

Newington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
10th February 2026 at 7:00pm in St Giles Church

Present:

Cllr Nettleton; Cllr Black; Cllr Howlett (DH); Cllr Howlett (NH); Cllr Thomson;
In Attendance: Clerk/RFO Lawrence Wootten; Cllr Turner (District Councillor)
Members of the public: None

063.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – County Cllr Edwards, who had written to the Parish Council to explain that she was taking time away from her role as County Councillor for health reasons.

064.25 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – None

065.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – No members of the public present

066.25 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The reports from District Councillor Turner for January and February had been circulated to the Parish Council and are available as Annexes A and B to the minutes of this meeting.

067.25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

(a) The minutes of the last meeting held on 9th December 2025 were approved, signed by the Chairman and will be added to the website by the Clerk.

ACTION FOR CLERK – post approved minutes on website.

(b) – Update on progress from the last minutes – to report progress on items that do not require further discussion.

068.25 The Clerk/RFO reported that the precept request had been submitted and he had received confirmation of receipt from SODC. The precept would be paid into the Unity Trust accounts.

069.25 The Clerk had submitted the financial monitoring return for the SODC Councillors Grant Scheme 2023-2024 which had awarded the Parish Council £1000 towards the purchase of the defibrillator. SODC had confirmed receipt and required no further information.

070.25 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The bank reconciliation and financial report were presented by the Clerk/RFO and approved. On 31st January 2026 the balances of the council's accounts were noted and approved as:
Barclays Community Current Account - £4112.52
Barclays Savings Account - £568.60
Unity Trust T1 Current Account - £338.00
Unity Trust Instant Access Account - £0.00

b) Direct debits paid since last meeting:-

22 nd December 2025: Direct Debit payment for Hugo Fox website/domain	£11.99
22 nd December 2025: Direct Debit payment for Hugo Fox email	£11.99
20 th January 2026: Direct Debit payment for Hugo Fox website/domain	£11.99
22 nd January 2026: Direct Debit payment for Hugo Fox email	£11.99
31 st December 2025: Unity Trust monthly banking fee	£ 6.00
31 st January 2026: Unity Trust monthly banking fee	£ 6.00

c) Receipts since last meeting:
8th December: Barclays Bank – Interest Received £1.65

- d) Invoices for payment – the following invoices were approved for payment:-
- | | |
|--|---------|
| L J Wootten – Clerk’s salary (November 2025) minus PAYE and NI | £195.92 |
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| HMRC – PAYE and NI on Clerk’s salary (Nov 2025-Jan 2026) | £197.84 |
- e) Council approved Power to Act to the Clerk/RFO and Chairman during February and March to allow all necessary invoices and payment to be made.
- f) It was agreed that RGM Accountancy & Taxation Services Limited would be appointed as the Parish Council’s Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 AGAR.
- g) The Council agreed to renew its membership of the OALC for 2026/27.
- h) The Clerk’s salary for 2026/27 (4 hours per week at NALC SCP 12) was agreed.
- i) The IT Policy was agreed and adopted. Clerk to add to the website.
ACTION FOR CLERK – add the IT Policy to the website.
- j) The Website Policy was agreed and adopted. Clerk to add to the website.
ACTION FOR CLERK – add the Website Policy to the website.

071.25 PLANNING

No planning applications received.

072.25 COUNCILLOR & PARISH REPORTS

- a) **Community Liaison/Notice Board** – Nothing new to report
- b) **Event Co-ordination** – Nothing to report
- c) **Website** – Nothing new to report – website being updated regularly
- d) **Highways & Potholes**
Cllr Black had met with a member of the Oxford County Council Volunteer Coordination Team – Highway Maintenance to review the new procedures for FixMyStreet Superusers.
The Clerk had written to Freddie van Mierlo regarding the continuing flash-flooding issue being suffered by two properties in the village and was waiting for a response.
- e) **Rights of Way** – nothing to report
- f) **Allotments**
The Clerk will contact Mr Jaunet regarding allotment rents for 2026.
ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Mr Jaunet regarding allotment rents.
- g) **Churchyard/burial ground mowing**
It was agreed that some quotes needed to be obtained for strimming/mowing the churchyard/burial ground. Cllr Howlett agreed to contact a contractor, and the Clerk will also contact a contractor.
ACTION FOR CLLR HOWLETT & CLERK – contact contractors for quotes for churchyard/burial ground mowing/strimming

073.25 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Newington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025

074.25 Cllr Black raised the issue of WiFi in the Church and presented the possible costs of using fibreoptic broadband through Gigaclear. Would it be possible for the Parish Council to take on the contract?

It was agreed that the ongoing costs of a broadband contract might not be cost-effective in terms of benefit to the community, but more information was needed before deciding whether to proceed.

Cllr Turner suggested that Gigaclear might install broadband to village halls (and therefore maybe churches) for free. The SODC Councillors Community Grant Scheme opens again in July, and it would be possible for a grant application to be made for this kind of initiative.

075.25 The possibility of bringing a mains water supply to the church building was discussed by Councillors, but it was agreed that this would be a matter for the Parochial Church Council to consider.

076.25 COUNCILLOR AND CLERK TRAINING

- a) no training requested
- b) no courses taken recently

077.25 CORRESPONDENCE – To note correspondence received where decisions are not required

- OALC monthly newsletters
- SODC & VoWHDC media releases
- Oxfordshire County Council media releases

078.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 25th March 2026

Meeting closed at 7.54pm

Signed Date