



# CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**starting at 7.30pm**

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**Present:**

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mr Julian Park
Ms Anna Best	Mr David Rowley
Mrs Zazie Carruthers	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mr David Topliss

**Attending:** Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). OCC Cllr Gavin McLauchlan, District Cllrs Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. Three members of the public attended the meeting.

**Apologies:** Received from Dr. Yvonne Peet (RFO) and Mrs Fleur Stevenson.

**Declarations of interest:** None

The meeting was quorate.

Questions from the public

It was noted that lights on Wallingford Bridge are now working, with the exception of lights near the Crowmarsh end, where there are still problems. Thanks to OCC Councillor McLauchlan for his help with this. Scottish and Southern Electricity are responsible for the lights.

NO.		ACTION
5809	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  Correction to previous minutes: it was noted that under Minute 5802, it was agreed that donations of £120 each should be made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeals for Crowmarsh Gifford and for North Stoke, proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Johnson. Subject to this correction, the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> October were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	

<b>5810</b>	<b>CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR</b>  Mrs Zazie Carruthers, a resident of North Stoke, was welcomed to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Johnson that Mrs Carruthers be co-opted as a parish councillor and this was unanimously agreed. Mrs Carruthers signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.	
<b>5811</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>  <u>Item 5803</u> : Cllr Griffin will lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council at the lych gate in Crowmarsh Gifford. The clerk has arranged for a wreath to be laid on behalf of the parish council in North Stoke.  <u>Item 5804</u> : A notice about the proposed new bench outside the church in The Street has been published in Crowmarsh News.	
<b>5812</b>	<b>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>  Cllr McLauchlan's report had been circulated and this was noted.  Consultations are taking place on the Oxford congestion charge and on improving the fire service. As part of the consultation on the fire service, there is a suggestion that Wallingford Fire Station could be relocated to Crowmarsh Gifford.  A launch event will take place in Didcot on Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November about the proposed Abingdon Reservoir. Cllr McLauchlan will attend the launch. He expressed serious misgivings about the possible impact of the reservoir, in particular the arrangements for the emergency discharge, due to the speed of flow. He will write an article to be published in Crowmarsh News.  With Cllr Sherbourne, OCC Cllr McLauchlan has been pursuing the installation of the speed indicator device in North Stoke and they are having discussions with the County Council to try to arrange for installation to take place as soon as possible.	<b>GM</b>

5813	<b>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The District Councillors' report had been circulated and the following points were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Councils have been asked to withdraw the Joint Local Plan 2041 due to the planning inspectors' view that the Duty to Cooperate (specifically with Oxford City Council) had not been carried out appropriately.</li> <li>➤ On 6<sup>th</sup> November the Council will debate the final version of the submission to Government in support of a two-Unitary model for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire in the forthcoming local government reorganization.</li> <li>➤ The Councils' progress towards net zero was reported on.</li> <li>➤ The new garden waste permit scheme has been very successful.</li> <li>➤ The Council has a strong record of tackling homelessness and rough sleeping and has updated its strategy.</li> <li>➤ District Councillors will report back on planning enforcement at the next meeting.</li> <li>➤ The Forestry Commission has not decided not to issue a restocking order at Mongewell where mature trees had been unlawfully felled.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
5814	<b>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Watery Lane Improvements</u>: A site meeting has been held at Watery Lane with a potential contractor, Drayton Construction. They are working on a quote and will report back. The project has been divided into four sections and costs and timescales will be calculated. The Active Travel and walking and cycling strategy will feed into this and the OCC Footpaths Officer and the Ridgeway Officer are being kept informed. It was noted that the surface of rights of way is OCC's responsibility..</li> <li>• Village Signage: The residents' association for Stephens Field and Bellamy Way is happy with the proposed arrangements for erecting new signs. OCC has said they will install the signage for the Wallingford Bridge entrance as well as the A4074 entrance from Benson direction and</li> </ul>	

	the A4130 Henley Road. When the Newnham Manor development is built, it is planned to have entrance signage there too.																					
5815	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions by SODC</b></p> <p><u>P25/S0408/LDE</u> Annexe, 202 Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Use of annexe building as independent residential unit. (Additional information received 4 August 2025). Refusal of Lawful Use or Development.</p> <p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>P25/S3056/LDP Holly Cottage, 3 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Extension of the single storey side structure with mono-pitched roof to incorporate a utility room. No observations.</p> <p>P25/S3116/HH 2 Lane End, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8DG. Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory. Recommend approval.</p> <p><b>Major developments</b></p> <p>We need the Newnham Manor legal agreement to be completed and then to know the applicants’ timetable to implement the scheme.</p>																					
5816	<p><b>FINANCE</b></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><td>Shield</td><td>31.10.25</td><td>Dog bin emptying</td><td>243.10</td></tr><tr><td>Grundon</td><td>30.09.25</td><td>Refuse collection</td><td>74.59</td></tr><tr><td>Royal British Legion N. Stoke</td><td>06.11.25</td><td>S137 donation</td><td>120.00</td></tr><tr><td>Royal British Legion Crowmarsh</td><td>06.11.25</td><td>S137 donation</td><td>120.00</td></tr><tr><td>Suggs Security</td><td>03.11.25</td><td>Fire alarm service</td><td>260.00</td></tr></table>	Shield	31.10.25	Dog bin emptying	243.10	Grundon	30.09.25	Refuse collection	74.59	Royal British Legion N. Stoke	06.11.25	S137 donation	120.00	Royal British Legion Crowmarsh	06.11.25	S137 donation	120.00	Suggs Security	03.11.25	Fire alarm service	260.00	
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Suggs Security	05.11.25	Refit lock to side door pavilion	130.00	SSh/JG
Bowak	24.10.25	Janitorial supplies	131.47	
Ashburton	16.10.25	Grass cutting	240.00	
1 <sup>st</sup> class tree surgeons	13.10.25	Tree work	576.00	
Crowmarsh VH	30.09.25	Hall hire	20.00	
Crowmarsh News	01.10.25	Printing and distribution	53.15	
Eibe Play Ltd	05.11.25	Resurfacing of tunnel mound	7,452.74	
Scofell	31.10.25	Nettle spray + cut and drop	634.94	

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. It was unanimously agreed to use CIL funds for the resurfacing of the tunnel mound at the playground.

b) Review of Accounts Status for Year to Date

The accounts status at 31<sup>st</sup> October had been circulated. Payments made in October amounted to £4,993.79. Income received was £5,457.59 including the second quarter's VAT refund of £2,722.19. The bank balance at 31<sup>st</sup> October was £221,620.07.

c) Requests for Grants and Donations

Clean Slate: This charity supports victims of abuse and exploitation. It was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that a grant of £200 be made under Section 137 and this was agreed.

Wallingford Volunteer Drivers: This charity supports volunteer drivers who take residents to hospital appointments in their own cars. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that a donation of £250 be made and this was agreed.

	<p>The Abingdon Bridge: This charity supports the well-being of young people between ages of 18 and 25. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Johnson that a donation of £200 be made and this was agreed.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of CCTV Policy</u></p> <p>The CCTV policy had been circulated for review. After discussion it was resolved to amend the list of those authorized to access the footage as follows: remove Julia Streete as she is no longer a parish councillor and add Cllr Julian Park, Cllr Stephen Sherbourne and Mr. Andrew Nesbitt. Cllr Andrew Johnson, Cllr David Rowley and Mr Chris Strange will remain on the list.</p> <p>Subject to these amendments, the CCTV policy was approved.</p>	
5817	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Extron unit and the Fantallica safety aerial seesaw failed the surface testing. Resurfacing could be with synthetic mulch or wetpour. The latter would require hardcore as a base. Quotes are being gathered. 80 mm depth of synthetic mulch would be required for the majority with 100 mm depth in certain areas. The rubber matting could be left in place or removed.</li> <li>• The play mound has been repaired and looks much better.</li> <li>• Quotes are being received for the required tree work.</li> <li>• Additional adult gym equipment is being considered.</li> <li>• New flooring for the main hall is being researched. Carpet tiles would be the cheapest option.</li> </ul> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Best reported on a meeting with Thames Valley Police to consider the data from the speed camera. The top speed recorded in the 30mph zone was 61 mph. Cllr Best will show the data on a map.</li> <li>• The police are now doing regular speed checks.</li> <li>• Four volunteers have been trained for community speedwatch.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SSh</b></p> <p><b>AB</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Stoke residents are interested in the speedwatch training.</li> <li>• The camera could be relocated to Benson Lane or North Stoke but the licence will need to be renewed in January.</li> <li>• The District Councillors have asked OCC Cllr Andrew Gant to reduce the proposed speed limit on the A4130 Nosworthy Way to 40mph instead of 50mph.</li> <li>• It was noted that the PCSOs will hold their next 'Have Your Say' meeting at the Crowmarsh Community Café on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 10.00 to 12.00.</li> </ul>	
<b>5818</b>	<b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b>  Cllr Best will meet with Cllr Stevenson to discuss the website. She will also contact Parish Online about acquiring gov.uk email addresses as the parish council is now required to do.	<b>AB</b>
<b>5819</b>	<b>REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b>  Cllr Sherbourne reported that the next Wallingford Bridge Estate meeting is scheduled for 3 <sup>rd</sup> December.	
<b>5820</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>  The following correspondence was noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notice from OCC to parents of 3 and 4 year olds to apply for a primary school place by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</li> <li>• Update from the Police and Crime Commissioner</li> <li>• Update from the Chilterns National Landscape</li> <li>• Rural Weekly News</li> <li>• Parish Online Update</li> <li>• SODC Updates</li> <li>• Healthwatch Oxon update</li> <li>• OALC updates</li> <li>• NALC updates</li> </ul>	
<b>5821</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  The next meeting will be held on Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.	
<b>5822</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Best suggested building a skate park in the village for the benefit of younger residents. The nearest one is currently in Cholsey. This will be considered when reviewing the parish council's list of strategic priorities.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Johnson requested that, when the grass cutting contract is renewed, the verge on the left-hand side on the approach to Wallingford Bridge is added to the schedule.</li> <li>• It was noted that the pavement on Wallingford Bridge and on the steps down to the riverside has become choked with leaves and is now a health and safety issue.</li> </ul>	
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The meeting closed at 8.50pm