

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Assembly On Monday 11th May 2026, at 6.45pm at St Aidans Church

Present

Councillor A Walker	(AW)
Councillor E Gratton-Rayson	(EGR)
Councillor L Chambers	(LC)
Councillor I Stanley	(IS)

In Attendance

Mrs S Tolson (Clerk), Residents Alan Harley, Caroline Harley and Shirley Ilsley.

Apologies.

Apologies from Councillor G Sedgwick and Councillor I Yems were accepted.

Councillor Walker in the Chair as retiring Chairperson of Oxspring Parish Council read the Notice of the Annual Assembly.

The Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2025

These, together with the Internal and External Auditors' reports and certification of accounts were circulated.

Reports of the Parish Council Representatives and Associated Bodies.

Oxspring Parish Council Chair's Report.

Councillor Walker submitted a report as follows:

Welcome to the Assembly meeting for 2026

The last year has been another very busy year for the Parish Council with a huge number of jobs being undertaken by various members of the team.

The Parish Council members try to ensure that we get best value for money in everything that we do to make sure that we are spending the village's precept appropriately. In an effort to conserve funds as best as we can, many of the members of the Council undertake routine repairs and maintenance that would otherwise cost the village and its residents money that can then be spent on bigger jobs that the team cannot deal with themselves.

We have a regular grass cutting contract with BMBC, which ensures that the bigger areas of grass in the village are kept in good condition, namely the village green, the football field, Gordon's Garden etc. We also pay a private contractor to cut the grass in the children's playground.

A lot of tree maintenance work is undertaken and 2026 will see us appoint a consultant to undertake a survey of all the trees in our public areas to ensure that they are safe for users and for the general public, particularly those trees that overhang public footpaths and roads etc.

The hanging baskets that are sponsored by residents have proved to be quite a big issue this year, caused by some health and safety issues that were raised by BMBC. However, hopefully we will be

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having another beautiful display again this year alongside the lovely baskets that we put out annually at the Willows.

We continue to work with and support, the village football team in their endeavours to get a building for the club to use for equipment and other fund raising ventures.

We have had a couple of major issues to deal with this year namely Japanese knotweed on the river Don and some major issues with the building site at the top of Tollbar Close. One of the Parish Councillors has been working closely with some of the land owners along the Don to ensure that appropriate treatment is being carried out to try to clear the knotweed from both parish owned land and by private owners. The Council member dealing with this is appropriately trained and some of the private land owners have been pleased to make a financial contribution to the work that she has been undertaking and which she will be carrying on for a number of years as it is not a quick fix to rid the village of this invasive plant.

The building site at the top of Tollbar Close has been a bone of contention to many of our residents and we have been in very regular contact with the Planning Enforcement team to try to resolve some of the issues raised with us. It may not look like anything is happening but action has now been taken by BMBC Planning Department. We will continue to raise issues with them regarding this and any other sites that cause concern.

We also regularly report the state of the roads in and around the village, particularly Sheffield Road and upper and lower Roughbirchworth and we understand that some of these roads are scheduled to have some major works done during the financial year 2026/2027. Watch this space!!

Finally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members of the Parish Council for all their hard work during the last twelve months with a particular thank you to our Parish Clerk for keeping us on the straight and narrow.

Cllr Ann Walker, Chair – Oxspring Parish Council

The Titivators

Councillors Sedgwick and Gratton-Rayson provided the following report:

The Titivators group volunteers have again been busy all across the Parish.

We've managed to 'stay on top' of Gordon's Garden & the Christmas tree area by the school.

The mulch on the sports field car park has helped keep the weeds down, but it quite time consuming to stay on top of the weeds in quite a large area and the new plants seem to have taken well.

The volunteers have taken over two planters at the bottom of Bower Hill until we can find a local resident to look after them. The trough and the surrounding area had a complete makeover last summer although it will be ready for a bit more TLC once the daffodils have finished. Tulips were added to the rose garden, and looked magnificent in the spring this year.

Those who use the footbridge over the TPT on Roughbirchworth Lane will have noticed that it is being periodically swept and the build up of mud from the building site removed.

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The strip of land by the children's playground & Wood Cottages has been cleared & Daffodils planted in the bank which added lovely colour to the area this spring, the resident is very happy with the outcome. Professional tree trimming is due to take place shortly.

Several sessions in the grounds of St Aidans have made a tremendous difference to the look and the feel around the building. The side exits were overgrown with weeds and brambles making them inaccessible. These have now all been cleared and the path along the back of the building is much more pleasant to look at.

Much time was spent clearing Himalayan Balsam from Bower Dell, and removing some brambles alongside the river bank, making it much more accessible. Now with the space opened up, it is much more pleasurable to sit & relax on the 'Trout Bench' and look down the river.

The request for help with new areas of work continues to grow adding to the ever growing existing yearly workload. Perhaps the biggest problem that the group faces is the lack of regular volunteers which often means that some jobs have to be postponed indefinitely. In an effort to recruit more volunteers and raise the profile of the group it is proposed to organise a "community work Day" later in the summer whereby potential volunteers can come along and experience what volunteering has to offer.

The WhatsApp group created at the beginning of the year has proved to be a great success in the operation of the group by sharing of details in planning and other information between the various members of the group. A new "Calendar of Events" has also been created helping to control the scheduling of tasks which occur regularly each year.

Group members work closely with Greenotes C.I.C personnel whose services are provided through a BMBC supplied initiative, many thanks to them for their much valued contribution.

Finally, we would like to thank all the volunteers for your dedication and continued support, and well done everyone for making our Parish a much nicer place to live.

Oxspring Parish Allotments Manager.

Report from Mrs Steph Tolson.

- There are no vacant plots.
- All allotments for the Year starting 1st April 26 have been paid.
- During the year 4 plots changed hands.
- There are currently 4 names on the Waiting list. 1 of those on the list is an Oxspring resident.
- 2 people joined the waiting list in the last year.

Oxspring Friends

Councillor Walker submitted a written report as follows:

Oxspring Friends continues to grow and we have now settled into a routine of events that we hold on a regular basis.

We are now offering monthly Munch and Mingle events which have proved to be hugely successful and a very reliable source of income to support our other activities.

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We have decided to discontinue the annual summer fayre as a huge amount of work and expense goes into the planning of this event and the last two years have been rather poorly attended.

We continue to offer our two Christmas events, albeit the lighting of the Christmas tree has had to be discontinued. For the last three years we have had atrocious weather and so this year we decided to host a Christmas Market in St Aidan's, and to still offer the hot mulled wine and mince pies. Our first event was a huge success and we offered refreshments so that people could sit and talk after browsing around the market stalls and people thoroughly enjoyed this facility and, better still, went back to browsing and buying. Our annual Christmas Carol Concert at St Aidans continues to go from strength to strength and is, yet again, a very popular event.

The Christmas hamper project is still very successful and has certainly proved very meaningful to recipients of the wonderful hampers that are distributed in December each year. Numbers vary between 15 and 25 and nominations are mostly different each year.

Our latest venture is to mark special days/events in peoples lives i.e. a special birthday, loss of a loved one, illness, exceptional work etc. and again this has been very much appreciated. These are usually marked by a card and in some cases flowers.

The Friends have benefitted greatly by joining forces with some of the ladies from St Aidan's Church and any monies raised at the Munch and Mingle events are shared equally between the Friends and St Aidans so both groups are benefitting from these lovely events.

Hopefully, we will continue to go from strength to strength and we look forward to another very successful year.

Ann Walker - Oxspring Friend's Secretary/Treasurer

Oxspring United JFC

At Oxspring United Junior Football Club, we continue to strive to bring football to as many local children as we can. Our aim is to provide a nurturing and inclusive environment for children to enjoy playing football, irrespective of background, ability and needs.

Our club continues to grow and prosper. This past season has seen 12 teams at under 7 through to under 17 age groups, as well as an age 4-6 fun football and an inclusive football session. Our inclusive football group gives opportunities to young people who would otherwise not be able to be part of a team and a club in the way their peers are.

We now have over 180 children playing football with the club and over 50 adult volunteers working extremely hard to make this possible.

During the past year we have been awarded significant Football Foundation funding to improve the grass pitches on the sports field in Oxspring. The funding is spread over 6 years and amounts to £57600.00, with £19200.00 coming from the club as it tapers over the last 3 years. We are pleased to now be working with Bothams Prestige alongside the Parish Council to cut the grass and to mark out the pitches, as well as employing them as the contractor to carry out the improvement works at the field. This will have a massively positive impact on the pitch provision for the club while also benefitting Oxspring and surrounding communities.

We continue to work towards building a Clubhouse and storeroom for the club. In early 2025 we submitted a pre-planning application to BMBC with drawings for a proposed building. Whilst the plans

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were received well, we have also been made aware of potential Football Foundation funding for modular buildings to include toilets and a kitchen, alongside a small usable room. We have now decided to progress with an application to the Football Foundation for a “Huddle” unit, as well as a new storage container and fencing to create a storage compound for the matchday goals. Funding from the Football Foundation could be up to £50,000 towards the Huddle, £20,000 towards the container as well as the fencing. We may also be able to access some S106 funding towards the project. Whilst this will be a scaled down version of the clubhouse and storeroom we originally proposed, we feel it will meet our needs at least in the medium term, if not longer, and is financially a much better option. We are excited for this project to improve our provision at the club but also for it to benefit other areas of our community, such as the Primary School and the Trunce Run.

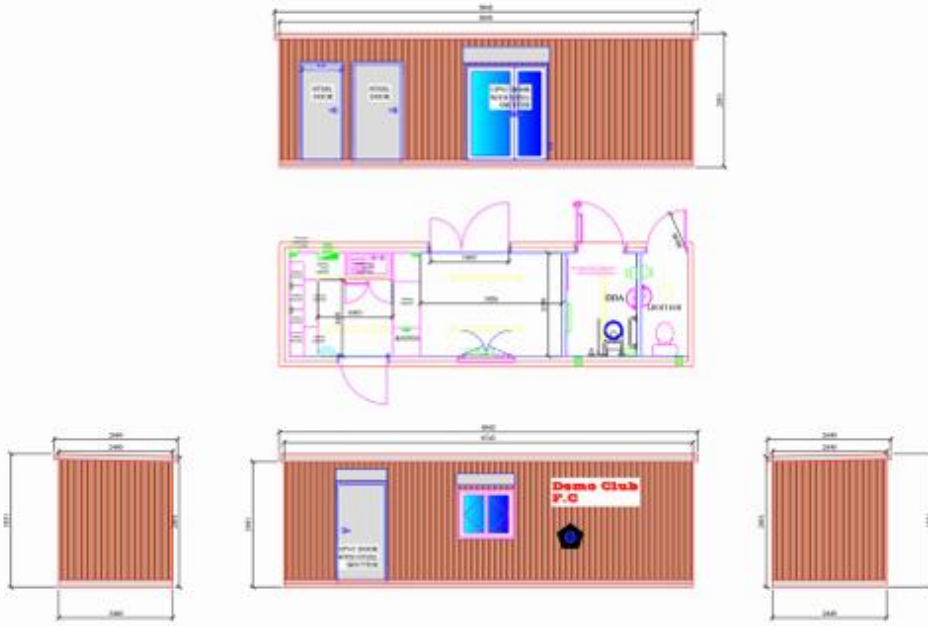
Please see below an artist impression of an external view and an internal layout plan of the “Huddle” unit, alongside a plan of the potential layout on the field.

As a club we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to work with them to be able to bring sport, exercise, well-being and a positive sense of community to the people of Oxspring and the surrounding communities.

Oxspring United JFC Committee.



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Observations from Members of the Parish.

Residents in attendance raised their concerns about the wall at the front of St Aidans Church. The Chair reported that St Aidans are looking for funding to be able to repair the wall.

It was RESOLVED to contact the St Aidans committee about the issue.

Residents also reported their concerns about the state of the car park at the back of the school as it is always muddy around the entrance, it isn't always fully used and the dropped kerb is quite high.

It was RESOLVED to contact the school about the issue in the first instance.

Residents reported the safety of the steps to the TPT at Roughbirchworth Lane and that the handrails covered in bird droppings and needs repairing. They also reported the issue of the trees overhanging the road. It was noted that the overhanging trees have previously been discussed with the TPT officer and repairs were made to the steps in 2025.

It was RESOLVED to ask the TPT officer to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Residents also raised concerns about the Little London site, which the Chair confirmed are being dealt with by BMBC planning enforcement.

A query was raised regarding the stolen post box near the post office. It was confirmed that there are no plans to replace the post box as far as the Parish Council is aware. This would be a matter for the Post Office.

This meeting was closed at 8pm.

Signed this day **2026**

Chair _____

Clerk _____