

**Minutes of the Northmoor Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 1 Jul 2025 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall**

**Attendees**

Cllr James Florey                      Chair  
Cllr Stacey Reed  
Cllr Henry Spielberg

Mr Chris Isaac                      Clerk

WODC Cllr Steve Cosier, WODC Cllr Sandra Cosier.

2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence.** To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr Juliet Druce, Cllr Lindsey Brangwin and OCC Cllr Dan Levy.

2. **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.

3. **Public Participation.** To receive questions from members of the public relating to items on the Agenda.

There were no questions from the members of the public, but there was a request from the Village Hall secretary for more volunteers to become trustees of the Village Hall.

4. **Minutes.** To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 25 previously circulated.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

5. **Reports.** To receive reports for information only from Councillors and Clerk.

a. OCC Cllr Levy sent a report, a copy of which was previously circulated to councillors and is included at the end of these minutes.

b. WODC Cllrs Steve and Sandra Cosier sent a joint report, a copy of which was previously circulated to councillors and is included at the end of these minutes.

c. Cllr Spielberg reported that he had been carrying out the playpark inspections and had some minor observations. During the hot weather the slide was getting very warm, there is an age limit warning sticker that has started to peel off and the turf has started dying in places, but this was to be expected during this current weather. The rubber safety matting has moved and some pieces have been caught by the grass cutting machine.

d. Cllr Reed reported that the second grant application to OCC for the bank revetment work had been unsuccessful, even though the indications from the council had been that it would be successful due to the priority of the work. There was a small shortfall in the available funds to complete a fifth property, but Greenwood Parks had been approached and had agreed to meet this shortfall. The work is due to start in September as soon as the nesting season ends. She also reiterated that the Village Hall will close in November unless more people volunteer to be trustees, as the charity rules states there must be at least 5 trustees. (St Deny's Church and the Parish Council provide 1 each).

e. The Clerk reported the following points:

- i. **The External Audit.** The auditors had requested a large amount of additional information regarding the playpark refurbishment, which was provided. They then requested additional information, which was also provided.
- ii. **Playpark.** As well as the safety matting issue that was raised by Cllr Spilberg, the table tennis table was missing its 4 protective corners. The manufacturer has provided details of the spares, which will be ordered and fitted
- iii. **Office Suite Trial.** The PC Website and email provider (Parish Online) has given the PC a one year trial for the Zoho Apps online Office tools and collaboration area. The clerk will evaluate the offering and report back to the councillors. This may be better value for money than a standalone PC laptop and office suite.

6. **Policy Review.** To review, the updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The Council reviewed the updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, considered the changes and **RESOLVED** to agree to adopt them both.

7. **Bablock Hythe Flood Prevention Work.** To consider meeting the £1,922.64 Inc VAT (£1,602.2 Ex VAT) shortfall needed to be able to complete a fifth property, if alternate funding is not forthcoming. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the funding of the shortfall if the alternate funding was not forthcoming.

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

a. **Financial Report and Budget Monitoring Report.** To receive the reports for information.

As of 30 June 25 the Accounts stood at:

- i. Barclays Community Account (Current Account) £4,236.03.
- ii. Barclays Business Premium Account (Deposit Account) £70,715.11  
This consists of £9,863.02 Regular Reserves, £15,759.48 Playpark Replacement / Maintenance Reserve and £45,092.61 Bablock Hythe Flood Prevention Reserve.

Since the last meeting the following funds have been received and / or transferred.

- iii. £17,549.89 transferred from Deposit Account (Bablock Hythe Flood Prevention Reserve) to cover the first invoice from Cookes Marine for the Bablock Hythe Flood Prevention Work.

The Clerk presented the Budget Monitoring Report a copy of which has been circulated to councillors and is included at the end of these minutes.

b. **Internal Financial Control.** To receive a report from the Councillor responsible for Internal Financial Control.

Cllr Spilberg reported that he had carried out the internal checks for the last quarter and all was in order. He had noted that the latest Bank Statements were not in the shared drive and that the Total Asset Value figure on the Statement tab and Asset tab on the finance spreadsheet did not match.

*The Clerk to investigate and rectify.*

c. **Invoices for Payment.** To note payments that have been previously approved, and to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the Payment Schedule.

The Council **NOTED** the payments that were previously approved and **RESOLVED** to agree the payment below.

Reason/Description	Payee	Budget	Amount (inc VAT)
<b>Payments to note that have been approved previously</b>			
Allotment water charges for April	Castle Water	Allotment Water Charges	£10.73
Annual Insurance Renewal	Clear Insurance Management Ltd	Insurance	£621.65
Grass cutting May	Scott Gillam	Grass cutting	£300.00
Allotment water charges for May	Castle Water	Allotment Water Charges	£67.88
Weekly Empty Of Dog Bins - 1 Apr 25 to 30 Sep 25	West Oxfordshire District Council	Dog bin emptying	£522.29
BH Flood Prevention Work - Invoice 1 of 3	Cooks Marine Services Limited	Bablock Hythe Flood Prevention Work	£17,549.89
<b>Payments requiring approval</b>			
Parish Online Website & Email (increase from £325 that was approved at last meeting)	Local Authority Tech CIC	Domain, Website & Email	£354.00

9. **Planning**

a. **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:  
None received.

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

The clerk has received an e-mail from David Miles regarding the closing of First and Last Mile, a copy of which has been circulated to the councillors and attached to the end of these minutes.

11. **Items for information or next Agenda only.** All items for the next agenda to be submitted to the Clerk by Mon 25 Aug 25.

12. **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 2 Sep 25 commencing at 7:00pm.

13. There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:05pm.

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

## **OCC Councillor Report Dan Levy Jun 25**

Please find my monthly report. As ever, you can contact me at dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

News from County Hall

Following the elections on May 1, there is now a majority Lib Dem administration at Oxfordshire

### **County Council.**

There are now two opposition groups with 12 members each, ie Labour and the Tory/Independent/IOA alliance. Unfortunately, the constitution of the county council never envisaged this happening, so both are the “official opposition”. They were offered the opportunity to come to an amicable agreement over splitting opposition roles and over sharing special responsibility allowances. However, that came to nothing and both groups have chosen to take the full allowances they are allowed.

We need to amend the constitution, not least to save the £44k pa this is costing. In the meantime, the administration is getting on with the job it was elected to do.

### **Local Government Reorganisation.**

The government has now responded to the three possible options for setting up unitary arrangements for Oxfordshire. As expected, they demanded more details for each option. The City Council has now released the map of its preferred expanded Oxford City – it takes nearly all of the Green Belt around Oxford, and key places like Kidlington and Culham. It does not include Abingdon or Eynsham. It is hard not to think that it is an attempt to build on the green belt and to try to avoid too many Lib Dem voting areas.

The other options are a) a whole Oxfordshire unitary, which would avoid breaking up key services like Adult Social Care and Children’s Services and b) a two unitary option with Oxford City, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell in one unitary and Vale of White Horse, South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire in another.

The government will make the final decision. Whatever happens, we need to make sure that decisions are taken at as local a level as possible, especially for things like planning applications, and that there is an enhanced role for town and parish councils. Each option is running its own consultation - despite offers to combine them, and despite the fact that government may not be interested in the public’s view, even if we are.

### **Buses**

There will be a new school service to Bartholomew from Standlake and Stanton Harcourt starting in the new school year in September. The numbers of pupils using the service provided by First and Last Mile, who run a scheduled service, has increased to the point where a school specific service can be provided by Pulhams and in which F&LM would have had to make a major investment in new buses. In turn this has called into question whether a scheduled “ordinary” bus route can be provided by F&LM. County officers are working to maintain a regular service from south of Eynsham.

The Witney to Oxford Services run by Stagecoach (E1, S1 and S2) and Pulhams (H2) continue to offer an excellent service for residents. The H2 is an excellent way to get to the JR or to the coaches to London, and it runs every 30 minutes. You can of course park in Eynsham and use these services. And the buses between Abingdon and Witney via Standlake are also more frequent than they used to be.

### **Roads**

The Shores Green junction work is going well. You will have seen that huge amounts of earth need to be shifted to build the slipways. There will be some overnight closures of the route to Witney over the next month. It will be particularly helpful for residents of villages south of the A40 that they will have a new westbound junction, but please be respectful for the people of South Leigh if you use their roads to get to it.

You will also see increased activity fixing our roads – for instance the route between Stanton Harcourt and Eynsham has recently been relaid. This is because of the record amount of money put in the budget for the year that commenced in April.

As promised, we are getting on with the process of annual gully clearances, which we have restored.

### **Local Cycling and Walking plan**

The County Council is working with Eynsham Parish Council, with residents and with local groups to develop a Local Cycling and Walking plan. This looks to improve the places in which there are obstacles to getting around and to prepare for bigger projects if the money becomes available. The emphasis is on routes within the village, but it will also draw attention to the routes between the Eynsham and its neighbours, including the currently sub-optimal bridleways to South Leigh and to Stanton Harcourt and Northmoor

Sue Osborne and Tricia Crowley joined a set of county council officers, and me, for a long walk around the village pinpointing areas to improve.

There is time for residents to contribute by adding to the interactive map which can be found at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/eynsham-lcwip-engagement/places/eynsham-and-the-surrounding-area-lcwip-area-map>

### **Car access to Oxford**

The County Council is looking to introduce an interim version of the bus filters scheme, while Botley Road remains closed to motor vehicles at the station. This is designed to make bus travel quicker and has been called for by the two main bus companies.

Most of the features of the originally planned filter scheme have remained, but because of the removal of the Botley Road access to the city centre for cars, it has moved from a “penalty” scheme to a “pay for access” scheme. It will cost £5 per day to pass a camera point - but it remains possible to get to everywhere outside a very small area (which includes County Hall, by the way) by car, without charge, by choosing your route. The intention is to discourage the use of the city centre as a through route. £5 is of course less than the return bus fare.

There will be exemptions for small businesses that need to use the city, and a limited number of passes for residents. The charging period is proposed to be 7am to 7pm. It should have a small effect for Eynsham Division residents, who will still be able to choose the best access point off the ring road to get to their city destination, if they choose to drive. There is a consultation on the proposed scheme currently live.

## **WODC Report Steve Cosier and Sandra Cosier Jun 25**

### **West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2041:**

West Oxfordshire District Council has begun a six-week public consultation on their Local Plan 2041, running from 26 June through to 8 August 2025. This Local Plan is the key strategic document that will determine how our district develops through to 2041, including where new homes are built, how jobs and services are provided, and what infrastructure improvements are made.

The consultation focuses on three main areas that will shape the final plan. First, a draft vision for what West Oxfordshire should look like in 2041, setting out the district council's long-term ambitions. Second, revised the objectives for the Local Plan, which are the key priorities designed to achieve that vision. Thirdly, consultation on their preferred policy options (these are the approaches WODC want to take to address the major challenges facing our district, including the climate emergency, housing affordability, and nature recovery).

We should emphasize that this is not yet a draft Local Plan, and WODC are not proposing specific development sites at this stage. Instead, they are seeking feedback on the direction and policy approaches that will underpin the eventual draft plan. A separate consultation on actual development sites will follow later this year, which will be particularly relevant for us as a parish council when considering potential impacts on our community.

The district council has made the consultation accessible through several channels. There's an online platform where residents can provide detailed feedback on each section of the proposals. Hard copies are available at council offices and all district libraries for those who prefer physical documents. Most importantly for residents, WODC are holding nine public drop-in events across the district during July, including sessions at nearby venues such as Long Hanborough, Chipping Norton, Eynsham, and Witney, where residents can speak directly with planning officers.

The consultation closes on 8 August.

### **Fire at Dix Pits:**

We would both like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the local Fire Service for their actions in extinguishing a fire at Dix Pits this month. The fire causes significant damage to one of the buildings on the site and thankfully no one was injured. The fire is now being investigated by the specialist Thames Valley Fire Service Investigation Unit.

### **Have your say on a new future for local government in Oxfordshire**

Oxfordshire County Council is inviting residents to give their views on a proposed shift to a single unitary council—Oxfordshire Council—which would take responsibility for all local services. This change would replace the current two-tier system made up of six councils. The government wants to simplify local government to improve service delivery and efficiency. A single council would handle everything from highways, libraries, and education to waste collection, housing, planning, and parks—providing joined-up services across the county.

**The options:**

**One unitary council** - Oxfordshire Council (the County Council's preferred option).

**Two councils** - Oxford and Shires Council (Cherwell, Oxford City, West Oxfordshire) & Ridgeway Council (South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse, West Berkshire).

**Three councils** - Greater Oxford, plus separate northern and southern unitaries including West Berkshire.

**How this could benefit residents:** A single council could improve service coordination, reduce bureaucracy, deliver savings that can be reinvested locally, provide simpler access to services.

Your opinions are important. Fill out the online survey before 11:59pm on Sunday 27 July 2025.

Your input will help shape the final proposal.

Go to: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation>

Many thanks

Cllr Steve Cosier – [steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk)

Cllr Sandra Cosier – [sandra.cosier@westoxon.gov](mailto:sandra.cosier@westoxon.gov)

**E-mail from David Miles regarding the closing of First and Last Mile**

As you are no doubt aware First and Last Mile had to make the difficult announcement on Friday that it will be closing and that the last day of service will be Friday 29 August. This is after it was confirmed that West Oxfordshire Community Transport have been awarded the contract to run a slightly reduced 418 service.

FLM does not want to close down and despite challenges faced by Directors retiring and the need for new buses has a dedicated team committed to continuing. Unfortunately however WOCT have undercut us and being dependent upon funding from OCC the decision was taken out of our hands.

The new timetable has a few alterations affecting Northmoor and Bablock Hythe but remains broadly a 2 hourly service. It is important to note that services will now serve Northmoor in both directions. It is not yet clear who will be operating the 471 Shopper Service to Witney but I am confident it will continue.

FLM would like to place on record it's thanks for the support both financial and verbal that it has received from Northmoor Parish Council over the last few years. We are very sorry to be bowing out but it has been an honour and a privilege.

Regards

David Miles

First and Last Mile

**Budget Monitoring Report to the end of June 25**

Last Year Actual Spend		This Year's Budget	This Year's Actual Spend to end June	Remaining Budget
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
	<b>Staff Costs</b>			
£ -	Clerk's salary	£ 5,000.00	£ -	£ 5,000.00
	Meetings			
£ 245.00	Hall Hire	£ 260.00	£ -	£ 260.00
	<b>Highways</b>			
£ 2,175.00	Grass cutting	£ 2,250.00	£ 600.00	£ 1,650.00
£ 870.48	Dog bin emptying	£ 958.00	£ 435.24	£ 522.76
£ -	Village upkeep	£ 400.00	£ -	£ 400.00
£ 61.02	Allotment Water Charges	£ -	£ 84.17	-£ 84.17
£ 79.00	Allotment Field Rental	£ -	£ 100.00	-£ 100.00
	<b>Insurance and Auditing</b>			
£ 443.75	Insurance	£ 582.00	£ 633.38	-£ 51.38
£ 200.00	Audit	£ 615.00	£ 310.00	£ 305.00
	<b>Subscriptions</b>			£ -
£ 235.00	Subscriptions	£ 215.00	£ -	£ 215.00
	<b>Charitable Donations</b>			
£ 150.00	S137 Grants	£ 150.00	£ -	£ 150.00
	<b>Sundries</b>			
£ -	Admin Costs	£ 400.00	£ -	£ 400.00
£ 35.00	Information Commissioner Fee	£ 40.00	£ -	£ 40.00
£ 228.00	Domain, Website & Email	£ 325.00	£ 295.00	£ 30.00
£ 9,011.96	VAT Paid	£ -	£ 3,071.03	-£ 3,071.03
<b>£ 13,734.21</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 11,195.00</b>	<b>£ 5,528.82</b>	<b>£ 5,666.18</b>
				£ -
	<b>INCOME</b>			£ -
£ 5,295.00	Precept	£ 11,195.00	£ 5,597.50	£ 5,597.50
£ 538.00	Allotment Tenant Rental	£ -	£ 34.00	-£ 34.00
£ 1,302.37	VAT Refund	£ -	£ 17,660.78	-£ 17,660.78
£ 261.72	Savings Account Interest	£ -	£ 236.35	-£ 236.35
<b>£ 7,397.09</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 11,195.00</b>	<b>£ 23,528.63</b>	<b>-£ 12,333.63</b>

Note:

The budget figures for expenses are currently Inc VAT but the associated spend to date figures are Ex VAT. This will be rectified before the next meeting