



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 4th June 2026
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mrs Fleur Stevenson
Mrs Zazie Carruthers	Mr David Topliss
Mr Julian Park (part of meeting)	Ms Rachel Wakefield
Mr David Rowley	Ms Maryse Worrallo
Mr Stephen Sherbourne	

Attending: Dr Yvonne Peet and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). County Councillor Gavin McLaughlan and District Cllr Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. Two members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Ms Anna Best, Prof Andrew Johnson, Mrs Clare Walker and District Cllr Sue Cooper.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

It was noted that Cllr Anna Best had tendered her resignation and would be moving out of the area during the month of June. A vote of thanks was made to her for all her hard work during her time as a parish councillor. She will be missed and we wish her well for the future.

NO.		ACTION
5893	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the Minutes of the annual meeting held on 7 th May should be approved as a true record. This was agreed unanimously and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.	
5894	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 5881:</u> Allotment Water Supply: Cllr Sherbourne reported that a letter has been sent to the CEO of Castle Water, advising that no further payments or correspondence will be sent until the current dispute has been resolved.	

	<u>Item 5886:</u> The accounts have been sent to the external auditor and the notice of the period for the exercise of public rights has been posted on the website and on all notice boards. <u>Item 5888:</u> Cllr Griffin will write to the resident at 77 The Street about the hedge behind their house which has extended their garden across Footpath 2. The County Council has said any costs resulting from the path diversion order would be re-charged to the resident.	JG
5895	REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR Cllr McLauchlan reported on two full council meetings. Liz Leffman has stood down as leader and Tim Bearder has taken over this role. Cllr Gant has stood down as Transport Cabinet Member and Gareth Epps has been appointed to this role. Cllr McLauchlan hopes that he will visit Crowmarsh and Benson sometime after 23rd June, accompanied by a highways officer. The speed limit in Benson Lane, beyond the 20 mph section, has been reduced to 30 mph. There are a number of questions requiring answers in regard to Benson Lane. Cllr Wakefield requested further details on the appeal which has been allowed for gravel extraction at White Cross Farm in Cholsey parish adjoining Mongewell across the River Thames. Cllr McLauchlan will ask OCC officer David Periam for a list of conditions applied to this.	GM
5896	REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS District Councillor Andrea Powell reported that an objection has been lodged by the County Council to the proposed Bloor development on the grounds of education, based on the number of school places likely to be needed. There are secondary school pupils living in the Wallingford School catchment who cannot be given a place there. The deadline for responses to the application has been extended until 30th June.	

	The District Council has to start a new Local Plan including the new NPPF and higher housing targets, in parallel with the progress of the emerging Joint Local Plan. As part of the Devolution Bill, there will be new strategic areas but the details are uncertain. It was noted by everyone that new housing developments need the support of infrastructure. A decision date on the former Jewson site is imminent. The developers have said they are unable to provide any affordable housing on viability grounds although the district council will check this calculation. District Cllr Powell was congratulated on her appointment as Chair of SODC. She has chosen two charities, Cycling Without Age Oxfordshire and Style Acre. She plans to hold a charity quiz in Crowmarsh Village Hall later in the year.	
5897	REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES • Bus Shelters. Cllr Sherbourne has contacted Littlethorpe who quoted £24,000 to install the three bus shelters. The cost of the shelters would be £21,285 plus the delivery charge of £1,410. Lead time would be 12 weeks. Cllr Sherbourne will seek further quotes for installation, from Arrow Fencing, Liam Bridges and one more. • Watery Lane surface improvements: only one quote has been received, from Drayton Construction. Cllr SSh will ask them to update this quote. • Noticeboard for CABI site: Still awaiting information from CABI about the exact location for the noticeboard. • A quote for the dog waste bin for the CABI site is awaited. • Cllr Sherbourne reported that the Portway toucan crossing needs further consideration depending on the future of the Newnham Manor planning application. • The strategic priorities will be reviewed. The RFO reported that unspent CIL money is currently £106,000. We may be able to bid for CIL money from SODC for specific projects. In view of the number of potential projects in hand, the RFO urged caution in spending.	SSh SSh JG

5898	PLANNING Decisions by SODC None Appeal decision The gravel extraction by London Rock by the River Thames opposite Mongewell adjoining the A4130 has been granted permission by the planning inspectorate. Consultations P26/S1187/FUL Land to south of The Sycamores, Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Erection of two dwellings and related works. Needs a site inspection to determine. Objection on grounds of environmental impact. P26/S0992/HH 182 Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BG. Part rear and part side single storey extensions. No objection. Amendments to P25/S2712/HH 55 The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EA. Additions and alterations. Double-storey rear addition. Single-storey rear addition. (Amended plans received 2 February 2026). Maintain PC's previous comments expressing concern about pressure on street parking. Major developments Bloor 2 Consideration of application P25/S4092/O still ongoing. Highway issues are critical reasons for objecting to this application. OCC's response needs some interpretation but part of it confirms the known highway deficiencies: <i>The mini roundabout junction of Benson Lane/The Street (Junction 2) has been modelled with a flare length of 15.5m on arm B (The Street (E)). However, it appears that a flare is not present on this arm. Additionally, the priority junction of Benson Lane/A4074 (Junction 9) has been modelled with visibility to the right from arm B (Benson Lane) provided at 160m, which is significantly greater than achievable and shown on the drawings provided within Appendix J of the TA. Furthermore, the priority junction of Benson Lane/French Gardens (Junction 10) has been modelled with visibility to the left and right from arm B (Benson Lane) provided at 70m, but this is much lower when measured on site. As a result, these issues are</i>	
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	<i>required to be addressed and the modelling amended accordingly.</i>																																									
5899	FINANCE a) <u>Consider and agree payments since last meeting</u> The Finance officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorized. In addition to salaries and PAYE these were as follows: <table><tr><td>29.05.2026</td><td>Shield</td><td>Dog bins May</td><td>280.80</td></tr><tr><td>30.04.2026</td><td>Grundon</td><td>Refuse collection April</td><td>137.55</td></tr><tr><td>05.05.2026</td><td>Cathedral Leasing</td><td>Annual supply hygiene services</td><td>561.60</td></tr><tr><td>13.04.2026</td><td>Ashburton</td><td>Grass cutting Church & North Stoke Rec</td><td>254.40</td></tr><tr><td>18.05.2026</td><td>Ashburton</td><td>Grass cutting Church & North Stoke Rec</td><td>254.40</td></tr><tr><td>04.06.2026</td><td>Ashburton</td><td>Grass cutting Verges & Bloor</td><td>471.00</td></tr><tr><td>26.05.2026</td><td>Barkwell Plumbing Services</td><td>Replacement pump at pavilion</td><td>1572.00</td></tr><tr><td>09.04.2026</td><td>OCC</td><td>Benson Lane traffic survey</td><td>228.00</td></tr><tr><td>02.06.2026</td><td>RefreshPro</td><td>Window cleaning</td><td>84.00</td></tr><tr><td>04.06.2026</td><td>Busy Baskets</td><td>Geraniums</td><td>388.72</td></tr></table> It was proposed by Cllr Carruthers and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the above payments be approved and this was agreed. Cllrs Stevenson and Sherbourne will authorise the payments on-line. b) <u>Review of Accounts Status for year ended 31st May 2026</u> The summary receipts and payments for the year had been circulated. Total receipts were £39,426.57 and total payments £33,727.12. The closing balance was £171,916.17. Income for May was £1,634 and expenditure for May was £28,537.	29.05.2026	Shield	Dog bins May	280.80	30.04.2026	Grundon	Refuse collection April	137.55	05.05.2026	Cathedral Leasing	Annual supply hygiene services	561.60	13.04.2026	Ashburton	Grass cutting Church & North Stoke Rec	254.40	18.05.2026	Ashburton	Grass cutting Church & North Stoke Rec	254.40	04.06.2026	Ashburton	Grass cutting Verges & Bloor	471.00	26.05.2026	Barkwell Plumbing Services	Replacement pump at pavilion	1572.00	09.04.2026	OCC	Benson Lane traffic survey	228.00	02.06.2026	RefreshPro	Window cleaning	84.00	04.06.2026	Busy Baskets	Geraniums	388.72	
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	c) <u>Review of Financial Regulations</u> The financial regulations had been circulated. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that under 'Procurement' section 5.20 be amended to read 'An official order or letter shall be issued for all work, goods and services (above £5,000 excluding VAT) unless a formal contract is to be prepared or an official order would be inappropriate.' This was agreed. d) <u>Consideration of Data Protection Policy</u> A draft data protection policy had been circulated. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Wakefield that the policy be approved and this was agreed. It will be posted on the website.	
5900	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman reported on the Wallingford Mayor Making which he attended on 17th May.	
5901	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES <u>Environment and Recreation Ground Committee</u> The minutes of the committee meeting held on 18th May had been circulated. • Cllr Johnson is working on the development of a biodiversity policy. • A new cutting policy for the nature area is in hand. • Quotes are being sought for repair or replacement of the trampoline. A reply from Eibe is awaited. • Cllr Rowley and Felix Ogdon have met Fresh Air Fitness and quotes are being gathered for two additional pieces of gym equipment and some groundwork. Cllr Rowley suggested putting QR codes on the gym equipment and the PC website to link to video guidance on how to use the items properly. He has asked Fresh Air Fitness for these and will send this information to Cllr Stevenson. • Football Pitches: the total cost of the necessary treatment will be £8,500. The football club will contribute £2,134 and will obtain £4,266 in grant funding from the Football Foundation. They are requesting a contribution of £2,100 from the parish council. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Worrallo and seconded by Cllr	DR

5904	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd July at Crowmarsh Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Cllr Stevenson tendered her apologies for this meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting 2027 will be held on the second Saturday in April ahead of parish council elections in May. Plans for this will need to be agreed in good time.	
5905	ANY OTHER BUSINESS • Cllr Griffin reported that OALC will be holding a 'Talking Tables' session alongside their AGM at Benson on 25th June. Cllr Sherbourne will attend. Others are welcome. • Cllr Worrallo reported that sewage is coming up via a manhole cover at the riverside park near the nature area. She will report this to SODC. • Cllr Wakefield reported vandalism, including broken windows at the former Carmel College site at Mongewell. In addition, Gigaclear has not been able to connect full fibre broadband for residents in Mongewell Court. Cllr Wakefield was advised to contact SODC planning department about this and to advise District Cllrs Cooper and Powell. • Cllr Sherbourne reported that the Ridgeway Path needs clearance of overgrown vegetation between Cart Gap and the A4074. Cllr Griffin will report this through the Chiltern Society path maintenance network.	SSh MW RW JG

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm