



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6th August 2026
starting at 7.30pm**

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Ms Rachel Wakefield
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mrs Clare Walker
Mr Stephen Sherbourne	Ms Maryse Worrallo
Mrs Yvonne Peet (RFO)	

Attending: County Cllr Gavin McLauchlan and District Cllr Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. Two members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk), Mrs Zazie Carruthers, Mr Julian Park, Mr David Rowley, Mrs Fleur Stevenson, Mr David Topliss and District Cllr Sue Cooper.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5918	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Johnson that the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd July should be approved as a true record. This was agreed unanimously and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.	
5919	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 5894</u> Allotment Water Supply: Cllr Sherbourne reported that Castle Water and Thames Water have admitted an error and are actively investigating. Thanks were noted to Cllr Sherbourne for his time and tenacity in dealing with the matter. <u>Item 5905:</u> Cllr Worrallo will provide details of the location of the affected drain by the Riverside Campsite to County Cllr	SS MW

	McLauchlan. County Cllr McLauchlan is meeting with Thames Water regarding water quality and will include this area. <u>Item 5905:</u> Cllr Wakefield reported that CCTV cameras have been set up to monitor the former Carmel College site. <u>Item 5913:</u> Cllr Worrallo will report the overgrown vegetation on Benson Lane on Fix My Street.	RW MW
5920	REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR Cllr McLauchlan said that it had been a quiet month due to summer breaks. Three new councils • Greater Oxford Council – covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings. • Northern Oxfordshire Council – covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts. • Ridgeway Council – covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts combined with West Berkshire. The Council is now working on plans following the announcement of three Unitary Authorities for Oxfordshire from 2028, and the many challenges that they face with the implementation of the new Greater Oxford Council in particular. This is a disappointing result for Oxfordshire and SODC will challenge it before the deadline of 17th August. The three Unitary Authorities do not comply with the government's criteria as well as the two council arrangement proposed by the district councils. After last month's ruling against Raise the Colours, flags have now been removed. Cllr Johnson noted his appreciation, delight and thanks to County Cllrs McLauchlan and Barlow for their significant work in securing the injunction against Raise the Colours. The £8 million surface treatment scheme for the county's roads is progressing well. Further to this OCC have asked all Councillors	

	to provide a list of three highways (including paths and pavements etc.) which are urgently requiring attention. The meeting with County Council cabinet members Gareth Epps and Liz Leffman has been postponed to August 24th. County Cllr McLauchlan will also arrange a meeting with Oxfordshire Highways officers regarding the roads in this parish. The crossing at Portway was discussed as one of the Parish Council's top strategic priorities. There is no news on the Newnham Manor development which includes a crossing.	
5921	REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS The District Councillors' report had been circulated. As with the County, the implementation of the Unitary Authorities is already taking up a huge amount of time as the news is digested and plans made for implementation. A number of nearby parishes will now become part of Greater Oxford and SODC is looking at whether the boundaries can be challenged. Local Plans Public hearings took place in early July for Joint Local Plan 1 and all the relevant documents can be found on the SODC website at https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/joint-local-plan-2041-examination/. A key point made in the opening statement is that all Oxfordshire councils have now agreed on the scale of unmet housing need in Oxford and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to address this challenge by 2045. Officers have started work on Joint Local Plan 2 (to 2045) with a formal notice and timetable recently published. District Cllr Powell confirmed that Local Plans cover a geographic area. The most recent plan is always reviewed under any planning proposals, which underlines the importance of Crowmarsh having an up-to-date neighbourhood plan. Grants available include: South Nature and Climate Action Fund –applications open 28th September Performing Arts Grant Fund – opens 20 July 2026 Councillor Grant Fund – opens 17th August 2026	

	The Capital Grant has now closed.	
5922	REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES • Councillors agreed unanimously that the strategic priorities should comprise three primary issues: ➤ A4074 Portway Toucan Crossing ➤ Benson Lane safety and access improvements ➤ North Stoke Springs pedestrian access crossing. • Other ongoing projects include: ➤ Village signs ➤ Interpretation boards ➤ Noticeboard on the CABI development ➤ Replacement bus shelters ➤ Watery Lane improvements ➤ Repairing the clock on the pavilion ➤ Dog bin on bridleway 8 near CABI Village signs have been installed – overall we have had good feedback from the community. Interpretation boards have been received. Installation date and final locations are still to be decided. The exact position for the CABI noticeboard has yet to be decided but the management company has agreed to its general location and that of the dog bin.. Cllr Sherbourne has the replacement of bus shelters in hand and will obtain one further quote. A site meeting was held in Watery Lane on 3rd July with James Bradford, Steve Tabbitt (OCC) and Alie Hagedoorn (Chiltern Society). The Chiltern Society will cut back the brush in autumn free of charge. It was proposed that at the present time, rather than resurface the whole pathway, that the worst section of the path between Thames Mead and the farm track totaling 86m) should be infilled with limestone gravel at a cost (agreed in principle) of £3,800 plus VAT. Benson Lane: a site meeting with OCC officers Karl Chadwick and Duncan Stewart and Councillor McLauchlan took place on 9 July. The parish council expect to be consulted on the whole OCC plan for Benson Lane, including possible bus diversion, crossing, traffic calming, footpaths and all highway matters relating to this location.	SSh

5923	PLANNING Decisions by SODC P26/S2397/LDP Single-storey extension, remodelling & alterations, 44 Newnham Green, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EP. Certificate of lawful development granted. Consultations P26/S2814/LDP Replacement rear conservatory, 10 Howbery Farm Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8NR. No objection. Major developments Jewson’s site – the planning officer’s decision expected soon. Newnham Manor: the clerk will write to Avant Homes asking for information about their intention now that the final planning agreements have been finalised. Footpath 2 : After much debate, and following a request from the County Council (letter to be made available to residents), the parish council agreed to withdraw its objection to the path diversion order, but conditional on no loss of trees and a clear right of way for the public. The council maintains its objection to the garden extension although it is noted that this matter is between the two landowners and Bloor have not objected to enclosure of their land. The official boundary on land registry has not been changed.	JG												
5924	FINANCE a) <u>Consider and agree payments since last meeting</u> The Finance Officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorised. In addition to salaries and PAYE these were as follows: <table><tr><td>31/07/2026</td><td>OCC</td><td>first instalment of business rates Pav</td><td>£100.00</td></tr><tr><td>31/07/2026</td><td>Shield Maintenance Ltd</td><td>monthly dog bin emptying July</td><td>£280.80</td></tr><tr><td>28/06/2026</td><td>Bowak Ltd</td><td>janitorial supplies Pav</td><td>£131.14</td></tr></table>	31/07/2026	OCC	first instalment of business rates Pav	£100.00	31/07/2026	Shield Maintenance Ltd	monthly dog bin emptying July	£280.80	28/06/2026	Bowak Ltd	janitorial supplies Pav	£131.14	
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	31/07/2026	Moore Ltd	external audit fee 25/26	£535.50	
	14/05/2026	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	deposit invoice tractor playground	£5,284.12	
	13/07/2026	Playdale Playgrounds Ltd	50% tractor invoice playground	£5,284.13	
	30/06/2026	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	waste wheelers June Pav	£137.56	
	31/07/2026	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	waste wheelers July Pav	£167.71	
	30/06/2026	Lawncare Garden Machinery Ltd	Mountfield mower repair + parts	£134.89	
	30/06/2026	Lawncare Garden Machinery Ltd	Trojan tractor repair + parts	£469.93	
	30/06/2026	Crowmarsh Village Hall	meeting room hire June	£22.00	
	19/07/2026	Ashburton Ltd	grass cutting nature area	£120.00	
	19/07/2026	Ashburton Ltd	grass cutting church and NS rec	£254.40	
	31/07/2026	Chiltern Society	annual membership	£30.00	
	It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Wakefield that the above payments be approved and this was agreed. Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne will authorise the payments on-line. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the payment to Playdale for the tractor and litter bins should be taken from CIL money and this was agreed.				

	b) <u>Review of Accounts Status for year ended 31st July 2026</u> The summary receipts and payments for the year had been circulated. Total receipts were £49,614.35 and total payments £45,957.78. The closing balance was £169, 873.29. c) <u>Business rates</u> Business rates had not previously been charged on the pavilion paid but it had been revalued at more than twice the previous figure. An appeal is being sent to the valuations office. d) The external audit and report had been received, and report and notification will be added to the Parish Council Website No grant requests were received this month.	
5925	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES <u>Environment and Recreation Ground Committee</u> • Cllr Sherbourne has requested information from Eibe regarding the trampoline replacement and maintenance. Awaiting response. • Cllr Johnson advised that Felix Ogden has requested a grant from Sports England for the improvements to the outdoor gym. • Cllr Johnson requested that an item is added to the September agenda to review and approve the biodiversity policy. • A letter and a number of other comments have been received from the public regarding the floor in the pavilion. Cllr Sherbourne will update quotes on replacement flooring for future review. • Cllr Johnson will send Cllr Walker the North Stoke parishioner questionnaire for her to create an online version. A paper copy will go in Crowmarsh News for distribution in North Stoke only. • Cllr Park has been reviewing trees planted in the Recreation Ground; some may need replacing. • Councillors will check bins to see whether any salt was needed for winter preparation.	Clerk SSh AJ/CW ZC JP JG/RW/ MW

	<u>Traffic and Transport</u> • Cllr Sherbourne will arrange to mount the speedwatch camera. Someone needs to review the data. Cllr Sherbourne agreed to ask Paul Whitehouse as our parish transport rep. • Cllr Worrallo reported that the grass verges in Benson Lane need cutting as the vegetation is obstructing the line of sight. This should be done by OCC. Cllr Worrallo will report it on Fix my Street.	SSh MW
5926	UPDATE ON WEBSITE Website content is still being updated and published.	Clerk
5927	CORRESPONDENCE The following correspondence was noted: • Update from the Chilterns National Landscape • Rural Weekly News • Parish Online Update • SODC Updates • Healthwatch Oxon update • OALC updates • NALC updates • Letter from resident regarding the flooring in the pavilion (see recreation and environment update) • Invitations received to the licensing of the new Vicar who is to be licensed and installed at St Mary-le-More church in Wallingford on Thursday 3rd September. It was agreed to find a resident who would attend on behalf of the council as the service coincides with the next parish council meeting.	
5928	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd September at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The Finance Officer gave her apologies for this meeting.	
5929	ANY OTHER BUSINESS • The Chairman was reminded to ask members of the public if they had anything to raise at the start of each	

	meeting and public question time would be added to future agendas. • The next Community Café takes place on 12th September, Cllr McLauchlan will be in attendance as will the new Vicar, Fr Andreas Wenzel. Cllr Sherbourne will invite PCSOs and will write a piece for the Crowmarsh News.	Clerk SSh
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The meeting closed at 9.30 pm