

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
OF SOUTH NEWINGTON
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, BARFORD ROAD
ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2026 AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr Doyle, Cllr Lucks, Cllr Smith and Cllr Wilson-Medhurst

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr Gareth Epps, District Cllr David Rogers and five villagers

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
Cllr Rapp (work)

2. **To receive an Annual Report from the Parish Council**

The Chair of the Parish Council gave this report. The Parish Council have worked on lots of planning including work on the fields around the pub. They continue to liaise with the Enforcement Department at Cherwell District Council. There have been ongoing issues with North Oxfordshire Top Soil but it is quiet at the moment. Some footpath repairs have been carried out including the main bridge by the Ford and the boardwalk bridge to Barford. Drain issues continue to be an issue but are supported with Cllr Epps. A new attractive bread bench was put in and donated by a villager. It fills the space that was available. A successful Spring Clean took place and the Chair thanked everyone that took part. It included the A361 and Barford Road. Electrical underground work by National Grid has started. The Parish Council continue to work with FMS and the Super User to report potholes. The repairs are delayed around the county but South Newington is not as badly affected as some villages.

An annual report was received from County Cllr G Epps. The main headings included 1. Supporting the Rural Communities and Casework, 2. Planning, Growth and Strategic Development, 3. Transport, Highways and Connectivity, 4. Environment, Climate and Local Initiatives, 5. Community Services and Wellbeing, 6. Finance, Governance and the Future of the Local Government. The full report is available to read on the village website www.southnewington.com. Cllr Epps thanked the Chair for reporting the backlog of pothole repairs. There are 24 teams out working each day and carrying out 2000 repairs a week. The weather has improved and there are ways to make this work better. Cllr Epps will escalate severe cases.

3. **Presentation of accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026**

The accounts were presented. Actual income was £11.5K. Main income is the precept received from Cherwell District Council and a large VAT Reclaim. Payments totalled £10.2K. The main areas of spend continue to be the Clerks Salary, grass cutting, general maintenance and grants and donations. There were no clock repairs this year and no advertising money was received as the newsletter copying is free.

4. **Open Forum**

Cllr Epps spoke about the boardwalk bridge to Wigginton. They are seeking quotes to get it repaired and give people access. The more pragmatic approach is to have the work carried out by local contractors. The recent NOTS application was withdrawn. A Breach of Condition notice was served on the owners. Cllr Epps will share more information.

There is another empty property on Barford Road. The Parish Clerk was asked to report and get an update from Sanctuary Housing including the tidiness of other properties close by.

Signed

S. Lucks

Dated 30th June 2026

The year end accounts for the South Newington Poor's Allotment will be attached to these minutes.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed *S. M. H.*

Dated 30th June 2026

S. M. H.