

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st September 2025

Present:

Keith Hickson	(KH)	Chair
Geoff Webster	(GW)	Vice-Chair
Jim Coleman	(JC)	Councillor
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Robin Morley	(RM)	Councillor
Sandra Cosier	(SC)	Councillor & District Councillor
Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk

In Attendance: 10 Members of the public
Steve Cosier (SCo) District Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
25/083	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor
25/084	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No Declarations made.
25/085	APPROVAL OF MINUTES Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 7 th July 2025 approved for publication.
25/086	MATTERS ARISING 25/067 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR ZERO-CARBON ENERGY The free energy assessment of the Guardroom had been arranged for 10am on 30 th September – SC to allow access and accompany. 25/078 SOLAR PANEL GRANT No news on the application as yet – RM to chase SSE.
25/087	COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS See attached appendix for full reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Levy, County Councillor, OCC. – no report this month. • Steve Cosier & Sandra Cosier, District Councillors, WODC.
25/088	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan The PC were thanked for their response to the plan. SCo confirmed that there would be further consultation of the plan once the policies and sites had been decided. • Blackditch Brook The brook needs clearing throughout – pictures to be sent to TG to determine the areas blocked and who is responsible. • Traffic Calming – It was questioned where there is a date set for the installation of the VAS in Sutton. It was also asked whether the location of the sign could be changed slightly. • Village Green – There a gap in the hedging on the Village Green – TG to contact Robin to determine how many plants are required to fill the gaps.

25/089	<p>PLANNING: Applications APPLICATION NO: 25/01537/S73 PROPOSAL: Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission 22/00430/FUL to allow changes to the attic of plot one to create second floor living space (retrospective). Town and Country Planning Act APPLICATION NO: 22/00430/FUL PROPOSAL: Erection of four semi-detached dwellings with garages and associated landscaping Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Greensleeves Blackditch Stanton Harcourt</p> <p>KH & SC met with the Planning Agent to discuss the implications of the variation of conditions. Following the meeting, the PC had no objections to the application, as it was felt the impact would be minimal.</p> <p>PLANNING: WODC Plan KH proposed the PC consider developing a 'Village Design Statement' – this prompted a discussion which resulted in the PC needing to decide whether to develop a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The PC are to invite the WODC Infrastructure Delivery Lead to the November meeting to discuss further. KH to arrange.</p>
25/090	<p>ROADS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed Signs The location of the second unit (for Sutton) had been confirmed. GW to instruct Volker to install the second sign at the decided location. • Speedwatch A session had taken place just recently, recording 25% of the traffic exceeding the speed limit, with some repeat offenders. The Speedwatch team are currently preparing to consult resident regarding speeding in the village – the results will be combined with data from the Speedwatch session and given to OCC for OCC to provide suggestions on how reduce speeding. More volunteers are being sought to enable more coverage of the Parish. • Weight Restriction No update.
25/091	<p>MAINTENANCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees/Hedge on the Green Work to begin trimming in the coming week. • Benches The bench by the bus stop at Flexneys needs repairing – RM to look into. • Additional Dog/Waste Bin An additional bin is required on New Road, by the Methodist Church. TG to progress and obtain costings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground Bark Additional bark is urgently required for the play areas – TG to discuss with John Woodward how much is required and place an order. • General Maintenance JD proposed that RM has authority to carry out necessary maintenance/repairs to the value of £200, and report to the PC – GW seconded, all in favour. • The Stocks Following inspection, it was felt that the stocks are currently sufficiently structurally sound.
25/092	VILLAGE VOICE KH suggested that the PC meet to discuss as a group the content of the PC's copy for VV prior to the next deadline, rather than one person being responsible.
25/093	COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES TG to circulate a draft list for agreement at the next meeting.
25/094	GUARDROOM SC to discuss with the VH Committee whether their cleaner would also clean the Guardroom. TG to obtain quotes for blinds/curtains at the Guardroom. TG to provide analysis of income/expenditure of the Guardroom at the next meeting.
25/095	VILLAGE HALL The PC to look into the possibility of moving the playground located at the VH to an alternative location and replace some of the equipment with S106.
25/096	S106 Funds There are currently S106 funds available to the PC, the Cricket Club recently applied for fund and were successful. Other suggestions are for a Cycle Bump Track in the Jubilee Play Field and Play Equipment for toddlers. S106 Art Fund There is also an S106 Art Fund available to the PC – KH to invite Dan Barton to the next meeting to discuss possible work, it was also suggested to us a local sculptor – contact details are to be supplied to the clerk.
25/097	CORRESPONDENCE A request was received from a resident for transport in and out of the village following the changes to the bus times.

	<p>KH to respond.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding the overgrown hedge opposite Flexneys Paddock, the hedge it obscuring the Chicane.</p> <p>TG to contact the landowner to ask for the hedge to be trimmed.</p>
25/098	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TG suggested that PC subscribe to Parish Online, which is a very useful mapping software to plot PC assets, etc. The PC are currently signed up to a 90-day free trial. The costs thereafter is £90 per year. GW proposed the PC subscribe, JD seconded, all in favour.
25/099	<p>NEXT MEETING</p> <p>7.30pm on Monday 6th October 2025 in the XXXXXXXX .</p>

Signed

Date

I hope this report finds you well. We wanted to take a moment to share some important updates.

A New Chapter for Infrastructure Funding

After more than a decade of delay by the last Conservative Administration, WODC has finally reached a major milestone: the independent examination of our new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule has concluded.

The examiner has confirmed that the CIL is sound, lawful, and based on solid evidence. This means that future development will now contribute directly to the infrastructure our communities need: school expansion, better bus services, flood defenses, biodiversity protection, and green space improvements.

For the first time, Town and Parish Councils will receive a direct share of development-generated funding, typically 15%, rising to 25% where a Neighborhood Plan is in place. That's real money, coming back to the places where it's needed most.

Concerning the Local Plan Review

The Local Plan Preferred Policy Options Consultation has now come to an end. Residents across the ward have engaged with compassion and clarity. The three largest parishes, Stanton Harcourt (including Sutton), Standlake and Aston have felt mounting pressures from housing developments. With approvals already stretching our infrastructure, the idea that Aston can absorb major new growth without harm is deeply flawed.

The three parish councils have submitted detailed, evidence-based responses to the Local Plan Review, setting out clear objections and drawing upon policy, precedent, and experience. Their work is a testament to local leadership, and it deserves recognition at district level.

Steve and I will continue to stand firmly alongside residents and the Parish Council. We will be scrutinizing every proposed site allocation, challenging the assumptions behind them.

Final deliberations, including decisions on which sites and policies to carry forward—are likely to begin in autumn 2025, with a Regulation 19 draft plan expected in early 2026, subject to council scheduling and further public input.

We thank residents and parish councillors for staying engaged, informed, and active. These

processes may seem technical, but they shape the future of our villages, and your voice makes all the difference.

Business Grant – West Oxfordshire District Council

West Oxfordshire District Council is launching the *Business Boost Grant* to support rural enterprises with strategic capital investments that drive growth, innovation, and sustainability. Funded by the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the scheme aligns with the Council's net-zero ambitions and long-term economic goals.

A total of £25,000 is available, with individual grants of up to £5,000. Applicants must provide at least 25% match funding, have traded for a minimum of six months, and be based within West Oxfordshire. Funding is restricted to capital projects with a lifespan of five years or more—such as equipment purchases, infrastructure upgrades, or construction. Operational costs are excluded.

The grant aims to boost productivity, support new products or services, strengthen supply chains, expand digital access, and create jobs and skills. Applications open 15 September 2025 and close 26 September 2025. Approved projects must be completed by 28 February 2026.

This is a targeted opportunity for rural businesses to invest in their future and contribute to a stronger, greener local economy.

If you would like to discuss anything raised in this report, please feel free to contact us.

Best Wishes

Steve and Sandra Cosier

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