

OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 2025



Owslebury.org



WELCOME

I hope you have all enjoyed the warm summer this year. I was told by councillor early in the year we would have a warm summer and they were right!!

I am pleased to bring you the latest updates from our Parish Council.

I would like to highlight is that there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are passionate about making a positive impact in our parish and would like to help shape the future of our community, we would love to hear from you.

It would be wonderful to have a new councillor soon, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to our ongoing projects and initiatives.

COMMUNITY SHOP UPDATE



Exciting progress is being made towards establishing a Community Village Shop, and we need your support to bring this vision to life!

Those that have volunteered have met twice to discuss how to set up the community shop. They have all been out visiting other community shops in the area and beyond and come back with many ideas.

There has been lots of discussion on how this could be a viable business. We have been very lucky that Sparsholt shop has been very helpful and supportive in sharing their knowledge on how they run a successful community shop. The volunteers have been given their homework and will be meeting again in September. The volunteers are hoping to put together a draft business plan over the summer to bring to the next meeting.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity please contact the Parish Clerk via email: clerk@owslebury-pc.gov.uk.

NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Parish Council have ordered some new play equipment most of which has now been successfully installed. The following pieces of equipment have been purchased:

- A Mud Kitchen
- A Picnic Bench
- Table Tennis Table
- Large Wooden Wendy House



The Wendy House is due to be delivered late September.

We are very excited to have this new equipment and hope everyone takes care of it.

We have brought some paddles and balls for the table tennis table and hope that they will be returned properly after use in the box provided



RESURFACING OF WATER LANE BRIDLEWAY

The Parish Council have been aware for sometime that Water Lane bridleway is in need of resurfacing and have earmarked £5,000.00 in this years budget to resurface the pathway.

The Parish Council met with members of the British Horse society and Hampshire Countryside in June and walked the bridleway to discuss how to proceed with the resurfacing works.

The proposed actions were as follows:

- Hampshire County Council (HCC) to work with landowners on vegetation clearance over the summer months and will put together volunteer groups for surface vegetation.
- HCC Projects team will need to assess sites to calculate feasibility/potential costs
- If project overall is advanced by HCC this would be a year or two away
- Overall HCC keen to make improvements to bridleways in the area especially as part of their North-South improvement plan and improving connections between routes as part of their overall sustainable transport goal



OWSLEBURY PAVILION & VILLAGE SPORTS FIELD- LATEST UPDATE

We are pleased to share the updated plans for the proposed new pavilion and sports facilities at the Village Sports Field. The designs, created by Radley House Partnership, show a modern and sustainable building alongside improved sports and community amenities.

Key features include:

- A new pavilion with community space, café/bar/shop, changing rooms, hot desking facilities – in addition to physio, wellness and other community services.
- Outdoor facilities including an adult football pitch, cricket pitch and nets, padel courts, a multi-use games area, yoga/wellbeing spaces, and BBQ area.
- Landscaping to encourage biodiversity, plus cycle racks, EV charging points, and improved parking.

Next steps:

We are now preparing to submit a planning application. Before we do, we will hold a public meeting at Owslebury Village Hall at the end of September (exact date to be confirmed). This will be an opportunity for residents to view the plans in detail, ask questions, and share feedback.

Funding the project:

At the meeting, we will also outline how we plan to fund the development — including potential grant applications, sponsorship opportunities, community fundraising initiatives, loans, and other sources of investment.



Proposed Site Plan



Proposed Pavilion Floor Plan



Perspective View



Proposed Elevations



OWSLEBURY GROWS UPDATE

Owslebury Grows was set up as a working Group of Owslebury Parish Council 2022 after St Andrews church achieved the Eco Church Bronze award. Since then they have gone on to achieved the Eco Silver award in December 2024.

GrOws Acheivements in the Past year:

- They received the Mayor of Winchester Award in 2025 in recognition of our 2024 achievements.

Annually GrOws run:

- 10 meetings in the church with a WhatsApp group of 28 members
- 4 Repair Cafés saving hundreds of Kgs of landfill
- 2 Climate Cafés with diverse topics such as eco investing, sustainable hospitality / food waste, pollinator promotion, beekeeping, recycling, retro-fitting
- Other events including: Bat walk, Swishing (fashion swapping), Mini beast talk & walk, village fete stand, litter picks (with OMCA)

Initiatives GrOws have set up:

- GrOws Pub Community Garden – growing produce since Autumn 2024 and regular get-togethers
- Infra-red camera available to borrow to assess areas of heat loss in the home
- Planted five elm and lime trees in public spaces in November to help the white letter hair-streak butterfly
- Sourced and distributed 129 elm trees for planting across the parish by land owners – the most by any community group in Hampshire
- Recycling Aluminium to raise funds for Hants & IoW Air Ambulance (outside the church and cans inside parish hall foyer)
- Energy champion representing 'My home made better' – show and tell tours of homes in the parish where eco steps can be demonstrated.
- Recycling of tetra packs for GrOws members and blister packs at Repair Cafes
- Produce swap to prevent food waste – regularly over summer and autumn
- Parish Pollinator Pledge to protect areas for pollinators with wildlife surveys and wildflower areas
- Toilet twinning – funds raised for a toilet to be built in Botswana and twinned with a toilet in the village hall

There are more activates planned in the coming months so please keep an eye out for more information.

This group would not be able to function without the help of volunteers. GrOws needs more volunteers if you would like to help in any capacity please contact Paul Simmons to join the WhatsApp group and find out more.

BE PART OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTION

CONTACT US

If you would like to contact the Parish Council please contact the Clerk by email: **clerk@owslebury-pc.gov.uk** or telephone: **07869 814452**.

If you would like to keep up to date with Parish Council matters, please visit our website at <https://owslebury.org/>. A calendar of Council meetings can be found on the website.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all Council meetings. Agendas are published on the website giving 3 clear days' notice prior to the meeting along with draft minutes of the previous meeting and meeting papers.



WE ARE NOW ON INSTAGRAM!

We are excited to announce that the Parish Council now has an official Instagram account!

Scan the QR code or find us at:

@owslebury_parish_council for news and updates.

We look forward to seeing you there!

COUNCILLOR VACANCY - WE NEED YOU

Why become a councillor?

Being a councillor is all about giving back to your community by bringing your energy, passion, and hard-working attitude. You can make a real difference to the local community and wider society in many ways as a councillor.

Who can be a councillor?

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the communities they serve to put themselves forward for election. You don't need any experience or special qualifications. Your life experience, everyday skills, passion and commitment to people and communities are vital, and it's important that councils reflect the local population.

To be a councillor you need to be:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth.
- At least 18 years old.
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election.

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Astrea Hurlock (Chair) : a.hurlock@owslebury-pc.gov.uk

Yassir Mahmood (Vice Chair) : y.mahmood@owslebury-pc.gov.uk

Mark Egerton : m.egerton@owslebury-pc.gov.uk

John Foster : j.foster@owslebury-pc.gov.uk

Guy Baldwin: g.baldwin@owslebury-pc.gov.uk

Paul Simmons : p.simmons@owslebury-pc.gov.uk