



# CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025  
starting at 7.30pm**

## **Present:**

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mr Julian Park
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mr Stephen Sherbourne

**Attending:** Dr. Yvonne Peet (RFO), OCC Cllr Gavin McLauchlan, District Cllr Sue Cooper and Ms Zazie Carruthers. Four members of the public attended the meeting.

**Apologies:** Received from Ms Anna Best, Mr David Rowley, Mrs Fleur Stevenson and Mr David Topliss.

## **Declarations of interest: None**

The meeting was quorate.

## **Questions from the public**

- It was noted that joint local plans from the Vale and SODC have been rejected by the National Planning Inspectors. District Cllr Cooper noted that this was in part because of lack of co-operation on housing sites between Oxford City and other Districts.
- A North Stoke resident raised the question of speeding through the village. He would like to hear from Cllr Best about the community speed watch initiative. It was noted that the County Council had undertaken to replace the existing speed indicator device over a year ago but this has still not happened. OCC Cllr McLauchlan noted there is an OCC decision meeting about the A4074 on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am. Individuals may listen in.
- A question was raised about the new proposal for 215 houses between Benson Lane and the A4074. Cllr Griffin noted that the parish council will not respond until a formal planning application is made.

NO.	ACTION
5796	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  Correction to previous minutes: Minute 5790 was amended to read as follows: "... County Council is working towards reducing speed limits to 50 mph on the A4074 and in some stretches to 40

	<p>mph, including Nosworthy Way and on the B4009 between North Stoke and Mongewell". Subject to this correction, the Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<b>5797</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>  <u>Item 5789:</u> The overgrown vegetation has been dealt with.	
<b>5798</b>	<b>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>  Cllr McLauchlan's report had been circulated and this was noted. A good visit with the Chief Executive of OCC and head of Adult Services was noted. The OCC Councillor grant fund is now open. Total funds are £10,000 and the minimum grant available is £500. Contact Cllr McLauchlan if you wish to raise a question.  29 <sup>th</sup> October marks the start of the temporary congestion charge in Oxford. Motorists outside Oxford may apply for a permit per car allowing 25 visits per year.	
<b>5799</b>	<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 refuse collection contract will change soon.</li> <li>➢ There was some discussion about the five-year land supply being on the low side.</li> <li>➢ There was a query about the former SODC site but this is still undecided.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>5800</b>	<b>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three bus shelters have been ordered. First one to be constructed will be on The Street opposite Home Farm. Two more in North Stoke could follow if requested.</li> <li>• Watery Lane Improvements: A separate meeting will be arranged to discuss this.</li> <li>• Cllr Johnson raised a question about the sign for Crowmarsh Gifford at the Wallingford Bridge end of Crowmarsh. Will need to go back to OCC for detailed drawings to show Stephens Field Residents' Committee.</li> </ul>	

5801	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions by SODC</b></p> <p><u>P25/S2612/HH</u> 26 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL Replacement of shed with pre-fabricated garage outbuilding. Planning Permission.</p> <p><u>P25/S2184/HH</u> Mongewell Byre, Constitution Hill, Mongewell OX10 8BS. Rear single storey extension and side 1.5 storey extension. Planning Permission.</p> <p><u>P25/S1885/LDE</u> Rectory Farm House, Church Lane, North Stoke OX10 6BQ. Outbuilding used as outdoor kitchen incidental to the enjoyment of Rectory Farm House. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.</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>Application withdrawn</b></p> <p><u>P25/S2534/LDP</u> 2 Lane End, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8DG. New garden room replacement for existing conservatory.</p> <p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p><u>P25/S2557/HH</u> 26 Thames Mead, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EX. Single storey extensions and internal alterations including conservatory to rear, ground floor infill extension and garage conversion to create additional living spaces. Recommend approval if no major impact on neighbours at 25 and 27.</p> <p><u>P25/S2712/HH</u> and <u>P25/S2718/LB</u> 55 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EA. Additions and alterations. Double-storey rear addition. Single-storey rear addition. Recommend approval if neighbours' concerns about use of shared rear access during construction are addressed.</p> <p><b>Major developments</b></p> <p>We hope we are close to the Newnham Manor application legal agreement being signed. We then need to urge the applicants to implement the scheme. This is urgent now that Bloor Homes are about to apply for planning permission for a scheme for over 200 houses on a site between Benson Lane and the A4074.</p>	
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	<p><b>Neighbourhood plan</b></p> <p>Note that the Planning Inspectors have asked SODC and Vale of White Horse Council to withdraw their Joint Local Plan 2041 from the inspection process. This could have significant implications for the strength of our Neighbourhood Plan to resist unwanted development.</p>																																					
5802	<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 border="1"> <tbody> <tr> <td>First Rescue Training Supplies</td> <td>171971</td> <td>Defib Pads</td> <td>£472.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Rescue Training + Supplies</td> <td>172454</td> <td>Defib Battery</td> <td>£342.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shield Maintenance</td> <td>9383</td> <td>Dog bin collection x 17</td> <td>225.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Castle Water</td> <td>10007666346</td> <td>Pav water Aug</td> <td>30.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grundon</td> <td>1340110</td> <td>Refuse collection</td> <td>131.81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ashburton</td> <td>6008</td> <td>Grass cutting Crowmarsh</td> <td>378.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ashburton</td> <td>6000</td> <td>Grass cutting church + N. Stoke</td> <td>240.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Playsafety Ltd</td> <td>92874</td> <td>Surface impact test playground</td> <td>480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Origin Amenity Solutions</td> <td>166001</td> <td>Grass seed + fertilizer</td> <td>563.12</td> </tr> </tbody> </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>	First Rescue Training Supplies	171971	Defib Pads	£472.80	First Rescue Training + Supplies	172454	Defib Battery	£342.00	Shield Maintenance	9383	Dog bin collection x 17	225.42	Castle Water	10007666346	Pav water Aug	30.57	Grundon	1340110	Refuse collection	131.81	Ashburton	6008	Grass cutting Crowmarsh	378.00	Ashburton	6000	Grass cutting church + N. Stoke	240.00	Playsafety Ltd	92874	Surface impact test playground	480.00	Origin Amenity Solutions	166001	Grass seed + fertilizer	563.12	SSh/JG
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	<p>b) <u>Review of Accounts Status for Year to Date</u></p> <p>The accounts status at 30<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated. Payments made in September amounted to £10,723.87, including annual PC insurance. Income received was £29,767.00 including the second precept payment. The bank balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September was £221,064.58.</p> <p>c) A six-month review of the 2025-26 budget was conducted. The areas of overspend were duly noted (equipment and road traffic management SIDs, insurance due to the pavilion revaluation, maintenance and repairs, sewage pump at the pavilion). It was proposed by Cllr Johnson, seconded by Cllr Park and agreed that no changes should be made to the current budget. The next budget review will be in December when the new budget and precept will be discussed.</p> <p>d) The Treasury and Investment Policy had been circulated for review. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that the policy be approved without amendment and this was agreed.</p> <p>e) Notification has been received from Shield Maintenance Ltd of a price increase to the cost of dog bin emptying from £2.55 per bin to £2.75 per bin.</p>	
<b>5803</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>A volunteer will be needed to lay a wreath at the lych gate in Crowmarsh on Remembrance Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Griffin offered to do this. Cllr Sherbourne is also available.</p> <p>The Clerk will contact residents of North Stoke to arrange for a wreath to be laid at the church there.</p>	<b>JG/SSh</b>
<b>5804</b>	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground Committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new bench has been proposed to be sited outside the church by the bus shelter. Cllr Sherbourne will research the cost. If it is decided to go ahead with this, a notice will be posted in Crowmarsh News and residents will be invited to make suggestions for other small improvements in the parish.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>  <b>SSh</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> September had been circulated and these were noted.</li> <li>• Cllr Sherbourne reported the results of the surface testing held on 29<sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that the committee needs to meet again to discuss the playground surfacing and the possible extension of the adult outdoor gym.</li> </ul> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to traffic and transport, there was a lot of related discussion in public question time and nothing more needed adding at this point in time.</li> </ul>	
<b>5805</b>	<b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b>  In the absence of Cllrs Best and Stevenson, the discussion on websites was deferred until the November meeting.	
<b>5806</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b>  The following correspondence was noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September update from the Police and Crime Commissioner.</li> <li>• Safeguarding Update for September</li> <li>• Wallingford Town Council invitation to Remembrance Service</li> <li>• RUG3 agenda 16<sup>th</sup> October and minutes of previous meeting.</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>5807</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.	

<b>5808</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The submission of the Charity Commission return for 2024 was noted.</li><li>• Possible extension of hedge at Home Farm. This needs consideration by the residents including how to manage it.</li><li>• Three quotes had been received for tree clearance work between Portway and Robert Sparrow Gardens. The lowest quote was submitted by First Class Tree Surgeons who will carry out the work.</li></ul>	

The meeting closed at 8.50pm