

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 6.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

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

Mrs C Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr C Mills, District Cllr M Littlewood and four villagers

25/72. Apologies for absence

None.

25/73. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

Cllr Hobill declared an interest in the proposed planning application at the barn adjacent to Stonecroft House.

25/74. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2025

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

25/75. Public Participation Session

A villager reported blocked road gulleys on the Kinton Road. This is not a new problem, but the situation has not been helped by the work carried out by Severn Trent earlier in the year or by the hot summer. Heavy rain is forecast soon, with potentially damaging consequences.

Action: Cllr Mills to report problem to WCC Highways.

It was suggested that Councillors sit on the opposite side of the village hall for future meetings, experience has shown that speakers can be better heard.

The meeting start time has changed recently to 6.30pm instead of 7.30pm. In 2026 meetings will continue to start at 6.30pm and be held on the third Tuesday of every other month.

Solar panels for the Village Hall were discussed at the last Parish Council meeting to help with their running costs and as an environmentally beneficial improvement. Two quotes have so far been received for seven panels and associated batteries. The average quote is £14K. An application is to be submitted to Stratford District Council for a 20% contribution which needs to be submitted by 22nd January 2026. The Village Hall can contribute £3K but they will be £8K short. The roof will need redoing at some point. Annual electric costs are £3-5K per year. The idea was agreed by the Parish Council in principle, the Village Hall Trustees to submit a detailed feasibility proposal, with full costings / savings quantified, for consideration at the next meeting.

A villager spoke about the proposed redevelopment at Hogwood Farm. A proposal to submit a planning application for change of use of the site for industrial /storage units is not now being progressed, and an amended application for residential development is being prepared, even though earlier applications for residential were refused by SDC, despite strong local support. Cllr Littlewood explained the reason for refusal was that the land is still considered as agricultural land. SDC do not now have sufficient housing land supply, so that an application now may be favourably considered. The villager is getting further reports prepared and will resubmit the application in the New Year. He is hoping the Parish Council will support him, as previously.

ant Green
20/1/26

25/76. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

The main points of the report from Cllr Mills included:

Childhood vaccinations, Choosing the right NHS service this winter, Stay healthy and independent with Warwickshire's Living Well webpages, Living Well – AskSARA, Loneliness and isolation, LGR in Warwickshire Community Risk Register, Kind Communities Food Strategy, Statement from Safer Warwickshire Partnership Board, Cllr Jerry Roodhouse made Honorary Freeman of the County.

Cllr Mills left the meeting at 6.55pm to attend a neighbouring Parish Council meeting.

The main points of the report from Cllr Littlewood included:

Planning, SDC Finances & Resources, and Five Year Housing Land supply and what it means to planning. Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) was discussed. 73% of Warwickshire voted for a north/south split. This would mean that Warwick and Stratford would work together. The Devolution Bill and LGR, which are two separate papers will go hand in hand. A single authority scores higher and there will be higher net savings over five years, those being £5.6M. It will not be any more irksome for Parish Councils. North Warwickshire area has a different need with employment and education compared to South Warwickshire which has an elderly population. Councillor numbers will change. With a single authority there would be 57 Councillors. Under a dual authority there would be 53 in the south and 54 in the north.

Both reports were placed on the website before the meeting.

25/77. To discuss the proposed redevelopment of Hogwood Farm
Already discussed under Public Participation.

25/78. Village matters

- *To discuss initiatives for improvements in the village.* Different ideas were discussed to improve the village such as poo bag dispensers and hanging baskets in Main Street. The playground at Leys Field was briefly discussed as its not in a good state of repair. Although it is a public play area and must undergo an annual safety inspection. The area is still under the control of the developer as it has not been signed off by SDC. In time it is anticipated that it will be taken over by a residents management company. There remains a considerable number of defects which frustrate completion of under the S106 Agreement. Stratford District Council are involved with previous defects.
New ideas for spend will continue in the New Year.
Action: Cllr Mercer to contact the residents of Leys Field.
- *To receive an update on the defibrillator runner scheme.* Cllr Shepard has sent two emails but not received a response. There was a recent problem when the defibrillator was taken from the cabinet and not returned immediately.
Action: Cllr Shepard to write an update on how to get the code for the cabinet if the defibrillator is needed, by dialling 999 in the first instance.
- *To consider the purchase of a Vehicle Activated Speed sign and cost.* The idea has been agreed in principle and there is a pole that can be used to fix the sign to. There are two different costs to consider. A more expensive unit will cost between £3 - £4K and a cheaper one from Amazon will cost £450.00. It will be solar powered.
Action: Cllr Rivers Fletcher to complete a project form and the idea to be discussed in January.

25/79. Governance

- *To approve an IT Policy to cover digital and data compliance (Assertion 10).*
Assertion 10 is a new requirement for smaller local councils in the UK, introduced in the 2025 edition of the Practitioner's Guide, that mandates councils demonstrate digital and data compliance as part of their annual governance return.

W. J. Rivers
20/1/26

It requires councils to have proper governance frameworks for their digital presence, data protection, and IT management, which includes specific requirements like using a council-owned domain for official emails and operating an accessible website. It was agreed to approve the IT Policy.

Action: The Parish Clerk to place the IT policy on the website.

25/80. To receive an update on planning

New

- 25/02523/TREE, T1 - walnut - Thin 20%, to reduce risk of failure of heavy lateral limbs. T2 and T3 - willow - Pollard to first main union, approximately 6metres. T4 - Amelanchier - Fell to ground level (to improve shape of adjacent hornbeam) at The Old Rectory, Main Street. It was agreed to support.
- 25/02060/FUL, Erection of proposed self-store building on former transport depot at Wixey Transport. Supported by PC.

Older

- 25/02319/TREE, T1 damson tree – remove the large limb at Peacock house, Main Street. No objection by PC.

Other matters

SDC, Unauthorised land clearance and tree work within the Conservation Area on land to the east of the church. SDC have visited the land and inspected the works carried out.

At the time of the visit no work was being carried out. Whilst no significant tree work had been carried out, it was evident that some low quality growth across the entrance had been cut and two small trees had been felled. They will be contacting the landowner and reminding him that he has carried out a technical breach and they may not be so lenient in the future. The Parish Council are to inform SDC if any more work is carried out.

25/81. Financial Report

To approve a pay rise for the Parish Clerk

It was agreed to approve the pay rise (3.2%) based on the NJC (National Joint Council) pay agreement and back date it to 1st April 2025.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

- £829.50 to Tysoe Childrens Group Ltd (newsletter copying)
- £192.00 to Parish Online (new email addresses)
- £194.39 to TEEC (hosting and domain)
- £42.00 to WALC (Training)
- £981.05 to Parish Clerk (hours) and £245.20 (tax)
- £58.50 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

25/82. To receive the following correspondence

- County Highways, Road closure on Sugarwell Lane, Tysoe on 20th November. Noted.
- Ministry of Housing, British Muslim Trust Helpline launch. Noted.
- County Highways, Carriageway patching on Beech Road on 29th November. Noted.

M. J. [Signature]
20/1/26

25/83. Councillors Reports

A villager's son is doing his Duke of Edinburgh Award and has offered to do a litter pick. Equipment was discussed and some has been used in the past for litter picks. It may be stored at the old chicken farm. Cllr Littlewood offered to help if it was needed.

The dead tree on Whatcote Road has been reported to Highways but not removed.

Action: Cllr Rivers-Fletcher to ask Thomas Fox Landscaping who have the right qualifications if they can fell it and remove it from site.

25/84. To note meeting dates and times for 2026

20th January, 17th March, 19th May, 21st July, 15th September and 17th November. The meetings will start at 6.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

W. P. Parker
20/1/26