

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2025 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE**

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

**Clerk:** Ms E McKivitt

**1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr C T McCarthy.

**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 12<sup>th</sup> August 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**

There were no matters arising.

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

No public were present.

**6 To receive any Environmental issues (to include):**

Clerk (a) Letcombe Brook Project. There was nothing to report. The Clerk was asked to invite a representative from the Letcombe Brook to the next ES&P meeting.

**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.

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

**8 To receive any transport issue matters**

Clerk (a) The Clerk was asked to invite Andy Holding (the Council Passenger Transport Representative) to the next ES&P meeting and provide any transport updates.

**9 To receive any highway matters.**

(a) To consider setting up a Grove Traffic Advisory Committee. Cllr Batstone said that the main traffic concerns flagged in the area tend to be in Wantage. Following a discussion, it was agreed that there was no need to set up a Grove TAC at the current time, but this will be reviewed later if things change.

- (b) To consider asking the County Council to set up a bespoke 'Speed Limits' public consultation for Grove (as used previously in Bicester). Cllr Dexter said that although the speed limit won't be enforced, as a council we should make enquiries about it. Cllr Batstone said that as higher speeds are more likely to cause deaths, we should consider a 20mph limit in Main Street and Oxford Lane. Cllr Rolfe said the council should ask the community.

Clerk

It was suggested that the Clerk contact Andy Sweeny for suggestions of ways that residents can reply if they don't have internet access (paper copies in hall/library etc).

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

**“that Grove Parish Council supports the initial idea to have a public consultation”**

**9 To discuss and consider the DRAFT budget for 2026/27 as prepared by the Clerk**

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

**“that the budget for the Environmental Service committee for 2026/27 is set at £57,800 setting up a separate reserve for future cemetery works”**

**10 To consider any cemetery issues**

Cllr Ackers gave the committee a brief history of issues experienced with the memorial wall, he also told the committee that the wall around the entrance was also in need of repair/replacing. Following a discussion, it was agreed that a structural engineer was needed to assess the walls, and money put in the cemetery reserve budget to help with the cost. The committee also suggested going back to the Vale of White Horse DC for advice as they rebuilt the memorial wall last time.

**11 To receive Chairman's urgent communications (relevant to this committee)**

There were no Chairman's communications.

The meeting closed at 8.09pm

Confirmed: 27 January 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman