



WESTERN VALLEY

Annual Meeting of the Parish 2026

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WESTERN VALLEY

Parish Council

The 2025–2026 year has been a particularly significant one for the Council, marked by both meaningful financial contributions and continued engagement with our growing community. Most notably, we were able to award our largest single grant to date—£10,000—to support the SOFEA Social Prescribing Service. We are extremely proud to have made this contribution and sincerely hope it delivers a positive and lasting impact for residents. We strongly encourage anyone who may benefit from this service to make use of it. Individuals are welcome to contact SOFEA directly, or the Council can assist by making an introduction on your behalf if preferred.

In total, we have awarded over £13,000 in grants this year, continuing our commitment to supporting local groups and charitable initiatives. Alongside this, we have once again contributed to the identity and development of our area by proposing a number of street names to the Vale of White Horse District Council, in response to the continued expansion of the Valley Park development.

The size of our electorate has increased from 1,605 to 1,777 over the past year, reflecting ongoing residential growth. However, this figure may in fact be higher, as it depends on residents registering to vote. The total number of electors is an important factor in determining the level of funding available to the Council for grants and services, and we therefore monitor these figures closely.

The Council continues to take a prudent and forward-looking approach to financial management by building reserves, while also progressing key in-parish initiatives. Current priority areas include public transport, anti-social parking, speeding, allotments, the provision of a burial ground or cemetery, and the establishment of a parish office. Maintaining adequate reserves is essential to enable future investment in these significant projects, particularly the acquisition of land for burial provision and a dedicated parish office. For this reason, our annual precept has remained relatively stable, despite comparatively low levels of expenditure.

Looking ahead, we are embarking on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan. This will play a crucial role in shaping how our community evolves as it continues to expand. We are keen to involve as many residents as possible in this process and welcome expressions of interest from anyone who would like to join one of our working groups.

We are now entering the final year of the current electoral term. The Council's core responsibilities remain focused on responding to local planning consultations and continuing our programme of grant funding for community organisations. As Valley Park grows further, it is likely that we will request the Vale of White Horse District Council to consider increasing the number of Parish Councillors at a future election, to ensure appropriate representation.

We are always pleased to hear from residents who would like to learn more about the role of a Parish Councillor. Whether elected or co-opted, all members volunteer their time and are committed to making decisions in the best interests of the entire community. We currently have one vacant seat following the resignation of Councillor Knowles, who has moved on to pursue other interests. If you are interested in being considered for co-option or would simply like more information, please do get in touch. While serving on the Parish Council can at times be challenging, it is also a highly rewarding way to contribute to the community.

Cllr Simon Peacock, Chair of the Council

WESTERN VALLEY

Financial Summary

The following table details the final end of year accounts by budget code for the most recently completed Financial Year: 2025-2026, compared to the previous year, 2024-2025.

INCOME		2024-2025	2025-2026
1000	General Income		
1010	Precept	50188	50188
1020	Grants		
1030	Community Infrastructure Levy		
1040	Allotment Fees		
1050	Grass Cutting Contribution		
1060	Interest	1954.19	2644.96
1070	VAT Refunds		
Total	All Receipts	52142.19	52832.96
EXPENDITURE		2024-2025	2025-2026
3000	Administration		
3010	Audit Costs	695.00	515.00
3020	Bank Charges	71.40	73.00
3030	Chairman's Allowance		
3040	Elections		
3050	Expenses - WFH	312.00	312.00
3060	Expenses - Stationery	8.00	248.50
3070	Hall Hire	861.48	778.98
3080	Insurance	319.82	370.40
3090	IT Support & Software	531.60	561.71
3100	Office Equipment	479.94	
3110	Staff Costs (All Staff & HMRC)	3521.90	5062.92
3120	Subscriptions (OALC, SLCC)	835.14	1013.00
3030	Training	185.60	4350.54
3040	Website	219.88	249.86
Total	Administration	8041.76	13535.91
5000	Other Projects & Grants		
5010	Grants (Including s137)	11934.00	13382.01
5020	In year projects, undefined	1506.67	1506.67
Total	Other Projects & Grants	13440.67	13440.67
8000	Neighbourhood Plan		
8060	NP General Expenses		475.00
Total	Neighbourhood Plan		475.00
Total	All Payments	21482.43	27392.92

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	2024-2025	2025-2026
EARMARKED RESERVES		
Operating Reserve	13000	12359.08
S106 from Harwell	407.00	407.00
Community Infrastructure Levy		
New Allotments Project	21239.01	21239.01
Training	6000.00	8000.00
Parish Office - Project	25000	39316.40
Burial Ground - Project	25000	25640.92
Noticeboard		
Bank Interest – For Granting		
Neighbourhood Plan		9550.00
Office Equipment Renewals		414.00
TOTAL RESERVES	90646.01	116926.41

Laura White
Responsible Financial Officer

WESTERN VALLEY

Oxfordshire Play Association

Annual Report

For the Period 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025



OPA's Vision is to improve lives through play

OPA's mission is to champion and to support the rights of all Children and Young People to have access to high quality, inclusive Play opportunities to improve their Physical, Mental and Spiritual Wellbeing

We are pleased to report that OPA continued to deliver our projects and services across Oxfordshire in what was another busy year for the Charity.

It was also a special year for us as we celebrated our 50th birthday after starting to operate in November 1974, this truly shows the resilience of our organisation and that even after 50 years Play is so very much needed in the lives of Children and Young People for both their Physical and Mental Wellbeing.

Following a Trustee recruitment campaign which ran alongside our 50th birthday celebrations we were absolutely delighted to welcome 2 new Trustees to the Charity. Sarah Gristwood who brings a wealth of experience in Education and Emma Leaver with an expertise in Health. Both Sarah & Emma have been welcome additions to our Volunteer Management Board.

Our income of £169,640 was the 2nd highest it has been in the last 9 years which shows that both our fundraising and service contracts are working well and that our projects and services meet the needs of today.

Our expenditure was £164,948 meaning that we were able to record a small surplus of £4,692. With the exception of 'Covid' year we have now recorded a surplus for 6 years in a row evidencing what a well-run organisation OPA is with all the financial challenges that a small charity faces.

Our unrestricted reserves now stand at £61,940 which is the highest level since financial year 2026/17 meaning that we are well placed to cope with any future major disruption to our operations and services.

At the start of the financial year in April 2025 we consolidated our existing office space and 2 x storage lockers into one larger premises, although this saw an increase in our annual rental expenditure we now have our office base and all our equipment and resources under '1 roof' which is vastly reducing staff time travelling around collecting equipment from various locations.

As always all of our projects and services are offered FREE of charge to ensure an inclusion for ALL - No Child or Young Person should have to miss out on Play opportunities due to the cost.

Due to the savage cuts previously imposed on Children and Families services in Oxfordshire (including the closure of local Children's Centres and Youth Services) during Austerity our projects and services were already becoming increasingly important in terms of providing activities and information on services available to local families.

These needs were further exacerbated by the issues caused by Covid-19.

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In addition to all this Children, Young People and their Families faced an unprecedented Cost of Living Crisis.

It is of no surprise to anyone then that we are now seeing unprecedented increases in children's mental health problems and loneliness, alongside reduced physical activity.

Our project work continues to increase and last year we delivered 18 FREE, Community Play & Activity Days across Oxfordshire which were attended by over 20,000 guests, a remarkable achievement for a relatively small organisation.

We also managed to continue our work with both Oxford University and Brookes University following the production of our 'Why Play Matters' and Why Play is Important in Oxfordshire' reports as part of the Science Together project.

In addition to this we continued the delivery of our Therapeutic Playwork project at Thameside and Thomas Reade schools, our Faringdon Junior Youth Club project grew in attendance numbers and we delivered new Stay & Play sessions in Blackbird Leys in partnership with Peabody Housing. Thanks to funding from the Armed Forces Covenant Trust we were also able to employ a support worker at RAF Benson to help and support Young People access Play and leisure activities. We continued with our Play Infrastructure support work across Cherwell District Council and our Playbox hire scheme recorded its busiest year for some time.

This work will continue into 2025/26 with other new exciting projects planned including Youth Sessions in Wheatley, a series of mini Playdays and a unique, Pop Up Play project delivered in Oxford City Centre in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council

None of this would be possible without the following; Our partners - due to our relatively small size we always work with partners in our project work, this increases our delivery capacity massively, helps reduce duplication and ensures that we all share best practice - it also ensures that we are meeting LOCAL need with LOCAL people.

Our funders and supporters - we continue to be so very grateful to all of our funders and supporters, many of whom are local, without the support of these groups and individuals we would not be able to deliver the volume of work that we do.

Our manager and staff - our small, but amazingly dedicated team of staff continue to deliver outstanding work across the County delivering the work of many whilst numbering only a few - the feedback and comments we receive from numerous sources confirms the positive difference they make to the Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Children and Young People and we are so grateful to them for their hard work and professionalism.

Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Chair

WESTERN VALLEY

Didcot Cricket Club

More than Cricket

Building Community - Through the Game We Love.

Didcot Cricket Club is seeing rapidly growing demand from local residents wanting to participate in cricket. The club is very focused on serving inclusive and open to all. To achieve this we work hard to reach out into our community.

Five Year Strategy Plan for cricket in Didcot

Didcot Cricket Club is implementing a five-year strategy, built around four key focuses, Community, Inclusivity, Growth and Legacy.

Community

We're proud to be a club for everyone — boys and girls, men and women, and those championing disability cricket all have a place here. Our strength comes from the wide range of people who share our love of the game. Together, we aim to build friendships, promote participation, and create a sporting community that truly represents Didcot.

Inclusivity

Cricket is a truly diverse international sport, bringing people together from all cultures, backgrounds, and abilities. Didcot is an equally diverse community. Our club celebrates this diversity, creating an environment where everyone feels welcome, respected, and valued. Whether you're new to the game or have played for years, there's a place for you at Didcot Cricket Club.

Growth

As Didcot continues to rapidly grow, so too does our club. We're expanding, to ensure we can offer participation in cricket for all abilities and aspirations — from beginners discovering the game to players striving for higher levels of competition. By investing in people and facilities, we're ensuring the club grows hand in hand with our town's future.

Legacy

We're working hard to make quality cricket facilities available to all residents of Didcot. Over 10 years, our ambition is to establish three new, well-designed cricket venues that serve players and the wider community. By building sustainably and ensuring cricket is represented in future development plans, we're securing a lasting legacy for the club and the town.

Outreach and Community Engagement Projects

The club is committed to taking cricket into the heart of our community — not waiting for people to come to us. Our outreach programme brings the game to schools, charities, and local groups, ensuring everyone has the chance to experience the joy of cricket. Qualified coaches deliver after-school clubs and PE lessons across local secondary schools, with a dedicated female coach leading sessions for girls, to grow our women and girls' participation. Each year, our two primary school festivals at Boundary Park welcome around 240 children from all of the local Primary Schools to enjoy a fun introduction to the sport.

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As Oxfordshire's largest Disability Champion Club, we work closely with local charities, including Style Acre and My Life My Choice, to make cricket accessible for all. Together, we're building confidence, friendship, and opportunity through the game we love.

Men's Senior Section

Didcot Cricket Club is proud field six league sides every Saturday during the season — 50% more than any other club in Oxfordshire. Our roster of over 120 registered players ranges in age from 13 to 74, reflecting the depth and diversity of our cricketing community. Our teams compete across the full breadth of the Cherwell Cricket League, from the 1st XI in Tier 1 to the 6th XI in Tier 9, ensuring opportunities for players of all standards. We also run three sides in the Downs League T20 competition on Wednesday evenings, adding a fast-paced and social dimension to our cricket calendar. In 2025, our senior teams proudly brought home three trophies, and we're building on that success with renewed ambition for 2026 and beyond.

Women & Girls Section

Didcot Cricket Club is determined to be at the forefront of women and girls' cricket in Oxfordshire, welcoming players of all ages, abilities, and experience — from complete beginners to seasoned competitors. Our women's teams compete in both hardball and softball formats, offering a fun, supportive environment alongside opportunities for competitive cricket. With dedicated coaching and a strong focus on development, more girls are progressing through the youth pathway into senior cricket than ever before. Led by our female coaching staff and supported by the club's inclusive ethos, Didcot CC is helping shape the next generation of women's and girls' cricket in the county.

Youth & Junior Section

The future of Didcot Cricket Club lies in our vibrant youth and junior programme. With over 180 young players aged from 5 to 17, we provide a fun, welcoming environment where every child can learn, play, and grow through cricket. Our teams compete across Oxfordshire in both hardball and softball formats, supported by a team of qualified coaches who focus on developing skills, confidence, and a lifelong love of the game. From All Stars and Dynamos through to our Under-19s, we offer a clear pathway for every player to progress — whether their ambition is to play socially, represent the county, or one day take the field for our senior sides.

Disability Cricket Section

Didcot Cricket Club is proud to lead the way in disability cricket across Oxfordshire. As an accredited Disability Champion Club, we provide opportunities for players of all abilities to experience and enjoy the game in a friendly, supportive environment. Working closely with local charities Style Acre and My Life My Choice, our disability section has grown into the largest in the county. Through our weekly sessions players develop skills, confidence, and friendships both on and off the field. Our ambition is simple — to make cricket accessible to everyone, breaking down barriers and creating pathways for all to take part, belong, and achieve in the sport.

Plans for 2026

This year the club will be playing more than 200 fixtures. We will host County matches for Oxfordshire Men's and Women's teams (including a 3-day game in July), county and league finals. Over 100 children aged between 5-9 have already signed up to take part in our activities. Two primary school festivals will see us welcome 240 children and their parents to Boundary Park in May.