REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2026 AT OLD MILL HALL, GROVE

Present: Cllr D Rolfe (Chairman), Cllr J M Stock (Vice Chairman), Cllr W R Ackers, Cllr R Batstone, Cllr S K Dexter, Cllr A Harker, Cllr T May

In attendance: Vicky Gardener and Gideon Hammond (Wantage & Grove Flood Group)

Clerk: Ms E McKivitt

1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr B Maginn.

2 To receive any declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting

No declarations were received.

3 To sign the report of the previous meeting held on 19 May 2026

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

"that the report be signed as a true record of the meeting"

4 To receive and note the Clerks report summary from the previous meeting

(a) Item 6(a) – Parish Council bus shelters. The Clerk informed the committee that the bus shelters (that the Parish Council are responsible for) have now been repaired, apart from the bus shelter at the entrance to Bosleys Orchard, which is the subject to an insurance investigation.

(b) Item 11 – Highway matters. The Clerk informed the committee that this matter will be further discussed under item 9 on the agenda for this meeting.

(c) Item 13 – Planning applications. The Clerk informed the Committee that he has notified the Planning Authority of the Council's decisions regarding the applications.

5 Questions from members of the public relevant to items on the agenda for this meeting

No members of the public were present and questions had been raised.

6 Environmental matters (to include):

(a) Letcombe Brook matters.

(i) To receive Vicky Gardener and Gideon Hammond (Wantage and Grove Flood Group). Vicky Gardener introduced herself and Gideon Hammond as representatives of the Wantage and Grove Flood Group.

She explained more about the organisations aims and their wishes to work alongside other organisations to safeguard against future flooding. The main points were made:

Publicity/Posters - *it was agreed that the council can display posters, put on Facebook and on our website to help publicise.*

Events to raise awareness of the organisation. Possible use of Old Mill Hall/stall in Millbrook Square? – *A stall in Millbrook Square would be allowed if the Council are notified in advance. Use of Old Mill Hall could be possible and a reduction in hall rates would be considered.*

Parish Clerk — Help with website & emergency flood plan – *To share current plans with each other via the Parish Clerk.*

Equipment advice and potential storage space/s – *There is currently no storage space available in Old Mill Hall or the Maintenance Yard.*

Help with distribution of equipment in times of emergency e.g. *Due to contractual issues Parish Council staff cannot be called upon ad hoc. Only Parish Council employees may drive council vehicles.*

Cllr Rolfe thanked the flood group for their time, and they both left the meeting

(ii) To receive an outline proposal from the Letcombe Brook Project officer regarding improving biodiversity on Parish Council land. After a discussion it was suggested to ask the Letcombe Brook Officer if the money asked for was sufficient for what was needed e.g. Bird boxes etc. (the money to be allocated from the Environmental Service Projects Budget).

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

Parish Clerk — **"to allocate £1,580.00 to the Letcombe Brook Project bio-diversity project from the Environmental Services and Planning 'Environmental Project budget"**

(iii) To receive and note the Letcombe Brook Project Summer 2026 newsletter. The newsletter was noted.

7 Police and associated (to include)

(a) Acts of vandalism on parish property. There had been no acts of vandalism on parish property since the last meeting.

(b) Neighbourhood Action Group matters. Nothing had been reported.

8 Transport matters

There were no transport matters for consideration.

9 Highway matters

(a) DRAFT consultation from Oxfordshire County Council regarding a Speed Limit consultation in Grove. After a discussion it was agreed to add Newlands Drive and Denchworth Road (by The Baytree PH) to the map. It was also agreed to delay the consultation until after urgent issues around the new school crossing had been resolved. — Clerk

(b) To receive correspondence from a Grove resident regarding speeding along the A338 in Grove.

It was suggested that some members of the council become involved in a Community Speed Watch Scheme and purchase some speed detection devices from Amazon. 3 people will be required to take part for safety reasons, Cllr May was the only volunteer.

10 Health matters

There were no Health matters for consideration.

11 Cemetery matters

There were no Cemetery matters for consideration.

12 Income and expenditure to-date for this committee and compare it to the committee budget

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

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

Peoples Emergency Briefing - Would Grove Parish Council consider collaborating with us on a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, or help publicise the event? See extract of an email below

Sustainable Wantage (Jo Harvey) is arranging a screening of the People's Emergency Briefing, to take place in the Beacon at the start of October. We'd like to get the message to as many people as possible, so we can all understand the scale of the impacts we will see from our changing climate. These will have a dramatic effect on health, food supply, the economy, and national security, as well as the impacts people normally think about such as weather extremes and loss of nature.

Following a discussion, it was decided that as the Parish Council had not been shown the film or made aware of its contents at this point, could not join forces as a partner, however the Parish Council is happy to put posters up and advertise the event on our website.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Confirmed: 3 November 2026

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Chairman