

Note: Special mention of temporary measures adopted as a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic are only listed where particularly relevant to the Council's responsibilities and/or village wellbeing.

The Great Coxwell Parish Council (the 'Council' or 'GCPC') holds assets, provides facilities, organizes activities, incurs responsibilities and enters into contracts benefitting the parish, as well as dealing with issues brought up by parishioners or which arise at its meetings.

The Council undertakes to respond to parishioners' concerns at its regular council meetings, and to review and discuss issues with parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting. All regular Council meetings¹ and the APM are open to the public.

The GCPC is a small council and depends upon the encouragement and active involvement of parishioners to maintain the environment, heritage and social life of the village. The Precept received from Oxfordshire County Council only covers regular maintenance costs and GCPC relies on volunteer fundraising for all other sources of funds. This is particularly important for meeting unexpected other expenses, especially for the Park and Reading Room and for new capital items.

The Council posts announcements of upcoming meetings, minutes of meetings held and summaries of the Council's work on the village website (<https://www.greatcoxwell.com/home.html>) and on noticeboards outside of the Great Coxwell Reading Room. The village website is run by parishioners of Great Coxwell for the benefit of the village. Information about the Council's activities is also posted in the Village Newsletter which goes out regularly by email with news of interest to the village (web@greatcoxwell.com).

Assets: owned and maintained

1. The Parish Reading Room and its grounds (via the Reading Room Trust)

Upkeep, improvements and ground maintenance costs.

The GCPC councillors are all Trustees of the Reading Room.

The Reading Room has remained shut during the Covid 19 lockdown periods and is currently undergoing repairs and redecoration by the Council.

2. War Memorial and garden

Upkeep and improvements costs. The Council recently installed a fence surrounding the Memorial, planted trees along it and carried a general tidying of the site.

Remembrance Day preparations – wreath.

Details on the War Memorial can be found at

<https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk/memorial/277978> and at

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/item/memorial/31614>.

3. Village telephone box/book exchange

The old telephone box is used as a book exchange maintained by a village volunteer; appropriate Covid 19 signage and hand sanitising facilities are in place.

¹ Meetings are being held by Zoom during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Notices of these are posted on the GCPC website and in the Village Newsletter; details on how to access these are sent to anyone requesting them by the Council Clerk.

4. Bus shelter on A420

Proper maintenance of the shelter, whose use has decreased, has become more difficult with the increase in traffic on the A420.

Assets: rented and maintained

5. Great Coxwell Park and Playpark

Maintenance and improvement of grass, flower meadow, hedges and trees, footpaths and signage; litter picking within the Park; maintenance, replacements, weekly checks and adherence to H&S guidelines of Playpark equipment.

The Council has put up signage as to permitted use of the Park and Playpark during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Council has maintained a close liaison with local and national government advice and directives regarding playground use during the pandemic.

Parish contracts

6. Grass-cutting contract with County Council

The Council has a County Council grant to cut the village and parish verges.

Other village and parish assets requiring maintenance and fund-raising

7. Footpaths around and into the village

A Footpath Warden regularly reviews the footpaths in and around the village including stiles and fencing; the Warden's observations are reported to the Council at its regular meetings or by email if there are urgent issues.

The Council undertook an upgrade to footpath FP231/10 to improve the only safe pedestrian access to the roundabout bus stops and to Faringdon. The path is now paved and wide enough for disability vehicles. It is used extensively by residents from the new estates to walk to the village to exercise pets and to visit the Park and Barn. The work was largely funded by Section 106 funds, the cooperation of the landowner is gratefully acknowledged.

8. Village Pump and cobbled path

The pump is close to a well which served the lower part of the village. The path from the pump leading uphill to the church and vicarage and downhill to the cottages below was cobbled in probably the 18th century.

Parish landowners and local organisations

- The National Trust

The National Trust owns the Great Barn, Courthouse, much of the western half of the parish including Badbury Hill and Wood and several rented and leased houses in the village. The Council is in regular contact with the Trust to ensure collaboration on areas of mutual importance such as supporting environmental conservation, preserving heritage sites and areas and countryside education in the parish.

- Local farmers and landowners
Local agricultural landowners and tenants maintain verges and hedges throughout the parish. Contact with them is maintained by the Council regarding matters such as hedge-cutting etc.
- St Giles church
The church building and churchyard are integral parts of the village and provide important functions such as weddings, funerals and christenings as well as regular church services which are open to all.
The church has been shut during the Covid 19 pandemic. A new vicar for the Benefice (Great Coxwell, Eaton Hastings, Buscot and Coleshill) took up her post in January 2021. She lives in the vicarage in Great Coxwell and welcomes approaches from anyone in the Benefice.
- Women's Institute
The WI hires the Reading Room for its monthly meetings and helps with the Artweeks café, fêtes and special events.
- Village Community Group
A group of villagers organise catering for the Village Fete and other social functions which raise funds and contributes to the life of the village.
- Christmas Eve Barn Service
The Christmas Eve Barn Service is a popular event in the village and raises funds for charity. The service is organised and run by a committee of villagers.
- Oxfordshire Artweeks
A volunteer Artweeks Committee organises two weekends of art exhibitions in the village every May. This includes registering and advertising with Oxfordshire Artweeks, finding artists and venues, and running an all-day café for 4/5 days.
Exhibitions are held in houses and barns in the village, in the Reading Room and the church. The Committee decides on the destination of profits from Artweeks events which are dominantly from the sale of teas and food in the Reading Room; profits are typically split between St Giles and a village facility such as the Reading Room or the Park.
- Open House
Village volunteers organise a coffee morning in the Reading Room every Wednesday morning. This is open to anyone and is a highly appreciated service.
- Village Volunteer Support Group
A support group of volunteers was organised to help villagers during the Covid 19 pandemic, particularly during the national lockdowns. The volunteers provided much needed help for people who were shielding or self-isolating such as organising a pick-up and delivery service of prescriptions and other essentials.

- Monthly teas
A group of village volunteers put on a tea in the Reading Room on one Sunday per month with the donations going to the Park.