

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 6.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Robertson (Chairperson), Cllr Hobill, Cllr Rivers Fletcher and Cllr Shepard

Mrs C Coles (Parish Clerk) and nine villagers

25/59. Apologies for absence

Cllr J Mercer (personal), County Cllr C Mills (personal) and District Cllr M Littlewood (personal)

25/60. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Hobill declared an interest in item 25/69, 25/01125/COUQ, Change of use of two barns to four dwellings, including necessary building works at the barn adjacent to Stonecroft House.

25/61. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2025

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

25/62. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about work that is going on in Church Orchard without planning permission. Trees were cut back illegally on a previous occasion. The matter was raised with Enforcement at that time but closed. It is an important green space and between listed buildings. The grounds for objection still stand. Old documents were passed to the Parish Clerk.

Action: The Parish Clerk to scan the documents and circulate to Councillors to give background history.

A villager (Derek Harbour) spoke about the village hall and the great work that has been done in updating a village asset. Running costs are high such as heating, lighting and cooking. Electricity deals have been negotiated but prices are going up again. Events are being held to finance the hall but volunteers are needed to run the events. It is putting a strain on the community and they are struggling to get new members. Solar panels on the roof have been suggested which would help to mitigate the cost in running the hall. There is maintenance work still to be done as the roof covering is incorrect. This meant there was a loss of £1500 in the last financial year. The current trustees are starting to save and this shows they are dealing with the problem. Solar panels would be an ideal green solution. Another member of the public noted that Pillerton Priors were awarded a grant from Stratford Upon Avon District Council. Mr Harbour had enquired but was not aware of any government grants. The Parish Council have been supportive of the hall in the past and it is a great asset.

Action: Mr Harbour to carry out more research and come back to the Parish Council who will consider a suitable contribution.

25/63. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

The report from County Cllr Mills included the following main points:

I need Support Now, FIS, Dementia and Alzheimer, New service offers personalised support for families, One Way system traffic lights at the ASPS, Support for vital community transport services, Safe and Well Checks, MOD Kineton, Is your chimney ready for winter.

The report from District Cllr Littlewood including the following main points:
Planning Applications, Welfare and Support, SDC Finances and Resources,
Both reports are available to read on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk. In future the reports will be added to the website before a meeting.

25/64. To receive an update on the defibrillator runner scheme

Cllr Shepard has sent several emails. Someone else has taken over. The scheme had been suggested at a training course held last year. If 999 has to be called, First Responders will be contacted. The runner scheme is a back up to this system already in place.

25/65. To discuss WALC Training opportunities

There are lots of training opportunities available for Councillors to attend. Cllr Shepard and Cllr Hobill are attending planning courses in October.

25/66. To discuss the Oxhill Facebook page

The Facebook page was administered by a Councillor who has since left the council. Not everyone is on Facebook. The Parish Council should have access to a website which is a legal requirement. Posts on Facebook are on for a limited time whereas on the website they are a permanent feature.

25/67. To discuss .gov.uk email addresses for Councillors

It is good practice for Councillors to have official email addresses and not use their private ones.
Action: The Parish Clerk to arrange email addresses through Parish Online.

25/68. To discuss setting up a footpath sub committee

Lots of villagers use the footpaths and a sub committee would be a good idea.
Action: The Chair to speak to a villager who may be interested in supervising it.

25/69. To receive an update on planning

New

- 25/01587/TREE, Tree work at The Old Church House, Main Street. No objection by SDC.

Older

- 25/01125/COUQ, Change of use of two barns to four dwellings, including necessary building works at the barn adjacent to Stonecroft House. Prior approval granted by SDC.
- 25/00967/FUL, Proposed construction of small front extension to replace bay window, construction of front porch. Construction of new garage with solar panels at Merrydown, Green Lane. Granted by SDC.

A member of the public spoke about a recent local planning appeal. All Local Planning Authorities should have a five year land supply. Stratford Upon Avon District Council had 24 years and were under no obligation to approve speculative developments. Gladman Developments put in an application for 130 homes on Borden Hill. They forced a public inquiry and the application was challenged. The Inspectorate ruled there is a 2.7 year land supply. For the next 18 months there could be a flood of speculative developments. The development at Borden Hill will have a big impact on the landscape.

25/70. Councillors Reports

There is a dead cherry tree near The Leys.
Action: The Parish Clerk to report to Highways.

Speeding was discussed again. A 7 day speed survey would cost £130.00 but there is no guarantee the police will visit the village. A villager asked what the point would be putting a sign up without permission. Councillors believe a sign will work and signs measure data such as speeds and times. The cost is between £500.00 and £2.5K. 20mph was discussed but there is no enforcement. It is a slow speed when put on a 'A' road such as through Wroxton in the neighbouring county.

Action: Cllr Rivers Fletcher to get firm costs to discuss at the November meeting.

25/71. To note next meeting date and time
11th November 2025 at 6.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

DRAFT