

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held in Village Hall on Wednesday 4th February 2026

Meeting Number 26.432

Note for information: Cherwell District Council – CDC, Oxfordshire County Council - OCC

Public Participation

There was nothing to note.

26.432.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davies (SD), Rowan (TR) and Aldridge (MA) were in attendance. Councillor Miller was absent.

Councillor Coton (Cherwell District Council) and Councillor Gordon (Oxfordshire County Council) were each in attendance for part of the meeting.

5 members of the public were in attendance.

26.432.2 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

26.432.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2026 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2026 were discussed with no changes required.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 7th January 2026 was proposed by DB and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

26.432.4 For Information: Chair report (DB)

DB reported a busy month again, including attendance at meetings on current agenda items and completion of training on the new planning framework. It was noted that the Mid-Cherwell Modified Neighbourhood Plan consultation closes on 19 February 2026, and that the CDC Local Plan hearing has taken place, with outcomes expected to impact the village.

DB also reported on archival research relating to greens and verges in the village, prompted by a historic issue on North Lane. Working with the village historian and archivist, historical Parish Council minutes from the 1890s were located, providing clarity on the legal background to greens and verges and offering valuable evidence of the village's history and long-standing governance.

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The contribution of former councillor Colin Rosser to the development of the Village News was noted, and the subsequent work of Alex Reid as Editor. It was reported that Alex Reid has resigned and will produce one further edition. Councillors were invited to take part in discussions regarding the future of the Village News.

Finally, DB reported that two villagers have been approached regarding potential co-option to the Parish Council, with further discussions planned for the following week.

26.432.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerks report to the Council was noted which confirmed payments from the Parish Council bank account including payments relating to the monthly clerk salary. The Parish Council received a kind donation (£25.00) from the Launton WI for using the community van in December 2025.

With regard to other matters:

Lent Labour Day 2026: Rector of The Akeman Benefice – Gareth Miller – is organising an Akeman Lent Labour day during Lent 2026. They are planning on convening some working parties from among their congregations to offer the community some brief practical assistance. They will be undertaking some road sign cleaning on behalf of Weston on the Green.

Internal Audit Review 2025/26: the clerk sent all required documents to the Council’s appointed internal auditor – Laura White – by 9th January 2026. The Council are waiting to receive the review report ahead of the end of the year on 31st March 2026.

Broken Dog Bin Playing Field Car Park: the Council thanked Councillor Miller for fixing the broken the dog bin in the playing field car park.

Election May 2026: the clerk has attended a briefing by CDC on the procedures for the May 2026 elections. Key Parish Council election dates 2026 have been circulated and documentation will be provided when received.

Operation London Bridge: the clerk has undertaken a briefing from OALC on procedures for when the King passes away. The Parish Council documentation and equipment will be updated and checked to ensure all is appropriate and circulated to the Council for clarification.

Road repairs: according to the OneNetwork roadworks website the road resurfacing is scheduled to take place towards the end of April; the full information will be circulated when road closure information is formally received from OCC.

26.432.6 To Note: Playing field update and playground inspection report (Clerk)

The playground inspection report undertaken by the clerk was noted, no new major defects to the equipment were identified, apart from those items mentioned in the annual RoSPA report and previous monthly reports.

The contractor has been engaged to clean the playground, weather dependent.

26.432.7 For Information: Cherwell District Councillor update (CDC Councillor)

Councillor Coton noted that the Government recently announced measures to support the unlocking of electricity grid capacity in order to facilitate housing delivery. Reference was made to a proposed development of approximately 7,000 dwellings near Bicester. Should this development proceed, the delivery of these dwellings would significantly contribute towards addressing the current shortfall in CDC’s five-year land supply (around 4,000 homes).

Councillor Coton also provided information on three Government consultations:

- NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) Review – 10th March 2026 (consultation deadline).
- Department of Housing: Reducing the prevalence of private estate managements – 12th March 2026 (consultation deadline).

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- Local Government reorganisation consultation opens on 5th February 2026 (deadline of 26th March 2026).

The clerk raised the issue of increased fly tipping in the local area, having reported two cases just outside the parish this week, and queried if this was being witnessed throughout the Cherwell district. Councillor Coton confirmed that CDC were aware and it had been discussed at committee level to ensure appropriate resourcing.

26.432.8 For Discussion: Discuss recommendations from the Planning Group on planning applications (SD)

Key planning applications on the planning report were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications

Decisions Received – Permitted

25/00139/F - Part of OS Parcel 0006 Adjacent and North of Normandy, North Lane

Decisions Received – Refused; Withdrawn

None

Appeals

25/00041/REF – Reynards Lodge, North Lane - dismissed

Awaiting Decision

25/00418/F and 25/00486/LB – The Manor Hotel, Northampton Road

Restoration and extension of Rupert's Cottage to provide additional guest accommodation and leisure facilities; re-instatement of the former outdoor swimming pool; construction of a new events pavilion; restaurant extension within the Manor's west courtyard; relocation of guest car parking away from the Manor's principal elevation; screening of the existing plant and biomass boiler area; restoration of wider landscape features including the historic moat and bridge.

OCC Transport – objection – reliance on car transport

Archaeology – need more information re excavation for Wedding Barn and Rupert's Cottage.

Commented

25/01418/F - Family Farm House Part Of A34

Driver rest stop facility including the formation of a new entry and exit slip road adjoining the A34, parking area for cars and HGVs, erection of an amenity building (including toilets and catering area), EV charging station, solar PV array, battery storage facility, other ancillary structures/buildings and landscaped amenity area.

2037 earliest connection to National Grid for solar.

Commented

New Planning Applications

None

Tree Applications

26/00174/TCA – 3 Blacksmiths Close

Silver birch crown reduction and minor pruning to width

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26/00056/TCA – Barn House, Knowle Lane

Lime tree on main driveway – fell and repair stone wall. Replant with native.

25/03295/TCA – Newby Cottage, Northampton Road

2 Pine trees, 1 silver birch – remove.

25/03246/TCA – Stonehouse, Northampton Road

1 willow – pollard; horse chestnut – reduce and reshape; apple – fell; laurel and yew – reduce and reshape.

Action: SD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

With regards to the North Lane development, north of Normandy it was noted that one of the reasons CDC had to approve the Stoneyhouse planning application was its inability to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply (currently stands at 3.1 years). In these circumstances, planning policies relating to the character of the area, heritage considerations, access and drainage issues are afforded reduced weight when balanced against the need to deliver housing.

Councillors however, noted the new information provided by Councillor Coton regarding recent Government intervention to support housing delivery in the Bicester area, including measures to unlock infrastructure constraints.

Concerns were also raised regarding errors within the decision notice for the North Lane development:

- It was noted that CDC incorrectly stated that Milestone Lane was a Neighbourhood Plan allocation. SD clarified that the development was approved prior to the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan and was included on the basis that a decision had already been made. It was noted that this should be amended so it does not set a precedent for the area, and that any future Phase 2 development at Milestone Lane would not automatically be supported by the parish.
- The Parish Council reiterated its intention to preserve open spaces along North Lane. Reference was made to the Conservation Area Appraisal, which identifies this character area as important in maintaining the northern edge of the settlement and the wide open views to the north. Councillors expressed concern that the development would obscure these views. The decision notice refers to the development being concealed by proposed vegetation and landscaping; however, it was noted that this landscaping detail appears contradictory and is not listed as a condition, which the Parish Council considers should have been included.
- It was also noted that the application took approximately 13 months to determine but was approved under delegated powers not by committee.

The Council accepted that the decision on the application had been made; however, it was agreed that clarification is required on the above points before proceeding further.

A query was asked over what legal recourse is there over drainage and potential flooding issues? SD replied that unfortunately it is limited as drainage reports provided by consultants are agreed prior to approval.

Action: SD/DB to write to CDC regarding the errors observed in the decision notice for the North Lane development north of Normandy.

DB noted that the Parish Council received an email from Lucy Prismall, Urban Design Technical Lead at OCC regarding the development of a Street Design Code, which will apply county wide and is intended to set consistent standards for new development.

It was noted that the Parish Council has an opportunity to respond to this workstream. Councillors agreed that a key point for response is that street design standards developed for urban areas are not always appropriate for rural villages and lanes.

Action: DB/SD to provides comment back to Lucy Prismall at OCC on developing the street design code relating to rural areas.

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26.432.9 For Information: Oxfordshire County Councillor update (OCC Councillor)

Councillor Gordon provided a written update report covering various issues in the county which had been circulated to the Council and placed on the Parish Council website. She covered some key points from the report:

- **Land fill site:** the clearance start date has been delayed due to flooding but this has not changed the intended end clearance date (end February – mid year 2026).
- **Roads:** there has been a spike in potholes due to the wet and cold weather. OCC have increased the number of crews operating from 7 to 16 to get on top of the back log. Councillor Gordon is escalating any issues and flagging any roads which require comprehensive repair.
- **Fire service consultation has closed:** the comments require digesting and the message is to please bear with OCC as not likely to be an update before April.
- **Road adoptions:** a process briefing has been undertaken by Councillor Gordon and she is meeting with the officer next week to discuss Milestone Lane.
- **Blue Badges:** Oxfordshire does not allow blue badges to be transferred from other authorities when residents move into Oxfordshire, forcing them to start the application from scratch. Councillor Gordon is asking OCC for this policy to be reconsidered.
- **X:** OCC will now limit engagement on X to minimal communications and will be posting on Bluesky, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.
- **Congestion charge data:** monitoring data is now available for the first two months of the congestion charge. This shows major improvements in some routes, particularly bottlenecks into Oxford that have delayed bus travel, Abingdon Road and St Clements. Unfortunately, it shows an increase in traffic and delays particularly outbound in the evening rush hour on Banbury and Woodstock roads which will be looked into further.
- **Lane rental:** OCC is implementing a lane rental scheme, which means that for key arteries, the utility companies will be charged £2,500 per day to carry out works during the working day. This should incentivise them to carry out works quicker or carry them out at night – and when they are not able to do this it will give OCC a new source of funds to reinvest into the highways.
- **Tip booking:** Redbridge tip has to close for essential works and therefore a booking system is being used to manage usage at other sites. OCC will review and if it is not popular it can look to remove it.

Councillor Gordon agreed to enquire with OCC officers over timings for the speed reduction work on B430 and to see if the work can be joined up with the road repairs due to be undertaken at the end of April 2026.

26.432.10 Resolution: To Approve the offer to the Parish Council from Roger Evans of the land composing the footpath northwards of Jon Kirk's path from North Lane (path 404/22/20 - part) (SD/TR)

TR confirmed that the Council had checked the responsibilities of owning the footpath with the insurance company.

It was confirmed that we would be covered for liabilities for the path provided that this is maintained properly and risk assessments are carried out. It was also noted that grass surfaces are not covered by the Ground Surface section of the insurance policy.

SD provided a map to show the piece of land being offered to the Parish Council – path 404/22/20. The Parish Council would be responsible for maintaining it.

The narrow section at the entrance to North Lane is within the boundaries of the Stoneyfields plot.

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The resolution to approve the offer to the Parish Council from Roger Evans of the land composing the footpath northwards of Jon Kirk’s path from North Lane (path 404/22/20 - part) was proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: DB/SD to inform Roger Evans of the Councils decision to accept the offer of the footpath ownership.

Action: Once footpath (404/22/20) is in Parish Council ownership, risk assessment and maintenance management plan to be drafted by the Council.

26.432.11 For Information: Neighbourhood Plan review update (DB/SD)

DB outlined the complexity of the work to review the Neighbourhood Plan due to the absence of an adopted Cherwell Local Plan covering the period under review.

It was noted that CDC is currently unable to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. Councillors expressed concern that this could result in additional housing development being directed towards rural villages.

Options for managing growth collaboratively, while protecting the character of the village, are being discussed.

Concerns were raised regarding the potential impact on fields surrounding the village. It was noted that land outside the village boundary may be considered for development under the new NPPF.

The review remains under discussion. A meeting is potentially proposed for early April to present the review to the village.

If no significant changes are required, the Parish Council would be able to approve the review, without the requirements for a referendum.

26.432.12 For Discussion: Councils involvement in campaign regarding the cumulative traffic issue from local developments led by Richard Allen of Stoke Lyne Parish Council (DB)

Councillors discussed concerns raised by NORA (North Oxford Residents Action) regarding the potential increase in traffic in north Oxfordshire as a result of numerous large scale local developments and the request for the Parish Council to join the campaign.

It was noted that planning authorities currently have to assess each development individually, rather than the wish of NORA to consider the cumulative traffic impact of all developments in an area.

It was explained that NORA is not a registered charity and that due diligence would be required before agreeing to support proposals. The Council agreed with the principle of assessing cumulative impacts but did not agree with the proposed methods for the campaign.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could submit a letter supporting the principle of considering the collective impact of developments in the wider area, without providing financial support to NORA or endorsing its specific campaign methods.

Action: DB to reply to NORA highlighting the Council’s decision.

26.432.13 For Discussion: Update on village works, bus shelters on B430 i.e. funding and style, flooding project preparation (JM)

This item was deferred until the March 2026 Parish Council meeting due to the absence of JM.

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26.432.14 For Discussion: North Lane pond ecologist report and Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE) report on potential grant funding to support works (JM)

DB highlighted the useful reports which had been circulated to the Council on the central North Lane pond from:

- Ecologist, Peter Collins: following his visit in November 2025 he provided advice on the maintenance required at the pond.
- Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment: following a visit by the Head of Community Grants (Rachel Sanderson) in January 2026 regarding potential options for the works required and grant funding opportunities.

The Council agreed that work should continue to be pursued on this project by JM and a grant application to be developed when a firm plan had been developed.

26.432.15 Resolution: To Approve the appointment of a contractor from submitted quotes to undertake monthly playing field maintenance during 2026, at the specified rate quoted and agreed (JM)

This item was deferred until the March 2026 Parish Council meeting due to the absence of JM.

Resolution: To Approve the appointment of a contractor from submitted quotes to undertake repair to playing field hedge fronting Church Lane, at the specified rate quoted and agreed (JM)

This item was deferred until the March 2026 Parish Council meeting due to the absence of JM.

Action: Clerk to place playing field maintenance resolutions onto the March 2026 meeting agenda.

26.432.16 For Information: Update from Traffic Calming Action Group: costs of first and potential second stage of traffic mitigation proposals for use in Tritax request for some funding (MA)

MA confirmed that all information had been provided prior in the meeting. A review of quotes for speed indicator signs is ongoing.

26.432.17 Resolution: To Approve renewal of community van insurance for 8 February 2026 – 7 February 2027 at a total cost of £1,581.87 following a review of provided quotes (TR)

The insurance quotes obtained for the community van for 2026-27 had been circulated to the Council. The Council considered the QBE quote (via broker Howdens) to be the most suitable option. It was noted that any drivers over 70 would be required to be named on the policy and drivers under 30 are excluded from driving the vehicle.

The resolution to approve the renewal of the community van insurance for 8 February 2026 – 7 February 2027 at a total cost of £1,581.87, following a review of provided quotes, was proposed by TR and seconded by MA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to inform insurance brokers of decision over insurance of community van and organise payment of the new insurance cover.

The community van volunteers were kindly in attendance at the meeting.

The volunteer group and the Council discussed concerns regarding the existing community van, noting that it may not pass its MOT this year and that should the Council wish to continue to operate this service an alternative vehicle would be required.

It was noted that the project has previously been supported by grants from Community First Oxfordshire, councillors and Oxfordshire County Council and has been a successful and welcome community initiative. It was emphasised that the service does not compete with the local bus service, but offers support in attending hospital and doctor appointments.

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The volunteer drivers noted the requirements for a new vehicle: higher accessed vehicle without the need for a wheelchair lift. The van generally carries two passengers at a time, space in the boot for a collapsed wheelchair or walker would be a requirement. It was suggested that the views of Councillor Miller should be sought for his input on potential replacement options.

The Parish Council agreed that it wishes to support the continuation of the community van service and to assist in finding a replacement vehicle. Grant funding would be required to support a purchase and Graham Barnett agreed to investigate options via Community First Oxfordshire and OCC contacts.

The Council thanked all volunteers for their hard work in running such a valuable service and the invaluable support they have provided to villagers.

Graham Barnett also thanked Jordie and the Village Hall for offering the Village Hall car park as a location to park the van when required and he will liaise with Jordie regarding parking arrangements. The Council also formally thanked the Village Hall for their kind support.

Due to the length of discussion items on the agenda an extension to the meeting was granted.

26.432.18 For Discussion: Parish Online mapping package review (DB/MA/SD)

The Parish Council have been trialling the mapping package provided by Parish Online. DB showed the Councillors the variety of different map layers offered within the Parish Online mapping package. The Council agreed that this would support the work of the Council and would be extremely useful for the Neighbourhood Plan work.

The cost of the Parish Online mapping package is £96 incl VAT per year and the free trial period ends on 24th February 2026. If we subscribe before that deadline we would receive a 10% discount on the cost.

The Council agreed that they were happy to proceed with the Parish Online mapping package.

Action: Clerk to confirm with Parish Online that the Council would like to take out a subscription for their mapping package.

26.432.19 Resolution: To Approve Parish Council Q3 FY 2025-26 financial accounts (TR)

TR presented the Parish Council Q3 accounts for financial year 2025/26 following their approval by the finance advisory group. A summary of expenditure in Q3 vs budget, bank reconciliation and income details were provided.

TR provided an overview of the Council's financial position, noting income of £10,187.32. This largely comprised a £6,650 grant from the Thames Valley Police Community Fund, to be spent on speed indicator devices on the B430, two VAT reclaims from HMRC and bank interest.

Expenditure in Q3 totalled £6,636.41, primarily relating to grass cutting, maintenance, salaries, training, dog bin emptying and the loan repayment.

Overall, the Parish Council's accounts are considered to be in a good position, with quarterly payments remaining relatively consistent. Bank balances show an increase of approximately £18,000 since 1st April 2025, largely due to receipt of the Thames Valley Police Community Fund grant and VAT reclaims. It was noted that not all major planned expenditure for the current financial year has yet occurred, for example the payment of the community van insurance is due in February 2026. An underspend is anticipated for the year, reflecting non required spend on items such as fencing works, treeworks and equipment renewal. These funds will be transferred into Council reserves and earmarked against the relevant budget lines for the next financial year.

The resolution to approve the Parish Council accounts covering Q3 FY 2025-26 was proposed by TR and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload the Parish Council Q3 accounts (FY 2025/26) to the Parish Council website.

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26.432.20 Resolution: To Approve the following invoices for payment (TR)

TR requested approval of the invoices detailed in the table below.

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2025-26 Budget Line
556	Clerk (J Mullane)	Stationery, printer ink, caution tape (Amazon)	£55.60	Sundries/Administration & Printing	£104.38
557	Clerk (J Mullane)	Community bus vehicle road tax (DVLA)	£315.00	Village Works/Community Bus	£1,707.17

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by TR and seconded by DB. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

26.432.21 Resolution: To Approve Parish Council support for a letter to a Minister regarding the Greater Oxford Local Government proposal received from David Robey at Kidlington Parish Council (DB)

The Council agreed not to support Oxford City Council's proposal to establish a Greater Oxford through local government reorganisation.

The resolution to approve Parish Council support for a letter to a Minister regarding the Greater Oxford Local Government proposal received from David Robey at Kidlington Parish Council was proposed by DB and seconded by MA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to inform David Robey of Kidlington Parish Council the Council's decision to support the letter to the Minister regarding the Greater Oxford Local Government proposal.

26.432.22 Next Parish Council Meeting Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting closed: 21.42

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