

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of an Annual Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle, Stephan Lucks, Mike Rapp, Graham Smith and Sarah Wilson Medhurst

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), District Councillor David Rogers and three villagers

25/29. Elections

Election of Chair and signing of Acceptance of Office form.

It was proposed by Cllr Rapp and seconded by Cllr Wilson Medhurst that Cllr Doyle be Chair. She signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Wilson Medhurst and seconded by Cllr Smith that Cllr Lucks be Vice Chair.

25/30. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

25/31. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/32. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 18th March and 10th April 2025

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

25/33. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Wooden bollards at the top of High Street on the grassed triangle – Highways will be quoting for this work.

Missing 30mph sign on A361 near the pumping station – This has been put on FMS.

Weight limit on Barford Road – An email has been sent to Highways but there has been no response.

25/34. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

An annual report was received from District Cllr David Rogers. The main points included Cherwell Local Plan, Five Year Housing Land Supply, the importance of Neighbourhood Plans, the move to Castle Quay, the future of Local Government, Flooding and potholes, Farming Protests, Health Care Contributions and Local Elections 2025. The full report will be available to read on the village website www.southnewington.co.uk.

Drains were discussed as there were a lot of problems with flooding and drainage in the village last year. Highways have a large budget set aside. Problems should still be reported on FMS. FMS Super Users can report problems and create works orders. They are fixed within 28 days.

Cllr David Rogers left the meeting at 7.51pm to attend another.

25/35. To discuss refurbishment of the noticeboard

The noticeboard is looking tatty and has a broken lock in the left board.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Green Barnes about the broken lock and the Chair to ask Ian Timms to quote to varnish the board.

25/36. To discuss the Pocket Park license

Bruno Brown has advised that he wishes to terminate the Pocket Park license with CDC. It was agreed the Parish Council will take on the license subject to confirmation of public liability cover. The annual cost of the license is £50.00 and this cost was accepted. 4 villagers have agreed to oversee/maintain the area.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact the insurance company to ensure that public liability cover includes this area of the village.

25/37. To discuss a village tidy

It was agreed to hold a village tidy up on 24th May 2025. The bags of rubbish will be collected on 27th May.

Action: The Parish Clerk to order litter picking equipment through CDC.

25/38. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

a. To approve and sign the Certificate of Exemption.

The internal audit has taken place and there were no issues arising. It was agreed to approve the Certificate of Exemption. It was signed by the Chair and Parish Clerk/RFO.

b. To approve and sign Section 1.

It was agreed to approve Section 1. It was signed by the Chair and Parish Clerk/RFO.

c. To approve and sign Section 2.

It was agreed to approve Section 2. It was signed by the Chair and Parish Clerk/RFO.

Action: The Parish Clerk to send the Certificate of Exemption and notice of Exercise of Public Rights to the External Auditor and put the documents on the website before 30th June 2025.

25/39. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

New

- 25/00829/TCA, Birch (T1) – re reduction by approximately 3 metres at The Close, High Street. No comments or observations by the PC.

Older

- 25/00445/CM, Section 73 application to continue the development permitted by permission MW.0080/15 (Change of Use of Agricultural Barns to Topsoil storage and screening for Topsoil business, a new lean-to 10 x 30m barn and new farm access for Barford Road Farmhouse), altering Condition 2 from no more than 12 HGV movements per day to no more than 24 HGV movements per day and no more than 36 HGV movements per day during exceptional operations, with exceptional operations to last no more than six weeks per year - MW.0009/25 at North Oxfordshire Top Soil. Objections by CDC and South Newington Parish Council.
- 25/00879/TCA, Tree work at The Barn, Green Lane. No further comments or objections by CDC.
- 25/00753/TCA, Tree 1. A multi trunk bay tree. Fell. Nobbys is being refurbished and the entrance to the stone building in the garden is too close to the tree which is obstructing the entrance and blocking light to the building. As part of the refurbishment the stone building will be renovated and a bay or similar tree will be planted further from the building entrance. The tree also overshadows the neighbour's greenhouse at Nobbys Cottage, High Street. No comments or observations by the PC. No comments or observations by CDC.

Other planning matters

- Update on wooden structure on land at the bottom of the hill by the pumping station.

The Parish Clerk had emailed CDC for an update after the last meeting but had no response. The wooden structure was built without planning permission last year. Fencing has been put up to screen the area.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email CDC Enforcement again and copy in Cllr Rogers.

- Update on 5 St Peters Close.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email CDC Enforcement to ask for timescales to demolish the non compliant extension and timescales for other approved work.

- Update on MW.0009/25 (NOTS). There is no further update at this time.

Action: The Parish Council to contact Paul Fermer at Highways re the road survey and inconsistencies, Cllr Gareth Epps who has replaced George Reynolds and Emma Bolster OCC Planning Officer. South Newington Parish Council will continue to liaise and work with Barford St Michael Parish Council.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

- £38.30 to Sort It (website maintenance April)
- £49.00 to OPFA (membership)
- £35.00 To Community First (membership)
- £133.85 to Cherwell District Council (dog bin emptying)
- £52.00 to ICO (registration)
- £170.00 to R Fletcher (internal audit)
- £475.00 to South Newington Village Hall (grant)
- £475.00 to South Newington PCC (grant)
- £38.30 to Sort It (website maintenance May)

Insurance Renewal

- To agree a one year agreement costing £727.25 or a three year long term agreement costing £675.52. It was agreed to accept the three year long term agreement as insurance prices are increasing every year.

Action: The Parish Clerk to process the payment.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and circulated.

- South Central Ambulance Charity – Thank you letter for donation from defibrillator training event.
- Highways, A361 Road closure on 19th May. Details to be put on the noticeboard.
- Highways, Wigginton to Hook Norton road closure on 2nd June. Details to be put on the noticeboard.
- Villager, Items for charity by bench and notice-board. Complaints have been received about excessive use and the area becoming messy. Another location was suggested but is not suitable and near the centre of the village.

Action: The Chair to ask if the products can be placed to the left of the bench and limited food be put out.

25/40. Councillors Reports

No reports were received.

25/41. 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)

1 St Peters Close which is a Sanctuary house has been empty for a while.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email Sanctuary to ask for an update.

Concern has been expressed about another property on St Peters Close which has excess rubbish in the front garden.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email Sanctuary Homes.

25/42. To note next meeting date and time

15th July 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting finished at 8.30pm.

DRAFT