

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 6.30pm
in The Village Hall, Main Street

Councillors Present

Cllr Robertson (Chairperson), Cllr. Mercer, Cllr Rivers Fletcher and Cllr Shepard

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

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

26/01. Apologies for absence
Cllr Hobill (personal)

26/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda
No interests were declared.

26/03. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2025
The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

26/04. To receive an update on progress from previous minutes (for report only by the Chair/Parish Clerk)
The IT Policy which was approved at the last meeting is on the website.

26/05. Public Participation Session
A member of the public asked if meetings could be advertised on Facebook as a lot of villagers use it. It was agreed it could.
Action: Cllr Shepard to add it on.

A member of the public reported another large tree being cut down without permission in Church Orchard.
Action: The Parish Clerk to report to SDC and copy Cllr Littlewood.

26/06. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors
A report was received from Cllr Mills and put on the village website. The main points included: Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service Commend public hero, WCC's final proposal for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), 5500 miles of Warwickshire's roads gritted, Children's chicken pox vaccinations, Grant fund to support local youth projects, Parking text scam, Avian influenza confirmed by Defra in Warwickshire. Cllr Shepard has put up the Avian flu posters on the noticeboard.

The Chair spoke about ongoing problems with Severn Trent. There are lots of potholes and the road is constantly flooded. A proposal was suggested for a parking bay for the tankers but there has been no formal resolution yet. The traffic lights are often not working. There is some acceptance that the pump is inadequate.
Action: Cllr Mills to speak to Mike Rogers at Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

Cllr J. Robertson
17/3/26

A report was received from Cllr Littlewood and put on the village website. Work is ongoing with moving to a unitary authority. A Strategic Unitary Authority can appoint a Mayor and there would be additional funding for the Police and Fire authorities as PCC Commissioners will be scrapped in 2028. A single authority are not allowed to have a Strategic Authority. 87% of the population voted in South Warwickshire for a unitary authority. There is a Public Open Spaces consultation to respond to. The budget has been finalised and will increase by £5 per household. Villagers are being asked to keep an eye on their neighbours following the recent cold weather.

26/07. Funding Requests

To consider a request to purchase a VAS. A funding request form had been completed by Cllr Rivers Fletcher. The cost is either £450.00 or £2K. It was agreed to purchase the cheaper sign. Proposed by Cllr Rivers Fletcher and seconded by the Chair.

To consider a request for solar panels/batteries for the village hall. This request will be carried forward to the March meeting as planning permission is needed.

26/08. To set the precept for 2026/27

Money has been set aside for the possible purchase of the Chapel Field, should it become available, which is considered an important space in the village, and one of few possibilities for a communal village green. The purchase remains uncertain, on both availability and affordability grounds. Whilst it would not of course be used by everyone, it has received good support in the past. The village hall is a big asset but lacks outside space. It was agreed not to increase the precept this coming year as reserve levels are sufficient and in an interest bearing account. Current income is sufficient for projected expenditure in the year 2026/2027. It was agreed to maintain the precept at the same level as last year at £12,763.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to reply to SDC.

26/09. To receive an update on planning

New

- 25/02523/TREE, Tree work at The Old Rectory, Main Street. No objection by SDC.

An additional application was received after the agenda had been issued.

26/00024/CDUQ, Change of use of barn to two dwellings at barn adjacent to Stonecroft House.

Action: Councillors to look at the papers.

26/10. Councillors Reports

Cllr Shepard had attended a meeting with Ziggy Isaacs about a defibrillator runners scheme. She is keen to get one set up and wants this county to be the best. Everyone on the list will have to be trained to use the defibrillator and be DBS checked. The phone system will incur costs and checks. They will look at the cheapest way to set this up.

Cllr Mercer spoke about Leys Field. Photos have been sent to the SDC Enforcement Officer. Top soil and edging has been delivered to the site. There is no committee at the moment but there will be one when the land is handed over.

Action: Cllr Mercer to reach out to them.

An article about removal of the dead tree on Whatcote Road was put in the last newsletter.

Cllr Shepard suggested another idea for spend. There are no benches in the village and one could be placed in the layby on Whatcote Road with wildflowers or opposite the pub although there are underground services nearby.

And Shepherd
17/3/26

The Chair gave an update on the sewers and work being carried out by Severn Trent. There is a new Chief Executive who has been in place for six weeks, and a single project manager appointed to liaise and progress a scheme for the resolution of the constant sewage eruptions on the Manor field. The Project Manager is focussed on resolving issues and knows a lot of history in the village. There are serious issues where sewage is erupting on private land, and also complaints about the level of noise at night time.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact SDC Environmental Health.

26/11. To note next meeting date and time

17th March 2026 at 6.30pm

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

W. J. Baker

17/3/26.