

Stadhampton Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting 2025-26

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for all electors in Stadhampton and Chiselhampton held on Monday 23rd March 2026 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, St John the Baptist Church, The Green, Stadhampton OX44 7UA

Attending:

Parish Councillors (Cllrs): Cllr Fitzgerald (Chairman), Cllr Howden. Cllr Campbell, Cllr Edwards.

Members of the Public: 9

Ward Councillors: None.

01/26 Welcome: The Chairman of Stadhampton Parish Council (PC) welcomed all residents. He highlighted the informal nature of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) to inform and seek input from residents over the various local activities conducted over the period Apr 2025 through March 2026. This included PC activity.

02/26 Apologies: Received from Councillor Bayoumi (PC), Stephen Dawson (PCC) and Councillor Georgina Heritage (SODC).

03/26 Minutes: The draft minutes of the last APM held on 17th March 2025 were approved. Proposed: Cllr Edwards. Seconded: Cllr Campbell.

04/26 Chairman's Report for 2025/26: Cllr Fitzgerald expressed gratitude to all those who make our community a better place. This included our local resident volunteers, often behind the scenes, as well as ward, district and county councillors, for their efforts on our behalf. He provided a brief overview of Parish Council activity this last year, and then introduced the visiting speakers from the various local groups below. He will issue the full Chairman's Report shortly through the usual means including our Parish Council website, linked to via the Stadhampton Facebook Village Noticeboard.

05/26 Reports from s137 Parish Council grant beneficiaries and other groups:

History Group

Cllr Campebell read out notes provided by Frances Campbell updating on the History Group's activities. A chance meeting in Hackney between Tom Campbell and Judy Anderson, daughter of the late Headmaster of Stadhampton Village School, led to the reprint of the original *Millennium History of Stadhampton* by Colin Judge, supported by Colonel Tom Hall. A volunteer committee of around eight people, chaired by Ann Stead, oversaw the project, and the book was presented to the village in January 2026, with generous support from Stadhampton Parish Council.

The group now intends to open the project to the wider village to gauge interest in forming a continuing Stadhampton History Society and to explore ways of collecting and sharing local memories. Currently, there is a small History Corner at the monthly coffee mornings in the Community Hall. The group will be meeting in early April to discuss next steps and welcomes input and ideas from the village community.

Chalgrove and Watlington First Steps Family Hub - Heather Topping

Heather gave an overview of the charity, established nine years ago, which supports families with babies and children under five. Demand has increased significantly due to local housing growth, with approximately 60 families now attending (previously 6), including 13 from Stadhampton. The service

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is free to attend, with voluntary donations welcomed. Annual running costs are approximately £30,000, with a current shortfall of £9,000 and an increasing need for additional staff. SPC has supported the charity for several years, particularly as it assists families moving into the area.

- **Action:** Clerk to advertise the service on Facebook to raise awareness among residents.

Oxford Citizens Advice

The Director of Citizens Advice Oxfordshire gave an overview of the organisation following the merger in April 2025 of Oxford (City), South & Vale, and West Oxfordshire services. The charity provides free, confidential and impartial advice on a wide range of issues, including debt, housing, benefits, employment and family matters and also delivers specialist projects such as support for Macmillan and military families. Demand for the service remains high, particularly due to the cost-of-living crisis. In 2024/25, over 20,000 people across Oxfordshire were supported with more than 80,000 issues. Locally, 17 Stadhampton residents were assisted with 63 issues. The organisation is an independent charity and does not receive core funding from central government, relying instead on grants, contracts and local council support to continue its work.

- **Action:** Clerk to send grant application form.

Stadhampton with Chiselhampton Parochial Church Council (PCC) - Stephen Dawson

2025 was a good year for the church with lots of activity despite some challenges. Despite not having a Team Vicar in post for three and half years our regular pattern of services continue with a family service on the 1st Sunday, a Parish Eucharist on the 2nd Sunday, a Family Eucharist on the 3rd Sunday and a Book of Common Prayer on the 5th Sunday. Every other month we also host a Choral Evensong in either Stadhampton or Chiselhampton and on a 5th Sunday the Dorchester Team service takes place in a different church in the area.

We have found our family service continues to be our most popular service and is growing whilst families and young people are also attending and participating in other services as well. Special services including Mothers Day, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas have also proved to be well supported where we welcome those we might not see at other times of the year.

We are grateful to Revd Emma Firth who has provided continuity in leading most of our services in recent times as well as to other clergy members within the Dorchester Team. We also give thanks to Revd Mel Stanley who whilst with us for only a short time made a huge contribution in supporting our parish. Other initiatives are the weekly 'Pews News' sent to all who sign up to the church email list for weekly church updates. Our monthly coffee mornings continue to prove popular and we have also hosted fundraising events such as a quiz night, a barn dance and the tea tent at the village party. The community use of the church sees many regular bookings such as pilates, yoga, film club, ladies get-together, Parish Council meetings, music practices as well as ad-hoc bookings for parties, meetings and other fundraising events.

Finances are always a struggle and we thank all who give regularly to the church as well as those who support our fundraisers and book the church for events. We also give thanks to those who contribute to the 200 Club which supports the church building. If you would like to support the church through a regular donation or can volunteer some time please do get in touch!!

Village Ambassadors - Edwina Humm and Pam Caudwell

The Village Ambassadors support a "meet and greet" role for new and existing residents within the parish. The scheme helps to welcome people to the village and provide local information. There may be an opportunity to extend the initiative, particularly within the Hampton Meadows area, potentially linking with a local contact and recruiting additional ambassadors. Contact details at the back of the Village Voice.

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Ramblers - Linda King

Linda provided an update on the local Ramblers group, which is linked with Thame and Wheatley Ramblers. The group offers a programme of 37 upcoming walks, alongside a range of social events. Membership is £45 for individuals and £61 for joint membership, allowing members to take part in walks across the wider network.

The group is also actively involved in maintaining and improving local footpaths. Recent work includes replacing a gate at Copson Lane and improving the track near the farm shop, where a previously narrow path with barbed wire has been cleared, widened, and made safer for use, particularly in wet conditions.

Film Club - Linda on behalf of Ken King

Linda provided an overview of the Film Club, which meets at the Village Hall for approximately 10 months of the year (excluding July and August). The club operates on an annual membership basis, with the option for attendees to book a supper in advance. Proceeds from the Film Club contribute towards hall hire, insurance, and film licensing costs, while funds raised from the supper (approximately £25 per person) are donated to charity. Films are advertised locally, including in the Village Voice. The projector is also used for other community purposes. SPC agreed in principle to provide funds towards a replacement projector bulb.

Action: Clerk to send grant application form to LK.

Tons Together - Ann Stead reported they meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at Pine Lodge by the post office in Little Milton. There are various activities and speakers and it's open to men and women. A social group run collectively by the villages.

Football Club

It was reported sadly that the Trailblazers Sunday Football League had sadly folded this season impacting Stadhampton FC. It is pursuing the matter with Oxfordshire FC. #upthestaddy

Action: Councillors to review current siting of football nets on the Green to avoid any highways obstruction.

07/26 Draft annual accounts for 2025/26: Draft accounts will be presented at the Annual Parish Council Meeting (AGM) in May.

08/26 Q&A: No questions.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm,

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