

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 10th March 2026 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:

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

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

26/11. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Smith (personal)

26/12. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

26/13. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2026

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

26/14. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

Weight limit – OCC have replied to say that a study was carried out in 2023 and key findings were that more detailed research was needed at local level and to set out governance processes of delivery of inventions. OCC identified two locations to conduct more detailed studies, the Windrush Valley and Henley-on-Thames. They have successfully deployed ANPR cameras, completed data collection and analysis and are now progressing onto options appraisal and an action plan. The findings from these studies may contribute to a broader understanding of HGV routing and can potentially inform interventions across the wider region. Once they have completed these studies they will look at other pinch points where issues are being caused by HGV's and suggest interventions.

New sign for Pocket Park – This will be put up soon.

26/15. To receive the reports from the District Councillor

A report from District Councillor Rogers had been circulated. The main points included: Overview and Scrutiny committee, Thames Valley Police Rural Forums, Local Plan, Local Government Association – Councillors Forum, Oxfordshire Rural and Community Led Housing Steering Group, Bicester and surrounding villages movement and place plan, LGA/ADPH Annual Public Health Conference. The reports will be put on the village website.

Cllr Wilson-Medhurst asked Cllr Rogers to discuss significant issues. There are budget difficulties. The government agreed a three year funding settlement and business rates will be reduced and tapered over a number of years. The Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) consultation is still open and there are three options to choose from. This will take government and accountability further away from people. The Parish Council are not bound by a cap on the amount they can increase their precept by before needing to call a referendum.

Flooding was discussed. Highways are trying to clear drains once a year. The challenge is potholes which are not easily fixed. There are more vehicles on the roads and the weather is changing. A working group has been set up in Hook Norton and they are clearing waterways, clearing debris, looking at leaky dam projects, balancing ponds and engaging with landowners.

Recent flooding in the High Street was mentioned and Cllr Epps is aware of this continual problem. There continues to be drainage issues in Moor Lane and at the bottom of Wom'Il. The current infrastructure is not fit for purpose.

Cllr Rogers left the meeting at 7.46pm.

26/16. To agree a date for a litter pick

It was agreed to carry out a litter pick on 11th April 2026.

Action: The Parish Clerk to order the equipment.

26/17. Governance

- *To adopt an IT Policy.* The policy had been circulated. A few changes would be made and then put on the website.

Action: The Parish Clerk to put it on the website.

Cllr Epps arrived at the meeting.

26/15. To receive the reports from the County Councillor

The main points included:

Setting of the budget, Fixmystreet, Potholes more broadly, Bicester and Cherwell Villages Movement and Place Plan, Road safety, Broadband and connectivity, Local Government Reorganisation and Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cllr Epps spoke about highways in general. There are lots of major developments planned around Junction 10 of the M40 and work is being done on a new Freight Strategy. The recent wet weather and freezing conditions have affected road repairs and slowed them down. 27 crews have been working to repair roads compared to 13 crews. Cllr Epps is fully aware of the flooding issues down the High Street which are continuous. He is hoping to meet highways but the staff are currently redeployed elsewhere. More money will be allocated for drainage repairs in the coming year.

Work continues with the North Oxfordshire Top Soil site and the breach of a condition notice. There are historic challenges with previous planning consent given.

26/18. To discuss speeding and the accidents on the A361

There was another car accident outside the pub and video footage was forwarded. Cars are speeding down the hill from the Bloxham direction and there have been four accidents since the new people have been in the pub. Possible resolutions are extending the 20mph zone as there is a footpath nearby. A speed survey was carried out four years ago.

Cllr Epps noted that he had attended a Vision Zero meeting and there are issues in this division. There will be a consultation of rural sections of A and B roads in April and May and he asked the Parish Council to respond. The 20mph schemes will be reviewed and there may be funding available to move them. Speed Indicator Devices were discussed which have to be funded by the Parish Council. There may be money available from Cllr Epps Councillor Priority Fund which closes in October. Both the Chair and Parish Clerk met a Highways representative eighteen months ago to look at where these signs could go.

There have been many conversations and meetings with Highways over the years to discuss speeding and traffic involving the Parish Council and villages along the A361.

26/19. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

The following payments were approved under statutory powers

- £38.30 to Rydall Comms (website maintenance February)

- £41.10 to Rydall Comms (website maintenance March)
- £13.59 to Parish Clerk (village hall signs- incorrect amount claimed)
- £789.30 To Parish Clerk (hours and £195.60 To HMRC (tax)
- £59.40 to Parish Clerk (mileage)
- £34.21 to Parish Clerk (expenses)
- £228.00 to OALC (membership)
- £1132.80 to N Prickett (collecting leaves and hedge cutting)

Correspondence

- Grass contractor, Rise in prices for 2026.
- OCC, Order Confirmation South Newington Footpath No 22 Modification Order 2025. Noted.
- Local Government Re-organisation – Consultation
- National Grid, Work update. The technician had been ill before Christmas and the project was not progressed. Work on the project is now continuing and once dates are agreed they will let the Parish Council know.
- CDC, Spring Clean 2026. Noted.
- Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell, thank you email.
- CDC, Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan - Extension of Consultation period. Noted.
- OCC, Notice of Landowner Deposit: Land at the Great Tew Estate (GTE), Great Tew. Noted.

26/20. Councillors Reports

The Chair noted she would be stepping down after the Annual Parish Meeting in May due to other work commitments. Councillors thanked her for all her work over the years.

26/21. 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 has just moved to a property off the A361. The overgrown verge in front of his property which belongs to highways has been neglected for over ten years. The Parish Council took over the highway verge cutting within the 30mph area a long time ago by way of a Section 101 agreement. The grass contractor cuts agreed areas which are grass verges. There are trees in need of work which the villager is trying to establish ownership of. OCC are in the process of surveying trees in the county but have not done a survey in South Newington. Another member of the public who lives close by noted that this overgrown verge area next to the A361 has always been scrubland. The villager is trying to get further clarification from Highways about land ownership. Cllr Epps offered to help.

26/22. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 5th May 2026, Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm followed by Annual Parish Council meeting at 8pm

Meeting finished at 8.50pm.