

Hethe Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting Held On

Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7.30pm In Hethe Village Hall

Councillors Present S Wallace (Chair) Mrs S Hartwell, F Boon, Mrs J Ramsey, Mrs J Elkington, D Overton M Tweedale

In Attendance: D Jakeman (Clerk)

1. Apologies Cllr Wood & Cllr Will Boucher -Giles

2. Declaration of Interest

3. Chairman Report I would like to thank all fellow Councillors for their work and efforts this past year. As a small village we try to do a lot with a little and the volunteering efforts of all villagers in helping to keep the village thriving are appreciated. I would like to recognise the Village Hall Committee, PCC, and Mike Green for his maintenance of the Hethe.org website for contributing to the upkeep of our community, not forgetting of course the lynchpin work the Clerk does in keeping us all on top of our duties.

With challenges around growing local infrastructure and planning I can see we have several causes which will demand our focus in the coming year and hopefully collaboration with other local villages will help us a region decide what's right for us as the people most impacted, whether good or bad. Thanks again to all and here's to another positive year.

4. District Councillor Report I am standing down from the District Council at the end of the month. Some residents may recall that I started representing Hethe in 2002. Time goes quickly! It is without irony that I note that not much has changed in Hethe, which is a good thing. At CDC there are two big unknowns right now. First, what will happen when re-organisation is finalised? Based on the early results elsewhere, there will be two or possibly three unitary Councils, not one huge county wide entity. The smaller the better will be preferable for villages. In any event breaking up that which is not broken, is a mistake in my view. But I would say that! The second shadow hanging over us is "will the new draft Local Plan get past the inspectors?" My view is yes, but with some upward changes around housing numbers at places like Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Watch this space as they say. No pun intended! My thanks to the PC for all their work over the years. Thanks to the Clerk for keeping me in touch. Perhaps a wage rise is called for!

The Parish Council wished to thank Barry for all his support over the years both to the Council and residents.

5. Village Hall Committee Yoga/Shelswell Benefice/Home Schooling/Darby and Joan club and ad hoc leisure and social events continue. We have lost John Horwood's Line Dancing to another hall. Need to promote the Hall to increase its use – we have very reasonable rates – so I put it to Hethe PC to help spread the word as we can only remain a going concern on income generated. All the utility bills are on the rise including Business Rates (even with charitable relief). New Oil-fired Boiler now with Hive Active Heating and Hot Water system

which has internet connectivity so can be controlled remotely – cost £8000. New Boiler Room door on order. Charity Commission annual return 31/12/2024 - <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/294790>

6. The Parochial Church Council The reports for the PCC can be found on the following link.

[**Report-and-Accounts-for-Hethe-Parochial-Church-Council-2025-Vers-0.1.pdf**](#)

7. Local Planning Developments Members discussed the need to support other Councils and groups with the gradual creep of planning developments moving from the town. The current infrastructure can't cope with much more development.