SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Barford Road

Present:
Councillors: Mohamed Cassimjee (Chair), Stephan Lucks, Michael Rapp, Graham Smith and Sarah Wilson-Medhurst.

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr G Epps and one villager

26/52. Elections

Election of Chair and signing of Acceptance of Office form
It was proposed by Cllr Wilson Medhurst and seconded by Cllr Smith that Cllr Cassimjee be Chair. He signed the acceptance of office form.

26/53. To receive apologies for absence

District Cllr D Rogers

26/54. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

26/55. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2026

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

26/56. 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

- *Damaged road nameplates on Bakers Lane and Sands Lane*. Both damaged nameplates have been reported to CDC for repair/replacement.
- *Field 1 on A361.* An enforcement investigation into the land known as Mill House, Dairy Farm and Field 1 has taken place. The outcome was that the buildings on the land consisting of a row of storage sheds and a mobile home have been in situ on the land since at least 2014. The physical siting of the buildings is immune from enforcement due to the passage of time. The current use of the land is for agriculture. The land changed ownership in February this year and to date no alternative use of the land has taken place. The Council acknowledges that the site has an appearance of residential occupation however the Council has verified that the site is not currently being used for residential purposes. The outcome is there is no evidence of breach in planning control. The enforcement investigation has been closed with no further action.

26/57. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor

A written report was received from County Cllr G Epps and circulated. The main points included. Oxford Traffic Filter trial, EV charging, Bus services, Devolution, LGR, and PFAS.
A written report was received from District Cllr D Rogers and circulated. The main points included. LGR, Cancellation of Parish Liaison meeting, Primary Care Expansion, Cherwell Local Plan Expansion, Banbury Area Oversight Group, Traffic filters in Oxford, Kidlington illegal landfill, Fly tipping generally and Baynards Green Appeal hearing.

Signed Dated 10th November 2026

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Cllr Epps spoke about the pause of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) which has just been announced by Central Government following legal advice. This was out of the blue. Three new unitaries were announced in July. People want larger authorities for efficiency and a lot of money has already been spent on this subject. This will divert a lot of attention at Senior Director Level. There will still be elections at CDC next year. Botley Road in Oxford reopens on 20th September. The traffic filter trials in Oxford will start on 28th September. Villagers can register their vehicles and have 20 permits.

26/58. To receive an update on a new highway sign following a meeting with Highways

The new highways bend sign is more expensive than a vehicle activated speed sign. The Parish Clerk has a couple of quotes which vary between £5K and £10K. Traffic management may be needed which will push the price up further. The Councillor Priority Fund expires in November and Cllr Epps has agreed to give £1500.00 towards a new sign. Cllr Epps noted that he thought the deadline had been extended to apply for money from the CDC Area Development Fund. The Parish Clerk has emailed the OCC Vision Zero team who are asking for feedback on the 20mph schemes. She has asked if the 20mph zone by the pub can be extended up the hill to the village gate towards Bloxham which is currently 30mph.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact the CDC Area Development Fund to ask if funding is available.

26/59. To advertise for a second guardian for the defibrillator

Cllr Smith agreed to be a second guardian.

Action: The Parish Clerk to add the details to the Circuit.

26/60. To discuss future advertising costs for the newsletter

The village have been very fortunate in not having to pay for newsletter copying due to a villager printing it for free through his own company. He has sold his company which did the printing and these costs will have to be paid for now. Kall Kwik have quoted £292.00 for one 28 page issue. The newsletter is important to the village. Councillors discussed emailing it around as a pdf version but discounted this idea as some like to receive a paper copy. A black and white copy may reduce costs slightly. The Parish Council did secure extra money from advertising a few years ago which would help with costs if that could be secured again. It was agreed the Parish Council would pay for the next edition to be printed as a one off while other avenues were explored.

Action: Cllr Smith and the Parish Clerk to look at previous advertising companies and income received. Cllr Rapp to send a message on the Whatsapp group exploring options to support the newsletter printing costs so it could continue.

26/61. To discuss the clearing of the drains and verge maintenance

Cllr Epps is meeting a Highways representative on 14th September at 1.30pm to look at the drains on High Street. A resident on the Main Road has reported two blocked drains close to his property and he has tried to clean the vegetation along the side of the Main Road.

Action: The Parish Clerk to book the road sweeper with CDC when the leaves have fallen. The Parish Clerk is unsure if they will sweep the Main Road.

26/62. The Poleaxe

- *To discuss the play area safety inspection report and agree actions.* The gates cannot be fixed as they are decorative gates. The previous Chair of the Parish Council did get a quote from a local blacksmiths for a repair.
  Action: The Parish Clerk to get a quote for the play equipment to be fixed.
- *To discuss the emptying of the bin.*
  Action: Cllr Smith and Cllr Lucks to take it in turns to empty the bin.

26/63. To receive an update on the underground work being carried out by National Grid

Work on Tink a Tank should have taken place on 1st September but didn't. A road closure for Bakers Lane has been booked for 16-27th November.

Signed Dated 10th November 2026

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National Grid are keeping in close contact with the Parish Council and residents.

26/64. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

Planning

New

- *26/01470/LB, Replacement of existing single glazed casement windows, one set of French doors and one bay window with replica hardwood timber windows and doors incorporating slimline double glazed units at Grange Farmhouse, Wigginton Road.* No comment by PC.
- *26/01838/LB, Internal alterations undertaken within the existing second floor roof space to create additional domestic accommodation. The works include the construction of a new raised floor, new independent internal partitions, bathroom facilities, fitted cabintry, roof slope insulation and associated plumbing and electrical services (existing unauthorised) at Hillside, Bakers Lane.* Comments made by PC.
- *26/01711/LB, Works to existing detached garage, including: replacing concrete floor and introduction of leaded canopy (partly enclosed to provide secure parking) at Springfield House, Bakers Lane.* No comment by PC.
- *26/02032/TCA, T1 Apple - Crown reduction in height from 10 metres to 7 metres and width from 11 metres to 7 metres T2 Hawthorne - Crown lifting by 1.5 metres, thinning by 10% T3 Roseum - Crown reduction in height from 5 metres to 4 metres and width from 5 metres to 3 metres at Jasmine Cottage, Moor Lane.* No comment by PC.
- *26/01837/F, Variation of Condition 29 (proposed plans) of 24/02193/F - Erection of outbuilding, for use as a wine lodge, ancillary to the main dwelling house, with associated works at Paradise Farm, Wigginton Road.* No comment by PC.

Older

- *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.* Granted by CDC.
- *25/01628/F, Alterations to and conversion of outbuildings to ancillary accommodation at The Old Vicarage, High Street*. Granted by CDC.
- *26/01295/F, RETROSPECTIVE approval for 1 section of farm track plus 3 access points into fields at Paradise Farm, Wigginton Road.* Granted by CDC.

An additional planning application was received after the agenda had been issued.

- 26/01222/OUT, 10 new dwellings, including 3 affordable dwellings and associated garages, on previously developed land at Barford Road Farm, Barford Road.
  Action: A village meeting is to be arranged.

Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £45.00 to CPRE (membership)
- £41.10 to Rydall Comms (website maintenance September)
- £41.10 to Rydall Comms (website maintenance October)
- £225.60 to N Prickett (grass cutting)
- £277.20 to N Prickett (grass cutting)
- £118.80 to Playsafety Ltd (Poleaxe inspection)
- £128.00 to I Timms (weeding in the Poleaxe)
- £920.91 to Parish Clerk (hours) and £230.00 To HMRC
- £38.28 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

To note the salary award for the Parish Clerk agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC)
The award is 3.3% and will be backdated to 1st April 2026.

Correspondence

- Villager, blocked drains and clearing of vegetation along the A361 and roadside edges. Noted.
- Highways, Preparing for Winter. Noted.
- CDC Designation – What this means for Parish Councils. Noted.
- CDC, LGR Government announcement. Noted.
- Highways, Temporary Footpath closure from 24th August to 11 September. Noted.
- Highways, Certificate of end of defects for Barford Road. Noted.
- OCC, Electric blanket testing. On the noticeboard.
- Villager, Tidying of Tink a Tank

26/65. To receive Councillors Reports

The overflowing dog poo bins on Sands Lane and Moor Lane were reported to CDC but have been emptied.

26/66. Public participation session

A villager had seen the notification of roadworks on the Oxfordshire Roadworks map on St Peters Close and Barford Road in November. These have now disappeared. He also spoke about a planning application for The Ranch and asked why the Parish Council were not consulted.
Action: The Parish Clerk to ask CDC about the planning query.

26/67. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 10th November 2026 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed Dated 10th November 2026

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