



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 3rd September 2026
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mr David Topliss
Mrs Zazie Carruthers	Ms Rachel Wakefield
Prof Andrew Johnson	Ms Maryse Worrallo
Mr Stephen Sherbourne	

Attending: County Cllr Gavin McLauchlan and District Cllr Sue Cooper attended part of the meeting. Seven members of the public attended part of the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Mr Julian Park, District Cllr Andrea Powell, Dr Yvonne Peet, Mr David Rowley, Mrs Fleur Stevenson and Mrs Clare Walker.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public raised concerns about vandalism at the former Carmel College campus, involving trespassing on residents' land, destruction of boundary fencing and criminal damage. The police have been active at the site. Residents have attempted to get Comer Homes to act but without success. Security is a major concern and Cllr Wakefield is keeping a record of all incidents. SODC has rejected the non-material amendment application submitted recently for part of the site and a full planning application is required. Residents asked for a meeting about the problems and have written to Freddie van Mierlo MP.

NO.		ACTION
5930	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 th August should be approved as a true record. This was agreed unanimously and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.	

	advertising consent from SODC who will consult OCC Highways. The Clerk will respond accordingly.	Clerk
5934	REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES Four of the five Interpretation boards have been installed but it was noted that two of the mountings are to be adjusted. Cllr Sherbourne reported that a third quote is expected for the new bus shelters. It was reported that the northbound bus shelter in North Stoke has no seat. Cllr Sherbourne will ask Arrow Fencing to fit a bench. Proposed crossing at Springs in North Stoke: District Cllr Cooper will ascertain the current situation from the planning officer.	SSh SC
5935	PLANNING Decisions by SODC P26/S3236/NM Carmel College, Mongewell Access Road, Mongewell OX10 8BU Non-material amendment to Planning Permission P11/W2357 Redevelopment to provide 166 residential dwellings (C3), refurbishment of Grade II and Grade II* listed buildings including provision of a restaurant, community cafe and swimming pool and retention of boating facilities and associated landscaping, access and parking arrangements. Non-Material amendment application rejected – full planning application required. P26/S3634/16A(28) Riverside Park & Pools, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford OX10 8EB Telecoms 28-day notification Part 16, Class A. Installation of fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus. Planning permission not required. Consultations P26/S3283/FUL Maple Croft, Mongewell OX10 8BP Change of use from ancillary accommodation to separate dwelling (retrospective). It was agreed that the access off the A4074 was poor but the council had no strong views.	

	P26/S3044/DIS The Old Farm House, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL Discharge of Condition 3 of P25/S3559/LB Replace existing roof tiles on the old farmhouse. Under consideration. No response required. P26/S2865/FUL Withy Windle, Cook Lane, North Stoke, OX10 6BG Change of use of approximately 1100 square metres of agricultural land to residential garden (Use Class C3) ancillary to Withy Windle (the first house on the south side of Cook Lane). Supported by the neighbour at Langland (the land extends behind the neighbour's garden). No strong views. Other developments We have had representation from North Stoke residents including a statement from their planning consultant opposing development of the field on the north side of Cook Lane. We have had representations for and against speculative plans but await a planning application that we can discuss.													
5936	FINANCE a) <u>Renewal of insurance cover</u> The quote from Hiscox Insurance Company for the renewal of the council's insurance including IPT and all fees for the year is £5,831.88. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that this be accepted and this was agreed. b) <u>Consideration of payments since last meeting</u> The Finance Officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorised. In addition to salaries and PAYE plus the insurance premium above, these were as follows: <table><tr><td>28.08.2026</td><td>Shield Maintenance</td><td>Monthly dog bin emptying August</td><td>£280.90</td></tr><tr><td>31.07.2026</td><td>Lawncare</td><td>Mower chain and engine oil</td><td>£41.99</td></tr><tr><td>12.08.2026</td><td>Playsafety Ltd</td><td>Annual playground inspection</td><td>£285.60</td></tr></table>	28.08.2026	Shield Maintenance	Monthly dog bin emptying August	£280.90	31.07.2026	Lawncare	Mower chain and engine oil	£41.99	12.08.2026	Playsafety Ltd	Annual playground inspection	£285.60	
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	18.08.2026	RefreshPro	Window cleaning Pavilion	£84.00	
	It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Carruthers that the above payments be approved and this was agreed. Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne will authorise the payments on-line. c) <u>Review of Accounts Status for year ended 31st August 2026</u> The summary receipts and payments for the year had been circulated. Total receipts were £51,638.84 and total payments £62,445.82. Receipts for August were £1,932.00. Payments for August were £16,488.04. The closing balance was £155, 409.74. d) <u>Requests for grants and donations</u> A grant request had been received from Oxfordshire Mind. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Topliss and seconded by Cllr Johnson that £500 be donated under Section 137 and this was approved. e) <u>Review of standing orders</u> The standing orders document had been circulated. This was reviewed. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Johnson that it be approved with no amendments and this was agreed.				JG/SSh
5937	REPORTS OF COMMITTEES <u>Environment and Recreation Ground Committee</u> Biodiversity Policy Cllr Johnson had circulated a draft biodiversity policy, which he had drawn up with the assistance of Cllr Park. In addition he had produced a sheet of notes for residents, giving advice on encouraging more biodiversity in gardens and allotments. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Johnson that the policy be adopted by the council and this was agreed. It was agreed to post the advice sheet on the village website and to put some text on this topic in Crowmarsh News.				

	Questionnaire for North Stoke residents on the future of the recreation ground: Eighty paper copies of the questionnaire are needed. The Clerk will print these and pass them to Crowmarsh News for distribution. Cllr Johnson will send her the latest version of the questionnaire. Play equipment at the Recreation Ground. A quote of £794.64 including VAT and installation has been received to replace the four pendulum seats. It was proposed by Cllr Topliss and seconded by Cllr Worrallo that this be approved and this was agreed. Quotes are awaited for repair of the trampoline. This will be discussed at the Environment and Recreation Ground committee meeting to be held on 21st September. Replacement of the flooring in the main hall is still under discussion. One of the three Velux windows is leaking and one has some rotting wood. A quote is being obtained for repairs. Cllr Topliss reported that the conifers in the planters on the pavilion terrace need to be relocated as they are outgrowing their present location. <u>Traffic and Transport</u> • Cllr Topliss requested more 20mph signs in the village and will send a list of locations to the Clerk.	Clerk DT
5938	UPDATE ON WEBSITE Website content is still being updated and published.	Clerk/ RFO
5939	REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES Mrs Edwina Johnson is representing the Parish Council at the licensing of the new Vicar, Fr Andreas Wenzel.	

5940	CORRESPONDENCE • District Cllr Andrea Powell is organizing a quiz night at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Friday 23rd October to raise funds for Cycling without Age Oxfordshire and Style Acre. Cllrs Griffin, Sherbourne, Topliss, Worrallo and Wakefield plan to form a team. • An invitation has been received from 1st Crowmarsh Gifford Scout Group to their Annual Social to be held on Monday 21st September 2026 at 6.00pm at Crowmarsh Village Hall. Cllr Wakefield plans to attend. • District Cllr Powell had circulated a petition to the County Council asking them to deliver the Benson to Cholsey Active Travel Corridor and this was signed by councillors. 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	RW
5941	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st October at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.	
5942	ANY OTHER BUSINESS • Cllr Wakefield is hoping to arrange a meeting with Comer Homes to improve security arrangements at the former Carmel College site and whether they begin the planned development.	RW

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm