(a) Request for support from a Grove resident for a safe crossing point on the A338. Mr Julian thanked the committee for allowing him to speak on this matter. He said that he was concerned that there is currently no safe crossing point on the A338 in Grove to get from the residential areas to dog walking routes and open countryside on the Eastern side of the A338. He added that recently there was a fatal accident on the road whereby an elderly lady was crossing the road, with her dog and was run over.

The Clerk informed the committee that traffic lights were due to be installed at the junction of Kingside and the A338 and perhaps that could be the location of a crossing.

Batstone Cllr Batstone (who is also a County Cllr) said that he would take this matter up Andy Sweeney at the County Council.

The Chairman thanked Mr Julian for raising this matter with the Parish Council and then reinstated Standing Orders

5 To receive questions from members of the public relevant to items on the agenda for this meeting

There were no further issues raised.

6 To receive any Environmental issues (to include):

- (a) Letcombe Brook Project. Judith Verdon (the Letcombe Brook Project officer introduced herself to the committee. She said that the Letcombe Brook Project continues to maintain the brook on behalf of Parish Council where the Parish is responsible for it and likewise for other owners.

She added that she is currently compiling a Bi-annual report for the Project Steering Group and said that she will send a copy to the Clerk to distribute to the Council.

7 To receive any Police and associated matters (to include):

- (a) Acts of vandalism of parish property since the last meeting. The Clerk reported that there had been no recent reported incidents of vandalism on parish property.

However, the Office have assisted Thames Valley Police using the Wellington Gate CCTV footage of a robbery from the building site around the St Johns Academy Secondary School site, he added that police enquiries are on-going.

- (b) Neighbourhood Action Group. No update has been received.

8 To receive any transport issue matters

- (a) Parish Council bus shelters. Members said that they were concerned over the number of bus shelters that had damage to them.

Clerk The Clerk said that there was £4,000 left in the budget and would send a list of damage shelters to the Council's preferred contractor.

10 Planning

- (a) Updated register of planning decisions since 9 April 2025. The updated register was noted.

- (b) Planning application. P24/V0323/FUL – (amendment no 4) – Erection of four dwellings and car ports as amended by highway plans received 22 January 2026 on land at Bellinger's Garage, Station Road, Grove.

Clerk Comment: There were no objections to this application.

11 Cemetery issues

- (a) Changes to Cemetery Regulations. The Deputy Clerk had asked that the committee to consider the following amendments to the current Cemetery Regulations:

- Not to allow any further burial or ashes reservations
- Not to allow any further burial or ashes interments of non-residents **
- Not to allow any alcohol receptacles (full or otherwise) or any glassware onto graves as memorials

** - at the Deputy Clerks discretion

The Clerk explained that Cemetery space was at a premium and on current estimations there was probably 8 years left before space runs out. The Cemetery was also becoming difficult to manage due to the number of reserved spaces. The Clerk added that glassware on graves is just dangerous and very easily broken.

Following a discussion, it was **MOVED** Cllr Dexter **SECONDED** Cllr Ackers and **RESOLVED** unanimously

“to accept the amendments to the Cemetery Regulations with immediate effect”

12 Income and expenditure to-date

The income and expenditure to-date for this committee was noted against the budget.

13 Chairmans Urgent Communications.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Confirmed: 19 May 2026

Chairman