CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1st October 2026
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mrs Fleur Stevenson
Mrs Zazie Carruthers	Ms Rachel Wakefield
Mr Julian Park	Mrs Clare Walker
Mr Stephen Sherbourne	Ms Maryse Worrallo

Attending: Dr Yvonne Peet (RFO) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). District Cllr Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. Eight members of the public attended part of the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Prof Andrew Johnson, Mr David Rowley, Mr David Topliss. District Cllr Sue Cooper and County Councillor Gavin McLauchlan. Mrs Clare Walker apologised for unavoidably arriving late.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public reported that the problems of antisocial behaviour at Carmel College are still ongoing. There is material on the internet showing incidents of trespassing.

Members of the public requested that action be taken to reduce the speed limit on Constitution Hill which, by default, is set at 60mph and should be 20mph.

NO.		ACTION
5943	**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September should be approved as a true record. This was agreed unanimously and the Minutes were signed by the Chairman.	

5944	**MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** Item 5931 Fix my Street: Cllr Worrallo has done part 1 of the training to become a super-user. This was done on-line. She is waiting to do Part 2 which is done in person. Item 5931: The Clerk has requested that the two salt bins at Park View are topped up by OCC. Item 5934: Arrow Fencing have fitted a bench in the northbound bus shelter in North Stoke. Item 5937: The questionnaire for North Stoke residents will be distributed with the October edition of Crowmarsh News. Item 5937: Cllr Topliss will send to the Clerk a list of locations for 20mph signs in Crowmarsh. Item 5940: Cllr Wakefield attended the Annual Social of the 1st Crowmarsh Scout Group and has written a report for Crowmarsh News. It was noted that more scout leaders are needed.	**MW** **DT**
5945	**REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR** OCC Cllr Gavin McLauchlan's report had been circulated and this was noted. The Local Government reorganisation for Oxfordshire has been paused by central government. A date for an OCC highways officer to visit is awaited. Hopefully this will take place in October. Any questions should be emailed to Cllr McLauchlan.	
5946	**REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** The District Councillors' report had been circulated and this was noted. Following the government's decision to pause the local government reorganization, the local elections to be held in May 2027 will be for the existing SODC on the current ward boundaries. Councillors elected in May 2027 will serve at least two years. Parish council elections will be held at the same time. The Parish Council will send a team to Cllr Powell's quiz night on 23rd October. Cllr Stevenson will supply a PA system for use at this event.	

	Community Cohesion Project: an online survey has been launched whereby residents are invited to share their views and experiences within their communities. A new National Scheme of Delegation for Planning comes into effect at the end of October. The District Council was required to amend its Constitution to comply with the new legislation. The District Council will write to the Secretary of State expressing concern at being forced to adopt the new scheme, which removes the power of local councillors to call in applications to the planning committee.	**FS**
5947	**CONSIDERATION OF FORMER CARMEL COLLEGE SITE** Cllr Wakefield reported that the meeting with Comer Homes, which was scheduled for 30th September, was cancelled by them at short notice and rescheduled for Friday 2nd October at 2pm. Our District Cllrs are not available on the new date but our MP, Freddie van Mierlo will attend, as will Thames Valley Police, Comer Homes and Cllr Wakefield, who will represent the Parish Council. Cllr Griffin will also attend if possible.	**RW/JG**
5948	**REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND CURRENT PROJECTS** • Benson Lane: a meeting is to be arranged. Overgrown foliage at the entrance to French Gardens is OCC Highways' responsibility but they do not consider it a priority. Cllr Sherbourne will ask Ashburton to quote for cutting back the vegetation. • Springs Crossing, North Stoke: Cllr MacLauchlan is asking Oxfordshire Highways to explain the delay in clearing up the land ownership issue here. • Interpretation Boards: Most have been installed and are looking good. • Watery Lane: Chiltern Society Path: Volunteers have cleared back the overgrown vegetation to the south of Thames Mead and will return in November to widen the northern section. Resurfacing of the badly rutted section is being dealt with by James Bradford, OCC Rights of Way Officer. • A meeting has been arranged for 14th October with James Bradford to discuss the path diversion of Footpath 2. • It is planned to redesign the agenda for future meetings to differentiate between strategic priorities and other projects.	**SSh** **Clerk/ JG/SSh**

5949	**PLANNING** **Decisions by SODC** 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). P26/S2397/LDP 44 Newnham Green, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EP Single-storey extension, remodelling & alterations. Certificate of lawful development granted. 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. Discharge of condition agreed. P26/S1187/FUL Land to south of The Sycamores, Crowmarsh Hill, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Erection of two dwellings and related works. Permission granted. **Application withdrawn** P26/S2814/LDP 10 Howbery Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8NR. Proposed replacement rear conservatory. Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development Withdrawn. **Consultations** P26/S3950/LDP 7 Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED. Installation of electric car chargepoint (Retrospective). This is for the district council to decide. **Other developments** Planning permission has finally been issued on the Newnham Manor application for 100 houses. The parish council will write to Avant Homes again to ask when they plan to implement it. No response was received to either of the two previous letters sent. Cllr Griffin has asked the planning officer for an update on the former Jewsons site. Resolution of the surface water drainage plan is awaited. The County Council's response to the consultation on the proposed Bloor development of 195 houses did not raise significant objections.	**Clerk/JG/ SSh**

5950 **FINANCE**

a) Consideration of donations to British Legion Poppy Appeal

It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that a donation of £120 each be made to the Crowmarsh and North Stoke appeals. The Clerk will find out who is coordinating the schemes this year and order a wreath for each area. **Clerk**

b) Consideration of payments since last meeting

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:

21.07.2026	Arien Signs	2nd invoice for info boards	£3,690.00
31.07.2026	OCC	2nd payment rates pavilion	100.00
01.10.2026	Oxfordshire Mind	S137 donation	£500.00
25.09.2026	Shield Maintenance	Dog bins September	£280.80
31.07.2026	OCC	3rd rates pavilion	£100.00
17.09.2026	Ashburton	Mowing Newnham Murren churchyard + nature reserve	£463.20
31.08.2026	Grundon	Refuse collection August	149.30
29.09.2026	Eibe	Playground inspections	£570.00
10.09.2026	Castle Water	Allotments August	£123.30
04.09.2026	Origin Amenity	Grass seed + dressing	£1,181.82
01.10.2026	Crowmarsh News	Leaflet distribution	£3.50
11.09.2026	Arrow Fencing	Bench in N. Stoke shelter	£312.00

	It was proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Worrallo that the above payments be approved and this was agreed. Cllrs Stevenson and Sherbourne will authorise the payments on-line. The Finance Officer will investigate appealing against the business rates assessment. As previously agreed, the funding for the interpretation boards will be taken from CIL money. The £570 including VAT paid to Eibe was for four equipment inspections per year. Any repairs needed would be charged separately. c) <u>Review of Accounts Status for year ended 30th September 2026</u> The summary receipts and payments for the year had been circulated. Total receipts were £82,991.50 and total payments £77,193.15. Receipts for September were £31,257 including the second instalment of the precept. Payments for September were £14,747. The closing balance was £172,015.07. d) <u>Six-Month Budget Review</u> A budget summary to 30th September had been circulated. Total budget income was £92,760 and expenditure to date was £77,193. The Finance Officer had no concerns about the figures and it was agreed to keep the budget as at present. It was noted that Andrew Nesbitt's salary was higher than budget as he had run the tuck shop throughout the summer holidays. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the budget be approved and this was agreed. e) <u>Review of Treasury and Investment Policy</u> The treasury and investment policy document had been circulated. This was reviewed. It was noted that the council does not currently comply with item 5.3 which states that the maximum of the council's cash deposits held with one institution should not exceed 60%. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the document be approved with this exception and this was agreed.	**FS/SSh**

5951	**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES** <u>Environment and Recreation Ground Committee</u> The committee met on 21st September and the minutes had been circulated. Cllr Sherbourne is researching the options for replacement flooring in the main hall. Carpet tiles are being considered as well as vinyl. Pilates and yoga students have been invited to express an opinion. It is considered that vinyl flooring could be cold for yoga and pilates classes and could also affect the acoustics in the hall. Masterfloors has submitted a quote but Cllr Sherbourne would welcome information from other possible contractors. It was noted that the hedge at Home Farm needs pruning. The Clerk has requested a quote from First Class Tree Surgeons to include dealing with brambles. Cllr Sherbourne will contact Benson Tree Services and David Cottrell for quotes. <u>Traffic and Transport</u> • A volunteer is needed to manage the speedwatch camera data. • OCC has asked for feedback on how the 20mph scheme is working locally. This was discussed and it was agreed that broadly speaking, the 20mph scheme, working in conjunction with the introduction of more speed indicator devices, has resulted in a reduction in traffic speed. • It was noted that the speed limit at Constitution Hill has not been included in the 20mph scheme and defaults to 60mph although it is a single-track lane. • It was noted that the 50mph sign on the B4009 at North Stoke cannot be seen due to overgrown vegetation. • It was reported that the parish council could borrow a sign cleaning kit from the district council. • As a Fix my Street superuser, Cllr Worrallo can report potholes, kerbstones and drains. • Cllr Griffin will ask our parish transport rep, Paul Whitehouse, to respond to the Oxon4Buses questionnaire.	**Clerk SSh** **Clerk/JG** **Clerk/JG** **JG**

	• It was noted with approval that the bus shelters on the A4074 at Ipsden have been relocated in the interests of road safety.	
5952	**UPDATE ON WEBSITE** The RFO and Clerk have been uploading documents to the Parish Council website as required. Cllrs Stevenson and Wakefield are interested in getting involved with the website management and development. The Clerk will ask Parish Online to set up gov.uk email addresses for every parish councillor.	**Clerk**
5953	**REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES** <u>Riverside Users' Group (RUG3)</u> The next meeting will take place at Benson Parish Hall on 15th October, starting at 7.30pm. Details have been circulated. Cllr Wakefield will attend. <u>Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity</u> Cllr Sherbourne reported that the charity would welcome requests for funding from organisations in the Wallingford area.	**RW**
5954	**CORRESPONDENCE** • Cllr Griffin has entered a parish council team for the Quiz Night organized by Cllr Powell on Friday 23rd October at Crowmarsh Village Hall • A letter has been received from a North Stoke resident requesting information about land at North Stoke marked as allotments on a 1970s map. Cllr Griffin will respond. 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 • Update from the PCC.	**JG**

5955	**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th November at Crowmarsh Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.	
5956	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** • It was noted that the Clerk had submitted the Charity Commission Return for the Village Green North Stoke for the year ended 31st December 2025. Copies had been circulated to all councillors. • Brook Lodge: it was noted that Brook Lodge has been put up for sale. Cllr Griffin has informed James Bradford, the OCC Rights of Way Officer as it might affect the right of way to the river (footpath 31) which has been used on a slightly different alignment by the public for at least 40 years.	

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.