

Minutes of North Moreton Parish Council Meeting held North Moreton Village Hall on Tuesday 07 July 2026

Present: Cllr. V. Gibbs (Chair), Cllr. C.I. Shipton (Vice-Chair), Cllr. D. Tebworth, Cllr. K Howat, Cllr. S.C. Harrison, Cllr. C. Topping, Cllr. J. Hope-Smith, Mr. A. Wise (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

	VG opened the meeting at 7:30 pm	
26/3414 Apologies	Cllr. Anne-Marie Simpson	
26/3415 Report on OCC and SODC activities	SODC Report – Reviewed– attachment 6 CT explained that from the 31st October the national planning policy will change in that the Planning Committee at District level will only review developments of at least 10 houses, potentially making developments of up to 9 houses much easier to get approved. OCC Report – Reviewed – attachment 7	
26/3416 Establish Overarching social and fundraising committee	Some of the residents of North Moreton have proposed meeting in the Bear Pub in late August to form an overarching committee to co-ordinate all the social and fundraising activities in the village. Chair will circulate date once known in the village email.	VG
26/3417 Hear representations from members of the public	None	
26/3418 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 12.05.26	It was proposed by VG, seconded by KH, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
26/3419 Consider matters, not taken elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting of 12.05.26	All actions completed	
26/3420 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	- Chair to write to Kate to ask her if she is willing to continue to be the Village Hall Defib monitor person or if she would like to pass the responsibility to the PC? If it is passed to the PC then a Councillor will be appointed to take over monitoring responsibilities - Chair will speak to this new fundraising committee, if it is formed, about raising funds for the purchase of a second defib machine for the village. - Chair to also approach NMCT to see if they would be willing to give a financial contribution to this purchase. More details of costs etc to be investigated and councillors will take the project forward	VG VG
26/3421 Financial matters	- Approval of payments. It was proposed VG, seconded DT, and carried that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's Salary, Expenses, PAYE, CAB donation, Grass Cutting and repair cableway - attachments 2 & 3. - CIS to change payment system for website hosting and domain name from a credit card to annual or bi-annual Direct Debit payments from the PCs bank account that the clerk can then monitor by contacting supplier to request this change which will be better for both CIS and Clerk - Clerk to send end of year 2025/26 pdfs to CIS for uploading to village website to complete audit process	CIS AW/CIS

26/3422 Planning since meeting of 12.05.26	AW presented the current planning application situation – attachment 4 Clerk explained to the councillors that he had received the following email: “I have been instructed by the owner of Old Manor Cottage to make some preliminary enquiries as to the potential for creating a rear vehicular access to the garage at the end of her garden. This is just an exploratory approach to understand whether the Parish Council might be amenable to considering this proposal.” Councillors to have a site meeting in Back Lane at 10:30am on Wednesday 8 July to view proposals on the ground and then instruct clerk how to respond to this email.	VG
26/3423 Highways, Transport and Footpaths	<i>Footpath Report – Bob Price</i> • Earth Trust path is now open at Wittenham Clumps • Recently met with EHPC footpath warden Chair reported that the water leak from outside Childwall House has now been fixed after an on-site meeting with Thames Water	
26/3424 Recreation and Playground matters	• CIS reported that he has now received Tim O'Connor's quote (SQ-2042) which is for £2480:00 for the removal of 8 trees. • CIS also reported that he had now received a quote for planned works on the Rec in 2027/28 for tree pollarding which will cost in the region of £6k. CIS to raise this at the November meeting when the draft 2027/28 budget is reviewed by councillors. Clerk explained that this will result in an increase in the Precept for 2027/28. • CIS reported that the log roll, part of the original playground equipment appears to be cracked and, although he has tried to find a replacement, they are no longer made. It will need to be replaced at some point by another piece of equipment.	
26/3425 Risk assessment	Reviewed– attachment 5	
26/3426 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	Cobbs Clay Club Chair reported that she has received an email from the Cobbs Clay Club Chair asking if there had been any complaints about their use of the ground? Chair to respond saying that PC very happy with the way that the club is conducting its business on the Rec Ground.	VG
26/3427 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	Chair reported that she had received an email from the Head at South Moreton School thanking us for our donation.	
26/3428 Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 8 September 2026 at 7:30pm	
Closure	VG declared the meeting closed at 8:45pm	

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2025-2026

4. Planning Applications
5. Risk assessment checklist
6. SODC Report

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	North Moreton Parish Council
Date	7 July 2026

[Booking link](#) for planning surgeries for town and parish councils

South News a monthly resident newsletter packed with the latest news, events, and consultations happening across South Oxfordshire.

Next steps for Local Plans

A local plan is a document councils are required to prepare to provide plans and policies for all types of development, including new housing and employment developments in the area as well as identifying the infrastructure needed to support them.

Councillors in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse on 18 June 2026 approved an update to the timetable for the Joint Local Plan 2041 (JLP1) and its plans for development in the area. The report that went to the councils and the revised LDS can be reviewed [here](#).

Also agreed by both councils was to start work on the next local plan, referred to as Joint Local Plan 2045 (JLP2), in line with government requirements, before the independent examination on the last one is finished.

JLP1

Our forthcoming first Joint Local Plan 2041 delivers on our vision and priorities as well as providing help to our neighbouring districts. Its is robust, innovative, forward-thinking and based on strong community engagement, and it is good to see that it is progressing again through the examination process, examined by government-appointed inspectors.

The plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination in December 2024. The first stage of inspector-led hearing sessions took place in June 2025, with the second stage of hearing sessions programmed taking place this week 5-7 July 2026, followed by further hearings in the autumn.

The examination of the Joint Local Plan 2041 encountered a temporary setback in September 2025, following a letter from the inspectors outlining their initial findings from the first hearing sessions held in June 2025. Encouragingly, progress is now firmly back on track, supported by recent national changes to the local plan examination process.

For more information on the first Joint Local Plan (JLP1) visit www.southandvale.gov.uk/joint-local-plan-2041-examination

For Livestream of this week's second stage hearings:

The sessions for 5-7 July will/are available to watch online via a livestream on the [Councils' YouTube Channel](#) in the [Live Streaming](#) section.

- The Inspectors have issued agendas for the July hearing sessions ([ID21](#), [ID22](#), [ID23](#), [ID24](#)), as well as an updated draft Hearings Programme ([ID18](#)).

Our [Joint Local Plan examination webpage](#) contains further details.

JLP2

New government regulations mean that at the same time as working towards adopting the first Joint Local Plan between the two district councils, they are required to start preparing their next plan or plans for the area, which would run to 2045. This is known as 'twin-tracking'.

The timetable for the new local plan, needs to be in line with the government's requirements for preparing, examining and adopting plans in 30 months, which the councils must start by 31 October 2026. With Local Government Reorganisation, a new unitary authority would look to adopt the second local plan/plans, but the existing councils must start the process.

Now that the decision has been made by the councils on how best to proceed, the new Joint Local Plan (JLP2) will go out for the first stage of public consultation in September 2026 asking what the plan should cover.

There is no doubt that the councils will have their work cut out for them in developing a second plan – but on the strength of their previous work on the first Joint Local Plan, they will rise to the occasion and bring the same dedication and determination to see it through, handing over the baton to the new authority when the times comes.

For more information on the new Joint Local Plan (JLP2) visit [Joint Local Plan 2045 \(JLP2\) - South Oxfordshire District Council](#)

Joint statement from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils on local devolution

The leaders of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have reaffirmed their commitment to working constructively and collaboratively with all partners and the government on discussions around a new strategic authority that would cover the Thames Valley.

Leaders from the region met in Reading on 17 June to discuss a letter from the government proposing a Foundation Strategic Authority for an area covered by Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Swindon.

A Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA) is a regional government body that oversees things like strategic transport infrastructure, economic development and regeneration. An FSA is overseen by representatives of all the constituent councils rather than by a mayor.

To establish an FSA the government requires all councils in the area to be in consensus, however some councils in Oxfordshire and Berkshire felt they could not lend their support.

Community Hub roadshows

Our Community Hub team continues to visit local community organisations across South Oxfordshire and the Vale to support residents with the cost of living.

Upcoming roadshows include:

- **Wednesday 15 July**, 2 to 4pm at Vale Community Impact Pop-Up Café (Petypher House), Kingston Bagpuize OX13 5FR
- **Tuesday 11 August**, 11am to 1pm at Didcot Baptist Church, 43 Wantage Road, Didcot, OX11 0BS

No booking is needed. We'll continue to add new dates and locations over the coming months.

Please help us spread the word with residents in your wards. For more information, visit the Community Hub webpage [South/Vale](#)

Didcot comes together to celebrate culture and community

On **Saturday 11 July** you're invited to celebrate culture and community at the first ever Didcot Festival of Cultures.

This free, family-friendly event takes place from 10am to 3pm at Cornerstone Arts Centre, featuring live music, dance, food, workshops and activities inspired by cultures from across Britain and around the world.

The event has been made possible by working in partnership with Didcot Town Council, Healthy Didcot, Cornerstone Arts Centre and Didcot Interfaith Group.

On the day visitors will be able to enjoy free workshops, including Turkish marbling art and African drumming, as well as performances from the Military Wives Choir. For the full programme visit [Cornerstone's website](#).

Bin days staying the same, but collection times may change across South Oxfordshire and the Vale

Residents across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded to put their bins by 6am on their scheduled collection day, ahead of route changes starting later this month.

From Monday 29 June 2026, the district councils are making small changes to waste and recycling rounds to improve the efficiency and reliability of the services.

While every **household's scheduled collection day will remain exactly the same, the time that crews arrive on each street may change**. Vehicles may arrive earlier than usual, so residents should put their bins out by 6am on their scheduled collection day to avoid missing a collection. If possible, people are encouraged to put their bins out the evening before, provided they do not block pavements or footpaths.

Residents can check what day their bins will be emptied via the councils' new BinDays web app at southandvale.gov.uk/BinDays

We don't want anyone missing their collection, so please present your bins by 6am, or the evening before your collection."

For more information about the districts' waste and recycling collections, visit southoxon.gov.uk/recycling or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/recycling

Performing Arts Grant

Local arts organisations can apply for a share of £60,000 from South Oxfordshire District Council's Performing Arts Grant when applications open on Monday 20 July.

The funding supports arts and community projects that give residents across the district the chance to take part in the performing arts, bringing communities together, improving wellbeing and helping grow South Oxfordshire's arts scene.

Voluntary and community organisations can apply for grants of between £500 and £5,000. Funding can be used for projects such as festivals, concerts, dance lessons, accessible music sessions and equipment purchases.

Applicants must show how their projects meet the following community values and priorities, fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable performing arts scene in South Oxfordshire:

- Increase the range of arts opportunities available to local communities.
- Support inclusive practice and celebrate diversity
- Develop local artistic talent
- Promote innovation and excellence
- Develop new audiences and participants in performing arts initiatives

Organisations eligible to apply are:

- Non-for-profit groups, arts, or community groups
- Town and parish councils
- Schools (for non-core curriculum activities)

The deadline for applications is **midday Friday 30 September 2026**.

More information about the grant scheme can be found on the council's website southoxon.gov.uk/grants and organisations can contact the Community Arts team performingartsgrants@southandvale.gov.uk for support.

Councils are encouraged by the results of their tenants' satisfaction survey

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have carried out a satisfaction survey among their tenants for the first time since they re-registered as social housing providers and the results are encouraging.

The councils, which now manage 92 properties across both districts scored 100 per cent satisfaction on questions on their housing repair service and whether their homes are well-maintained. They also scored highly on keeping communal areas clean and providing homes that are safe. The lowest score was on the question of how the councils handled complaints and still 75 per cent of respondents were satisfied.

The Government requires all registered providers of social housing – including local authorities – to collect and report annually on their performance using a core set of defined standards called the Tenant

Satisfaction Measures. The TSMs provide tenants with greater clarity about their landlord's performance.

For South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils this is the first measurement of their performance since re-registering in 2023 as a Local Authority Registered Providers (LARP) marking the return to their role as a social landlord.

The councils currently manage properties in Abingdon, Harwell and Wantage in the Vale and Didcot and Wallingford in South Oxfordshire. These range from single rooms to flats and houses with a variety of households ranging from single people to family groups.

The survey takes place during April and May, and the councils then publish the results. The 2026 survey results (of the 86 households under the councils' management at that time – the councils have since taken on six more properties) are available on our websites ([South Oxfordshire/Vale](#))

7. OCC Report

Title	County Councillor's Report
Author	Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith
Parishes	Aston Tirrold/Upthorpe, Cholsey, East Hagbourne, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Moulsoford, North Moreton, South Moreton, West Hagbourne
Date	July 2026
Contact Details	johnny.hope-smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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Wildfire Prevention – Fire Service Issues Summer Safety Advice

Key Details

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service is urging residents to take extra care during hot, dry weather following a number of major wildfires across the county in recent years.

Fire crews attended four major wildfires in 2025, three in 2024 and seven in 2023, as well as many smaller outdoor fires.

Common causes include discarded cigarettes, litter, disposable barbecues and garden fires. Even a small spark can quickly ignite dry grass and vegetation, putting people, homes and wildlife at risk.

Residents are advised to use barbecues safely, dispose of coals responsibly, and take extra care when burning garden waste.

What Parishes Can Do

Share wildfire prevention messages through parish newsletters, noticeboards and social media.

Remind residents not to discard cigarettes, litter or glass bottles in the countryside.

Encourage safe use of barbecues and garden bonfires, particularly during periods of hot and dry weather.

Promote the Fire Service's wider safety messaging, including water safety advice during the summer months.

LINK

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-fire-crews-launch-wildfire-prevention-advice/>

Rural Speed Limit Review – 60 Further Routes Under Review

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council is expanding its review of speed limits on rural A and B roads as part of the county's Vision Zero programme to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the road network.

Around 60 additional routes will be assessed during 2026/27, with reviews based on collision data, road layout and how roads are used by motorists, cyclists, walkers and horse riders.

The review has already resulted in changes on roads including the A4074, A40, A420, A417 and A4260, with further proposals for the A361 due for decision in July.

The council stresses that this is not a blanket reduction in speed limits. Each route will be assessed individually using Department for Transport guidance and local evidence.

Recent provisional government statistics suggest serious and fatal collisions in Oxfordshire have fallen significantly, supporting the county's approach to road safety

What Parishes Can Do

Monitor local consultation opportunities as stakeholder engagement with parish and town councils will begin during the coming months.

Identify any local concerns about speeding, collision hotspots, or roads frequently used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Encourage residents to participate in any statutory consultations later this year when specific proposals are published.

Provide local knowledge and evidence to help ensure any proposed changes reflect the conditions and safety concerns on roads serving your community.

LINKS

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy0d18dz44o>

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/speed-limit-review-to-look-at-improving-safety-on-60-rural-roads-this-year/>

Rural Quiet Lanes Programme – First Trial Route Announced

Key Details

The first Quiet Lane trial route has been announced as part of Oxfordshire County Council's programme to make rural roads safer for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

Quiet Lanes are intended to create roads where vulnerable users have greater priority and where through-traffic is discouraged.

Measures can include signage, lower speed limits and physical interventions such as bollards or gates to reduce traffic using the route as a shortcut.

The programme forms part of Oxfordshire's wider Vision Zero and active travel ambitions, helping improve safety and accessibility on rural roads.

If successful, the trial could help inform similar schemes elsewhere in the county.

What Parishes Can Do

Consider whether local rural roads with significant walking, cycling or equestrian use might be suitable for future Quiet Lane designation.

Review routes where through-traffic causes safety concerns despite relatively low traffic volumes.

Work with neighbouring parishes where routes cross parish boundaries.

Monitor the trial and share feedback with Oxfordshire County Council as the programme develop

LINKS

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/local-transport-and-connectivity-plan/active-travel/quiet-lanes-programme>

INFO - Council Secures Injunction to Protect Communities and Highway Safety

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has secured a High Court injunction to prevent the continued unauthorised placement of flags on or near the public highway.

The injunction follows a series of incidents across Oxfordshire involving the organisation Raise the Colours, including the installation of flags on highway infrastructure without permission.

The court hearing took place on 23 June 2026, and the named defendants have given undertakings not to erect flags on the highway, encourage others to do so, or abuse individuals removing them.

The council states that the action relates to highway safety, obstruction, trespass, harassment and intimidation, rather than the content of any particular flag.

Residents from across Oxfordshire, including Wallingford, reported concerns about safety risks, distress and confrontational behaviour associated with the installations.

The injunction provides the council with additional powers to enforce against future unauthorised activity and supports its legal duty to keep the highway safe.

What Parishes Can Do

Share accurate information with residents that this action concerns highway safety and legal compliance, not restrictions on lawful flag displays on private property.

Remind community groups that any signs, flags or structures placed on highway land require appropriate permission.

Refer questions about enforcement or highway land ownership to Oxfordshire County Council.

Report any highway obstructions or safety concerns through the appropriate council channels.

LINKS

<https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council-secures-injunction/>

INFO - Potholes – Oxfordshire Trials 15 Different Repair Methods

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council and its highways contractor, M Group, have trialled 15 different pothole repair and road patching methods on a single stretch of road in Banbury.

The trial follows a winter which saw an unprecedented increase in potholes, with more than 33,000 highway defects repaired since January 2026.

Repair crews were increased from 7 to 25, with the council receiving over 1,300 pothole reports in a single week during the peak period.

The project builds on a similar trial in Steventon in 2023 and aims to identify the most durable, cost-effective and environmentally sustainable repair methods.

The test sections will be monitored over the next two years to compare the performance of different materials, techniques and technologies.

What Parishes Can Do

Encourage residents to continue reporting potholes through FixMyStreet:

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Reassure residents that Oxfordshire is actively testing new approaches to improve the quality and lifespan of repairs.

Highlight recurring pothole hotspots to me, your County Councillor where defects continue to reappear.

Encourage residents to include photographs where safe to do so, helping highways teams assess and prioritise repairs more effectively.

LINK

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/czdeymyddr8o>

INFO - Budget Pressures – Cabinet to Review Financial Risks

Key Details

Oxfordshire County Council has warned that additional savings may be required beyond those already identified for future years.

The council currently needs to find at least £15.5 million of savings in 2027/28, rising to £22 million in 2028/29, following changes to government funding announced earlier this year.

A report to Cabinet on 14 July will set out a range of risks that could increase financial pressures further, including rising inflation, increasing demand for children's social care,

uncertainty around adult social care funding, and possible changes to NHS and Better Care Fund arrangements.

The council has stated that reductions in government grant funding, combined with increasing costs and demand for services, mean difficult decisions will be required during future budget rounds.

Options to reduce expenditure and deliver savings are currently being developed, with more detail expected later this year as work begins on the 2027/28 budget.

What Parishes Can Do

Be aware that the council faces significant financial challenges over the next few years and that further savings proposals are likely to emerge during autumn and winter.

INFO - Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Government Decision Expected Soon

Key Details

The government is expected to announce its preferred option for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Oxfordshire later this summer.

Three proposals have been submitted for consideration, ranging from a single unitary council for Oxfordshire through to models involving two or three councils.

The change would replace the current two-tier system of county and district councils with a new unitary structure, bringing services together under fewer authorities.

Preparatory work is already underway across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire to ensure councils are ready to implement whichever option is selected.

While a decision on the preferred model is expected shortly, the transition to any new arrangements will take place over several years and existing councils continue to operate as normal.

What Parishes Can Do

Keep parish councillors and residents informed that a government decision is expected soon and that further details will follow once announced.

Continue engaging with Oxfordshire County Council and district councils as usual, as existing responsibilities and services remain unchanged for now.

Consider how future governance arrangements may affect relationships between parish councils and principal authorities.

Monitor future updates, as parish and town councils are expected to play an important role in lo