

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th July 2026

Present:

Sandra Cosier	(SC)	Chair and Councillor & District Councillor
Keith Hickson	(KH)	Vice-Chair
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Jim Coleman	(JC)	Councillor
Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk

In Attendance: Steve Cosier (SCo) District Councillor
4 Members of the public

MIN REF	ITEM
26/084	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Robin Morley (RM) Councillor Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor
26/085	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No interests were declared by the councillors present
26/086	APPROVAL OF THE PC MINUTES Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 1 st June 2026 were reviewed, approved by the PC and signed by the chair.
26/087	MATTERS ARISING The 'No Dogs allowed in Playground' signs had been purchased and were passed to SC to arrange installation.
26/088	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS See attached appendix for full report from Steve Cosier & Sandra Cosier, District Councillors and Dan Levy, County Councillor.
26/089	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC Gravel Extraction – Scoping Opinion It was questioned whether the PC had submitted comments to OCC. Yes, objections had been submitted. However, it is OCC's policy not to publish comments received. It was confirmed that the purpose of the scoping opinion was to identify the environmental topics and assessment requirements that will need to be addressed within any future Environmental Statement submitted as part of any planning application. It does not determine whether planning permission will be granted, nor does it represent a decision on the merits of the proposed development. The next step is for OCC to review the consultation responses that have been received, chase any outstanding consultee comments where necessary, and then finalise and issue the Council's Scoping Opinions.

	At this stage, OCC do not have a specific timeframe for when the full EIA planning applications might be submitted, but they will make sure to keep the PC updated as soon as they receive more details.
26/090	PC VACANCY It was confirmed that WODC had not received a request for an election, so the PC can now progress and co-opt a new member. Thomas Elliot-Frey expressed an interest to join the PC. JD proposed the PC co-opt Thomas, KH Seconded, all were in favour. It was RESOLVED that Thomas Elliot-Frey join the PC. TG to progress with WODC to complete the necessary paperwork, etc. Thomas would officially join the PC at the September meeting.
26/091	PLANNING The PC had received an official notice from the Land Registry. Thames Water has applied to HM Land Registry to remove a small area of land from the Title In summary, back in 1989, when the water industry was privatised, the old Thames Water Authority was split up under the Water Act 1989. Its assets were divided between the National Rivers Authority (predecessor to the Environment Agency) and the new Thames Water Utilities Limited. The document confirms that the small plot in question was, immediately before that 1989 transfer date, used as a sewage pumping station. Because of that function, it says the land "vested" in Thames Water Utilities Limited automatically by operation of that 1989 transfer scheme — i.e., Thames Water says they've actually owned this bit since 1989, even though it's currently still shown on the register as part of the Parish Council's title So this isn't Thames Water trying to acquire new land— it's a historic boundary/registration correction. The PC have no objections to this change. Planning applications received which were circulated for comment: APPLICATION NO: 26/01517/HHD PROPOSAL: Installation of PV solar panels to South and West roof slopes Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Corner House New Road Sutton The PC has no objection to this application. APPLICATION NO: 26/01378/HHD PROPOSAL: Installation of new entrance gates and posts. Construction of detached greenhouse. Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Tudor Cottage Eynsham Road Sutton

	The PC has no objection to this application. APPLICATION NO: 26/01452/FUL PROPOSAL: Erection of two 6m posts with lamps (retrospective) Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Unit 9 Stanton Harcourt Industrial Estate Stanton Harcourt The PC objected to the application – TG to compile objections into a response for approval by the PC. APPLICATION NO: 26/01144/HHD PROPOSAL: Erection of timber cladded linked storage containers with a pitched tiled roof ancillary to the main dwelling Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Beech Cottage Sutton Lane Sutton Concern was raised regarding the size of the units – KH to visit the site and report to the PC to consider comments.
26/092	S106 ART FUND The PC discussed locations for the Standing With Giants statues: OGR – Winston Churchill The Green – Air Woman, Air Man and Civilian Child The PC are to progress at the next meeting.
26/093	ROADS No data from the VAS to report this month. The group had yet again followed up their application to OCC, there has been good progress with the proposal which is currently under development prior to going to consultation. Pot Holes: There had been no interest for anyone to become a further super user – a further article to be published in the Village Voice. In the meantime, KH to mark up current potholes.
26/094	MAINTENANCE • The OGR garden requires attention – JC had very kindly cut the grass ahead of a hire, so the hirers could use the garden. • The PC are to undertake an assessment of required maintenance in the Parish during the summer break – each councillor to be allocated an area and submit their finding to the Clerk for compiling into a report. Actions will then be discussed and allocated accordingly. • Winter Salt – The PC are to order a pallet of 36 bags of salt – storage will be required, so a plea will be published in VV to see if anyone, preferably people living near the salt bins, would be prepared to store a few bags until required.

	Alternatively, someone did offer to store bags in his garage.																				
26/095	VILLAGE VOICE Another excellent issue of Village Voice. The August issue will be an online only issue, as there is not normally an issue in August – paper copies will resume in September. The PC contribution to Village Voice was discussed. KH/JD to provide copy for the next issue. The deadline for VV content is the 20th of each month.																				
26/096	GUARDROOM Solar Panels: SC had written to Abbotts to request a donation towards to cost of the solar panels.																				
26/097	VILLAGE HALL No update provided																				
26/098	FINANCE The following payments were made in May: <table> <tr> <td>British Gas - OGR Elec</td><td>£77.89</td></tr> <tr> <td>T Gasser – Clerk & PC Expenses</td><td>£958.34</td></tr> <tr> <td>J Woodward - (Wall @ VH)</td><td>£344.83</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dragon IT - Email</td><td>£594.72</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox - Website</td><td>£11.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox - Email</td><td>£20.99</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dragon IT - IT</td><td>£240.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dragon IT - IT</td><td>£96.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Various - Village Voice Delivery</td><td>£62.26</td></tr> <tr> <td>Bank Charge</td><td>£14.00</td></tr> </table> Revised Cemetery Fees: The PC have not reviewed or increased their cemetery rates for a few years. The Clerk had undertaken research to compare their rates with other parishes. A list of revised rates was present to the PC. JD proposed the PC adopts the revised rates, KH seconded, all were in favour. It was RESOLVED to increase the cemetery rates accordingly.	British Gas - OGR Elec	£77.89	T Gasser – Clerk & PC Expenses	£958.34	J Woodward - (Wall @ VH)	£344.83	Dragon IT - Email	£594.72	Hugo Fox - Website	£11.99	Hugo Fox - Email	£20.99	Dragon IT - IT	£240.00	Dragon IT - IT	£96.00	Various - Village Voice Delivery	£62.26	Bank Charge	£14.00
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26/099	CORRESPONDENCE Nothing to report.																				
26/100	ANY OTHER BUSINESS TG to purchase a clock for the OGR Christmas Tree – JC currently in discussion with a tree specialist to ensure that the replacement tree is suitable for the planned location. SC proposed a bench be purchased for the village Hall – TG to research options and																				

	provide costs at the September meeting. It was noted that the Village Hal Car Park needed some tidying, as there are many weeds, etc. SC to raise with the VH Committee
26/101	NEXT MEETING The next ordinary meeting of the PC: 7.30pm Monday 7th September 2026 at the Old Guardroom.

Signed

Date



Before the cars.....

Funding cuts

A key focus over the next years will be on managing the reduction in income from government.

As reported last time, the government announced a 3 year “settlement”, which includes cuts to grants to the County Council of over £24m. That will

require cuts, which we will try to make as painless as possible to vulnerable residents. It may however be difficult to maintain services that are not statutory. Over 70% of revenue spend is on Adult Social Care and Children’s services, looking after people who need support. We will need to prioritise those statutory, often life critical, services above others. The process of finding the reductions in spend that we will need is now well under way, for a budget that will be approved in February next year.

It also requires us to put up Council Tax by 4.99% per annum, as instructed by the government.

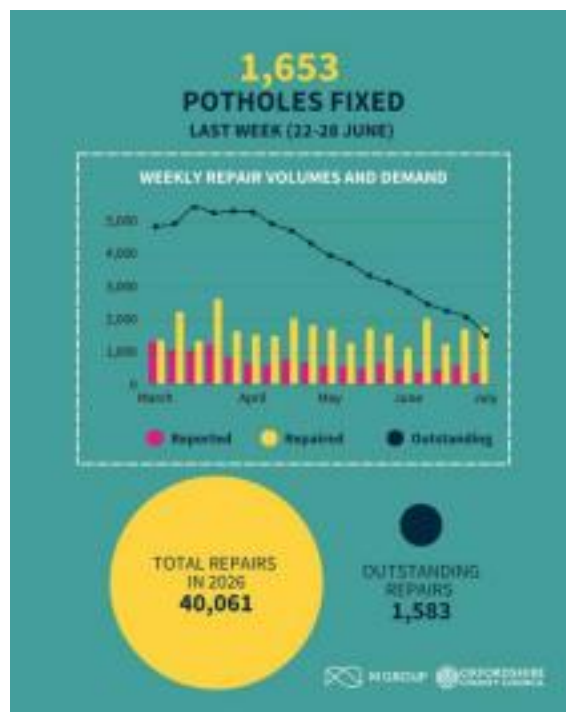
Road maintenance

As the weather improves, the number of holes filled is now significantly greater than that being reported.

I make no apology for repeating the numbers. It would cost around £60m to keep the roads in a steady state, and even steady state means potholes each year. The government has given £39m to the County Council, which is clearly inadequate. We topped this up by £30m, borrowed and needing to be repaid.

Given the huge task, it is impossible to do what we should be doing, which is to deliver a long term fix on each road, to prevent future potholes forming. However, we have commenced a £8m “proper” resurfacing programme, which will sort those roads it covers.

There is also a £4m gulley rebuilding programme. The annual gulley clearance, revived after being reduced to once every four years under the previous administration, showed that a lot of gulleys need substantial reconstruction after the decades of neglect. Gulley maintenance is vital as we cope with increased levels and intensity of rainfall caused by climate change.



There was yet another blockage of the Toll Bridge earlier this month when two lorries got wedged. In the rush hour. That isn’t infrequent. I will continue to campaign for HGVs to be banned from the Eynsham to Farmoor Road and the Eynsham to Stanton Harcourt roads. It is remarkably difficult in law to restrict HGVs, but I will continue to try.

New Highways infrastructure

The ban on right hand turns onto the A40 at Barnard Gate came into effect on May 1. This is in response to the numerous collisions there. Once Shores Green is open – which is imminent (ahead of schedule) - people coming from places like Woodstock and Begbroke will best be able to get on to the A40 via the new junction. It will give Stanton Harcourt residents a new way to get onto the westbound A40 – but please drive slowly and carefully through South Leigh if you choose it. There are proposed changes to speed limits on the A40 past Witney were approved in June. These speed reductions will make the road safer and quieter. It takes only 25 seconds longer to do 3 miles at 60 rather than 70.

Work will begin soon on the A40 bus lanes from the P&R to Wolvercote. Planning consent was finally given earlier this week. Work will be done in stages, starting with creating the junction from the P&R. The construction team are committed to keeping the disruption to a minimum, and have regular meetings with each of the parish councils along the route.

Road Safety

The government has published the road safety statistics for England. They show that Oxfordshire has had a 18% decrease in serious casualties, while the rest of the Thames Valley Police area has had a 20% increase. The difference is the road policy followed by Oxfordshire, introducing 20mph zones where requested by parish councils, among other things including our Vision Zero for road deaths.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-bucking-regional-trend-on-road-safety-as-casualty-figures-fall/>

I think it is fair to say the numbers would be better still if TVP enforced the law more eagerly.

Oxford Traffic Filters

When Botley Road reopens to motor vehicles in August (and National Rail say that is definitely happening!) we will shift from the temporary congestion charge to the filter scheme that was approved before Botley Road closed.

A reminder - you can drive to anywhere in Oxford without passing a filter, but need to choose the right point on the ring road to go in. For instance if you want to get to the Westgate, you need to go up via Botley Road. In addition people receive 25 free passes – if you are already signed up for the congestion charge these will be set up automatically, and for anyone else please order yours.

[About the traffic filters | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Better still, the bus service from Eynsham is excellent, or going to one of the Park and Rides and taking advantage of the combined £2.50 park and bus ticket is cheap and quick.

It is to make sure that congestion in Oxford is sorted out and that buses and people choosing active travel can get around that we have this scheme. And it is working.

As ever, please do get in touch with queries, casework, comments or anything else.
dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

District Councillor's Report – July 2026

Mobile Phone Coverage and Digital Connectivity Update – Cllr Steve Cosier

I have received a response from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) following concerns I raised about poor mobile phone coverage across our communities. The Government acknowledges that some rural areas continue to suffer from poor mobile connectivity and unreliable indoor coverage and recognises the challenges this creates for residents and businesses.

The response highlights significant national investment by mobile network operators, including Vodafone Three's £11 billion commitment to network improvements, alongside major investment programmes from EE and Virgin Media O2. The Government has reiterated its ambition for all populated areas to have access to high-quality standalone 5G by 2030 and notes that the Shared Rural Network programme has expanded 4G coverage to 96% of the UK's landmass.

While these commitments are welcome, I am disappointed that the Government could not provide any specific timetable for improvements in West Oxfordshire. The letter confirms that decisions about where new mobile infrastructure is deployed are commercial decisions for network operators and that Government does not hold information on future rollout locations. As a result, there remains no clear indication of when some of our most persistent coverage blackspots will be addressed.

I also raised concerns about the migration from analogue landlines to digital phone services, particularly for vulnerable residents living in areas where mobile coverage is already poor. The Government states that safeguards are in place, including battery backup solutions, free engineer visits for identified vulnerable customers and additional support during the transition. However, I remain concerned that residents in areas with weak mobile signals could face additional challenges if these arrangements are not properly managed.

My view is that recognising the problem is only the first step. Residents need to see real improvements on the ground. I will therefore continue to press for action by writing directly to network operators to highlight local blackspots, seeking information on planned upgrades, gathering evidence from residents and businesses affected by poor connectivity, and lobbying Government for clearer rollout plans and timescales. I will also continue to monitor the digital landline transition to ensure vulnerable residents are properly protected and that no one is left without reliable access to communications in an emergency.

I will keep residents informed of any developments as I continue to campaign for improved mobile coverage, better digital connectivity and fairer investment in our rural communities.

Local Plan 2043 Update – Cllr Sandras Cosier

I would like to update the Parish Council on the progress of West Oxfordshire District Council's

Local Plan 2043.

West Oxfordshire District Council has now formally launched the draft Local Plan 2043, and the statutory **Regulation 19 Pre-Submission Consultation** is scheduled to take place during August 2026. This six-week consultation will provide parish councils, residents, businesses and other stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on the final draft before it is submitted for independent examination.

The draft plan sets out the District Council's vision for growth and development across West Oxfordshire up to 2043. A significant focus is meeting housing need across the district, with particular emphasis on delivering affordable housing, social rented homes and supporting

community-led housing schemes. The council's intention is to ensure that future growth responds to local housing pressures while creating sustainable communities.

I note that the plan also places a stronger emphasis on linking new development with the delivery of essential infrastructure. This includes transport improvements, education provision and healthcare facilities, with the aim of ensuring that infrastructure keeps pace with housing growth rather than falling behind.

Given the importance of the Local Plan in shaping future development across West Oxfordshire, I would encourage the Parish Council to review the consultation documents carefully when they are published and consider submitting representations during the Regulation 19 consultation period.

This will be one of the final opportunities for local views to be considered before the plan is examined by a Planning Inspector.

Thank you
Steve and Sandra
Cllr Steve and Sandra Cosier
West Oxfordshire District Council