

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY 12th MAY 2026 at All Saints' Church
Commenced at 8.00 pm**

PRESENT: Mrs Jamieson (Chair) Dr Aish Mr Bevan Mr Harkness Ms Moran	In attendance: Mrs Blackwell (Parish Clerk) SCC Cllr Booth Mr Cornwell - guest speaker Surrey Wildlife Trust 2 Local Residents
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1. Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting

The Chair welcomed Local Residents and thanked Mr Matthew Cornwell, the guest speaker Reserves Officer at Surrey Wildlife Trust for Wisley and Ockham Commons.

2. Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 13th May 2025

The Minutes of the Meeting on 13th May 2025 were approved.

3. Chair's Annual report of the Parish Council 2025-2026

Mrs Jamieson presented the Annual report for 2025-2026. Summary of the year included:

- Another busy year for Ockham Parish Council. Continue to work to preserve and protect our historic village always remembering our rural heritage. Our activities have included addressing issues relating to planning and planning breaches, local roads and the strategic road network, the environment, flooding issues, public rights of way. We hold the statutory authorities to account and always strive to achieve the best outcome for the Ockham community. Minutes of our Parish Council meetings are all online giving more details of our activities and we send out a monthly news update to keep residents informed.
- This year, attended meetings with GBC, SCC, Taylor Wimpey and Environ re FWA, the RHS, our MP Zoe Franklin, the Mayor of Guildford, Surrey Association of Local Councils, the Police and National Highways. We collaborate with local parishes and contribute to the 8 Parishes group and the Flood Forum.
- Becky Neish and Chloe Shepherdly both served as councillors, stepping down this year due to family and other commitments. They attended the Flood Forum and supported efforts to address speeding vehicles in the village. Jan Hickson and Euan Harkness have both been co-opted onto the council during the year and we welcome them.
- Peter Bevan is our lead councillor for the burial ground and is also the lead councillor for our parish finances. On the PC finances, we are in a stable position with our reserves at almost twice the amount of our precept.
- Malcolm Aish has attended meetings with TW, SCC and a thank you tea with the mayor.
- Sonia Moran has worked with our Vice Chair Simon Waldman to address the speeding issues in the village, a matter which concerns us all. Simon has attended a variety of meetings to represent the Parish Council. Thank you all.

- Welcomed opportunity to note the tireless hard work of Frances Porter who also keeps the community informed via OHRA. Chris Campbell participates positively in Ockham daily life, frequently for the environment. Thank you both.
- Our grateful thanks to GBC Cllr Pat Oven who is consistently at the end of the phone as well as frequently on site in Ockham. Many of you will know Pat and will understand how helpful he is to our village.
- Many thanks to SCC Cllr Dennis Booth. Dennis has arranged grants for us to upgrade the fence at the Memorial Garden as well as other work including hedge planting to help improve biodiversity at this site. Thanks to his SCC fund, we also expect to see a much longed for pavement extension by the war memorial any time soon. Dennis continues to support us as we lobby SCC for better local road surfaces.
- Looking ahead there are changes to come as Guildford merges with other boroughs to become West Surrey Council. We continue to await news of how this will impact on Ockham. From April 2027, the newly elected shadow councillors for West Surrey, Catherine Young and David Evans will take up their roles full time.
- We thank All Saints' Ockham for allowing us to hold our meetings in the church.
- Many thanks to our Clerk, Alyson, whose expertise, knowledge and hard work enable the Parish Council's smooth operation on a day-to-day basis.

We look forward to the year ahead and will continue to work for the best outcomes for Ockham.

4. Welcome to the guest speaker – Matthew Cornwall, Reserves Officer at Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Matthew Cornwall gave an insight into the activities taking place at Wisley and Ockham Commons. It was greatly appreciated by attendees who were fascinated to hear about the impact of the new Green Bridge for wildlife. Mr Cornwall concluded by offering a nightjar walk for Local Residents and agreed to share a date for the event for Residents to book a place.

Drinks were served.

There being no further questions the meeting ended at 8.45pm.

Alyson Blackwell, Clerk to Ockham Parish Council