

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Stuart (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Rivers-Fletcher, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Storey

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills (arrived later), District Cllr Littlewood and four villagers

25/15. Apologies for absence

None.

25/16. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/17. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2025

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

25/18. Public Participation Session

A villager asked if there was an update on the defibrillator runner scheme. The concern from the Parish Council was time and administration to get this set up. Tysoe were going to set one up and Oxhill had said they would be watching this development. There are forty trained people in the village now and the last time it was used there was a fast response. Cllr Connolly agreed to follow it up.

County Cllr Chris Mills arrived at 7.40pm after another meeting.

25/19. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

The report from County Cllr Mills included:

Warwickshire Free of Hepatitis C, Household Support Fund – Energy bill support, Funding for school improvements, Warwickshire's UKSPF allocation, Funding approval for Connect to Work programme, Highway Enforcement Policy, National Highways Survey 2025, County Council announces intention to maintain current library service levels and amend public health savings, Warwickshire County Council debates local government reorganisation, Burton Farm HWRC closure, Bringing Henry V111 Portrait to Market Hall Museum. The full report can be viewed on the village website www.oxhillpc.uk.

Cllr Mills was privileged to officiate a recent Citizen ceremony. 21 people from Poland and Ukraine were at the ceremony. One man had waited ten years to become a citizen.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher asked if there has been a change at county level with speeding and cameras. Speeding is a problem on Whatcote Road. There is a pole in place and the Parish Council are communicating with the owner to get permission to mount a speed indicator. Other villages have speed cameras. Cllr Mills agreed to find out.

The report from District Cllr Littlewood included:

SDC Budget 2025/26, SWLP, Local Government Reform and Devolution.

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher
30/3/2025

SDC Budget

At the last full Council meeting the budget was passed by a majority. Cllr Littlewood voted against the River Avon Hydro-Electric Turbine Scheme proposal. The cost is £1.2M for a scheme that might generate electricity from the flow of the River Avon at the weir. On questioning it was clear that no cost benefit analysis had been completed for this project without rigorous research into potential customers. No ecological survey had been completed, no initial construction and commissioning costs presented.

South Warwickshire Local Plan

The SWLP will cover 2028 to 2050. The deadline to respond was 7th March. The current Core Strategy lasts until 2031. Oxhill is not earmarked for development but there are proposals to put an unmanageable load on already struggling public services and the general infrastructure of South Warwickshire. The Governments new instruction on calculating housing need has increased the annual house building target by 104% for this district.

Local Government Reform and Devolution

The District Council tier of Local Government will be abolished and a new unitary authority will replace both the County, District and Borough Councils. The Government has required all authorities to propose a mutually agreed plan which may come into being by 2028/29. A working group has been set up and Cllr Littlewood is a member of that group.

His full report can be viewed on the village website www.oxhillpc.uk.

25/20. To receive an update on the subsidence on Whatcote Road

The issue has been reported to Highways and will be fixed within 30 days but this is dependent on weather conditions.

25/21. To note the Parish Council response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP)

A response was sent on 6th March. Oxhill Parish Council support the five overarching principles presented which are that development must be climate resilient, well designed, healthy, safe and inclusive, well- connected and biodiverse and environmentally friendly. Another point is the proposal for accommodating needs from outside Warwickshire. They want to ensure that all brownfield sites have been considered where there is a shortfall before considering moving that excess to South Warwickshire. More specific comments were made about the proposals for Shipston on Stour. The proposal should support an appropriate level of growth which is proportionate in scale. This is difficult to see as there are limited transport links, little employment requiring residents to travel and there are few services. The library is part time and the doctors is over-subscribed. Part of the proposed site sits on a flood plain for the river Stour which passes through the town. With heavy rain there is flooding.

The Councillors noted the good response which the Chair had prepared. The Parish Clerk noted how hard it was to reply to the consultation.

25/22. To receive an update on the sewer across Manor Field

Cllr Robertson gave the following update. The work to insert a lining inside the sewer by Severn Trent has been completed, but the effectiveness has not yet been fully tested, as there has been so little rain lately. After the heavy rain ten days ago the manhole cover did erupt, and a secondary cap inside the manhole had little effect. The success or otherwise of the work is now unlikely to be tested until next autumn. The Chair noted a problem with sewage seen on Tysoe school Playing Field. Cllr Littlewood agreed to follow this up.

W. J. Robertson
30.5.2025

25/23. To discuss footpath access issues

Maintenance of public rights of way was first raised last August. The landowners were written to but no responses were received. This has been raised again. More letters have been sent.
Action: The Parish Clerk to forward to the ROW officer at Warwickshire County Council.

25/24. To receive an update on planning

Older

- 24/01875/FUL, demolition of existing storage building and erection of replacement storage building (Use Class B8) at Red Horse Vale Ltd, Windmill Farm. Granted by SDC.
- 24/02994/FUL, Retrospective application for single storey rear extension at Merrydown, Green Lane. Granted by SDC.
- 24/031389/TREE, Tree work at Oddcott, Main Street. No objection by SDC.
- 24/03247/TREE, Tree work at Churchview, Green Lane. No objection by SDC.
- 24/03277/COUQ, Change of use of barn to dwelling at Barn adjacent to Stonecroft House, Kineton Road. Granted by SDC.

The owner of Merrydown, Green Lane was at the meeting to discuss his recent planning application. The retrospective application was approved but for a single storey rear extension. A more detailed proposal was submitted but would not have been approved by SDC. The Parish Council said no objection but he felt they should have supported it. SDC make the final decision. The owner would be submitting further planning applications to make improvements.

25/25. Financial Report

The following payments were approved

£1317.48 to Parish Clerk (hours)

£329.40 to HMRC

£35.10 to Parish Clerk (mileage)

£23.49 to Parish Clerk (expenses)

To consider the financial request from Oxhill Village Hall for a refurbishment of the car park (details circulated)

Oxhill Village Hall have completed a financial form and asked for £510.00. The improvement work to the car park will help with hirings. It was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Robertson that the payment be made. Future financial requests from the village hall will be reviewed on a case by case basis. The hall is a major asset to the village but not used by everyone.

25/26. To receive the following correspondence (circulated)

- Warwickshire PCC, A Safer Warwickshire for All planned.

25/27. Councillors Reports

The 30mph sign on Green Lane has been fixed.

1 Blackford Way is up for sale but there is a problem with access and land registry documents. The land does not belong to the Parish Council. Stratford District Council sold the bungalows in 1996.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact the family and suggest they contact SDC for more information as it is not a PC matter.

25/28. To note Councillor resignations

Cllr Connolly and Cllr Storey both resigned from the Parish Council. They were thanked for all their work.

Action: A vacancy notice will be displayed.

25/29. To note next meeting date and time

30th May 2025. Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm followed by Annual Parish Council meeting at 8pm (changed from 20th)

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.


30.05.2025.