

Title	Communication Received
Author	Clerk to the Council
Meeting	Woodcote Parish Council Meeting – 16 th July 2025

10.1. A letter seeking the explanation as to why Parish Council monies are being used to replace the Bus Shelters on the Reading Road.

Correspondence Received:

I have not heard from anyone in the village who believes that the new bus shelters should be removed and replaced with shelters similar to the one on the Village Green. They find the existing shelters smart, durable and blending in with the foliage under which they are placed. They are outside of the sign naming Woodcote.

In these times of chronic economic shortfalls in Council spending, how can such action be justified? If more expensive, but probably less practical shelters, should have been constructed, should this extra money not be better utilised with other village projects?

I think very few people will be satisfied with such an exorbitant waste of Parish funds.

I would like the Parish Council to justify their decision.

Response sent so far.

The Parish Council's full intention was to always use parish funds to pay only the uplift from the shelters which are there, to the wooden bus shelters which are more in keeping with our rural location in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Unfortunately OCC installed the current bus shelters, before double checking we were still happy to pay the uplift.

At a public meeting of the parish council, I was given an action to request that OCC replace the shelters with the previously requested wooden shelters, to be more in keeping with our rural location.

OCC have kindly agreed that they will do this, the urban bus shelters will be relocated to a more suitable urban location, and the Parish Council is *only* paying the original uplift cost. There is no additional cost to the Parish Council associated with replacing the shelters.

The justification for this expenditure is:

- We have CIL monies allocated to this project which has been recorded on multiple budgets
- The Council feel that in our Rural AONB location, wooden shelters are more appropriate.
- The Council has made more than one decision on this matter, in public meetings, over the last 12 months, which have been documented in our minutes, and we have received no other correspondence on this matter.

The Clerk seeks the Council's support in this answer, or further guidance on what further response the Council wishes to send.