

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held in Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Meeting Number 25.425

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

Public Participation

There was nothing to note.

25.425.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

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

Councillor Coton (Cherwell District Council) was in attendance for the whole meeting with Councillor Gordon (Oxfordshire County Council) for the later part of the meeting.

2 members of the public were in attendance.

25.425.2 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was declared by Councillor Rowan relating to planning application 25/01431/TCA – Home Farm, Church Lane.

25.425.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2025 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2025 were discussed with no changes required.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 4th June 2025 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.

25.425.4 For Information: Chair report (DB)

DB mentioned the work being done by one of the organisations that the Parish Council subscribe to – the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), which is also important in relation to the unitary authority discussion under item 15.

In their 2024 Impact Report the group discusses in some detail their objection to:

1. The Abingdon reservoir: CPRE submitted a Freedom of Information Request and unearthed the Environment Agency's advice not to go ahead with the proposed project. At appeal, the Inspector ruled that the project could go ahead. CPRE calls for a Public Inquiry and has not requested a Judicial Review. DB commented that this issue seems to be the very crux of the issue of need versus nature – a central argument in most rural planning appeals.
2. Solar Farms: the Otmoor Solar Farm in the middle of Otmoor on the Oxfordshire Green Belt and the other on open countryside at Godington, a tiny village near Stratton Audley. Currently, these are both going to appeal.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

What are CPRE doing in a positive way:

1. CPRE has supported the Sunshine Bill – aiming to make solar panels standard in all new homes. The Government has ensured that solar energy will form part of amended building regulation to be rolled out later in 2025. There were 10,000 responses to MPs across the UK.
2. The organisation has made a detailed submission to the most recent NPPF Consultation and have contributed extensively to responding to Local Plans in the county.
3. CPRE has supported the development of Oxfordshire’s draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy outlining Oxfordshire’s biodiversity priorities for nature recovery.
4. CPRE’S Hedgerow Heroes project has cemented their relationship with Wild Oxfordshire.
5. CPRE supports parish council networks.

They also support other countryside issues including a Dark Skies Policy and DB encouraged people to respond as a member of the public to OCC ‘s consultation on a Part-Night Lighting Implementation Framework, which relates to how part-night lighting could be implemented in Oxfordshire.

25.425.5 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. It was noted that bank interest of £133.77 had been received on 2nd June 2025.

The clerk provided confirmation that all the required documentation had been sent to the External Auditors (Moore) and also placed on the Parish Council website within the required timeframe.

The road sign at Church Close has been replaced with a new sign.

Weston on the Green is scheduled for gully emptying in the fourth quarter of this financial year (January-March 2026). OCC confirmed that all highway surface water assets in the area will be thoroughly cleansed within the specified timeframe.

OCC has followed up on the reported required hedge cutting on Bletchington Road and requested confirmation it was still required with the provision of further photos. The clerk will follow this action up.

Action: Clerk to follow up on outstanding queries on Fix My Street.

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

The playground inspection report undertaken by the clerk was noted, no new major defects to the equipment were identified. Additional soil needs to be added around some of the surface edging at the playground which the clerk will action.

A residents football team has requested to use the playing field for training over the summer break; Councillors and Ardley FC have agreed to the request and Ardley FC have also kindly agreed to the use of their goals.

It was considered that a working party could be convened to undertake some spinney strimming and village gate painting.

<i>Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025</i>	
Minutes Approved:	Dated.....

25.425.7 Resolution: To Approve Terms of Reference for Traffic Calming and Transport Advisory Groups (DB)

The resolution to approve the Terms of Reference for the Traffic Calming Advisory Group was proposed by DB and seconded by MA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Regarding the Transport Terms of Reference DB suggested adding in a comment under 'Role' relating to the drivers of the community van to ensure they all fit the criteria and have clarity around insurance of the drivers.

The resolution to approve the Terms of Reference for the Transport Advisory Group, subject to the additional comment relating to the community van drivers, was proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to add the amended and approved Traffic and Transport Terms of Reference to the PC website.

25.425.8 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

None

Decisions Received – Refused

None

Withdrawn

None

Awaiting Decision

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

Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of five detached single and two-storey dwellings together with access, parking and garaging, amenity space, landscaping and drainage works. **Commented**

25/00449/REM - Reynards Lodge, North Lane

Reserved Matters application to 24/00804/OUT - Access (with Construction Traffic Management Plan), Layout (with part drainage), Scale, Appearance, Landscaping and Biodiversity (with Construction Environment Management Plan). **Commented**

25/00356/DISC - Kelberg Ltd, Northampton Road

Discharge of Conditions 3 (construction management strategy), 4 (Arboricultural Method Statement), 5 (surface water drainage), 6 (biodiversity method statement) and 8 (lighting details) of 24/00893/F. **Commented**

25/00582/F and 25/00583/LB - Williams Cottage, North Lane

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of replacement single-storey outbuilding, garden shed and associated landscaping.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

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.

Commented

25/01127/F – Summer Court, North Lane

Demolish existing side extension and erect two storey side and single storey rear extension.

New Applications

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.

An email from a neighbouring resident highlighting his objection to the proposals, based on increased pollution and traffic, was considered.

This is a significant development and it was noted that access on/off the A34 needs to be investigated fully as it is so busy. There are also design issues over the general layout and charging point layout (including no cover) and that the charging points need to provide fast charging to be fully effective. The inclusion of a mitigation litter strategy was also highlighted.

Public comments are to be submitted by 3rd July and the Parish Council will submit comments regarding their concerns over the development.

Tree Applications

25/01213/TCA – Cruck Cottage, Northampton Road - Permitted

25/01532/TCA – Reynards Lodge, North Lane. Conifer cut back to boundary.

25/01429/TCA – Old Shoemakers Cottage, Church Lane. Dead Leylandii to be removed.

25/01431/TCA – Home Farm, Church Lane. Lawson Cyprus and beech prune back to boundary of Shoemakers Cottage.

25/01493/TPO – 10 Blacksmiths Close. Remove dead branches from Horse Chestnut.

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

25.425.9 For Discussion: Review of proposed Neighbourhood Plan parish survey (SD/DB)

SD outlined the requirement for a new survey for the village as there have been quite a few changes relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan.

The village currently has no pressing housing need; Milestone Lane houses are still for sale and there are a number of houses for sale in the village along with two applications submitted for housing developments on North Lane. There is therefore no pressing need to allocate new sites for housing, if we did allocate new sites it would trigger a referendum of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The alternative option is to undertake a light touch to update the demographic profile of the parish, a review of existing policies and to update the plan to be compliant with the new NPPF. It was considered that in the future

<i>Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025</i>	
Minutes Approved:	Dated.....

when things are clearer with the Cherwell Local Plan and unitary authority changes then the allocation of new sites for development could be reviewed again. The situation will get easier as the time approaches to the Cherwell Local Plan being approved, as Weston on the Green will be reclassified as a category C village which will offer some protection.

It was also noted that a site appraisal is required for each site within the Neighbourhood Plan. An outside company would be required to assist in this process however grants are no longer provided and the Parish Council do not have the funds or capacity to undertake it themselves.

On balance a light touch review was considered the appropriate approach. Re-worded policies will be sent to Christina Cherry, Senior Planning Policy Officer at CDC for evaluation.

The Neighbourhood Plan village survey was discussed. It was suggested to add in further exploratory questions to the business section.

The survey will be accessible online with some printed copies available.

DB requested help to speak to businesses in the area to support the survey. Patsy Parsons volunteered.

The Council all agreed that it was satisfactory to proceed with the survey.

Action: DB & SD to update NP survey, Clerk to develop online version for it to be published to the village.

25.425.10 For Discussion: Update on village works (JM)

JM has spoken to Stuart Beecroft regarding the location of services at the playing field and he will investigate further.

With regards to any work to be undertaken at Weston Fen the application link for work in a SSSI site, provided by Natural England, will be sent to JM who can discuss it further with the owners.

JM also noted that there are overgrown trees at the Chequers/B430 roundabout which need reporting on Fix My Street.

Action: Clerk to report overgrown trees at the Chequers roundabout on FMS.

25.425.11 Resolution: To Approve: a spend of up to £1,750.00 + VAT to purchase and fit a radiator for the playing field mower (JM)

The playing field mower is currently broken and requires a new radiator. JM will send it off to see if it can be fixed and at what cost, otherwise he has provided a quote for a replacement radiator. JM would also see if he could obtain a cheaper second hand radiator instead.

The resolution to approve a spend of up to £1,750.00 + VAT to purchase and fit a radiator for the playing field mower was proposed by JM and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

It was agreed that whilst the rest of the mower is still working well the Council will budget accordingly for ongoing repairs and replacement.

Action: JM to investigate the fixing of the playing field mower radiator and report back to the Council.

Action: Clerk to add increased budget for the playing field mower repairs/replacement to the budget review process for 2026/27.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

25.425.12 For Information: Update from Traffic Calming Action Group (MA)

It was confirmed that the Parish Council had responded to the OCC B430 speed reduction consultation, this consultation is now closed and comments have been logged. The comments will be appraised and considered by those Officers/Engineers working on the technical details of the scheme as part of the consultation process, and OCC will be in touch to confirm the date and details of any public decision meeting at which the proposals would be discussed.

The Speedwatch team have been busy carrying out lots of surveying and reporting lots of vehicles for exceeding the speed limit in the village. There is a Speedwatch nationwide day of action on Friday 11th July, where teams will be encouraged to do a blitz to try and get as many Speedwatch people out on that day to collate all information together.

Graham Barnett confirmed they will try and do three or four sessions on that day. He also mentioned that they reported a coach doing 50mph on B430 and emailed the company requesting that they remind drivers of the speed limit; he received a response of thank you only.

It was also noted that there are still no bus time timetables from Red Rose at the bus stops (the Parish Council currently puts one up on the Oxford Court telegraph pole as there is no holder by the bus stop). Graham Barnett has spoken to Dave Harrison at OCC who confirmed that Red Rose should have put them up and will chase. He will try and find a key to access the units so we can do it ourselves.

Action: Bus timetables to be placed at bus stops by Red Rose, to be followed up by Graham Barnett/Clerk.

25.425.13 Resolution: To Approve: Regular transfer of funds between Parish Council bank accounts by bank signatories in order to maximise interest received in the 'Business' account. A minimum of 3 months reserves will be retained in the 'Community' bank account and money transfers will be reported to the Council via the monthly clerk report (TR)

The resolution to approve a regular transfer of funds between Parish Council bank accounts by bank signatories in order to maximise interest received in the 'Business Premium' account. A minimum of 3 months reserves will be retained in the 'Community' bank account and money transfers will be reported to the Council via the monthly clerk report was proposed by TR and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

25.425.14 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
509*	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for PC meetings (July-Sept 25)	£45.00	Meeting Costs/Hire of Village Hall	£270.00
510*	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 09/06/25 (playground, stocks/Ben Jonson, Church Close)	£357.69	Village Works/Grass Cutting	£2,481.83
511*	Slade Estate Services Limited	Monthly maintenance of playing field – May	£432.85	Village Works/Playing Field Maintenance	£2,534.30
512	CPRE	Annual membership renewal 2025-26	£36.00	Subscriptions/CPRE	£36.00
513	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 23/06/25 (playground, stocks/Ben Jonson, Church Close)	£357.69	Village Works/Grass Cutting	£2,124.14

* invoice already been paid due to payment timescales

It was confirmed that invoices 509-511 had already been paid as payment was due before this meeting approval.

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025

Minutes Approved: Dated.....

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by TR and seconded by SD. 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.

25.425.15 For Discussion: Consultation on Unitary Councils (DB & CDC/OCC Councillors)

Councillors Gordon and Coton summarised the proposals for the abolishment of the two tier authority system to create one unitary authority following the Government’s request for proposals to simplify local government. The Government is moving at pace and the Oxfordshire area is important due to ongoing plans for the Oxford – Cambridge arc.

Three different options have been proposed:

- District Council proposal (two councils):
 Oxford and Shires – comprising current council areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
 Ridgeway – comprising current council areas of South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire.
<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/corporate-services/two-councils/>
- Oxford City (greater Oxford council) – comprising the expanded boundaries of Oxford to include Weston on the Green at the northern end and towards Abingdon in the south. The remaining areas of Oxfordshire would join together in proposed north and south council areas.
<https://greateroxford.org/>
- OCC’s - unitary authority covering the whole of Oxfordshire.
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/local-government-reorganisation-and-devolution/about-lgr-and-devolution>

Public engagement exercises on the different options proposed for a unitary authority have been launched.

It was also noted that the creation of a larger strategic area (Oxfordshire / Buckinghamshire / Berkshire) with a mayor was also being worked through as a separate plan.

The public, Parish Council and individual Councillors are welcome to give comments on all proposals and views are encouraged. It was noted that the decision will be taken by central government rather than at a district/county council level.

SD highlighted the main concern over the Oxford City model is the potential that green belt land in villages could be used to meet Oxford City’s unmet housing need. It was also noted that there have been no discussions with Parishes by Oxford City Council regarding this proposal and how we would be included. It was considered there would be a greater understanding in a similar unitary authority rather than attaching the area to a city and that Oxfordshire is too large and therefore a split seemed sensible to make it more manageable.

25.425.16 For Information: Oxfordshire County & Cherwell District Councillors updates (OCC/CDC Councillors)

Councillor Coton (CDC) provided the following update:

- The Local Plan was approved by the Executive on 1st July 2025 and will now go to full council on 21st July 2025, prior being submitted to the planning inspector.

<i>Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025</i>	
Minutes Approved:	Dated.....

DB asked if there was a planning document detailing number of approved applications, built ones and those not proceeding which could be made public or would a Freedom of Information request be required? Councillor Coton confirmed that she would enquire further.

Action: Councillor Coton to enquire over planning summary document on planned/built/withdrawn applications which could be made public.

- It was also highlighted that developments in north west Bicester will not be able to connect to the grid until at least 2036 and therefore housing developments would be delayed. MP Calum Miller is currently working on finding out further information relating to this issue.

Councillor Gordon (OCC) provided the following update:

- Oxford City congestion charge: aim to reduce traffic congestion in Oxford, particularly while the Botley Road is closed. A consultation is open until 3rd August 2025. If agreed the scheme will be introduced fairly quickly to allow for a year's operation before the Botley Road re-opening in September 2026. It is hoped that if it is successful it would raise between £3-5m, which would be earmarked for reinvestment in public transport and park and ride schemes.
- An OCC maternity policy for Councillors is currently being written which will enable another councillor to provide cover. Councillor Gordon will finish on 22nd July 2025, an email will be sent which will have an out of office information on it and Councillor Coton has kindly agreed to provide support where possible. She also noted that it would be helpful to provide a follow up email in November for anything requiring attention so that she can easily action on her return.

The Council wished all the best to Councillor Gordon on her maternity leave and look forward to welcoming her back in the autumn.

25.425.17 To Note: OCC Consultation on Night Time Lighting (DB)

It was noted that this item had been mentioned in the above Chair's report.

25.425.18 Next Parish Council Meeting Date: Wednesday 6th August 2025, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting Closed: 21.09

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2nd July 2025

Minutes Approved: Dated.....