

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:

Councillors: Stephan Lucks, Michael Rapp, Graham Smith and Sarah Wilson-Medhurst

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr G Epps (arrived after another meeting at 7.48pm), District Cllr D Rogers and three villagers

26/38. Elections

Election of Chair and signing of Acceptance of Office form

It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Rapp that Cllr Lucks be Chair. He signed the acceptance of office form.

26/39. Co-option of New Councillor

It was agreed to co-opt Mohamed Cassimjee. Proposed by Cllr Lucks and seconded by Cllr Smith. He signed the Acceptance of Office form.

26/40. To receive apologies for absence

None.

26/41. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

The Chair declared an interest in the planning application at Sands House, Moor Lane.

26/42. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 5th May 2026

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

26/43. To receive an update on progress from the previous Minutes – The Chair/Clerk will report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision

There was no update to give.

26/44. To receive a report from the District Councillor

District Cllr Rogers had circulated his report. The main points included:

Tritax and Albion Appeals, J10 Baynards Green – from the CDC Executive, Heyford and J10 Major Developments – Initial Stakeholder meeting, Designation. The full report can be read on the village website www.southnewington.com.

Cllr Rogers spoke about the CDC LPA Designation. Nine councils, including Cherwell District Council, were put in special measures. This is a breach of performance targets. The labour government want to build lots of houses and are removing the guard rails. This is an erosion of Parish and Town Council's powers.

A member of the public asked how the Parish Council will be involved. Cllr Rogers replied that Parish Council's will still be consulted and can respond. For developments larger than 12 properties, the applicant can go straight to the Planning Inspectorate (PI). CDC will have to do all the work, reports, legal agreements and pay the costs. There is a risk that if the applicant goes straight to the PI and the application is refused, there is no right of appeal.

Signed

Dated 8th September 2026

26/45. To receive an update on new VAS signs following a meeting with Highways

A useful site meeting was held on 19th June with a Highways representative to look at positions and suitable signs. Both ends of the village were looked at but the biggest speed issue is on the hill coming from the Bloxham direction. There are three options for signs, mains powered, battery or solar powered. It was agreed to look at solar powered signs. Cllr Epps has agreed to partially fund a new sign (50%) from his Councillor Priority Fund. It was felt that a bend warning sign would be more appropriate than a speed sign. Cllr Rogers suggested that Westcotec are consulted as a Highway contractor. The Parish Clerk has a quote from them and will continue to get quotes and this matter is to be discussed in September.

County Cllr Gareth Epps arrived at 7.48pm.

26/44. To receive a report from the County Councillor

Cllr Epps agreed to circulate a report after the meeting. There is a review of speed limits in the Cherwell district. The B4031 is included. A decision on LGR is imminent. The subject of devolution is back on the table. There will be a painful budget meeting coming up and the first meeting for the Heyford Park Junction 10 forum has taken place.

From the floor, a member of the public spoke about Tink a Tank and the cutting of overgrown vegetation. A lady from OCC visited him at home and agreed to find out more. The work being done by National Grid was also discussed. Work on the Slibber was done. The next scheduled work was at Bakers Lane. The area was coned off and signs put out but then Highways stopped the work. A ten day road closure has been applied for running from 29th September to 9th October and they have to give 12 weeks notice. There is fear more delays will occur. Cllr Epps will try to bring things forward. The jetting and CCTV drainage work on High Street was discussed. This is a small part of the overall flooding problems. Cllr Epps did try to get a site meeting earlier in the year but officers were busy with potholes. All issues should continue to be put on Fix My Street (FMS).

Action: Cllr Epps will try to get a date to meet an officer.

A recent online meeting was held with various representatives about North Oxfordshire Top Soil (NOTS). A summary of current enforcement was given and what evidence is necessary. The Planning Enforcement team spoke to the applicants agent and they are proposing to relocate elsewhere. They propose to submit planning for 12 houses but the application has not been validated yet.

26/46. To consider moving to Councillor .gov.uk email addresses

Currently Councillors have their own council email addresses but not .gov.uk ones. The cost to change over is an annual cost of £260.00 & VAT. It was agreed to leave this for the moment. If it becomes a legal requirement then changes will be made.

26/47. To receive an update on activity on fields by the A361

A detailed map showing the three fields in question near the pumping station off the A361 was sent to CDC Enforcement. Field No. 1 and Field No. 2 both have separate enforcement numbers. Field No. 1 will be investigated by CDC staff. Field No. 2 remains under active consideration with a view to potential formal enforcement action. Field No 3 – the case has been closed. Further investigation can be undertaken should any building or engineering work commences.

**26/48. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated
Planning**

- 26/01513/F, *Erection of a sunken long barrow folly (retrospective) at Paradise Farm.* It was agreed to support.

Signed

Dated 8th September 2026

- 26/01295/F, *RETROSPCTIVE* approval for 1 section of farm track plus 3 access points into fields at Paradise Farm, Wigginton Road. Supported by PC.
- 26/01396/TCA, T1 x - Cotoneaster tree/shrub (marked T1 on plan) is currently overgrown, approaching 4m+ in height, this application is to reduce the cotoneaster down to 1.5m, this will increase light into garden (no4) remove over hanging branches into neighboring property and ensure it is kept to a manageable size, this will also help with maintenance taking in boundary considerations, and light for neighboring properties (no5 & no3 Barford Road) at 4 Barford Road. Supported by PC.
- 26/01077/F, *Erection of an Outbuilding for Recreational Use and Storage and Change of Use of Paddock to Golf Green (Retrospective)* at Paradise Farm, Wigginton Road. PC replied that it will be supported if for personal use only.
- 26/01024/LB, *Installation of full fibre to the premises by drilling an entry hole into the property (approximately 2 cm wide); external cable tacking to securely route the fibre cable; installation of an internal modem within the property (approximately 88 x 88 x 65 mm) and installation of an external OMNI box on the outside wall (approximately 134 x 155 x 35 mm) at Sands House, Moor Lane.* Supported by PC. Listed building consent was not needed by the resident.

Older

- 26/00981/TCA, T1 Robina - Fell T2 Robina – Fell at The Old Vicarage, High Street. No further comments or objections by CDC.
- 26/00965/F, *Erection of agricultural building (retrospective)* at Hawthorn Farm, Hawthorn Hill. Granted by CDC.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £200.00 to I Timms (repair of wall at the Poleaxe)
- £41.10 to Rydal Comms (website maintenance July)
- £41.10 to Rydal Comms (website maintenance August)
- £562.80 to N Prickett (grass cutting)
- £562.80 to N Prickett (grass cutting)
- £25.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)

To agree a new signatory for the bank

It was agreed to add Cllr Cassimjee as another signatory to the bank mandate.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Barclays.

Correspondence

- Highways, Road Closure on High Street and Moor lane on 19th August for jetting and CCTV of drainage system. Notices to be put on the website and noticeboard nearer the time.
- OCC, Quiet Lanes Pilot Programme now open for Expressions of interest.
Quiet lanes aim to improve road safety and encourage active travel on suitable minor roads and lanes, particularly where they are used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and local communities. Access is maintained for residents, landowners and emergency services. It was agreed there are no quiet lanes to nominate in South Newington.
- Highways, Temporary Extension Footpath Closure – at Footpath 355/13/50, South Newington from 20th January 2026 to January 2028. Noted.
- CDC, LPA Designation. Noted.
- CDC, Devolution and FSA Update. Noted.
- OCC, General review of speed limits on Oxfordshire's rural A and B class road network - Stakeholder consultation - Cherwell district. Feedback from the 20mph programme will be reviewed in the summer. It was agreed to ask if the current 20mph by the pub can be extended further out up the hill.

Signed

Dated 8th September 2026

26/35. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Smith was asked to organise a traffic count but it was pointed out that there is a traffic monitor already on the A361 near to the village.

26/36. Public participation session

The road nameplates for Bakers Lane and Sands Lane require replacement.

Action: The Parish Clerk to report and send photos to CDC.

26/37. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30pm (Cllr Rapp gave his apologies for this meeting)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed

Dated 8th September 2026