

Annual Parish Meeting 21.04.2026

Chairman's Report April 2026

The purpose of this report is to outline the main points of the work undertaken by the Parish Council in the village over the past year.

Adderbury Lakes Local Nature Reserve

The Lakes are always a very popular and well used amenity in the village. They are owned by the PC and managed by a volunteer group of residents and councillors.

During 2025 action was taken on the weed growth in the water. This has worked fairly well but it is an ongoing problem and the Lakes team hopes to remove more manually.

Work to repair the Lakes boundary wall in the Long Wall Footpath took place this year. It is not possible to insure against such maintenance issues and the wall must be kept safe, being on a public footpath.

The Council wishes to thank all members of the Lakes Management Group for their hard work in managing the Lakes Local Nature Reserve and also to thank the volunteers, who help at the monthly work parties held between September and March. The contribution of all these residents is invaluable and shows how popular the Lakes are within this community.

The Allotments and the Millennium Cup

The PC owns the village allotments and I wish to thank all tenants for keeping their plots in good order last season. The criteria for the PC's Millennium cup award has not yet been agreed but the PC wishes all allotment holders good luck for the new growing season and reminds them inspections will restart in May.

Traffic calming and parking

Last year I mentioned there had been a number of issues raised by residents over parking in the village and the PC had taken up this matter with OCC who suggested some 'solutions' of dedicated parking spaces. However, following a public consultation, residents did not support suggested changes.

The very limited amount of yellow lines at the entrance to Croft Lane following this consultation have just been completed.

The PC traffic calming group has considered some issues with traffic through the village and the PC Clerk is liaising with OCC Highways to establish if any S106 funds may be available.

The PC thanks those residents involved and Melissa Zuydem for her continued efforts leading on this group.

Grass cutting and Biodiversity areas

Grass cutting is a major cost to the parish each year. Having previously (2024) tried to reduce the number of cuts for the grass verges, in 2025 we returned to the previous number of cuts and we believe it was more manageable and looked neater. The Lucy Plackett cutting regime was slightly changed in 2025 and the PC has continued this for 2026, allowing more cuts in the earlier season when the grass is fast growing, as this worked well last year.

The Biodiversity areas, such as at the entrance to St Mary's Road, are still being kept for wildlife and the PC thanks residents who are involved with these projects.

The New Community and Sports Centre Project (Milton Road).

The PC has continued working to bring this project forward. The ambition is to provide a new community hall as a hub for social and community events as well as for a number of different sports as set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan.

The Planning permission has been secured and all the pre-commencement conditions have been discharged so the project is largely ready to start once funds are in place. At last year's Parish Meeting I reported that following advice from Cherwell District Council (CDC) the PC has looked at how to progress this project and has discussed with the contractor to value engineer the building in order to provide a cost-effective project, with the intention of achieving completion. This has led to a Planning application to vary the design of the building, largely lowering the height and style of the roof, while still being large

enough to accommodate village activities. Once this is finalised the PC/ WFAC team will also apply again for grants as the funding gap will now be much smaller.

Residents can also help with fund raising by signing up to the Cherwell Lottery which raises funds for all sorts of causes, including the WFAC, and by using 'Easy Funding' when buying online, which provides a contribution from companies every time you shop with them online. There are links to both of these on the PC website. The PC would like to thank all Councillors and members of the WFAC for their hard work and time given in support of the new Community and Sports Centre project. These facilities will be a valuable asset to this village and will be a benefit to the whole community now and in the future.

Day of Dance

This year the Day of Dance is on April 25th and the Parish Council has supported the Morris teams again by applying to CDC and paying for the road closure. The High Street will be closed through the village during the day with access for residents and businesses from each end. The PC thanks Laura Walker from Sharp and Blunt for all her hard work organising the Day of Dance and also Tom Smith for providing the skip for the event. This day is always a highlight for the Adderbury community.

The play areas at the Rise and Lucy Plackett Field

These areas are inspected monthly by Councillors and are maintained by the PC. The PC thanks Councillor Simon Davies for this work.

News pages in Contact

The PC has continued with these over the year and we hope residents find them interesting as well as informing everyone about the PC's activities on behalf of the community. The official Minutes of PC meetings are a legal document and are published on the PC website. Thanks are due to Councillor Rachel Moffat who manages to pull everything together in time for the Contact deadline every month.

Adderbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANP)

The PC has progressed with the NP, as I described in my report last year, and it is now in the first legal stage of consultation, Regulation 14. My colleague Councillor Mark Gerold has been leading on this and will provide an update later in the meeting. The PC wishes to thank all residents and councillors who are working on revising the ANP.

Flooding in Adderbury

As I reported last year the PC has been fully involved in helping residents who flooded during the major storms of the autumn. As follow up to the recommendations of the S19 Report (2025) produced after the large flood events in Autumn 2024 the Parish Council has continued with a number of projects to alleviate potential flooding in the future.

Main rivers- fluvial flooding.

Following previous work downstream of the public footbridge across the Sor (clearing obstructing fences and vegetation) which was completed in the autumn 2025, the PC is pleased to confirm work on the main waterways to clear debris and some obstructing vegetation on the Sor Brook downstream of the Dog Close bridge will be completed in the coming months, subject to water levels and nesting season. The concrete block obstructing water leaving the overspill on the Mill Stream will be removed. The PC is also discussing work to repair the Mill stream bank in some places.

Surface water drainage - pluvial flooding.

As residents will know OCC Highways have completed clearance of gullies and road drainage in the Round Close / Hornhill Road area during the autumn and have also used cameras to inspect the condition of pipework, finding a collapsed chamber at the entrance to Partridge Court on Tanners Lane. This will be repaired as soon as weather and water levels permit. The PC has also had cleared the majority of blockage from the pipe under Eridge House garden in Hornhill Rd, although some tree roots need further work.

All of these works have been covered by a grant from OCC Lead Flood authority, which was obtained by the PC.

During autumn 2025 OCC inspected the large pipe through the Lucy Plackett Playing field and cleared this of some debris. They have recommended either replacing the pipe or adding inspection chambers across the field. The PC has agreed to replace the whole pipe if grant funding is available. The PC will be applying for funding to cover this and a number of other potential smaller projects.

Residents in these areas have also begun a Flood Action group. If you would like further information please contact the PC Clerk.

The PC wishes to thank all residents who have helped in these projects, especially Neil Staples who has continued to liaise with OCC Highways on behalf of the PC.

Finally, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors who have given their time and commitment to this community throughout the last year, and also to thank Theresa, our Parish Clerk, on whom the PC relies for all her excellent and knowledgeable advice.