WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held in Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Meeting Number 26.440

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

Public Participation

A resident queried if the Parish Council has donated to the Peter Driver fund in the village. DB highlighted the Council supported last year and any future requests received can be added to the agenda and discussed by Council as per our donations policy.

26.440.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

Councillors Bohm (DB), Miller (JM), Williams (DW), Rowan (TR), Johnson (MJ) and Aldridge (MA) were in attendance.

Councillor Sinha sent his apologies, which were accepted.

Councillor Faltermeyer (Cherwell District Council) and Councillor Gordon (Oxfordshire County Council) attended the meeting.

2 members of the public were in attendance.

26.440.2 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th August 2026 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th August 2026 were discussed, with no changes required.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 5th August 2026 was proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

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

26.440.3 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

Councillor Miller declared an interest in planning application 26/01267/F relating to OS Parcel 4658 - North of Shell Filling station and SW of The Chequers, OX25 3QH.

26.440.4 For Information: Chair report (DB)

DB reiterated the importance of maintaining a strong sense of village identity and ensuring that new residents are able to engage with and understand the village's history and future aspirations.

The Council needs to remain aware of changes and development in the surrounding area, particularly the potential implications for future growth, increased traffic and the proposed new unitary authority structure. The importance of improving the sharing of information and news between councillors and with the wider community was also highlighted, with councillors encouraged to share relevant thoughts and information with the group.

An update on the Cherwell Local Plan had been received since the agenda was issued, and Councillor Faltermeyer, the CDC Councillor, will provide an update.

The Chair also highlighted the recent communication from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) regarding the Government's recognition of the role and importance of parish and town councils. It was also noted that the Oxfordshire Growth Strategy Chairman had made it clear that the voice of Neighbourhood Plans needs to be heard so communities can be part of shaping their future.

26.440.5 **For Information:** Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerks report to the Council was noted which confirmed the latest bank balances and payments received into the Parish Council bank accounts, including a VAT refund of £1,629.09 on 5th August 2026.
The balances on the Parish Council two bank accounts on 20th August 2026 were:

- Community xxx114: £10,597.10
- Business Premium xxx629: £51,026.37

The clerk confirmed that the Council are still awaiting the outcome of the grant application to OCC for a Community Transport grant.

The clerk submitted an application for £1,500.00 to the OCC Councillor Priority fund to support the installation of new bus shelters on the B430; this application has now been approved and Councillor Gordon was thanked for her support.

The clerk has submitted a £1,900.00 grant application to the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) to cover works required at the pond in the centre of North Lane and a decision should be made within the next couple of weeks.

The clerk also noted that she will contact SSEN regarding left over tree cuttings on the B430 verge.

Action: Clerk to contact SSEN regarding tree cuttings left on B430 following works near lines.

26.440.6 **For Discussion:** 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. Issues identified in the annual report require further discussion with JM.

The clerk mentioned that the mole activity is currently limited and is aware that some of the bins require emptying.

26.440.7 **For Discussion:** Discuss recommendations regarding planning applications (DB)

Building Applications

DECISIONS RECEIVED

None

PENDING APPLICATIONS

26/01267/F - OS Parcel 4658. North of Shell Filling station and SW of The Chequers part of A34 by Weston on the Green, OX25 3QH.

Part retrospective earth bund with native tree planting as new boundary treatment. Formation of hard standing yard to surround new agricultural building, approved under App: 24/03060/AGN. Associated tree planting.

Further notes from Environment Protection, Landscape & Environment Agency.

26/01574/LB - Hazel Cottage, Northampton Road, OX25 3QX (Listed building consent)

Extend existing chimney stonework by 225mm and add new clay roll top pot. Note: Location map & Design Statement.

Recommend: Approve

26/01739/REM - Reynards Lodge, North Lane, OX25 3RG

Reserved matters to 224/00804/OUT. This is Access (Construction Traffic Arrangement Plan), Layout (with part Drainage), Scale, Appearance, Landscaping, Biodiversity (with Construction Environment Management Plan).

Recommend: Object/Comments submitted

26/01100/DISC - Siemens OS Parcel 5700 South West of Grange Farm Street through Little Chesterton. Siemens on "Endeavour Way".

Travel Plan (includes car, bus, bicycle and walking). Note: Focus is on main road. We need to understand rat racing routes through the village and along the B430). Connections to Green Lane to be explored.

Note: from July 2026 relocation from Eynsham will involve @100 people, Jan 2027 – 2032 increase to 1,000. Visitors - @30 per week.

TREE APPLICATIONS

PERMITTED

26/01793/TPO – The Dower House, Church Road. TPO (tree protection order): 10/98/G1

5 sycamore trees are diseased and need to be removed as confirmed by Blue Monkey Trees of Middleton Stoney. Trees will be replaced

Recommend: No objection

26/00898/TCA - Westfield Farm, Shepherds Close

London Plane (T1) - fell due to encroachment on neighbouring property and threat to boundary wall. Replace with slower going smaller tree more suitable for the location. Silver Birch (T2) - fell due to increasing damage to historic wall less than 0.5 metres away. Replace in part of the garden away from the wall. Hornbeam (T3) - Reduce and thin crown to deal with encroachment of branches on the structure of the farmhouse. The crown reduction would be around 5- 8 metres and thinning by about 30%. (Photo of location of trees).

Recommend: No objection

PENDING

25/03295/TCA – Newby Cottage, Northampton Road This property is now for sale 2 Pine trees, 1 silver birch – remove.

HISTORIC AND ONGOING – AWAITING A DECISION

26/01450/TEL - Telecommunications Mast, Manor Farm

Upgrade electronic communications apparatus/development ancillary to radio equipment housing Target Decision Date – 07/07/2026 (see map and info from June 2026 meeting).

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.

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.

Deferred until June 12, 2026 upon request of the National Highways Department. The Strategic Road Network includes the A34 and thus this app has drawn their attention.

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

26.440.8 **Resolution: To Approve** the acceptance of the gift of footpath 404/22/20, located off North Lane, to the Parish Council, as detailed in the legal documents provided by Spratt Endicott (DB/TR)

The Council have received legal documents from solicitor, Spratt Endicott, regarding the transfer of part of the footpath 404/22/20 off North Lane. Two items were noted:

Schedule of personal covenants - there is a covenant to erect and forever maintain a stock-proof fence along the boundary of the property between the points marked A and B on the plan. The current owner confirmed that some sections of fence have been replaced by the adjoining property owner. The Parish Council noted the requirements of the fence and will budget accordingly for any required maintenance or replacement.

A right to pass over rear of property closest to point A on the map – the owner confirmed that the access across the rear of the adjacent property was for him to take a short cut to do work on the path twice a year. The resident has been informed that this will not be used anymore as the path is being given to the Parish Council, who would not require access.

Whilst the maintenance of the footpath surface would remain the responsibility of the County Council, it was noted that the Parish Council would be required to budget for maintenance of any overhanging vegetation and fencing of the footpath.

A risk assessment on the Councils ownership would be required to be drafted.

The resolution to approve the acceptance of the gift of footpath 404/22/20, located off North Lane, to the Parish Council, as detailed in the legal documents provided by Spratt Endicott was proposed by DB and seconded by MJ. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: DB/TR to sign the HM Land Registry legal documents regarding the gifting of part of the footpath off North Lane and clerk to send back to solicitor Spratt Endicott.

Action: Clerk to draft a risk assessment for the ownership of the footpath off North Lane.

A formal letter will be drafted to the current owner to thank him for the kind gift of the footpath to the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk/DB to draft a letter to thank the current owner for his footpath gift.

26.440.9 **For Discussion:** Update on Heyford Park and PFAS awareness group (TR)

TR confirmed that the next Gallos Brook PFAS update meeting is to be held on Sunday 13th September 2026, TR to attend. The advert poster placed has been placed on the Council website and facebook sites.

TR will provide feedback to the 7th October 2026 Council meeting.

Coverage of the issue is still ongoing; however, it feels like it has more of a planning impact than a safety note.

It was queried how this may impact the Puy du Fou development as they were digging down, TR will enquire at the meeting.

TR also confirmed that all water testing by the Thames 21 organisation is available to the public; it is regarded as being a good source of information on water quality but noted it is not PFAS testing.

Action: Clerk to add PFAS meeting feedback to the 7th October 2026 Council meeting agenda.

26.440.10 **Resolution: To Approve:** Grievance policy (TR)

The resolution to approve the Parish Council grievance policy was proposed by TR and seconded by MA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload new version of the grievance policy to the PC website.

26.440.11 **For Information:** Cherwell District Councillor update (CDC Councillor Faltermeyer)

Councillor Faltermeyer provided an update on the Cherwell Local Plan.

The Plan has not yet been adopted and was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate last year. It was reported that, since submission, a significant amount of new legislation had come into effect. A new Planning Inspector has now been appointed, following concerns regarding the workload of the previous inspectors. As a result, some of the information previously submitted is now out of date and will require updating.

The Inspector has indicated that the Plan is positively prepared, and comments on “meeting Oxfords unmet housing needs”. The Inspector is also considering minimum housing density requirements. Concern was expressed that increasing the minimum density could be inappropriate for rural areas such as Weston on the Green.

A number of other policies and matters will also need to be reviewed and updated, including local standards such as energy efficiency, particularly in light of local infrastructure issues including power cuts and water supply concerns. Policies safeguarding community facilities, including public houses, are also being updated, together with measures to improve connectivity for rail users.

The Planning Inspector has confirmed that the plan can progress to public examination. The examination process is expected to continue over the coming months and will need to take account of the National Planning Policy Framework and the proposed local government reorganisation.

Following the update, DB commented that the position appeared more positive than had initially been anticipated.

26.440.12 **For Information:** Update on village works (JM)

Dog bin: The dog bin still requires locating near to The Chequers, MA/JM to walk together to find a location.

Hedge cutting: JM queried if the Council would wish Stephen Gray - Gray Contractors to undertake an annual trim of the hedges again and highlighted it would need to go on an agenda for approval.

Sink hole: JM to place a plate over the hole adjacent to the footbridge off Church Lane, subject to owner access.

Action: Clerk to enquire with Tony Brummell at CDC to see if any developments on fixing the broken culvert.

Planters: JM is making six new galvanised steel planters for the village as the existing older ones are rotting. The Council agreed that they wish the planters to have upright boards so posters can be placed on them.

Kerb vegetation: JM noted that grass is growing along B430 between road and kerb which requires strimming/sweeping. Clerk to contact CDC to enquire if the street sweeper will be able to visit.

Action: Clerk to contact CDC regarding when the street sweeper will visit the B430 and to highlight the long grass growing.

JM also noted that gully/drain clearance is required following the undertaking of road resurfacing works which has filled up the drains with stones. Gully clearing by OCC in Weston on the Green is scheduled to take place in January 2027. Councillor Gordon highlighted that any issues noted before that time should be reported on Fix My Street and she can follow any up that are not tackled.

JM confirmed that the community van had still not been sold, the price had been lowered.

For Discussion: Potential village workday, mid September-October 2026 (DB)

The Council discussed ways of encouraging greater community involvement in village maintenance and improvement activities. It was suggested that a programme of smaller tasks could be arranged over a number of weeks, allowing residents to work together on different projects.

Potential activities identified included sanding and painting benches, playground maintenance tasks, verge inspections, spinney work, lane leaders and identification and mapping of memorial trees.

It was suggested that residents could also be invited to take responsibility for an individual bench/planter on an ongoing basis, if they wished to do so.

The possibility of holding a month of village work activities was discussed. JM, MA and DW offered to assist DB with developing and coordinating the initiative.

Action: DB to place advert in the Village News regarding village work dates.

26.440.13 **For Information:** Update from Traffic Calming Action Group including B430 speed reduction works (MA)

The Council discussed the proposed purchase and installation of the approved Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). MA and Graham Barnett had undertaken a site walk to identify potential locations; six possible locations had been identified and marked on a map for submission to OCC for approval. These comprised three southbound locations on the B430, two locations on the approach from the A34, and one location on Church Lane approaching the village.

OCC has been contacted to establish why the outstanding works on the stretch of road between the village and the airfield had not yet been undertaken.

It was noted that cats' eyes had been installed along the centre of the road. The condition of the road following recent resurfacing would be monitored, as some cracking had already been observed.

A list of other outstanding sign issues would also be sent to OCC for follow-up. The Council discussed the old 40mph speed limit sign and whether this should be removed or replaced, with clarification to be sought from OCC.

Action: MA to draft list of outstanding issues regarding B430 to be sent to OCC.

MA highlighted that a road sign opposite the stocks had been rotated through 180 degrees. This would be reported via Fix My Street.

Action: Clerk to add issue with road sign opposite the stocks to FMS.

It was also noted that a recent Facebook post had highlighted concerns regarding vehicles overtaking on the B430. DB will contact the person directly to discuss the issue.

Resolution: To Approve: a spend of up to £4,750.00 +VAT to purchase four bus shelters to be located at the bus stops on B430 (DB)

It was reported that an application to the OCC Councillor Priority Fund had been submitted for £1,500 to support the purchase of bus shelters; this has been approved and Councillor Gordon was thanked for her support. The Parish Council reserve bus shelter budget line also has £7,000 remaining in it.

A resident queried the location of the proposed bus shelters. DB confirmed that the proposed locations for the bus shelters within the village remain under discussion and have not yet been confirmed.

The CDC Conservation Officer had provided a link to information regarding the proposed shelters. It was noted that the Parish Council would need to determine the preferred design and that there was no objection in principle to the proposed shelters being located within the Conservation Area.

Four bus shelters have been sourced for the Council, three have been custom made and one has been purchased second hand by JM; they include seating and solar lighting. The financial implications of sourcing locally made shelters, compared with purchasing standard commercial catalogue shelters represents a significant cost saving for the Council. The cost of one standard commercial shelter is approximately equivalent to the cost of all four locally sourced shelters.

Discussions are ongoing with OCC regarding permission to use the highway verges for the shelters.

The resolution to approve a spend of up to £4,750.00+VAT to purchase four bus shelters to be located at the bus stops on B430 was proposed by DB and seconded by MA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: DB to update the Council on the installation of bus shelters on B430.

26.440.14 **For Information:** Biodiversity report (DW)

DW provided an update on recent wildlife and biodiversity observations in the village. Most of the summer birds have now departed. A number of interesting species have been recorded, including a clouded yellow butterfly, hummingbird hawk moth, barn owl and a rare great crested newt at the rear of Knowle Lane. A quail was also seen walking out onto a path near JM's property, and a trail camera has been positioned in the area to try to obtain images.

It was noted that the recent rainfall was beneficial, as some birds, including egrets and doves, had been struggling to find water during the period of hot weather.

Wildflowers have appeared along Church Lane and were reported to be looking particularly good. The condition of the hedge will be monitored following the recent heat.

Photographs and an article on the recent wildlife and biodiversity observations will be provided by DW for inclusion in the Village News.

Action: DW to provide a biodiversity/wildlife report for inclusion in the next Village News edition.

26.440.15 **To Receive & Agree Actions on Matters Arising for:** External auditors report (TR)

TR informed the council that the external auditors report for FY 2025-26 had been received by the council; no matters had been raised by the auditors on the report.

The covering letter noted that under “the 'Breakdown of Reserves Held' pro forma there is a reserve noted as '3 months PC operating costs'. It would appear that these are general funds held to cover day-to-day operations of the council and therefore should be included within general reserves rather than restricted reserves.”

This will be noted and amended for the 2026/27 reserves breakdown information.

It was confirmed that the notice of the conclusion of the audit had been placed on the Parish Council website and noticeboards.

Action: Clerk to note and action comment made by the external auditor in their covering letter regarding the placement of the 3 months operating costs within the breakdown of reserves.

26.440.16 **For Information:** List of invoices, donations, standing orders, direct debits paid from Parish Council bank accounts (31st July 2026 – 20th August 2026)

The following payments, covering invoices, direct debits and standing orders, from the Parish Council bank accounts for the period 31st July 2026 – 20th August 2026 were noted.

PC Ref	Payment Date	Payee	Purpose	Invoice Total / Amount Paid
DD	05/08/26	Nest Pensions	Clerks pension contribution – July 2026	-
605	17/08/26	Clerk (J Mullane)	Printer ink (Amazon)	£29.29
606	14/08/26	CPRE - Campaign to Protect Rural England	Annual membership renewal 2026-27	£36.00
608	14/08/26	Graham Barnett	Community bus tyres x2 (Bicester Tyres & Exhaust)	£112.80
609	14/08/26	Graham Barnett	Fuel for community van (Tesco)	£48.57
610	14/08/26	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for PC meetings (July-Sept 26)	£45.00
611	17/08/26	Clerk (J Mullane)	Soil for playground edging 6x50l (Wickes)	£30.00
612	14/08/26	RoSPA Play Safety	Annual inspection of playground - July 2026	£114.00
613	04/08/26	Oxford Edens	Grass cutting 27/07/26 (playground, stocks/Ben Jonson/Church Close corner)	£375.57

DD – Direct Debit, SO – Standing Order

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 2026-27 Budget Line
614*	Moore	External auditors limited assurance review 2025/26	£252.00	Audit Fees	£350.00
615*	Oxford Edens	Playing field maintenance: August	£390.00	Works/Playing Field Maintenance	£2,514.00
616	Graham Barnett	Fuel for community van (BP Express)	£20.00	Works/Community Bus	£160.47
617	Graham Barnett	Community van - x2 wheel alignment	£60.00	Works/Community Bus	£140.47

618	Graham Barnett	Fuel for community van (Tesco)	£56.02	Works/Community Bus	£80.47

** already paid invoice to avoid late payment fee*

TR noted that invoice references 614 and 615 had already been paid to avoid late payments fees.

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the tables was proposed by TR and seconded by MJ. 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.

26.440.17 **For Discussion:** Local Government reorganisation response (DB, Councillor Gordon - OCC)

An update was provided on the proposed local government reorganisation. It was reported that committees are being established to bring together representatives from the different councils involved and to begin the process of determining planning arrangements for the new unitary authority. The first meeting is expected to take place in mid-September, with a clearer picture anticipated following the first few meetings.

Discussion took place regarding the importance of ensuring that the views of parish councils are heard at an early stage and that future plans properly recognise the needs and interests of parishes, particularly those within the area linked to Oxford. Councillors were invited to share their thoughts and suggestions to help inform discussions going forward.

Examples of local government reorganisations previously undertaken in Somerset and Wiltshire, approximately five to six years ago, were noted. It was also reported that work would be undertaken with similar groups across the other regions, including consideration of co-locating services.

Councillor Gordon is involved with the Greater Oxford Group (the one where the parish of Weston on the Green will come under) and will share further information with the Parish Council as it becomes available.

26.440.18 **For Information:** Oxfordshire County & Cherwell District Councillors updates (OCC Councillor Gordon)

Councillor Gordon (OCC) provided an update on:

Traffic Filters: It was reported that the Oxford traffic filters are due to go live on 28th September 2026. Residents who are already registered for the congestion charge will not need to take any further action, as their registration will transfer automatically. The scheme will operate under an Experimental Traffic Order, with a consultation taking place during the first six months. It was noted that this provides an opportunity for changes to be made at the end of the six-month period in response to feedback received.

Islip Bridge: The Council was advised that Islip Bridge is expected to be closed for approximately eight weeks from Monday 28th September 2026.

Quiet Ways: A number of routes in the local area are being considered. The Wendlebury route, previously indicated, is not proceeding as the Wendlebury Parish Council did not wish to participate, and therefore Weston on the Green were not consulted.

Fridge and Freezer Recycling: It was reported that there is currently a nationwide issue with the recycling of fridges and freezers. Residents are currently only able to book a visit to the recycling centre approximately one week in advance and kerbside collection is not available. Residents are therefore encouraged to make use of retailer take-back schemes when purchasing a replacement appliance.

Flood Wardens: Concern was expressed regarding the potential for flooding during the forthcoming winter. Those interested in becoming involved in the Flood Wardens Scheme were encouraged to contact Councillor Gordon or the Parish Council for further information.

26.440.19 **Resolution: To Approve:** Disciplinary policy (DB)

The resolution to approve the Parish Council disciplinary policy was proposed by DB and seconded by MJ. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload new version of the disciplinary policy to the PC website.

26.440.20 **Resolution: To Approve:** Social media and communications policy (DB)

This item was deferred to the 7th October 2026 meeting.

Action: Clerk to add the social media and communications policy approval to the 7 October 2026 PC meeting.

26.440.21 **For Information:** Consultation on the Movement and Place (MAP) Plan for Kidlington and surrounding villages - Oxfordshire County Council's long-term plan to improve local places and transport (DB)

Information was provided to the Council to peruse on the Movement and Place (MAP) Plan for Kidlington and surrounding villages consultation which closes on 14th September 2026.

Graham Barnett noted that a new bus timetable by Thames Travel had started on 30th August 2026 and new timetables have been placed at the bus stops, on Facebook and the Council website.

It was agreed that a flyer covering the new bus timetable and community van information should be printed and delivered to every house.

Action: Clerk to arrange printing of transport flyer for village circulation.

26.440.22 **Next Parish Council Meeting Date:** Wednesday 7th October 2026, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting closed: 21.25