



## **Parish Council Update – June 2026**

June brings the parish into the first true weeks of summer, and with it a noticeable shift in how our shared spaces are used and enjoyed. The longer, warmer days mean more people are out walking, cycling, using the play areas, and making the most of the village's green spaces.

Across the village, you'll see the summer maintenance schedule stepping up — from regular grass cutting and hedge management to repairs, inspections, and preparation for the higher footfall that the season brings. This is also the point in the year when outdoor facilities such as the MUGA, play parks, and open spaces experience their busiest period, so our focus remains on keeping them safe, tidy, and welcoming for everyone. If there are any local tennis teams/clubs that would be interested in using the MUGA during the summer months then please make contact.

June also marks the final stages of the annual governance cycle for parish councils. Following the approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and the completion of the internal audit, councils now move into the period of public rights, where residents can view financial records in line with national transparency requirements. With the new council year underway, committees, policies, and priorities have been refreshed, setting the direction for the months ahead.

As always, even if you're not able to attend meetings, we want you to feel connected to the decisions shaping the parish. This edition includes updates on ongoing projects, progress across our facilities, and the work planned as we head further into the summer season.

## **Planning Highlights**

A parish council is a *statutory consultee*. This means Swindon Borough Council must notify the parish council about planning applications; the parish council does not have the power to make the final decision to approve or refuse them, that decision is made solely by Swindon Borough Council. The parish council's role is to provide local knowledge, raise concerns or objections, and represent the views of the community. Its comments are considered part of the decision-making process. Members of the public can view applications, read parish council comments, and submit their own feedback on the Swindon Borough Council website.

### **Applications Received**

**Application Ref: S/HOU/26/0428** Description: Erection of a single-storey rear extension. #  
Site Address: 3 Anvil Street, Blunsdon, SN26 7BT Comments: No objections

**Application Ref: S/RES/26/0396** Description: Reserved matters application in respect of  
scale, layout, appearance and in relation to approval of outline application reference

S/OUT/20/0549 for the erection of 8 no self-build dwellings. All matters reserved except for access. Site Address: Land East of Woodbine Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon SN25 5DL Comments: The PC objected

**Application Ref: S/26/0265** Description: Demolition of garage, erection of 1no dwelling (Class C3), detached dwelling and associated works. Site Address: Longways, Front Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN26 7BJ Comments: No objection

Application Ref: S/HOU/26/0511 Description: Erection of proposed single storey side/rear extension, two storey rear and associated works. Site Address: Lilac Cottage, Kingsdown Lane, Blunsdon Swindon SN25 5DL (Respond by 13<sup>th</sup> May)

Decision: The PC agreed to support the application, Cllr Jankinson abstained due to interest.

**Application Ref :S/26/0143** For: Erection of an external plant room to house heat pumps, erection of a storage building, path and service connections. Temporary removal of a section of wall on the Southern boundary for plant and equipment in a work area.

At: St Leonards Church, Churchway Blunsdon Swindon

Cllr Jankinson had attended a meeting with the conservation officers at the church who provided positive recommendations on materials. Potential issues raised with path and void around church concluded that an archaeological survey would be required.

Decision: The PC agreed to support the application

### **Decisions Made by SBC**

**Application S/23/0288TB** – Erection of 19 no. dwellings and associated works:

Cllr Gardiner attended the SBC Planning Committee for Phase 3 of the Hills Estate. Although officer recommendation was approval, the Committee agreed to defer the application due to unacceptable construction traffic. The applicant must submit a revised construction traffic management plan.

**Application Number: S/HOU/26/0268/JP** - Proposal: Proposed rear extension and raised ridge Site Address: 95 Ermin Street, Blunsdon SN26 8AA Decision: Granted

A group of residents with concerns about health and safety during the development of the Rivan planning application recently met with council members to discuss the issues raised. Anyone who would like to read the meeting notes can obtain a copy from the Clerk.

### **Annual Parish Assembly**

The Annual Parish Assembly took place in May and brought residents together to hear updates on parish activity over the past year. As a meeting of the electors, it provided an open forum for the community to raise questions, share ideas, and hear directly about the work taking place across the village.

The Parish Council delivered a summary of key projects from the last 12 months, including maintenance of open spaces, improvements to parish facilities, and progress on ongoing initiatives. Residents also heard about the council's financial position for the year, with an overview of spending, priorities, and the areas where investment has been focused.

Local groups and organisations were invited to share updates on their activities, highlighting the contribution volunteers make to village life. The meeting also offered space for

residents to raise matters of interest, from community events to local environment concerns, helping to shape the council’s understanding of what matters most to the parish. The APA is not a council meeting and no formal decisions are made, but it remains an important opportunity for open conversation and community involvement. The feedback gathered will help inform the council’s work as we move into the new council year.

**Speed watch Update**

We’ve recently completed traffic monitoring on Sams Lane to get an accurate picture of how the road is being used. The equipment recorded vehicle speeds and volumes throughout the day, giving us a clearer understanding of any problem areas. Once the results are reviewed, we’ll share the findings with residents and consider what actions may be appropriate.

Details show in the table carried out by our Speed Check volunteers. A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers for carrying out regular speed checks — the information you gather is invaluable in helping us push forward with improvements for speed concerns within the village.”

Date	Location	Vehicles	Exceeding	Maximum	Speed	Start	Finish	Area
		Counted	limit	Speed	Limit			
				mph				
4/13/2026	Turnpike	69	13	54	30	8:30	9:30	Opp. No 16
4/16/2026	Ermin St	95	12	47	30	10:00	11:00	Minerva Heights
4/17/2026	Lady Lane	459	5	42	30	16:00	17:00	Cycle Track
4/20/2026	Ermin St	225	16	51	30	14:55	15:55	Minerva Heights
2/21/2026	High St	130	16	31	20	16:00	17:00	Heart In Hand
4/24/2026	Lady Lane	262	5	46	30	15:55	16:15	Cycle Track
4/27/2026	High St	212	7	32	20	16:00	17:00	Heart In Hand
4/29/2026	Ermin St	222	7	43	30	15:00	16:00	Minerva Heights
4/30/2026	Broadbush	234	7	46	30	10:00	11:00	Junction with Sams Lane
5/6/2026	Broadbush	287	2	37	30	16:40	17:30	Junction with Sams Lane
5/8/2026	Lady Lane	429	2	38	30	15:25	16:25	Cycle Track
5/11/2026	Broadbush	230	3	40	30	8:30	9:30	The Shrubbery

**Grounds maintenance:**

Essential tree work was carried out in May within the churchyard to ensure the safety and long-term health of the trees on site. The work focused on removing damaged branches, improving canopy structure, and addressing areas identified during recent inspections. This maintenance helps protect both visitors and the historic setting of the churchyard.

### **Vandalism and behaviour:**

We've had some disappointing incidents recently, including vandalism to the football team's storage shed, which has left equipment like parking cones inaccessible. There have also been reports of poor behaviour by a group of young boys, including disruption to BPC volunteers and concerns about underage drinking.

Please remind young people to respect our shared spaces and the people within the community. The parish belongs to the whole community, and we want to keep them safe and enjoyable for everyone.

### **Borough Ward Changes for Blunsdon**

Following the recent Swindon Borough Council ward changes, Blunsdon now has one councillor for the area. Despite these adjustments, Nick Gardiner remains the Borough Ward Councillor for Blunsdon and continues to represent our community at Borough level. Residents can refer to the updated ward information on the Swindon Borough Council website for full details.

### **Meet Your Councillor / Staff Member**

Each month, we'll be introducing you to the people working behind the scenes at Blunsdon Parish Council.

### **Meet Kate – Responsible Finance Officer**

Kate joined the Parish Council in April as our part-time Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), and she plays an important role in keeping everything running smoothly behind the scenes. She looks after the council's finances, including paying invoices, managing staff wages, sending out hire invoices and following up on late payments. She also prepares reports for the Finance Committee and will help put together the council's budget later in the year.

#### **What Kate supports:**

Kate already works with a number of other parish councils as a Clerk and RFO, so she brings plenty of experience and a strong understanding of how councils operate. She has a real passion for looking into things, unpicking problems, and finding practical solutions, and she genuinely enjoys helping processes run smoothly. Kate is looking forward to working closely with councillors and staff at Blunsdon and supporting the parish with her proactive, solution-focused approach.

#### **A few words about Kate:**

Outside of work, Kate enjoys knitting and cooking. She is also a child advocate, helping children share their views and be heard. In her spare time, she enjoys walking her dog, although the walks are a bit shorter these days, and going away for weekend breaks to explore new places.

For account/invoice queries, Kate can be contact at: [finances@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk](mailto:finances@blunsdon-pc.gov.uk)

### **Well Done**

A big well done to the Blunsdon Shop & Cafe for winning 'Community Team of the year 2025/26', the staff and volunteers have put in a lot of work in the running of the facility. It is both enjoyed by local groups, charities and the community – a great central hub to the village and its residents. Keep an eye on their Facebook page for events over the next few months, plus extended opening times.

### **Dates for Your Diary**

Blunsdon Open Gardens returns on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th June, bringing one of the village's favourite community weekends back into full bloom. It's a wonderful chance to explore the gardens of Blunsdon, meet neighbours, and enjoy the creativity and care that residents put into their outdoor spaces.

This year's event includes: Open Gardens Look out for details on how to open your own garden for visitors. Whether it's a cottage garden, a wildlife haven, or a well-loved patch full of personality, every space adds something special to the trail. The much loved scarecrow trail will be running throughout the weekend — fun for families, walkers, and anyone who enjoys a bit of village creativity. We're encouraging households to decorate windows, fences, and garden borders with bees — knitted, painted, crafted, or cut-out. A cheerful way to celebrate the vital role bees play in our environment. The Village Hall will be open with: • Cooked breakfasts • Afternoon teas • Homemade cakes • A warm welcome for all visitors. It's always a brilliant community event, full of colour, conversation, and village spirit. Let's hope the weather is kind and that everyone — residents and visitors alike — feels welcome as they explore Blunsdon in full summer charm.

Parish Council Meetings – The next two meetings for the Parish Council will be on:

Full Council Parish Meeting will be on Monday 1st June at 7.30 pm

Finance Parish Meeting will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 pm

Junes key dates:

6th June: Ward Surgery – 11:30am, *Village Shop*

27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> June – Blunsdon Open Gardens

### **Did You Know?**

June is when Blunsdon's ancient oaks fully leaf out. Some of the parish's oldest oak trees — including those near the Ridgeway and village green — reach their fullest canopy in June, making it the best month to see them in their full summer shape.