



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 3rd July 2025
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mr David Rowley (part of meeting)
Ms Anna Best	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Prof Andrew Johnson	

Attending: Dr. Yvonne Peet (RFO) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). District Cllr Sue Cooper and Mr Andrew Nesbitt, Assistant Pavilion Caretaker, attended part of the meeting. One member of the public attended the first part of the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Mr Julian Park, Mrs Fleur Stevenson, Mr David Topliss, District Cllr Andrea Powell and County Cllr Gavin McLauchlan. Mr David Rowley apologized for leaving early.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

A member of the public expressed concern about the dangers for pedestrians crossing Portway. It was noted that plans are in hand to provide a toucan crossing as part of the Newnham Manor housing development.

NO.		ACTION
5758	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 th June were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
5759	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 5747:</u> Cllr Sherbourne reported that nobody has claimed ownership of the basketball post but a resident is interested in taking possession of it. <u>Item 5747:</u> OCC Cllr McLauchlan will provide a map of local verges and responsibilities.	

	<p><u>Item 5748:</u> It is hoped to arrange a councillor surgery in Crowmarsh as suggested by Cllr McLauchlan, possibly at a Community Café but this has yet to be arranged.</p> <p><u>Item 5753:</u> A vote of thanks was made to Mr Chris Strange for regularly watering the geranium tubs.</p> <p><u>Item 5753:</u> A site visit with OCC officers to consider signs at the village entrances has been arranged for 10.00 on Thursday 10th July. Also on 10th July at 11.30 there will be a site meeting to look at speed signage improvements on Portway.</p>	
5760	<p>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>The report submitted by OCC Cllr McLauchlan had been circulated and was noted.</p>	
5761	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Cllr Cooper reported on the online survey on local government reorganization which is open until 16th July, • The Capital Grant scheme closes to applications on 25th July. • The Councillor Grant scheme opens on 18th August. • The planning application for SODC's new office building at Didcot Gateway has been passed but will be pending until the local government reorganization has been decided. 	
5762	<p>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sherbourne recommended that consideration should be given to replacing the three bus shelters in The Street, which are in a poor condition, and possibly the two shelters in North Stoke as well. Three quotes will be needed. Any councillor who has information on possible suppliers is asked to send it to Cllr Sherbourne. 	ALL
5763	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decisions by SODC</p> <p><u>P25/S1519/LDP</u> 7 Winters Field, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EE. Use of land to station a mobile home granny annexe for use</p>	

	<p>incidental to the main dwelling. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development granted.</p> <p>Consultations</p> <p><u>None.</u></p> <p>No news had been received about the Jewsons site application.</p> <p>Major developments</p> <p>The Newnham Manor application legal agreement is still awaiting signature by OCC.</p>																																																	
5764	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) <u>Consider and agree payments since last meeting</u></p> <p>The Finance officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorized. In addition to salaries and PAYE these were as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Company</th><th>Details</th><th>£ inc VAT</th></tr><tr><td>31.05.2025</td><td>Grundon</td><td>Refuse collection May</td><td>131.81</td></tr><tr><td>16.06.2025</td><td>SSE Energy</td><td>Floodlighting church</td><td>249.35</td></tr><tr><td>17.06.2025</td><td>Ashburton</td><td>Mowing Newnham church</td><td>132.00</td></tr><tr><td>10.06.2025</td><td>Ashburton</td><td>Mowing N Stoke Rec</td><td>108.00</td></tr><tr><td>03.07.2025</td><td>Ashburton</td><td>Mowing Newnham Church</td><td>132.00</td></tr><tr><td>31.05.2025</td><td>Crowmarsh village hall</td><td>Hall hire 03.04.2025</td><td>20.00</td></tr><tr><td>27.06.2025</td><td>Shield</td><td>Dog bin emptying</td><td>225.42</td></tr><tr><td>08.05.2025</td><td>Eibe</td><td>Grass matting playground</td><td>530.22</td></tr><tr><td>10.06.2025</td><td>Lister Wilder</td><td>Repair Baroness Mower</td><td>474.07</td></tr><tr><td>12.06.2025</td><td>OCC</td><td>B4009 traffic survey</td><td>228.00</td></tr><tr><td>04.06.2025</td><td>Scofell</td><td>Nettle spray + strim nature area</td><td>849.22</td></tr></table> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Johnson that the above payments be approved and this was agreed. Cllrs Sherbourne and Griffin will authorise the payments on-line.</p> <p>b) <u>Requests for Grants and Donations</u></p>	Date	Company	Details	£ inc VAT	31.05.2025	Grundon	Refuse collection May	131.81	16.06.2025	SSE Energy	Floodlighting church	249.35	17.06.2025	Ashburton	Mowing Newnham church	132.00	10.06.2025	Ashburton	Mowing N Stoke Rec	108.00	03.07.2025	Ashburton	Mowing Newnham Church	132.00	31.05.2025	Crowmarsh village hall	Hall hire 03.04.2025	20.00	27.06.2025	Shield	Dog bin emptying	225.42	08.05.2025	Eibe	Grass matting playground	530.22	10.06.2025	Lister Wilder	Repair Baroness Mower	474.07	12.06.2025	OCC	B4009 traffic survey	228.00	04.06.2025	Scofell	Nettle spray + strim nature area	849.22	
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	<p>North Stoke PCC had requested a grant of £1,471 for grass cutting in North Stoke churchyard and the adjacent pound. This item was deferred to the August meeting.</p> <p>c) <u>Review of Accounts Status for Year to Date</u></p> <p>The accounts status at 30th June had been circulated. Payments made in June amounted to £10,369.98 and income received was £1,912.50. Total receipts for the year to date were £34,531.74 and total payments were £29,588.23. Total funds for the year to 30th June were £215,842.34.</p> <p>d) <u>Quarterly Budget Review</u></p> <p>The Finance Officer had reviewed the expenditure to date against the budget figures and the following points were noted:</p> <p>Budgeted income for the year was £85,000 and income to date was £34,000.</p> <p>Budgeted expenditure for the year was £89,000 and expenditure to date was £30,000.</p> <p>The budget for equipment was £5,000 and expenditure to date was £5,137 spent on a vehicle activated speed device (funded from CIL money) and a bench for the open space at Botany Allotments.</p> <p>The maintenance budget was £10,000 and to date £5,000 had been spent on the new pumping station at the pavilion.</p> <p>It was noted that the Baroness mower is quite expensive to run. Sports equipment included the cost of the replacement cricket sight screen.</p> <p>It was noted that £465 has been received from the solar panels feed-in tariff.</p> <p>e) <u>CIL Receipts</u></p> <p>It was agreed to accept any CIL money due to the parish council in October.</p> <p>f) The Assistant Caretaker had reported that he had not yet received a copy of his contract of employment. Cllr Johnson and the Clerk will investigate this.</p>	AJ/Clerk
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5765	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES	
	<p data-bbox="317 266 842 300"><u>Environment and Recreation Ground</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="365 342 1262 521">• A query was raised about the level of income received from the feed-in tariff. It was noted that if there was a battery at the installation, operating costs could be reduced. If the solar panels were replaced with new ones, the feed-in tariff would be lost. <li data-bbox="365 566 1262 786">• Repairs to the inclusive Orbit roundabout are ongoing pending provision of the necessary repair kit. This is available from Eibe at a cost of £200. This expenditure was agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the cost of the kit and the matting required for the tunnel play mound will be taken from CIL money. <li data-bbox="365 831 1262 1447">• Mr Andrew Nesbitt would like to open the servery during the summer holidays on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 10.30 to 3.30pm, starting on Wednesday 23rd July. The servery will not be opened if the weather is very wet. Mr Nesbitt has completed the necessary SODC application form and has purchased a credit card machine for £22.00. There is a 1.69% charge per transaction. Income will be transferred monthly to the parish council's bank account. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that Mr Andrew Nesbitt's plan to open the servery on certain days during the school holidays be approved. He will be paid for extra hours worked. Mr Chris Strange may be able to assist. This was agreed. VAT receipts will be needed for any expenditure incurred. Any assistant will need to be paid via payroll for insurance reasons. A chalkboard will be used to advertise the facilities. <li data-bbox="365 1491 1262 1671">• Ashburton had quoted £280 + VAT to clear the vegetation on footpath 11 from The Street to the Emery Owen allotments. This was approved. The Clerk will respond to a request made by a resident for the removal of vegetation at the nearby garages. <li data-bbox="365 1715 1262 1928">• It was noted that a tree at Watery Lane is almost down and some vegetation trimming is required. Ashburton has quoted £200 for the necessary work and it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that this quote be accepted. A company known as MG may be able to supply hard core to improve the surface. 	

	<p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on vehicle activated speed sign for North Stoke: Cllr Sherbourne will contact Connor Windle of OCC about the installation of a pole for a vehicle activated speed sign on the northbound carriageway of the B4009. • The results of the North Stoke traffic survey on the B4009 were noted. • Cllr Best reported that both she and OCC Cllr McLauchlan are keen to understand why Thames Valley Police are not supporting the use of the autospeed camera. Cllr McLauchlan will raise this at a full county council meeting. • Cllr Best would like to reintroduce the community speedwatch scheme and this was agreed. Cllr Sherbourne has the equipment needed and will send Cllr Best details of the training required. Cllr Best has identified some volunteers who are willing to take part in the scheme. This will be publicized in Crowmarsh News. 	
5766	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>An email had been received from a resident of The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, requesting a resident parking scheme for the houses opposite the former Jewson site. It was noted that there is a legal process to be followed when considering the introduction of a resident parking scheme and the whole village would need to be included in the consultation process. The Clerk will respond.</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Update • Rural Funding News • Police and Crime Bulletin • SODC updates • Chiltern Society Magazine • Healthwatch Oxon update • Parish Online Newsletter. • OALC updates • NALC updates. • Update from Chilterns National Landscape 	Clerk
5767	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th August 2025 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.</p>	

The meeting closed at 21.15.