

**Minutes of the Northmoor Annual Parish Meeting
Held on Thursday 14 May 2026 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall**

Attendees

Cllr Juliet Druce Chair
Cllr Lindsey Brangwin
Cllr James Florey
Cllr Stacey Reed
Mr Chris Isaac Secretary

OCC Cllr Dan Levy

WODC Cllr Sandra Cosier

6 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence.** To receive apologies for absence.
WODC Cllr Steve Cosier

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record.

3. **Chair's report.** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and then gave their report, which is included at the end of the minutes. With respects to the Flood Prevention work at Thameside Court, it was noted that the last episode of flooding had not affected them a bad as previous years, but that may have been purely down to the flood levels. Stacey Reed added that they had not applied for the OCC Flood Grant this year as it was limited to £25,000 and that was not sufficient for the remaining sections due to the price of steel and the complexity of the remaining stages.

4. Reports from representatives of village organisations:

a. **St Deny's Church**

Lindsay Herford presented the St Deny's Church report, a copy of which can be found at the end on the minutes.

b. **The Thursday Club**

Unfortunately there was nobody present from the Thursday Club to give a report. It was noted that it was as popular as ever, providing a hot meal every Thursday to people from the parish and surrounding villages. Sandra Cosier added that Liz Strange has been appealing to the residents of Stanton Harcourt and Sutton for more cooks, but as far as everyone present was aware, it has only been published in their local newsletter. It was suggested that Liz be pointed in the direction of the two Northmoor email lists.

c. **Village Hall**

Stacey Reed presented the Village Hall report, a copy of which can be found at the end on the minutes.

5. **Village Events.**

Below is a list of the known events that are happening in the village this year, timings and further details will be published around the parish in due course.

- a. 20 June, Quiz night in the Village Hall.
- b. 5 September (am), Summer Fayre in the Village Hall
- c. 5 September (pm), Dog Show in the Red Lion pub garden
- d. 11 October, Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall
- e. 5 Dec 26, Christmas Pantos in the Village Hall, children in the afternoon and adults in the evening.

6. **Any Other Business**

A resident asked if it would be possible to fill potholes with sand and gravel, as there seemed to be no progress with getting them fixed.

OCC Cllr Dan Levy suggested that it would be a very temporary fix and could leave the person who filled the holes liable if there was any damage caused by the materials used. He added that there is an extensive road repair programme underway, but due to the sheer number of potholes it will take some time to complete.

The resident then asked if anything such as speed bumps could be installed to slow vehicles as they approached the village.

Cllr Levy advised that you could not install speed bumps. If funding was provided by the Parish Council, OCC would carry out a survey, and if it was found that speeding was an issue OCC would fund speed control measures. There was also the option for the Parish Council to install speed indicator signs if they had sufficient funds. He added that one option would be to consider setting up a community speed watch team.

7. There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7:05pm.

8. Chair's Report for period Apr 25 to Mar 26

The Parish Council has met 7 times in the past year, and Parish Councillor attendance has averaged 93%.

The Parish Council saw Councillor Henry Spilberg stand down from the PC in September, and the position remained unfilled for the remainder of the Civic year.

Parishioners in attendance have been as low as zero and as high as 13, an average attendance of 2.9 per meeting.

We have also had County Councillor Dan Levy present for two of the meetings, and District Councillors Steve Cosier and Sandera Cosier attending six.

Among matters considered

Planning: There have been 6 Planning Applications considered this past year.

Roads: The state of the roads is regularly reported to OCC, nevertheless potholes continue to be a problem.

Precept: The Parish Precept for this year (26/27) was increased by 3%. Making the Parish Council portion of a band D property tax £58.47 p.a. which is an increase of 3.17%. This increase was in line with current guidance to cover expected increases due to inflation.

Allotments. There were no unused allotments in 2025. The allotment rental charge covers the cost to the Parish of the rent and water rates.

Thameside Court Flood Prevention. Stacey Reed and Lysette Nicholls again worked tirelessly to obtain further grant funding which enabled a larger section of the flood prevention work at Thameside Court to be completed in September as planned after the nesting season had finished. Whilst only anecdotal at this point the one flood that has happened since the work was far less than previous times. It is hoped to be able to raise further funds to enable the whole bank to be completed.

Church Report

We know the village values its church, even if few people attend services (apart from Remembrance Sunday and Christmas). So in order to keep the church doors open, we've been busy thinking of ways of fundraising and Mary Anne Florey started the once monthly (on Thursday mornings), Coffee, Cake and Clean, where people are invited to help clean the church and keep the churchyard tidy, in return for coffee and cake. It's also a great way to meet people, as we love to welcome all villagers to join us for coffee and cake!

And we have big plans for a few mod cons to make the church even more adaptable for other events. We plan to install a toilet and a small kitchen area with running water, under the balcony. We also hope to restore the 18th-century church clock on the tower and get it to chime again; replace the rotting Victorian woodblock floor and improve the heating and sound system. All of this won't come cheap, so we'll be applying for grants and doing as much fundraising as possible. If anyone has ideas, experience or skills we'd be glad to hear from you.

Last year we had a staged performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* in the church; a candle-lit concert by talented pupils of Bartholomew's School; a sale of plants - on Saturday the 23rd of May this year - and of course the traditional Harvest Lunch, with delicious Shelton lamb and pork and home-made puddings. The Rector will be starting a new All-Age family service on 1st Sundays in the next few months, hoping to attract young families, so watch out for that. It would be so wonderful to have families in church again!

We did have lots of children at the annual Lambing Service a couple of weeks ago. The Sheltons kindly invited us to their farm to meet some of their adorable lambs. Lots of people of all ages came to this very happy occasion and £200 was raised for Farm Africa.

In addition to these events, we have the Pre-loved Bookstall in the church, again an initiative started by Mary Anne Florey. It's open all day, every day: if you haven't been in recently, do look in - there's a tremendous selection of books to suit all tastes.

Of course we're always happy to arrange christenings, weddings and funerals to take place in church. It's all part of what we see as the primary purpose of the church: to focus worship on God, and to serve the community.

Village Hall Report

The committee at Northmoor Village Hall is excited to begin a new chapter for the hall and to work more closely with our village community.

We're planning a range of fun fundraising events throughout the year, including quizzes, a summer fayre, and a dog show. There is an upcoming Pilgrimage Walk and there will be some Buddhists' staying in the hall overnight. They will be welcomed to the hall by the trustees along with the Rector of St Denys. So, we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Over the past few months, the hall has also been receiving some much-needed TLC and improvements. Recent work includes repairing a leak in the roof, giving the front door a beautiful new paint job, and clearing, moving, and replanting the troughs around the hall. We've also installed nesting boxes on the back wall to encourage local wildlife, and coming very soon will be a covered cycle area.

We're delighted that hall bookings are steadily increasing, with more people and groups making use of this valuable community space.

The chair has managed to secure another 12-month contract free of charge with Gigaclear meaning that the hall can continue to use the community Wi-Fi hub free of charge.

We would love to hear ideas and suggestions from the community about future events, activities, or improvements. We're also always happy to welcome new volunteers or anyone interested in joining the committee.

Together, we hope to make the village hall a vibrant and welcoming space for everyone in the community.