

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st June 2026

Present:

Sandra Cosier	(SC)	Chair and Councillor & District Councillor
Keith Hickson	(KH)	Vice-Chair
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Jim Coleman	(JC)	Councillor
Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk

In Attendance:

Steve Cosier	(SCo)	District Councillor
Dan Levy	(DL)	County Councillor
4 Members of the public		

MIN REF	ITEM
26/066	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Robin Morley (RM) Councillor Geoff Webster (GW) Councillor
26/067	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No interests were declared by the councillors present
26/068	S106 ART FUND – STANDING WITH GIANTS Dan Barton of Standing with Giants attended the meeting to present a proposal to the PC to supply and install steel sculptures to be funded by the S106 Art Fund available to the PC. The PC proposed installing 3 statues on the Green and 1 at the Guardroom. It was suggested to discuss the proposal with RBL and the Historical Society to see whether they would want an involvement. To be progressed at the next PC meeting.
26/069	APPROVAL OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PC MINUTES Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 th May 2026 were reviewed, approved by the PC and signed by the chair.
26/070	APPROVAL OF THE PC MINUTES Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 11 th May 2026 were reviewed, approved by the PC and signed by the chair.
26/071	MATTERS ARISING Light Pollution at Industrial Estate – a Light Pollution Office had visited the Industrial Site but there was no sign of any light pollution, but this could be due to the current extended day light hours. Monitoring to continue.
26/072	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS See attached appendix for full report from Steve Cosier & Sandra Cosier, District Councillors and Dan Levy, County Councillor.

	SC confirmed that he would follow up regarding making improvements to the field along the B4449 in Sutton which caused the flooding earlier in the year.
26/073	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC Trees and Hedges on The Green It was questioned when the trees and hedges on The Green would be trimmed. TG to contact maintenance and schedule a date for the work on the trees. The hedge needs trimming, once trimmed it can be properly assessed to see what is required to fill the gaps in the hedge. Pot Holes Concern over pot holes in the village – KH confirmed that he had recently marked pot holes, but more marking is required due to the number. It was suggested a further ‘Super User’ is recruited to help with the marking. TG to find out what is required to become a ‘Super User’ and feedback to all.
26/074	PLANNING Planning applications received which were circulated for comment: APPLICATION NO: 25/02046/HHD PROPOSAL: Refurbishment works to include construction of replacement link extension, refurbishment of pitched roof dormers and install new double gates to the rear courtyard (amended description) Town and Country Planning Act APPLICATION NO: 25/02047/LBC PROPOSAL: Internal and external alterations to refurbish property including replacement link extension and associated works. Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act LOCATION: Lower Farm Duck End Lane Sutton
26/075	ROADS Speeding - The speedwatch group shared data from the VAS signs in the Parish: Sutton The data covers the period 01/05/26 – 31/05/26 Incoming Vehicles • Total incoming vehicles: 52,577 • 30,666 (58.33%) of which were over 20mph • 21,911 (41.67%) of which were 20mph or under Outgoing Vehicles • Total outgoing vehicles: 66,268 • 55,967 (84.46%) of which were over 20mph • 10,301 (15.54%) of which were 20mph or under Stanton Harcourt (nr the cemetery):

	Incoming Vehicles • Total incoming vehicles: 20,543 • 4,519 (22%) of which were over 20mph • 16,024 (78%) of which were 20mph or under Outgoing Vehicles • Total outgoing vehicles: 25,420 • 24,529 (96.49% of which were over 20mph • 891 (3.51%) of which were 20mph or under The group had yet again followed up their application to OCC, but it's unclear when further progress will be made due to OCC's limited resources. Pot Holes: More pot holes require marking. The PC had received more details on how to sign up another 'Super User' – details are to be published in Village Voice.												
26/076	MAINTENANCE • It was reported that dog mess was being left in the Village Hall play park – TG to source signs to remind people that Dogs are not allowed in the play area. • Trees and Hedges were discussed in the public session of the meeting.												
26/077	VILLAGE VOICE Another excellent issue of Village Voice. The PC contribution to Village Voice was discussed. JC to provide copy for the next issue. The deadline for VV content is the 20th of each month.												
26/078	GUARDROOM Solar Panels: The PC are still waiting for the decision on A Deed of Variation to use S106 funds to purchase solar panels for the Guardroom – a decision is expected next week.												
26/079	VILLAGE HALL The Committee recently held their AGM. It was reported that they currently have a steady balance in their accounts. One committee member had stood down and others may stand down. Replacement members were being sought.												
26/080	FINANCE The following payments were made in May: <table> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox - Website</td> <td>£11.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Woodward</td> <td>£290.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T Gasser - Clerk & PC Expense</td> <td>£814.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Woodward - Maintenance</td> <td>£1,696.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox - Email</td> <td>£20.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Woodward – Grass Cutting</td> <td>£290.00</td> </tr> </table>	Hugo Fox - Website	£11.99	J Woodward	£290.00	T Gasser - Clerk & PC Expense	£814.07	J Woodward - Maintenance	£1,696.46	Hugo Fox - Email	£20.99	J Woodward – Grass Cutting	£290.00
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	Med UK (Defib for Methodist Church) £1,526.00 British Gas – OGR Electric £151.82 Various – VV Delivery £62.26 Castle Water – OGR Water Supply £18.20 Sandra Cosier – OGR Expense £2.00 Robin Morley – Litter Picking Expense £3.98 The 2025-6 Year End Accounts had been internally audited. The Annual Return Sections 1 & 2 were approved and signed by the Chair. TG to submit the Annual Return to the Auditors.
26/081	CORRESPONDENCE Nothing to report.
26/082	ANY OTHER BUSINESS The PC Notice Board on Blackditch is now a magnetic board. The Defibrillator for the Methodist Church had been delivered – the PC are to arrange installation.
26/083	NEXT MEETING The next ordinary meeting of the PC: 7.30pm Monday 6th July 2026 at the Old Guardroom.

Signed

Date

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council County Councillor Report 1 June 2026

The focus of the past month or so has been on the elections to the district council. Many congratulations to Sandra Cosier for her re-election to WODC.

There has however been a lot going on at County Hall and in the county.

Cabinet changes

The County Council has a new Leader, Tim Bearder, following the illustrious footsteps of Liz Leffman.

In addition there are new cabinet members in key portfolios and a rejigging of the portfolio responsibilities, e.g. to create a single highways cabinet member and one for public transport.

We felt it was important to refresh the team to be as strong as possible for the remaining two years (probably) of the County Council's existence. The new cabinet members are young, intelligent and energetic, and committed to fulfilling our pledges to make Oxfordshire Greener, Fairer and Healthier.

I am pleased to remain as the cabinet member with responsibility for Finance and Property.

Funding cuts

A key focus will be on managing the reduction in income from government.

The government announced a 3 year "settlement", which includes cuts to grants to the County Council of over £24m. That will require cuts, which we will try to make as painless as possible to vulnerable residents. It may however be difficult to maintain services that are not statutory. Over 70% of revenue spend is on Adult Social Care and Children's services, looking after people who need support. We will need to prioritise those statutory, often life critical, services above others.

It also requires us to put up Council Tax by 4.99% per annum, as instructed by the government.

Road maintenance

As everyone will have noticed, road surfaces have suffered after the years of neglect. Without full resurfacing, each year will see new potholes. These are being fixed, but as ever money is an issue. It would cost around £60m to keep the roads in a steady state, and even steady state means potholes each year. The government has given £39m to the County Council, which is clearly inadequate. We topped this up by £30m, borrowed and needing to be repaid.

So you will notice two sets of works. Filling of potholes, such as those on Lower Road and on the A40. In addition there is an £8m surface dressing programme under way – if you have travelled to Botley from Eynsham, you will see an example of this working.

There is also a £4m gulley rebuilding programme. The annual gulley clearance, revived after being reduced to once every four years under the previous administration, showed that a lot of gulleys need substantial reconstruction after the decades of neglect. Gulley maintenance is vital as we cope with increased levels and intensity of rainfall caused by climate change.

Road construction

On the construction side of things, Shores Green junction is nearly complete. The surfaces are laid, lines painted, and all that remains is putting up, setting and testing the traffic lights.

It is ahead of schedule. It is going to give village residents an easier way to get onto the westbound

A40, but please do drive slowly and carefully through South Leigh if you use that route.

The ban on right hand turns between the A40 and roads at Barnard Gate came into effect today. This is in response to the numerous collisions there.

Local Government reorganisation

The government has said it will tell us by the summer parliamentary recess what shape Local Government will take in Oxfordshire. It is unfortunate the Greens, as the largest party in the City Council, and with the offer of support from the Lib Dems, have allowed Labour to continue to run the City Council and promote their Greater Oxford unitary idea which will, among other things, leave a very small and probably insolvent northern unitary, including Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt. Both the other options, and especially the single Oxfordshire unitary, will be more efficient, with bigger savings and better service delivery. But the government will decide.

Road Safety Statistics

The government has published the road safety statistics for England. They show that Oxfordshire has had a 18% decrease in serious casualties, while the rest of the Thames Valley Police area has had a 20% increase. The difference is the road policy followed by Oxfordshire, introducing 20mph zones where requested by parish councils, among other things.

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-bucking-regional-trend-on-road-safety-as-casualty-figures-fall/>

I think it is fair to say the numbers would be better still if TVP enforced the law more eagerly.

Quiet Lanes

The County Council has asked parish councils if they want to nominate any roads that could effectively be made no-through road for motor vehicles, while permitting use by people on foot and bikes. There is a good example between Eynsham and Cassington, past the Eynsham cricket club, which has been a Quiet Lane for decades. Any road will need to have an alternative that cars can use, and not cause significant disruption to any residents or business user, including farmers. Any such change will need the support of the parish council and the local county councillor. I am struggling to think of a suitable SH road, but you may know differently.

Unfortunately, as so often, this has already been misrepresented by some political players.

As ever, please do get in touch with queries, casework, comments or anything else.

dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council District Councillor Report 1 June 2026

Free parking will continue in West Oxfordshire.

A recent Oxfordshire Council Council Transportation survey has caused some confusion for residents. The Highways authority (OCC) is looking into stopping on street parking but West Oxfordshire District Council has NO plans to change free parking in Witney; now or in the future. The District Council understands the increasing pressures on local shops from online retail and are unanimous that free parking is an important way to attract visitors into our town and support local businesses.

<https://westoxon.gov.uk/parking-travel-and.../where-to-park/>

Flood Wardens

We have signed up to become Flood Wardens for Stanton Harcourt, Sutton and Northmoor. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are currently running a Flood Warden scheme across the county where volunteers can help their local communities understand flood risk and local responsibilities. The main role of the flood wardens is to be the eyes and the ears on the ground and report to us things like blocked ditches and drains in the hope that we can resolve these issues before a flood event will occur. We are both due to have our informal one-hour training call to run through the role in more detail next week.

West Oxfordshire District Council Roles

Post-election we have now been assigned our roles as district councillors:

Steve will be a member of the Development Management Sub-Committee which considers applications for development across the district. The committee's role is to determine planning applications in accordance with the recommendations of the Business Manager. He will continue to sit on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which acts as a critical friend to the Council's Executive (Cabinet). The single Overview and Scrutiny Committee holds the council's Executive to account.

Sandra will continue to sit on the council's Licensing Committee which is responsible for overseeing and determining local regulatory frameworks for alcohol, entertainment, gambling, and taxis/private hire vehicles. It sets strategic licensing policies and delegates specific decision-making to its sub-committees. Sandra will also substitute for Steve, if he is unable to attend the Development Management Sub-Committee.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions about the report, or would like to discuss any district council issues, please contact us. Cllr Sandra and Steve Cosier (WODC - SASH) sandra.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk steve.cosier@westoxon.gov.uk