

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025

Present:

Keith Hickson	(KH)	Chair
Geoff Webster	(GW)	Vice-Chair
Jim Coleman	(JC)	Councillor
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Sandra Cosier	(SC)	Councillor & District Councillor
Robin Morley	(RM)	Councillor
Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk

In Attendance:

2 Members of the public
 Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor
 Steve Cosier (SCo) District Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
25/047	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None received.
25/048	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No Declarations made.
25/049	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 7 th April 2025 approved for publication.
25/050	MATTERS ARISING The PC email addresses will be migrated to new .gov addresses in the next couple of weeks. Members of the PC would receive instructions on the process of the migration.
25/051	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS See attached appendix for full reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Levy, County Councillor, OCC. • Steve Cosier, District Councillor, WODC. DISTRICT COUNCIL SC – Nothing to report yet, due to attend first full council meeting in the next couple of weeks. SCo – Thanked all for attending the PCC meeting on 12 th May – it was well attended. The PC will be inviting the Neighbourhood police team to future PC meetings, on a quarterly basis. SCo highlighted the benefits of the PC having a Neighbourhood Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Neighbourhood Plan which makes a housing allocation benefits from greater protection even if the Council loses its housing land supply • Parish Councils with a Neighbourhood Plan get 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy funds (vs 15% without NP) which we collect from

	<p>development in the parish area. Parishes can also agree to collaborate and pool together CIL funds. Neighbourhood Plans can (and should) make provision for local infrastructure needs. This is the bit that overlaps my role with Julie's neighbourhood planning role.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans can be costly and take quite a long time/ lot of work. SCo suggested the PC invite Kim Langford-Tejrar, the Infrastructure Delivery Lead of WODC to a future meeting to explain the process.</p> <p>COUNTY COUNCIL See appendix for report.</p>
25/052	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Traffic Calming – It was questioned where the Traffic Calming Signs will be located the village. KH confirmed that 2 signs had been ordered, one will be on the approach to Sutton from Eynsham and the second would be by the Old Airfield, opposite the cemetery. It was also questioned whether the signs would be constantly lit – no, they are Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).</p>
25/053	<p>PLANNING No new Applications to report.</p> <p>DL has kindly forwarded a Road Closure Notice for Northmoor, which will also affect the Parish. TG had written to OCC to ask why the PC had not been included in the circulation of the Notice. OCC had not yet responded.</p> <p>TG to publish the notice on the website.</p>
25/054	<p>FIRST AND LAST MILE BUS SERVICE As the representative did not attend the meeting, this has been pushed back to the July meeting.</p> <p>The PC will try to persuade F&LM to continue with the service – GW to progress with F&LM.</p>
25/055	<p>ROADS Speed Signs The VAS had been received and delivered to the installation depot. The PC are awaiting confirmation of the installation date. TG to report to the PC so members can be present to receive a briefing.</p> <p>Speedwatch The current kit is not approved and signage is required – Tom to supply costs of equipment. There are currently 3 volunteers for Speedwatch, it was suggested to make an appeal for further volunteers on the village Facebook page. KH to progress.</p>

	<p>Weight Restriction</p> <p>The petition is going well with numbers slowly rising. A meeting is scheduled for 19th June for a walkaround. JC is in contact with Cumnor PC to discuss their application for a speed reduction to see what can be learnt.</p>
25/056	<p>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING REPORT</p> <p>The meeting was well attended. Three suggestions were made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The trees on the Green are cut back 2. The gutter is cleared on Main Road by the Church 3. The benches in the village are varnished
25/057	<p>MAINTENANCE</p> <p>Trees on the Green</p> <p>A map of the trees requiring attention had been sent to Robin – work to be carried out now to remove the mistletoe and lower branches and lift the canopy of the trees on the Green. More work would be undertaken in the autumn.</p> <p>Benches</p> <p>RM will undertake the repair on the bench on the Leys.</p> <p>General Maintenance</p> <p>RM to liaise with John Woodward regarding maintenance required in the village and carry out an inspection of the play areas and report back to the PC any required work.</p>
25/058	<p>VILLAGE VOICE</p> <p>Copy for next edition: SC volunteered to provide copy for the next issue.</p>
25/059	<p>GUARDROOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC suggested a session at the OGR, cleaning the external windows and tidying the garden. • RM is following up regarding solar panels, copies of the OGR electricity bill were provided for information. • A replacement toilet seat is proving problematic – TG to explore further. • keysafe has been installed • Bookings are going well with regular Yoga sessions and bookings increasing from outside the Parish.
25/060	<p>VILLAGE HALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roof tiles are to be moved by the litter picking group. SC suggested some are retained for the stocks, which are due to be refurbished. RM to inspect the stocks and report back to the PC with suggestions.
25/061	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>A finance update and budget were circulated and noted.</p>

	The Year end 2024/25 accounts were approved. AGAR Parts 1 & 2 to be signed.
25/062	ART FUND An Art Fund of £8k is available to the PC to be claimed by 2033. KH suggested the PC think about ideas. JC suggested asking the parish for suggestions – KH to write an article for Village Voice. There are a number of artists in the village who could be used to produce the piece of art.
25/063	CORRESPONDENCE The Low Carbon Hub requested a slot on the agenda for the 7 July PC meeting, to talk about the Community Action Plan for Zero-Carbon Energy, which covers parts of the parish. The PC agreed – TG to follow up. A resident of Bury Mead raised a request for an area of land to be restored to a grass area following work which resulted in the area becoming un-mowable due to the damage it would cause to the lawnmower. KH to visit and report back to the C – TG to check land registry to see who owns the land. JC will continue to search for possible funding for trees, should the PC decide to plant trees in the area.
25/064	ANY OTHER BUSINESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The footpath on the Leys by the bridge is eroding. KH had reported the issue on FixMyStreet – TG to check the deeds for the Leys to see who is responsible for the path. • SC had been approached by a resident to see if a list of names of those lost during the bombing of the Old Airfield could be placed on the Water Tower. The PC to check records to see whether a list of names exists.
25/065	NEXT MEETING 7.30pm on Monday 7 th July 2025 in the Old Guardroom.

Signed

Date

District Councillor Report - Councillor Steve Cosier and Sandra Cosier May 2025

This report details key actions and ongoing initiatives concerning road safety within our communities, and outlines steps taken to ensure the continued vitality of our Parish Councils during the transition to a unitary authority.

Road Safety Initiatives

We are both committed to enhancing road safety and addressing the concerns of residents regarding speeding. The following actions are being pursued in collaboration with Thames Valley Police (TVP) and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC):

1. Modern Speed Sign Data Handling:

- Thames Valley Police is currently determining the optimal handling of data generated by modern speed signs. This includes an assessment of data flow, departmental responsibilities, and its application in enforcement and traffic planning.
- We have emphasized the importance of data transparency and accessibility. We are working to establish clear protocols for Parish Council access to this data, either directly or through facilitated sharing with TVP, ensuring compliance with data protection legislation.
- The PCC shares this commitment, recognizing the value of this data in targeted enforcement and resource allocation, and supporting greater data sharing with local communities.

2. Engagement Best Practices:

- The PCC is following up on the suggestion that he corresponds with the Norfolk Constabulary to understand their successful strategies for engaging with Parish Council meetings.
- The PCC supports initiatives that strengthen the bond between the police and our local communities and is open to adapting successful models from other regions.

3. PCC Letter to Parish Councils:

- We have confirmed that the letter from the Police and Crime Commissioner's office, addressing speeding and enforcement updates, has been finalized.
- This letter is being dispatched to all relevant Parish Councils, including Stanton Harcourt, ensuring timely communication on crucial road safety matters.
- The PCC is dedicated to providing regular updates to our Parish Councils, and this letter reflects that commitment.

4. Dedicated Road Safety and Speeding Team:

- The PCC gave an overview and presentation on the Dedicated Road Safety and Speeding Team is being prepared. This will detail the team's structure, remit, and operational objectives.
- Crucially, we are ensuring clear lines of communication and collaboration between the Road Safety Team and Community Speedwatch groups.
- We are also identifying opportunities for Parish Council involvement and coordination with the Road Safety Team, to maximize our collective impact.
- The PCC has established this team to provide a focused and effective approach to tackling speeding and is committed to providing the necessary resources and support for collaboration with our local communities.

Actions Taken Regarding Parish Council Future Under a Unitary Authority

I recognize the vital role our Parish Councils play in maintaining the unique character and addressing the specific needs of Stanton Harcourt, Sutton, Northmoor, Standlake, Hardwick, Yelford, and Aston.

A formal communication has been initiated with the UK Minister of State for Local Government & English Devolution. A detailed letter has been sent, articulating the following key points:

- The letter emphasizes the significant contributions of these Parish Councils to the well-being and local identity of their communities within the current two-tier system.
- It raises concerns about maintaining and enhancing these contributions following the transition to a unitary authority.
- The unique position of Parish Councils as the most local tier of government, acting as champions for their residents and stakeholders, is highlighted. Their effectiveness in delivering impactful projects that directly address the unique needs of their areas is underscored.

The letter details the valuable work performed by these councils, including:

- Creating community spaces
- Delivering events and cultural projects
- Facilitating youth engagement
- Supporting the local economy
- Ensuring emergency response and resilience
- Developing innovative community-led housing

The communication stresses the enhancement of residents' quality of life, the fostering of a strong sense of local pride and cohesion, the protection of cherished local assets, and the safeguarding of the unique character of these areas by the Parish Councils.

The importance of their statutory consultation rights on planning matters, ensuring that local voices are heard in development decisions, is reiterated.

The letter urges the Minister to outline specific measures to ensure these Parish Councils are not only maintained but also empowered to continue and expand their vital work.

Specifically, the following information has been requested:

- An explanation of how the new unitary authority will engage and collaborate with these Parish Councils to ensure local needs and priorities are effectively addressed.
- Details of the resources and support that will be made available to these Parish Councils to enable them to continue delivering impactful local projects.
- A description of the mechanisms that will be put in place to ensure the voices of these Parish Councils are heard and considered in the decision-making processes of the new unitary authority.
- Information on how the statutory consultation rights of these Parish Councils on planning matters will be upheld and integrated within the unitary authority's planning framework.

The communication concludes by emphasizing that ensuring the continued vitality and empowerment of these Parish Councils is fundamental to the success of the unitary authority in representing the diverse needs of all communities within West Oxfordshire.

Councillor Steve Cosier
District Councillor SASH

County Councillor Report May

2025



Signing acceptance papers at the election count..

A short report this month.

The results of the County Council elections on 1 May produced a Liberal Democrat majority on the County Council.

The party make up of the council is

- Liberal Democrat 36
- Labour 12
- Conservative 10
- Green 7
- Henley Residents 1
- Independent Oxford Alliance 1
- Reform 1
- Independent 1

I was honoured to be re-elected as the County Councillor for Eynsham Division, which includes Cassington and Stanton Harcourt. Thank you to everyone who voted in the election, whoever they voted for. I will do my best to represent your interests.

My colleagues have also re-elected me as to be a cabinet member at the County Council. Cabinet positions will be formally announced at the County Council meeting on Tuesday.

There is lots of work to do. Things specific to here include getting the A40 bus lanes opened, addressing the planning inspection for Botley West Solar Farm, ensuring that there is continued bus service between Eynsham and the local villages, developing the Local Walking and Cycling Plan for Eynsham and trying to establish a safe bike route from Stanton Harcourt, and making the Local Government reorganisation mandated by the government work for Eynsham and its residents. There is much more.

I was pleased to attend the meeting last week between villagers and the Police and Crime Commissioner to talk about speed enforcement. Matthew Barber was honest about the limitations Thames Valley Police work under, and that they enforce – or fail to enforce – 30 and 40 zones as much as 20s. He was correct that the County Council has a role to play in designing roads to discourage speeding. Average speeds in 20 zones are significantly lower than in 30s, and hospital data from Wales (which is a year or two ahead of us) show much reduced fatalities and serious injury.

Finally.

The tragic news about the deaths of three people in a fire in Bicester, two of whom were Oxfordshire Fire Fighters, was shocking. It has affected the whole county. Our firefighters are professional and brave, and we owe them a huge debt of thanks for putting themselves in danger to protect us.

Please contact me via email dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk