

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Present:**

Keith Hickson	(KH)	Chair
Jim Coleman	(JC)	Councillor
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Robin Morley	(RM)	Councillor
Sandra Cosier	(SC)	Councillor & District Councillor

**In Attendance:** 11 Members of the public

MIN REF	ITEM
<b>25/100</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Geoff Webster (GW) Vice-Chair Trudi Gasser (TG) Parish Clerk Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor Steve Cosier (SCo) District Councillor
<b>25/101</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> No Declarations made.
<p><i>At this point the agenda was paused to permit Jo Davies from Smiths to present the early plans for gravel extraction north of Sutton &amp; East of Stanton Harcourt towards Eynsham to promote early engagement with the community and Parish Council</i></p> <p>2 Maps in large format were brought and held up for display. (electronic copies have been requested for the PC website)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proposal for areas of gravel extraction</li> <li>2. Sketch of post extraction remediation/final state</li> </ol> <p><b>Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early engagement by Smiths with the community. Informal chat and questions and comments were welcomed.</li> <li>• The Stanton/Sutton extraction is due to replace the current works at Gill Mill and would be extraction and likely similar processing (washing/grading/bagging and possibly some cement work) as Gill Mill in Ducklington (2 miles away). Residents and councilors were encouraged to reach out to Ducklington parish council to find out about their experience with Smiths which had been positive and Smiths prioritize good relations with the community.</li> <li>• Smiths are showing the entire plan for extraction upfront, there will be no piecemeal expansion of the site.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The site stretches from land both sides of Steadys Lane northwards and west to land above Sutton that meets the road to Eynsham as far as Bell Bridge.</li> <li>○ The processing/facility installation will be in the NE corner near the Eynsham road as this is away from flood plane areas, a 3m bund would be proposed around the industrial site to store earth and ensure noise reduction to the village.</li> <li>○ Extraction would begin at Steadys Lane end and move upwards and left back to Sutton with remediation happening once extraction is complete to return land and remove industrial operations as soon as extraction is complete.</li> <li>○ Overall production (here + Gill Mill) will not change, so as one begins the other will ramp down. There will be some overlap of operations, all traffic restrictions will</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

apply including to the overlap (no HGV traffic through Sutton)

- The schedule is approximately:
  - Planning with OCC to be submitted mid 2026
  - If approved work would begin around 2030 and expected to last 20 years
  - Approx overlap with Gill Mill of ~9months
  - Following remediation land will be managed for 30 years, after this it will revert to original owners use
- Traffic was discussed:
  - The access to the site is planned half way between South Leight turn and Bell Bridge. Smiths do not own land beyond the road which makes road design/improvement limited but this will be dealt with through highways consultation and be compliant.
    - Land north of the road was considered for extraction but is significantly complicated by archaeological aspects.
  - All HGV (including customer vehicles collecting materials) will be required to turn right (towards Eynsham). Smiths monitor this strictly and would take action on any of their drivers or customers who did not follow this rule.
- Footpath etc was discussed
  - Footpaths may be diverted to avoid the industrial site during extraction.
  - The bridleway will remain accessible during extraction
  - A foot/cycle path was noted as desirable and could join up with Pinkhill Lane either around the site during extraction or through it following remediation e.g. via bridleway.
- Remediation was discussed:
  - The NW part of site where the facility installation was will return to farmland where it is outside flood plain.
  - The remainder will be landscaped including wetlands, lakes etc.
    - The size of lakes is limited due to Brize Norton and birdstrike prevention
    - A community orchard is proposed north of Sutton
    - Solar panel installations may be installed on some of the lakes/water.
    - Otherwise good nature stuff for newts etc.

There was plenty of discussion with both councilors and members of the public.  
The presenters were thanked for attending to present the information.

<b>25/102</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025 approved for publication.
<b>25/103</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> No matters arising not already listed on the agenda were raised.
<b>25/104</b>	<b>COUNTY &amp; DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS</b> See attached appendix for full reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dan Levy, County Councillor, OCC.</li><li>• Steve Cosier &amp; Sandra Cosier, District Councillors, WODC.</li></ul>
<b>25/105</b>	<b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b> <i>Q. phone signal is very poor in the village, can the PC support and take action to see if a phone MAST could be added on the Church to improve signal in the village and</i>

	<p><b><i>bring in some income for the Church.</i></b></p> <p>Joe noted that he has already discussed this with the Rector and with her agreement had approached EE with the Church as an option if they were looking for a MAST location. He also noted the 'wayleave' payments for services on property are no longer significant, although the mast and some payments would be an advantage. There was some discussion around the church being listed and agreement would be needed from the Anglican Church beyond just with the Rector for an installation. It was noted it has taken a long time to agree broadband for the church due to be installed soon.</p> <p><b><i>Keith took an action to discuss with the Rector how the PC could support the church and approach other mobile service providers.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Q. Industrial Estate Planning Application</i></b></p> <p>A Deanfield resident noted the excessive noise at all hours and excessive lighting from the industrial estate and asked about the planning application for Abbot. It was noted that the Abbot site is not yet operational and has been designed to minimize noise and light pollution. The PC did not object to this application due to be light industrial and expected to create minimal noise outside normal hours. It was clarified that the noise and light is from the existing industrial estate tenant, although it was not clear which ones were the biggest problem. It was questioned if the planning permission for the extant tenants has limits on noise/light pollution given there is significant noise and light overnight. It was noted that complaints over noise/light pollution should be directed to the WODC environment team who can advise on how to log the problem and will follow up with the tenant. It was also noted that if planning conditions are not being followed this should be escalated with WODC planning team.</p> <p><b><i>Not definitive on an action? but I think we essentially have an action to check if there are restrictions on the extant tenants planning and ask them to be enforced if there are.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Q. Traffic Speeding Survey through Letterbox and 'how' traffic calming can be implemented</i></b></p> <p>Resident noted they are upset by speeds and its been 2 yrs since the VAS was working at the Eynsham end of Sutton. It was noted that traffic calming requires funding, a new VAS is due to be installed although in a slightly different location to monitor speed within the 20mph zone in order to be used to lobby for traffic calming. The traffic speeding survey is also being used to gather feedback in support of further measures to secure funding in future.</p>
25/106	<p><b>PLANNING: Applications</b> No applications to report.</p> <p><b>PLANNING: WODC Plan</b> Neighbourhood plan was discussed and it was noted that while there was no funding available to support the production of a neighbourhood plan for the village but the WODC contact (Julie Rowlands) was happy to speak to use about the topic over Teams.</p> <p><b>PC agreed we should set up a Teams meeting to discuss this to help move a village plan forward.</b></p>

25/107	<p><b>ROADS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Speed Signs</b> A MoP queried if there was any point in speed signs as they had been overtaken in the 20mph zone outside Flexneys paddock. It was noted the VAS for Sutton would be installed in November. It was noted the next PC budget could consider allocating further funds for VAS/traffic calming.</li> <li>• <b>Speedwatch</b> No update.</li> <li>• <b>Weight Restriction</b> No update.</li> <li>• <b>Pot Holes</b> Noted pot holes repaired on New Road (despite not being adopted). Noted Steadies lane was the next priority for pothole marking.</li> </ul>
25/108	<p><b>MAINTENANCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flexneys bus stop bench was raised, it was noted Robin has asked John to quote for fixing this and there were wider discussions on bus shelter/bench repair or improvement.</li> <li>• It was asked by John if the concrete posts behind the bus stop could be removed to aid grass cutting. These are from a historic fence and no longer relevant and it was agreed they could be removed.</li> <li>• A defib at the methodist chapel was discussed, it was noted the chapel would need to agree and there would be some cost for electricity use to consider as they require a light in the cabinet. Sandra to follow up with the Chapel and consider funding options.</li> <li>• It was noted additional bark had to be procured to replenish the play parks, an additional £1000</li> </ul>
25/109	<p><b>VILLAGE VOICE</b></p> <p>PC copy, Jim offered to raise copy for the next issue (November)</p> <p>It was noted that Helly has given notice to retire as editor and the deadline for a new editor is the end of this year, with the last issue being in December and there will not be another issue (due February) if a new editor is not in place.</p> <p>The PC noted the effort required by the editor and appreciated it and agreed to promote the need for a new editor to allow the newsletter to continue if practicable.</p>
25/110	<p><b>COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <p>This was delayed until next meeting as the meeting was running late.</p>
25/111	<p><b>GUARDROOM</b></p> <p>Correspondence was received regarding the missing hedge (at the end of the carpark) which was causing a nearby resident concern due to a van parking there to walk their dog and the subsequent dog mess.</p> <p><b>It was agreed to request a quote from John to install a fence where the hedge used</b></p>

	<p><b>to be to prevent people cutting through behind the guardroom.</b></p> <p>It was noted the S106 request for solar panels was rejected.  <b>It was agreed PC should keep trying to fund the solar panels via S106 or elsewhere.</b></p>
<b>25/112</b>	<p><b>VILLAGE HALL</b></p> <p>Village Hall committee were asked about dropping the charge for PC meetings, this was rejected.</p> <p>The Play area was discussed with regard, state of maintenance, use and if it could be moved elsewhere in future. The village hall committee would prefer for it to be moved to allow potential improvements to the village hall facilities to be made in future.</p> <p>A MoP asked about a tennis court, it was queried if S106 could be used to buy land for leisure facilities as anything needs land and it was considered unlikely this was permitted.</p> <p>It was noted the VHall cleaner cost ~£4k/yr, Jane E will pass on the contact to Sandra</p>
<b>25/113</b>	<p><b>S106 FUNDS</b></p> <p><b>S106 Art Fund</b></p> <p>It was noted earlier discussion proposed using money for an art competition to improve interest in the village hall.  <b>Keith to look at guidance on use of the art fund to see if this is possible.</b></p> <p><b>Leisure</b></p> <p>Bike Track Jubilee Field</p> <p>A MoP noted they have found several firms that could build a bike track and noted concrete would not be suitable. One company is suitable and will be approached for a quote, although an official quote of the cost to allow S106 application is not yet available.</p> <p><b>PC agreed to support and assist with the S106 application when a cost/plan if available.</b></p>
<b>25/114</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>Guardroom – complaint about hedge removal and dog walker using area  Discussed under Guardroom, Keith to reply clarifying action to be taken and correct aspects around art funding.</p> <p>CAP Zero net zero energy people (the ones visited us recently)  Open invite to PC/residents to attend workshops on 4 topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stewardship</li> <li>• Domestic retrofit</li> <li>• Nondomestic retrofit</li> <li>• Comms and engagement</li> </ul>
<b>25/115</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fly tipping was raised, in particular the laybys on the main road and it was asked if more could be done about it such as surveillance.</li> <li>• Litter Picking was planned on Saturday and everyone was encouraged to join in.</li> <li>• Thanks were expressed by a MoP for clearing the (road) drains on Blackditch its</li> </ul>

	believed this was part of OCC highways work.
<b>25/116</b>	<b>NEXT MEETING</b> 7.30pm on Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025 in the Old Guardroom

Signed .....

Date .....

## **6 October 2025 County Councillor Report, Stanton Harcourt Parish Council – Dan Levy**

I hope everyone has had a good summer.

### **Budget**

We had been hoping that the new government would stick to its pledge to bring the local government budget cycle forward each year and to deliver multi-year settlements. This would make it much easier to plan spending and charging.

Unfortunately, the Chancellor has announced that the budget won't be till November 26th, and that the settlement for local government will be at the "usual time". That means the last day before Christmas, and therefore local authority finance staff will work over Christmas to prepare budgets.

There is also a review of financing arrangements in place, which won't get finalised until just before the settlement. This is likely to see a substantial reduction in the money Oxfordshire gets.

The ministers responsible for local government are new, and we wait to see the effect of this.

### **Local Government Reorganisation.**

The new ministers have not yet commented on the process for local government reorganisation. You should have seen the three options for the area - one Oxfordshire unitary authority, two authorities (comprising the current West Oxfordshire, Cherwell and City areas as one and Vale, South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire as the other) or three authorities (as above but with an enlarged city authority as well).

The last one of these will leave a tiny and probably unsustainable authority for us in the north and has explicitly been proposed to permit building on the Green Belt, including that between here and Yarnton and Wolvercote.

### **Congestion Charge**

You will have seen that the Cabinet has approved a Congestion Charge for the very centre of the city. This will speed up bus journeys and make them more reliable. It is a temporary measure, while Botley Road remains blocked to motor vehicles, and the intention is to replace it with a filter scheme when Botley Road reopens.

For those who want to drive into Oxford, rather than using another means of transport (including using the Park and Rides, from which subsidised bus rides go into the city) you will still be able to do so, and nearly all journeys can be made without the need to pay the congestion charge, providing you use the nearest point from the ring road to your destination. The congestion charge will discourage the use of the City Centre as a through route, and that is what will help reduce the congestion we have been suffering for decades. In addition, Marston Ferry Road will have a peak time camera, so the way to the JR is via Marsh Lane.

There is much more detail available on the County Council website.

Stanton Harcourt residents will get 25 free passes. You need to apply for these at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars-cars/apply-permit>

Within the first three months of operation, buses from the Park and Rides will be free.

## **Buses**

A reminder that the buses from Eynsham are excellent and you can get them by using the new WOCT operated service from Stanton Harcourt. From Eynsham you can get to Witney, Eynsham, the JR, Summertown and Headington, as well as the city, without needing more than one bus. Adult fares are capped at £3 per single, and you can buy day tickets from £6.20.

## **Roads**

### **Repairs**

You should have started to feel the effects of our record investment in road maintenance. That means potholes are being filled, and key roads are being resurfaced. There will never be enough money for this task, and of course potholes will keep appearing, particularly on routes that have HGVs on them. You will always notice the holes and not the smooth roads, but there really has been an improvement. As an example, if you use the route through Farmoor, you will see it has been fully resurfaced.

### **A40**

The A40 Eynsham to Wolvercote improvements are going through the planning process, with a view to the first work happening early in 2026. These will make bus journeys quicker, with bus stops in more convenient places, and will stop the current blockage places in the A40 being so disruptive. These include the roundabout at Eynsham and the Cassington/A40 junction.

There will be no more long delays at Cassington turn, either for A40 traffic or people driving into or out of Cassington.

There will also be improved road crossings and an improved pavement and cycle paths.

The sequencing of work will see the Park and Ride opening as the first part of the scheme.

The “Access to Witney” scheme, making the Shores Green junction to the east of Witney a four-armed junction, is ahead of schedule. When it opens, we can expect more traffic to use it to get on the westbound A40, and this will reduce traffic on Lower Road and through Cassington and hence on the A40 around Eynsham. It will make it more attractive to go through North Leigh to get onto the A40, and the speed management measures in the village have been put in to manage this.

### **Eynsham Local Cycling and Walking Plan**

The Consultation on the Eynsham Local Cycling and Walking Plan (LCWIP) is open at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/eynsham-and-the-surrounding-area-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan-lcwip-consultation>

The closing date is 27 October - please do comment. It does cover the villages close to Eynsham.

### **Oxford United**

Oxford United got planning permission from Cherwell for the new stadium on land owned by the County Council in Kidlington. This is good news for the club and its fans, and I was pleased to negotiate the deal on behalf of the county council. Among other things it makes it very difficult for any new owner of the club in the future to separate the ground from the teams.

The club has promised that 90% of fans will arrive other than in cars.

As ever, you can contact me at [dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



## **6 October 2025 District Councillor Report, Stanton Harcourt Parish Council – Steve & Sandra Cosier**

### **Planning for a Greener Oxfordshire: Local Energy, Local Action**

We are pleased to share an update on Oxfordshire's Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) initiative. This is a project that will help to shape how we meet our energy needs in the years to come.

Oxfordshire is one of six areas in the UK selected to pilot LAEP, a nationally supported programme that uses detailed local data to plan for the change to net zero. The aim is to identify effective ways to decarbonise our buildings, transport, and energy systems (personalised to the unique needs of each district, including parishes).

Oxfordshire's energy demand could rise by 60% by 2050, driven by electrification of heating and transport. The plan highlights the need for improvements to our electricity grid. Local solar generation could play a major role, with potential to supply up to 25% of Oxfordshire's electricity needs by 2050.

This means thinking about how WODC supports residents in making energy-efficient improvements and ensuring our infrastructure keeps pace with change.

### **Nature Recovery in West Oxfordshire: A Shared Vision for a Wilder Future**

West Oxfordshire District Council has endorsed the Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), a countywide plan to restore biodiversity and tackle the climate and ecological emergency. Covering over 40% of Oxfordshire, including 41% of West Oxfordshire; the strategy identifies priority habitats and actions to support over 800 species while delivering benefits like carbon storage, flood protection, and improved access to nature.

Shaped by over 2,100 public responses, the LNRS will guide Biodiversity Net Gain in developments and inform the district's Local Plan 2041. Its success depends on collaboration across councils, communities, landowners, and conservation groups, making it a shared commitment to a greener, more resilient Oxfordshire.

If you would like to discuss any issues arising from the report, please contact us.

Best wishes

Sandra and Steve Cosier (District Councillors)

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