

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle (Chair), Stephan Lucks, Michael Rapps, Graham Smith and Sarah Wilson-Medhurst

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr G Epps and three villagers

25/68. To receive apologies for absence

District Cllr D Rogers

25/69. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/70. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2025

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

25/71. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

There were no matters arising.

25/72. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

A report was received from Cllr Epps and circulated. The main points included: Bicester & Mid Cherwell Movement & Place Plan Consultation, Parish/Highways Guidance/Devolution and LGR, North Oxfordshire Topsoil on Barford Road, Cllr Priority Fund, Part night lighting – switch off, County Hall, Speeding and the A4260, Gully cleaning, Infrastructure and community mitigation – M40 Junction 10 area.

The Temporary Congestion charge is in place. Each resident in Oxfordshire is allowed 25 free permits. There are improvements to times of buses and frequencies. The Local Government Re-organisation proposal will be submitted to Central Government soon. Street lighting can be switched off but will not apply to Oxford city or larger towns. The Cllr Priority Fund is available for applications. The NOTS application was withdrawn and they are in breach of conditions. Gully cleaning should take place soon. Cllr Wilson-Medhurst asked about devolution and the impact it would have on the Parish Council. Lots of discussions are going on behind the scenes. Parish Councils have an important function as they are close to the communities they serve and have an important role in that regard and this will become even more important with devolution. Cllr Epps will forward new information when he has it.

A report was received from Cllr Rogers and circulated. The main points included: Planning including a motion to support Town and Parish Councils, Cllr's Meeting with Steve Reed (MHCLG), Primary Care Expansion, Parish Liaison meeting, Local Impact Reports, LGR, Hempton Planning Appeal, Illegal landfill in Kidlington and Transformation Program.

25/73. Governance

- *To approve an IT Policy to cover digital and data compliance (Assertion 10).*

Assertion 10 is a new requirement for smaller local councils in the UK, introduced in the 2025 edition of the [Practitioner's Guide](#), that mandates councils demonstrate digital and data compliance as part of their annual governance return.

It requires councils to have proper governance frameworks for their digital presence, data protection, and IT management, which includes specific requirements like using a council-owned domain for official emails and operating an accessible website. A draft IT policy was circulated.

Action: Cllr Wilson-Medhurst to review the draft IT Policy and re-circulate. To be adopted at the next meeting.

25/74. To discuss No Parking Signs

The Village Hall Committee would like to put signage out when events are on. It was agreed the signs will be useful. The Parish Council agreed to pay for the signs.

25/75. To receive an update on the Style Council and plans for 2026

There is no update.

25/76. To receive an update on Pocket Park

The new license agreement is being prepared by Cherwell District Council and will be taken on by the Parish Council with the support of the villagers who have agreed to form a working party. Councillors have taken photos of the area and it was agreed to purchase a sign to close the area off. Maintenance and tree work will take place in the Spring.

25/77. To receive an update on the new stand for the breadline bench

The new stand is nearly built and will be placed to the left of the bench. This will enable easy and free access to the noticeboard.

25/78. To discuss blocked drains and leaves

The leaves on the Poleaxe will be cleared by Nigel Prickett and placed in the new compost bin.

The blocked drain near Wingate Cottage has been reported on FMS. The outflow pipe is too small which causes an airlock. It has been reported to Highways but the matter is still outstanding.

Action: The Chair to forward details to Cllr Epps.

25/79. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

New

- 25/02592/TCA, T4 Holly - Reduce by 1.5 metres back to boundary * Agent confirms that tree is located in a parking bay which is jointly owned by the owners of four properties which are located opposite the applicants property at The Hive, Moor Lane. No comments by PC.
- 25/02689/TCA, T1 Sycamore - fell due to excessive height and canopy, and excessive growth at base of tree. T2- Ash - fell due to excessive height and canopy, and excessive growth at base of tree. . T3, T4 & T5 - Maple - fell - due to excessive height and canopy. T6 - Ash - fell due to excessive height and canopy. T7 & T8 - Maple - fell due to excessive height and canopy at Rainbows End. Some of the trees may be on highways land. The Parish Council would prefer for them to be pruned/reduced rather than felled.

Action: The Parish Clerk to respond.

- 25/02719/TCA, T1 Sycamore - Fell, due to the size of the tree and the impact it has on the garden at 2 Barford Road. It was agreed to support.

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.* Granted by CDC.

Action: The Parish Clerk to email the conditions.

- 25/02138/TCA, *Tree work at Dairy Cottage, The Old Farmyard.* No further comments or objections by CDC.
- 25/02498/TCA, *Tree work at Applegarth, Moor Lane.* No further comments or objections by CDC.
- MW.0009/25, *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 at Barford Road Farm, Barford Road.* Withdrawn.

Other planning Matters

Yew Tree Cottage, New windows. The windows have been replaced and the specification and design were approved by Cherwell District Council.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

- £38.30 to Sort It Biz Ltd (website maintenance October)
- £38.30 to Sort It Biz Ltd (website maintenance November)
- £151.01 to Cherwell District Council (dog bin emptying)
- £147.98 to Parish Clerk (new compost bin for the leaves in the Poleaxe area)
- £543.60 to N Prickett (grass cutting May/July/August)
- £592.80 to N Prickett (grass cutting in September/October)
- £106.80 to N Prickett (May)
- £65.00 to Royal British Legion (Remembrance Service wreath)

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and circulated.

- CDC, Update on the Local Government Re-organisation Two unitary proposal. Noted.
- OCC, A4260 Temporary Road Closure 14th to 16th January. Noted. To be placed on the website and notice-board nearer the time.

25/80. Councillors Reports

Cllr Smith will place the plaque by the new tree.

The HGV weight limit signs were discussed again. These are advisory signs. It was agreed to get further advice on whether a weight limit can be implemented.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Highways.

The Chair has received a quote to repair the gates on the Poleaxe.

Action: Cllr Smith to get a second quote.

25/81. 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 on the underground work that is due to be carried out.

Action: The Parish Clerk has not heard any more but will contact them for an update.

A villager spoke about the proposed housing development of 95 houses by the playing field in Bloxham. Local schools and GP surgeries will not be able to cope with more properties.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact the Clerk at Bloxham Parish Council to see how they can help.

A villager spoke about the new digital telephone service which will be live in January 2027. More awareness should be given to the change in 2026.

25/82. To note meeting dates for 2026

13th January, 10th March, 5th May, 14th July, 8th September and 10th November.

Meeting finished at 8.30pm.