

**Newington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
25th March 2026 at 7:00pm in St Giles Church**

Present:

Cllr Nettleton; Cllr Black; Cllr Howlett (NH);

In Attendance: Clerk/RFO Lawrence Wootten; Cllr Turner (District Councillor)

Members of the public: None

079.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Howlett (DH); Cllr Thomson; County Cllr Edwards; District Cllr Turner

080.25 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – None

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

082.25 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The report from District Councillor Turner for March had been circulated to the Parish Council and is available as Annex A to the minutes of this meeting.

083.25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

(a) The minutes of the last meeting held on 10th February 2026 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 – nothing to report.

084.25 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The bank reconciliation and financial report were presented by the Clerk/RFO and approved.

On 27 February 2026 the balances of the council's accounts were noted and approved as:

Barclays Community Current Account - £4,088.54

Barclays Savings Account - £568.60

Unity Trust T1 Current Account - £86.20

Unity Trust Instant Access Account - £0.00

b) Direct debits paid since last meeting:-

20th February 2026: Direct Debit payment for Hugo Fox website/domain £11.99

23rd February 2026: Direct Debit payment for Hugo Fox email £11.99

28th February 2026: Unity Trust monthly banking fee £ 6.00

c) Receipts since last meeting:

None received

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

L J Wootten – Clerk's salary (December 2025) minus PAYE and NI £195.92

L J Wootten – Clerk's salary (January 2026) minus PAYE and NI £195.92

HMRC – PAYE and NI on Clerk's salary (Nov 2025-Jan 2026) £197.84

Council noted and approved the following payment made under Power to Act as agreed at the February meeting (Minute Reference 070.25e):

HMRC – PAYE and NI on Clerk's salary £ 92.20

- e) It was agreed the Clerk would register Newington Parish Council as a public authority data controller and pay the Information Commissioner's Office annual data protection fee of £52.00 (Direct Debit).

ACTION FOR CLERK – register the Parish Council with the Information Commissioner's Office.

- f) The Clerk's rates of expenses (printing, mileage etc) were approved and will be added to the website (under Policies).

ACTION FOR CLERK – add Clerk's rates of expenses to website under Policies.

- g) A transfer of £1,500 from the Barclays accounts into the Unity Trust accounts was agreed to ensure all outstanding invoices and payments can be made before the end of the 2025/26 tax year. Cheques were signed according to the banking mandate for the Clerk to pay in to the Unity Trust account.

ACTION FOR CLERK – pay-in Barclays cheque transfer to Unity Trust account.

- h) Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council were agreed. The meetings would be held on Wednesday 27th May 2026, with the Annual Parish Meeting beginning at 7.00pm and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council beginning at 7.30pm. Clerk to add details and agendas of each meeting to the website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – add details and agendas of the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to the website.

- i) The Council approved Power to Act by the Clerk/RFO and Chairman during April and May to ensure all necessary payments were made.

085.25 PLANNING

No planning applications received.

086.25 COUNCILLOR & PARISH REPORTS

a) Community Liaison/Notice Board

The possibility of refurbishing the noticeboard was discussed. Costs and possible contractors to be investigated.

b) Event Co-ordination – Nothing to report

c) Website – Nothing new to report – website being updated regularly by the Clerk.

d) Highways & Potholes

Cllr Black informed the meeting that he is a FixMyStreet SuperUser and is able to authorise works.

There were continuing issues with flash-flooding of two properties in the village. Clerk and Cllr Black to continue to chase this up with Freddie van Mierlo MP's office, who had contacted both Thames Water and Oxfordshire County Council. The possibility of raising the dropped-kerb had been mentioned by Oxfordshire County Council, and it was agreed that this should be requested. Clerk to reply to Freddie van Mierlo's office, to request this work is carried out.

ACTION FOR CLERK – reply to Freddie van Mierlo's office, requesting that they contact Oxfordshire County Council to request that the dropped-kerb is raised. .

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

The Clerk would contact R Taylor Landscapes regarding churchyard/burial ground mowing/strimming. This contractor carries out similar work for Waterperry with Thomley, and Holton Parish Councils and is recommended by both.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact R Taylor Landscapes for quotes for churchyard/burial ground mowing/strimming

087.25 OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The Clerk briefed the Council on the 3 proposals that had been submitted to Government for Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire, and informed them that a petition from the Oxford Greenbelt parishes and MPs (including Freddie van Mierlo) had been submitted in opposition to the Greater Oxford proposal. Once all submissions and comments had been received, the decision will be made by the Government, subject to parliamentary approval, if any of the proposals will be implemented, with or without modification. A final decision is expected to be announced in the summer of 2026, with elections for the new unitary authority, or authorities, in May 2027, with the new structure “going live” in April 2028.

Newington falls outside the boundaries of the Greater Oxford proposal, so would either be in an Oxfordshire or Ridgeway Unitary Authority.

088.25 ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Black reported that a contractor working on behalf of Thames Water had been working in the village on access points for utilities.

089.25 COUNCILLOR AND CLERK TRAINING

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

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

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

091.25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday 27th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

Meeting closed at 7.46pm

Signed Date