

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle, Graham Smith and Sarah Wilson-Medhurst

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and three villagers

25/01. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Lucks (personal) and Cllr Rapp (personal), County Cllr George Reynolds and District Cllr Andrew McHugh

25/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/03. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

25/04. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

A report from Cllr George Reynolds noted that Local Government will change in the future to either a unitary for Oxfordshire and/or a Thames Valley Mayor. OCC intend to clear the grips along the Barford Road.

25/05. To discuss celebrating VE Day on 8th May 2025

This will be a national celebration. A village event could be arranged with teas and games the weekend before or the weekend after.

Action: The Chair to put a message on the village whatsapp group.

25/06. To discuss AED and CPR training

A local Community First Responder has offered to put on an AED/CPR training course. It will be held in the village hall on Tuesday 25th February from 7-9pm. The cost is £10 each. It was agreed that participants would be asked to pay £2.00 and the Parish Council will pay the remaining £8.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask for a village email to be circulated.

25/07. To discuss the following highway matters

- *Gritting roads and pavements in icy weather.* A villager had asked if grit could be put where ice forms at the top of High Street and the road meets Barford Road. There are grit bins nearby that anyone can access if they are able to. Another villager has written to OCC about Home Hill being a safety hazard. The Parish Council have asked before for a ditch to be reopened and a barrier or channel installed across the lane. No action was taken by Highways as the land is a bridleway. Advice from the British Horse Society is that there no reason why a properly designed water diverting channel or raised area cannot be built across a bridleway providing there are no spaces to trap horses hooves. This information has been passed to officers at OCC.

- *Cutting back of hedges.* A villager had complained about hedges being cut on a Sunday. This was done for safety reasons. The main road is much quieter and safer for the contractor to work. The work has to be done before the start of bird nesting season. Debris was left on the road near Sands Lane.

Action: The Parish Clerk will speak to the contractor.

- *Tree maintenance and health monitoring.* After a recent storm, a tree fell and damaged a residents car on St Peters Close. Highways did come out to clear the tree away. A villager at the meeting handed over a map of trees with TPOs on and a map of publicly maintained highway.
Action: The Parish Clerk to circulate the maps to Councillors.
- *Weed killing measures.* Other villages undertake weed killing to improve drainage and to stop weeds breaking up kerb settings and pavements. It was discussed and agreed not to proceed with this.

25/08. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

New

25/00059/LB, *Retrospective – Installation of CCTV cameras to enhance security at Sands House, Moor Lane.* Under consideration.

Determined

24/01347/F, *Retrospective – Replacement of windows to front, rear and side elevations at Yew Tree Cottage, High Street.* Refused by CDC.

Other

24/00381/ENF, *The Old Vicarage, High Street.* Closure of case as retrospective application was submitted.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

- £330.00 to N Prickett (grass cutting September)
- £405.60 to N Prickett (error with invoice 2118. Incorrectly invoiced)
- £886.80 to N Prickett ((Hedge trimming, work on Poleaxe)
- £36.00 to Sort It (Monthly maintenance December)
- £36.00 to Sort It (Monthly maintenance January)

Correspondence

- Volunteer Driver Service, Donation request. The details will be circulated to the village to make everyone aware of the service they offer.
- Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042
- Poppy Appeal 2024, A donation thank you letter.
- OCC Highways, Road closure at Swerford Heath 11.02.25. Details to be put on the noticeboard.
- OCC Highways, Road closure at Milton Road, Bloxham on 20.02.25. Details to be put on the noticeboard.
- OCC Highways, Road closure on A361 on 05.03.25. Details to be put on the noticeboard.
- OCC Highways, Road closure at Wigginton Road on 24.03.25. Details to be put on the noticeboard.
- Villager, Hedge cutting and gritting of roads
- Villager, Wom'Il and the safety hazard
- Villager of St Peters Close, Trees
- OCC, Climate Engagement Webinar on 29.01.25

25/09. Councillors Reports

There was nothing to report.

25/10. Public participation session (*Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of fifteen minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes*)

A villager asked if there was an update from National Grid about the overhead lines being put underground. The Parish Clerk has not heard anything.

A villager spoke about the ground condition by the goalposts on the Poleaxe. The areas are under constant use. The Parish Clerk to check the safety report.

Devolution was briefly discussed. An OCC Cabinet meeting was held on 9th January. There are lots of changes ahead and the May elections may be cancelled. Moving to a unitary authority is of concern, that concern being there may be a loss of local democracy. The Parish Clerk will circulate information as she receives it.

25/11. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting finished at 8.15pm.

DRAFT