

The Village Hall has continued to raise funds to supplement the previous grants and included coffee mornings, VE Day anniversary event and quizzes as well regular private bookings. The committee continue to work hard to organise events and in reviewing possible funding /maintenance issues. It should be noted the Village Hall needs significant refurbishment works in the coming years with limited financial resources and it is hoped that future events are well supported, any additional help would be greatly appreciated. The Spring 2025 Mollington Matters outlined their concerns.

The Ability bus remains popular and they continue to provide a service on Tuesday and Thursday to Banbury. Full details of this service are available on the Village notice board and in the village hall. It should be noted that they are able to provide customised travel service on request at a cost.

The Service 77A continues between Leamington Spa and Banbury which picks up and drops off at Mollington turn, Monday to Saturday.

Mollington Munch continues to have record numbers attending the lunches, our thanks must go to the team of volunteers who make it such a success. Special mention to Gill Zammett on her recent retirement from the team after 10 years service, thanks also to Val Davison for her continued leadership.

The regular monthly coffee mornings at the village hall continue to be successful.

Finally, I would like to welcome all those who have moved to the village and say a fond farewell to those who have left.

1207 Clerks Report Financial Statement

The Clerk reported that 7 cheques had been raised in March and April 2025.

789	Thomas Fox	Play Area Bark and Weeding	1444.80	In Budget
790	Clerk	Salary	754.30	In Budget
791	HMRC	PAYE	169.20	In Budget
792	A M Best	Hedge Cutting	500.00	In Budget
793	Thomas Fox	Grass cutting 1	323.60	In Budget
794	CDC	Dog bins	308.88	In Budget
795	P Gorman	Wooden posts	203.00	In Budget

In March the VAT was claimed and April we received the reclaimed VAT from HMRC for £805.37; during April we received the first payment of the Parish Precept of £8673. A further £416.15 VAT has yet to be claimed.

Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance is £27,102.80 which is reconciled to the Bank statement at 30th April 2025. This balance contains the remaining reserves of £2857.50 for Orchard Piece Community Play Area. The General Fund at the end of April stands at £24,028.27.

Overall, 2024-25 was a saving against the budget of £1504.85. The Parish Council had hoped to complete the works at the Orchard Piece play area, using the available budget, but the lack of access and inclement weather conditions meant that this has been deferred until the new financial year. Some of the Orchard Piece maintenance and bark budget was therefore used to increase the depth of the bark in the Chestnut Vale play area.



The overspend on hedge cutting was offset by savings on election expenses, which need to be included in the budget each year, as the Parish Council can be charged in excess of £750 in any election year.

The budget for 2025-2026 reflects the need for more to be done to improve the overall appearance of the village and the essential tree work, as well as maintaining the ageing play area equipment.

Resolved: To accept the financial report

1208 Consultations

Parish Vacancies

It was reported that there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor – details are available on the website, and interested parties can also talk contact the Clerk or Councillors.

If we are unable to fill the available vacancy, and in addition, another Councillor steps down, Mollington will be left with non-working parish council and the responsibilities will be handed to Cherwell District Council. This means there will be no local representatives to voice our village concerns and make things happen.

1209 Planning matters

Applications

- **25/01080/TCA Lanscombe, Church Lane. OX17 1AZ** Reduce Yew Tree crown *It was recommended that MPC do not object to this application*
- **25/00915/F Browdene, Whiteway OX17 1DW** Remove pitch roof and addition of first floor to existing bungalow *It was recommended that MPC visit the site before commenting on this application*
- **25/01203/TCA Sunnybrae, Main Street OX17 1BD** Tree works in conservation area – pollarding, reducing crown and removal of dead ash tree *It was recommended that MPC do not object to this application*
- **25/01254/TCA Cannonball Cottage, Main Street OX17 1BD** Reduce height of Leylandi in shared carpark to 4m *It was recommended that MPC do not object to this application*
- **25/01311/F Lavender Cottage, Main Street OX17 1BQ** Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of replacement single storey rear extension in reclaimed brick *It was recommended that MPC visit the site before commenting on this application*

Decisions

- **25/00440/DC Mansion House Farm OX17 1AY** Discharge of conditions 5 (doors and windows) 7 (enclosure to oil tank) and partial discharge of 8 (landscaping) *Application permitted*

1210 Councillors Responsibilities

It is proposed that responsibility in the Parish Council for the forthcoming term should be:

Councillor Banister– Planning, Mollington Matters

Councillor John – Trees and Grass maintenance, Village Hall representative

Councillor Gorman – Neighbourhood Watch, Police, Emergency and Neighbourhood Plans, Highways

Councillor Sullivan – Footpaths, Dogs, Village maintenance

Maintenance of the play areas to be a shared responsibility

1211 Councillors Reports

Councillor John

Maintenance: It was reported that Thomas Fox continues to cut grass as per the agreed schedule, Instructions have been given to increase the cut length throughout the village, and particularly the Mollington Playing Field. Additionally it has been requested that all grass areas (including the wild flower areas) be included as per the contracted scope of works.

Thomas Fox have been asked to provide a quotation for weedkiller and reseeding in the rough ground on Church Lane.

There has been further email correspondence with Highways department on works in March Road, Lower Farm Road and the related water damage / pot holes. We have been advised that further clearance of drainage / gullies throughout the village will be completed by end of June 25, and are still awaiting detailed schedule of works / road closures to undertake outstanding works.

Village Hall : The monthly Molly Munch and VE Day anniversary events took place and were well attended. There continues to be an increase on private bookings and regular monthly coffee mornings held by village hall and church support teams. VH committee are currently identifying means to increase funds for future refurbishment works.

Councillor Gorman

It was reported that the Emergency Plan would continue to be updated, with particular emphasis on the disruption that could be caused by flooding and power failures. A good relationship is continuing with Thames Valley police, who were able to send officers to the recent Fete, providing information to interested parties.

Councillor Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan reported that there aren't any current concerns with dogs. There has been the occasional dog fouling, and a note is regularly included in Mollington Matters to remind people to clean up after their dogs. The five dog bins, which are emptied periodically by Cherwell District Council, sometimes get full, but it hasn't proved a persistent problem.

Footpaths in the parish are believed to be in good order. Many people use Thacker Way, particularly due to the state of the road there, so the bushes have been cut back. Thanks to Councillor Gorman for keeping on top of this. One footpath in the parish has been diverted slightly but that isn't preventing its use.

As already noted, village maintenance is currently focused on the roads, trees, and the playing fields. There is also an issue with various contractors and delivery vans damaging road edges. Further edging posts have been placed around the Green and by the Church, which will hopefully limit any future damage. Again, thanks to Councillor Gorman. A concern, should the water leak affecting the hill down to March Road not be solved, is the danger there from a winter freeze. We have placed bags of salt near the roadway, but we shall be acquiring a salt bin for that road prior to next winter.

Councillor Banister

Councillor Banister covered the update on the planning matters under the previous agenda point. He separately reported that the Spring edition of Mollington Matters was distributed to 207 houses at the end of April. This latest edition, in addition to the normal topics, was focussed on the village fete and an update on village maintenance, particularly covering trees.

1211 Councillors Points of Interest:

The next Parish Liaison meeting will be held on 11th June, in the evening, at the new Council Office at Castle Quay. The Clerk is planning to attend, and Councillors are also encouraged to, if possible.


The RoSPA inspection of the two play areas and the equipment is scheduled for July. Councillors are looking to cancel the inspection for the Orchard Piece play area if work is scheduled.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 22 July 2025 Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting closed at 9 pm

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council



Public Participation Session

District Councillor Chris Brant introduced himself, and advised that he was also a County Councillor, and would like to be cc'd into any emails regarding highways and maintenance so that he could provide input and support.

He reported that there would soon be a public consultation on the proposal to form a Unitary Council, which will be a lot bigger than CDC, and would include the whole of Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. The concern is that local policies still need to remain local, within a whole county approach, possibly with a mayoral approach to smaller regions, for example Thames Valley.

This approach has been rolled out already in some areas of the country, with Oxfordshire being considered in one of the later phases.

CDC will liaise with Parish Councils as much as they can, but ultimately it will be a Government decision.

More details will be given at the upcoming Parish Liaison meeting.

