

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Lowlands Area Planning Sub-Committee

Held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB
at 2.00 pm on **Monday, 12 January 2026**

PRESENT

Councillors: Andy Goodwin (Chair), Michael Brooker (Vice-Chair), Steve Cosier, Rachel Crouch, Nick Leverton, Andrew Lyon, Michele Mead, David Melvin, Andrew Prosser, Sarah Veasey, Alistair Wray, Alaric Smith and Liam Walker

Officers: Leonie Woodward (Head of Legal), Andrew Brown (Head of Democratic and Electoral Services), Iram Malik (Interim Democratic Services Officer), Clare Anscombe (Career Grade Planner), James Nelson (Principal Planner), Phil Shaw (Planning Services Transformation Lead), Mathew Taylor (Democratic Services Officer) and Fern Lynch (Principal Planner)

Other Councillors Present: Cllr Pearson and Cllr Arciszewska

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Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs: Godfrey and Walsh

89

Declarations of Interest

Declarations of interest were received from:

Cllr Mead in respect of the Burford Road application 25/00487 in her capacity of Chairman of the Town Council, and in respect of Black Bourton Road application 25/01852/FUL as it lay within her district ward.

Cllr Leverton declared an interest in respect of the Black Bourton Road application 25/01852/FUL as the person at the Ashfield Road property was known to him.

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Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the last meeting of the Lowlands Sub-Committee held on 8 December 2025 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

91

25/00487/OUT Land (E) 428789 (E) 208512 Burford Road

The Planning Officer commenced by requesting Members to note the correction at paragraph 8.7 regards foul drainage should refer to condition number 14. During the presentation Members were provided with information regards an outline planning application with all matters reserved except access for up to 350 dwellings (Use Class C3); land for local community use (Use Classes E and F2); detailed means of access from Burford Road; public open space; landscaping; service infrastructure and associated works on land to the south of Burford Road, Brize Norton. This was at the site address of Burford Road Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. The officer recommendation stated that this application should be approved.

In highlighting the main elements of the application, the presenting officer stated that the proposed development provided an opportunity to accommodate 350 dwellings, contributing to WODC's housing land supply shortfall. primarily through the provision of market and affordable housing in a sustainable location adjoining a key service centre within the district. This would create a sustainable new community linked to both Carterton and Brize Norton.

Having considered all relevant factors related to this application, Officers were of the opinion that a development of this scale in this location would form a logical complement to the existing settlements of Brize Norton and Carterton which respected the wider landscape character. There were no demonstrable harms that would outweigh the benefits associated with the provision of 350 new dwellings (35% affordable) towards the Council's housing land supply shortfall. Additional benefits included the provision of 10% biodiversity net gain, two new play areas, new allotments, a flexible use community room and short term and long term economic benefits through employment during the build process and increased expenditure in the local area.

Therefore, the application was recommended for approval, subject to the imposition of the conditions set out on pages 49-58 of the report, and the S106 and S278 legal agreements. A total of 4 participants had registered to speak on the application.

Windrush against Sewage Pollution (WASP) made a number of points in opposition, and was concerned regards the quality and accuracy of the officer's report. These related to the efficacy of the package plants proposed and the effluent discharge permit conditions negating any calculated flood storage benefit. Furthermore the report did not reference the EA's objection to the proposed use of package plants. It was requested that the council redraft a condition which ensures that Carterton and its network upgrades are made appropriately so that capacity can be created before any approval is granted.

Mr Goble Chairman of Brize Norton Parish Council also addressed the meeting. He stated that the application did not comply with the relevant policies and that if it were to be approved, it would cause unacceptable urban sprawl between Carterton, Brize Norton, Minster Lovell and Witney.

Given that Brize Norton's was defined as a village, its development would have grown from 382 to 1200 houses. This was considered to be above and beyond its contribution towards the housing requirement of limited developments.

Ms Bisbey speaking on behalf of the applicant, stated that the proposed scheme provided a 70% betterment to the current scenario where surface water following rainfall was allowed to enter the groundwater and drainage systems at uncontrolled flow rates, especially during periods of heavy and persistent rain. The introduction of suds and attenuation ponds with controlled and reduced flow discharge into existing water courses would substantially improve the flood risk situation downstream.

Foul water was a key local issue. In the event that Thames Water did not resolve capacity issues as expected by Ofwat in May 2026, the agreed condition provided the ability to agree an interim on site private sewage treatment solution subject to an environmental permit. Furthermore, the scheme brought about benefits through the delivery of 35 % affordable

homes. Ms Bisbey stated that there was a commitment to delivering on -site as expediently as possible and subject to outline planning permission being granted.

The final speaker was Cllr Pearson, and local ward member. She emphasised that there were many uncertainties and contradictions within the report. The issue of flooding was highlighted, stating according to the Ministry of Defence accentuation ponds needed to be emptied within 48 hours. This was contradictory to the ambition of a reduction in flooding by 70 %

In terms of roads, the highway improvements mentioned in the report, did not consider traffic or cycle routes for those who wished to go north of Burford Road. Other issues left unaddressed related to the change in nature of Kilkenny Lane Country Park, with its area of tranquillity and biodiversity being affected by the application.

Following all the speakers a number of points of clarification were raised by many of the Members. Whilst some members felt they could not support the recommendation others expressed the view that everything possible had been done that was required to ensure that it was a sustainable site that could not raise any objections. The development was felt to be in the interests of the residents.

Officers were able to address the concern of members, regards the view becoming urbanised from the county park. It was confirmed that the western part of the site would be limited to two storeys in height with a requirement for extensive landscaping belts to intermit the hard built form retaining a sense of variety of textures and pattern of development.

Following much deliberation it was,

RESOLVED: That the application be approved in line with the officer's recommendation, subject to an additional requirement to secure fencing details around the attenuation ponds.

(A resolution was passed at 5pm to continue to proceed with the meeting)

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25/01852/FUL 44 Black Bourton Road Carterton

This application sought consent for the redevelopment of the site, including demolition of existing workshops and erection of seven dwellings and associated ancillary development at 44 Black Bourton Road, Carterton. Ashfield Road lay to the north of the application site and Milestone Road was to the south.

The site consisted of existing hardstanding and several dilapidated buildings. To the front of the site (but outside the current application boundary) was an existing detached two-storey building which operated as an HMO. To the north, south and east were residential dwellings. The site was registered as contaminated land and had a long planning history, which was detailed at paragraph 5.4 of the report. The neighbouring site (48 Black Bourton Road) was recently the subject of an appeal for 9 dwellings, which was allowed and was currently under construction. Having taken into account planning policy, other relevant material considerations and the comments of interested parties, Officers were of the opinion that the harms identified significantly and demonstrably outweighed the benefits of the development and as such the application was recommended for refusal.

The agent spoke on behalf of the applicant stating that, the Officer's recommendation was contrary to the views of the Town Council, who fully supported the proposals, and there was plenty of public support for the scheme. Furthermore, no statutory consultees had objections to the scheme, including the Council's own Design and Conservation Officer. It was believed that the Officer's Report over estimated the potential negative impacts, whilst simultaneously under playing the public benefits of the scheme.

In giving deep consideration to the arguments presented on both sides and having conducted a site visit, Members agreed with the officer's recommendation and therefore,

RESOLVED: That the application be refused.

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25/02578/FUL Land Adjacent To Kencot Cottages Kencot

An application was presented which sought planning permission for the erection of a detached two-storey self-build dwelling with access, parking, amenity space and associated works at Land Adjacent to Kencot Cottages, Kencot. The application site comprised an undeveloped area of paddock and modest open-fronted agricultural building adjacent to the main thoroughfare running through the village. The site was bounded by characterful stone walls and benefited from access via a field gate. It was situated within the Kencot Conservation Area ('CA') and was located approximately 80m to the north of the grade II listed Manor Farmhouse. There were a number of locally listed buildings in close proximity including Kencot Cottages, Shillbrook House and De Rougemont.

The report stated that the application was submitted for consideration, due to the conflict between the Officer's recommendation for refusal and the position of the Kencot Parish Council.

Members were informed that Officers had given very careful consideration to the details of the application, taking into account planning policy, history, other material considerations and the representations of interested parties. The key considerations had included matters of principle, siting scale and appearance, impact upon heritage assets, neighbourly amenity, highways impact, ecology and drainage and flood risk. Having considered all relevant details, the officer recommendation was for refusal of the application.

Mr Cox Chairman of Kencott Parish Council spoke in support of the application, which raised some of the following points:

The applicants, Mr and Mrs Monk had met with their potential neighbours and had been fully supported and at a subsequent parish meeting held on 7 January with 22 villagers in attendance all were supportive. Moreover, the positioning of the last house built in the village was built on the building line as this one proposed to.

He stated that he believed that the Council felt that a commercial property should be considered for the site, but that the site was too small to support a business without huge disruption to the village.

In conclusion Kencot Parish Council was in support of a house being built on this site as they believe it is the right way forward and this would safeguard it from an unwanted development in the future.

The applicants Mr and Mrs Monk were in attendance and also spoke. They stated that, they were registered on the Council self-build register and had bought the plot with a dream of building their forever home close to where they lived and worked. Whilst they acknowledged that their proposal did not fit neatly with planning policies which sought to direct housing to the most sustainable locations, several factors outweighed any potential policy conflict.

In discussing the application, many queries were raised and it was felt appropriate to conduct a site visit prior to reaching a final decision. This would be arranged in due course, prior to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred pending a site visit.

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24/02837/FUL Plot 4 Viscount Industrial Estate

The Planning Officer presented an application with regards to the proposed development of the erection of four industrial units and associated works at Plot 4 Viscount Industrial Estate Station Road Brize Norton Oxfordshire. This application site comprised an existing industrial site located at Viscount Industrial Estate situated on the west side of Station Road near Brize Norton Airfield.

The application had been submitted for Members' consideration due to the objection of Brize Norton Parish Council, on the grounds detailed within the report. The report also highlighted that this application was essentially a resubmission of a previously refused application in 2024, on a number of grounds including those relating to parking standards, lack of information on the frequency and size of vehicles anticipated at the site and regards biodiversity.

Having now received additional information on the above matters, and having taken into account planning policy, and all relevant material considerations, the submitted report recommended conditional approval as the application was considered to accord with West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031 Policies, the Brize Norton Neighbourhood Plan, the West Oxfordshire Design Guide 2016 and NPPF 2024.

Members deliberated during which questions were raised as to the likely effectiveness and enforceability of a highways condition summarised at 5.21 within the report, which aimed to prevent HGV movements through Brize Norton village due to the narrow footways and on

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street parking. Another Member expressed concern that signage advising vehicles to turn right away from the village at the exit of the industrial estate, would simply result in the problem being redirected to other villages.

Following the debate, it was

RESOLVED: That application be approved in line with the officer's recommendation.

a) 25/01989/FUL 46A Market Square Witney

This application sought permission for the conversion of the existing office building to a dwelling with works to include erection of a two storey extension with a single storey glazed link, with associated amenity area and two car parking spaces at 46a Market Square Witney.

The case submitted by the applicant stated that Listed Building Consent and Planning Permission was required for the renovation and refurbishment, in an extended form, of an outbuilding to the rear of 46 Market Street, Witney, to provide a two storey three bedrooned house. The proposal would lead to less than substantial harm to the setting of the listed former Bull Inn, but that the public benefits of the proposal would be to provide a new family house, with office space, in a highly sustainable location in the centre of Witney and put this part of the curtilage of the listed building, in a modified form, back into an optimum new and viable use.

The Planning Officer's assessment included information regarding the background of the application, stating that it has been brought before Members due to its recommendation being contrary to that of the Town Council, which was supportive. Officers had also taken into account planning policy, other material considerations and the representations of interested parties. Officers also felt that the key considerations of this application included the principle of development, design and impact on heritage assets, residential amenity and highways. Having had due regard and consideration to all of the above factors the application was recommended for refusal.

Members considered the application before them, asking a number of questions of clarification, following which they overwhelmingly agreed with the officer's recommendation.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused, in line with the officer's recommendation

b) 25/01990/LBC 46A Market Square Witney

The application before Members sought planning permission for the conversion of the existing office building to a dwelling with works to include the erection of a two storey side extension with a single storey glazed link with associated amenity area and two car parking spaces at 46a Market Square, Witney. The application had been brought before Members due to the officer's recommendation to refuse being contrary to that of the Town Council, which was supportive.

The officer's report considered both the background and planning history stating that members had refused permission of similar applications in 2022 and 2023. The report went on to highlight the main aspects of the proposed development, stating that the main consideration

of this application was the impact that this would have on Heritage Assets and the conservation area.

Having considered this matter in much detail, officers confirmed that the scale, design and form of the proposed alterations and extensions needed to create the proposed dwelling, would have a harmful impact on the significance, character, appearance and setting of Long Barn, a grade II curtilage listed building, the setting, character and views out from the principal listing building, 46 Market Square. This harm was considered to be at the higher end of 'less than substantial' and would not be outweighed by any discernible public benefits. Consequently, the proposal was contrary to the duty to Section 16(2) of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and Section 16 of the NPPF, and should therefore be refused.

Members asked a number of questions for clarification purposes, following which agreement was reached.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused, in line with the officer's recommendation.

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Applications Determined under Delegated Powers

The applications determined under delegated powers were presented to Members.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

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Appeal Decisions

The Planning Officer reported the appeals decisions that has taken place since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

The Meeting closed at 5.42 pm

CHAIRMAN