

Minutes of the Northmoor Parish Council Meeting Held on Tuesday 6 August 2024 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall

Attendees

Cllr Juliet Druce Chair
Cllr Lindsey Brangwin
Cllr James Florey
Cllr Stacey Reed
Cllr Henry Spielberg

Mr Chris Isaac Clerk

WODC Cllr Charlie Maynard

3 members of the public

Apologies for absence. To receive apologies for absence.

OCC Cllr Dan Levy, WODC Cllr Steve Cosier

1. **Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of interest, gifts and hospitality.** To receive any requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the Agenda.
Nothing was declared
2. **Public Participation.** To receive questions from members of the public relating to items on the Agenda.
A resident asked if the Parish Council had responded to the OCC speed consultation. The Clerk informed the meeting that the council had already responded to the pre-consultation and that the public consultation was then opportunity for the residents to have their say.
3. **Minutes.** To confirm minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2024 previously circulated. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **Reports.** To receive reports for information only from Councillors and Clerk.
 - a. OCC Cllr Dan Levy sent a report in their absence which is included at the end of these minutes.
 - b. WODC Cllr Charlie Maynard informed the meeting that due to the workload associated with being an MP, he is unable to give sufficient time to the WODC role and so will be standing down in the near future. He stressed that until then he will still be available should he be needed.
Cllr Stacey Reed asked if there was any update from the Environment Agency regarding the permit for desilting works in the watercourse that runs alongside Thameside Court. Cllr Maynard had no update but would take this up directly with the EA if nothing was forthcoming.
 - c. Cllr James Florey enquired if the grit bin currently in the playpark could be moved. The Clerk informed the meeting that this was the only Parish Council owned land, and as other landowners had previously objected to it being on their land, this was the only location.

Cllr Florey also informed the meeting that the current grass cutting storage box needed to be replaced or removed. There was a suggestion that the grass could be mulched rather than collected, but there were concerns that mulching might leave clumps of grass around the playing field. It was agreed to trial mulching this year before the new play park equipment was installed.

d. Cllr Lindsey Brangwin informed the meeting that the SCC grant for the playpark equipment was in progress, and that she would be approaching Cllr Dan Levy for a separate grant application form and the Clerk to secure the Section 106 money.

e. Cllr Stacey Reed had been approached by a resident who had offered their services to create a map of the various walks throughout the parish. It was suggested that the resident attend a Parish Council meeting to brief the council so that they had more detail. Cllr Reed then asked Lysette Nicholls to brief the meeting on the OCC Flood grant progress:

i. On 22 July there had been an ecology survey which had found no signs of any wildlife that would inhibit the bank reinforcement work. As the funding was limited, the area between Nos 8 and 11 were identified as having the greatest need. Due to the value of the work 3 quotes were needed and they were waiting for the third to be returned. It was suggested that OCC Highways (Chris Grain) be contacted as he had been helpful in South Leigh.

f. Cllr Henry Spilberg stated that the weekly playground inspections had commenced.

g. The Clerk reported the following points:

i. Website and Email. The Parish Council website and emails have now moved over to the new www.northmoor-pc.gov.uk domain. The old website is still live but no longer updated there is a message and link to click on the old site, and it will automatically reroute users to the new website in the near future.

ii. SSEN Resilience Grant. SSEN had issued their new grant application forms for this year. There are two separate forms one for Low Carbon Technology (LCT) and the other for Community-led physical and environmental resilience (Resilience). The Village Hall Committee were looking to apply for Solar Panel batteries through the LCT grant and Bablock Hythe Emergency Plan team were looking at the Resilience grant for a generator also in the Village Hall.

iii. VAT Reclaim. The process has now been started for Financial Year 2020/2021. Once the initial paper claim has been processed the PC will be able to claim the other years (FY 21/22 onwards) online which should be far simpler.

iv. Road Closures. The proposed works by Thames Water to connect Northmoor Park didn't happen even though the road closed signs were up from 26 June to 3 July. OCC were contacted but they are unable to take any action against contractors unless photographic evidence of the closed road is provided. In future the Clerk will endeavour to take photos of any road closures signs. The proposed closure of Clacks Bridge (one of the bridges over the Windrush between Northmoor and Standlake) has been postponed with no alternative date given.

v. Bank Mandate. Cllr Lindsey Brangwin was now able to approve bank transactions and so Graham Shelton can now be removed. Cllr Juliet Druce still requires a card. The remaining Councillors should also be on the mandate and

one should be nominated as Internal Financial Controller as per the Internal Auditor's recommendation.

vi. Bablock Hythe Emergency Team. The Clerk is now part of the team in place of the previous clerk. Graham Shelton has remained on the Team.

vii. OALC Portal. There are only sufficient log ins for the clerk of each council to have portal access.

viii. Dog Show. The village fete had requested permission to use the playground for a dog show, as it has a no dogs allowed policy. It was agreed that they could use the playpark, provided that any mess was cleared up.

ix. Allotment Maintenance. The hedges and ditches were currently not on tenancy agreement and so this needed to be addressed in the following years update. In the interim the Clerk will write to the tenants and give them the option of tidying the hedges and ditches or paying for a contractor to do it via the yearly rent. There was a plot that had not been tended this year and there was a resident who was looking for a plot so the Clerk would be looking to resolve this issue.

x. OCC Orchard scheme. A resident had recently enquired if we were going to apply for a grant for an orchard. This had already been rejected as the Parish Council has no land to plant fruit trees.

xi. Parish Online Mapping package. The provider of the new website (Parish online) were offering a free trial of their mapping capability which is £45 per year. Using the trial enabled the waste bins and defibrillators to be placed on the new website's map but the other uses were limited for a small parish. The council agreed not to take this any further.

5. **Policy Review.** To review the following policies

a. Code of Conduct. The Council considered the Code of Conduct and **RESOLVED** to agree to adopt it.

b. Standing Orders. The Council considered the Standing Orders and **RESOLVED** to agree to adopt them with the agreed changes.

6. **Finance:** To consider the following items:

a. Closure of Petty Cash & transfer £18.94 to bank account.
The Council **RESOLVED** to close the petty cash and transfer the money to the current account.

b. To consider invoices for payment itemised below:
The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoices for payment which Cllr Brangwin would authorise online.

i. £36.00 to OALC for the Clerk's VAT Course.

ii. £290 to Scott Gillam for June grass cutting.

7. **Planning Applications.** To consider all recent Applications received from West Oxfordshire District Council detailed below and any other Planning Applications submitted between the circulation of this Agenda and the meeting:

a. **APPLICATION NO: 24/01894/FUL.**

PROPOSAL: Retention of gauging station on the River Windrush, Newbridge.

The Council considered the application and **RESOLVED** to respond that there were no objections to the proposal.

8. **Attendance at Meetings.** To consider attendance

a. The Lower Windrush Valley Project.

Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) was created by Oxfordshire County Council to create and implement an environmental strategy for this area.

Cllr Florey volunteered to attend. Cllr Spielberg offered to support.

9. **Correspondence.** To note correspondence received not otherwise on the agenda where decisions are not required.

a. Community Infrastructure Levy consultation (2 Aug – 27 Sep)

10. **Items for information or next Agenda only.** All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Tue 27 Aug 24.

11. **Date of Next Meeting.** To confirm the date of the next meeting.

The Council **RESOLVED** to agree that the next meeting of the Parish Council would take place in the Northmoor Village Hall on Tue 3 Sep 24 commencing at 7:00pm.

12. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Signed.....Date.....

County Councillor Report Dan Levy 1 Aug 24

Please find a report from me on some of the current County Council related issues. Can I take the opportunity to wish those who are going to get away on holiday a relaxing time.

Transport issues

Roads

Oxford

You will I am sure have read that Network Rail have failed to meet the timetable they committed to as Oxford Station is rebuilt. That is, to put it mildly, extremely disappointing. Botley Road remains closed to motor vehicles at the railway bridge, and we await NR telling us the new expected opening date. In the meantime, the current bus arrangements, which work well, are continuing to be in operation.

A40

Discussions with Homes England continue relating to the A40 improvement project. Once Homes England release the money promised, the Park and Ride junctions and bus lanes can be completed. You will recall that the P&R itself is financed by a different government agency, as part of the Science Corridor project which is largely paying for the junctions at Oxford North and in Witney. The new government has promised a more joined-up way of funding projects, and that is to be welcomed.

Buses

Reliability measures

As Botley Road is one of the key routes into Oxford, the knock-on effect of the closure is that the bus improvement schemes which were due to commence have had to be postponed. It is vital that bus movement in Oxford is prioritised, along with active travel, and it is a shame that there will be a delay in being able to put the filter scheme in place. The filters will permit people to drive to anywhere that they currently can drive to, but cleared key routes for buses.

New capped multi-company fares

With support from the County Council, the bus companies in Oxfordshire have agreed to combined ticketing, with a maximum daily or weekly fare. The daily cap is £6.50 for adults and £3.50 for under 18s. A weekly ticket is £25.00 and £14.50 .

That includes local buses from more rural areas, as well as routes in the city, and between the major towns. The First and Last Bus services from Standlake to Eynsham and Pulhams services from Standlake to Abingdon and Witney are included.

[Find out about MyBus Oxfordshire tickets](https://mybusoxfordshire.org.uk) (mybusoxfordshire.org.uk)

Democracy

The Electoral Commission has completed its final report on Electoral arrangements for the County Council, which Parliament will approve in time for the May 2025 elections. [Oxfordshire | LGBCE](#). This has redrawn the county divisions, to reflect population movements since the last review. There will be a new Carterton South and Bampton division, which will contain Aston, Yelford and Standlake, while Northmoor and Stanton Harcourt will be part of the new Eynsham Division.

This of course follows closely after the first parliamentary election under the new boundaries, and will be followed by an Electoral Commission review of the district boundaries in the next year or so.

I was of course delighted by the results of the General Election in Oxfordshire. And regardless of the party affiliations of the winners, it was also good to see that 4 of the 7 Oxfordshire MPs are current district or county councillors, including Charlie Maynard in Witney and Calum Miller in Bicester and Woodstock, and I am sure they will make it clear that local government is a key part of the good running of our area.

Calum had the first question of PMQs, to the new PM, and asked about Thames Water's dismal performance, an issue that concerns us all in the county.

As ever, please do contact me with issues or concerns.

Dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk