

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle, Stephan Lucks, Michael Rapp and Graham Smith

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and two villagers

25/53. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Wilson-Medhurst (personal), County Cllr G Epps and District Cllr D Rogers

25/54. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/55. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2025

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

25/56. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

HGV weight limit sign – Highways have said these signs have to be placed at the beginning of a zone.

Neighbourhood Plan – The Chair spoke to Barford St Michael about a Neighbourhood Plan and they have considered the matter but agreed it is not worth doing. It gives limited value and work on updating the Local Plan is underway.

25/57. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

A report was received from Cllr Epps and circulated. The main points included:

Planning application for Puy du Fou and a new town at Heyford Park have been submitted. Oxford United FC have received permission for their new stadium at the Triangle. Health Overview & Scrutiny: GP estate provision, County Hall, Speeding and the A4260, Infrastructure and community migration – M40 Junction 10 area, Plan for Rail 2040, Speeding, Enforcement and Thames Valley Police, Electric Blanket Checking.

A report was received from Cllr Rogers and circulated. The main points included:

Cherwell Local Plan, Business Rates reset, Primary Care Expansion, Lawrence Nurses providing hospice care in your home.

25/58. To discuss the siting of the foodbank bench

More complaints have been received about the food and where it is situated. There has been more food than usual as the foodbank was closed for three days. It was suggested to place on the path near to the Old Vicarage. The idea of a foodbank is well supported.

Action: The Chair to speak to the closest resident about the proposed new location.

25/59. To receive an update on the renewal of the Pocket Park licence

The Parish Clerk has contacted CDC and they can renew the lease. It was agreed to suggest a five year lease. The area has a pond.

Action: Cllr Smith to take a photo of the pond as a safety sign or lifebuoy might need to be purchased and placed nearby.

25/60. To discuss Poleaxe rules and dogs

Although there is a clear 'No Dogs' Sign at each entrance to the Poleaxe, dogs have been seen in the park. Aggressive behaviour has been witnessed although the park is used by people from outside of the village. Councillors to keep a close eye on the area.

25/61. To discuss village Sunday rules

The current Sunday rules which are voluntary and advisory are not to use machinery after 1pm on a Sunday. The weather has been kind to people this year and it was recognised that some villagers are only at home at weekends. Most villagers do stick to the rules.

25/62. To discuss winter village preparations

All salt bins have been checked and are full up. There is a covered drain near the entrance to Wom'll. Nigel Prickett will clear the leaves on the poleaxe and the CDC leaf sweeper will be booked when most of the leaves have fallen.

Action: The Chair to check if the drain should be covered up.

25/63. To receive an update on the work to remove overhead power lines by National Grid

The Parish Clerk met the representative from National Grid in July to discuss forthcoming work to remove overhead power lines. It was a good meeting. This work had been delayed due to other priority levels of work in the area. Mr Hudson has also met National Grid as he has two power lines running through his property. Work is scheduled for November 2025 and January 2026 with road closures and traffic lights. Work will be done near the pub on a Monday when the pub is closed so that their business is not affected.

25/64. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

New

25/02138/TCA, T1 Conifer - fell tree has outgrown position and is causing damage to driveway and adjoining wall at Dairy Cottage, The Old Farmyard, High Street. No objections by PC.

Older

25/01966/TEL56, The removal of an existing 20m lattice mast and associated compound, and the installation of 1no. monopole sharable mast (height up to 25m), antennas to be installed on headframes, operator cabinets, multi-user electrical cabinet - O2 Telecommunications Mast 32052 OS Parcel 7288 South Of Home Hill Barn Barford Road South Newington OX15 4JJ. Comments made by PC.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

£38.30 to Sort It Biz Ltd (website maintenance August)

£100.00 to Ian Timms (varnish of noticeboard)

£115.20 to Playsafety Ltd (inspection of Poleaxe)

£597.60 to N Prickett (grass cutting)

£45.00 to CPRE (membership)

£67.03 to Sort It (website domain renewal)

£38.30 to Sort It Biz Ltd (website maintenance September)

£850.56 To Parish Clerk (hours)

£212.40 to HMRC

£64.80 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

To approve a pay rise for the Parish Clerk (effective from 1st April 2025)

It was agreed to approve a pay rise based on the NJC (National Joint Council) pay agreement.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and circulated.

- Playsafety, Inspection of Poleaxe. Minor repairs are needed and the risk levels are low.
- CDC, The Duchess of Kent, Book of Condolence.
- OALC, Launch of new website.
- CDC, Cherwell Local Plan Review 2042 – Submission.
- OCC, Preparing for Winter 25/26.

25/65. Councillors Reports

A broken gate on Sands Lane has been reported to the Countryside Service.

25/66. 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 member of the public was present to discuss the foodbank and where it could be moved to. He has offered to make a flatbed cart with wheels that would look nice. This will be actioned once a location is agreed.

25/67. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.30pm

Meeting finished at 8.10pm.