

Chmn

Present: Cllr. V. Gibbs (Chair), Cllr. C.I. Shipton (Vice-Chair), Cllr. D. Tebworth, Cllr. Kathy Howat, Cllr. S.C. Harrison, Cllr. C. Topping, Mr. A. Wise (Clerk) and 14 members of the public

	VG opened the meeting at 7:30 pm	
25/3327 Apologies	Cllr. AM. Simpson and new County Cllr. Johnny Hope-Smith	
25/3328 Elect a new Chair and vice-chair for 2025/26	It was proposed by SH, seconded by KT, that Veronica Gibbs be elected as Chair until May 2026 It was proposed by VG, seconded by SH, that Ian Shipton be elected as Vice-Chair until May 2026	
25/3329 Agree Councillor Responsibilities for 25/26	VG - Chair CIS - Vice Chair & Recreation Ground & Website SH - Finance KH - Transport & Cricket Club DT - Pinboard, Cobbs Clay Club and External Affairs	
25/3330 Report on OCC and SODC activities	SODC Report – See attachment 6 OCC Report – No report received	
25/3331 Hear representations from members of the public	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brian Miller and Julia Miller gave an update on the Lawful certificate breach for NM Airstrip as they see it which is still being investigated by the SODC Leader. 2. The new owners of Melhuish Farm Airstrip, Peter and Michelle Rothwell gave some information about the use of the strip and the additional safety procedures they had added and also offered all NM residents an opportunity to come and see the airstrip in action on a planned open day with a date TBC. 3. A pilot from Peppard Common who regularly uses the airstrip briefed the meeting on why, from a commercial pilot's point of view, he thought the airstrip was very safe to use and hadn't seen any breaches of safety on Melhuish Farm airstrip. 4. Mr Pound raised the issue of an increase in noise due to the increase in flight traffic under the new owners. 5. Clare Price asked the chair to provide clarification at the next meeting on the exact number of flights per year that are permissible under the Lawful certificate given to the new owners of Melhuish Farm. 6. Rob Nickless read out a prepared statement - attachment 7 7. Michelle Rothwell addressed the meeting following feedback from fellow residents of North Moreton in respect of planning application P24/S2346/FUL which was later withdrawn by the applicant. Their intention is to only offer retirement liveries for 4 horses with visits from owners probably only twice a year thus keeping traffic down to a minimum. There is no intention to hold Horse Shows. 8. Jo Nickless raised the issue of a recent accident at the rear of the village hall on the path from the rec ground where an elderly gentleman had a bad fall which resulted in superficial injuries. Chair to investigate the state of the path, confirm its ownership and report back on a way forward at the next meeting. 	<p>VG</p> <p>VG</p>
25/3332 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 18.03.2025	It was proposed by VG, seconded by DT, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	

25/3333 Consider matters, not taken elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting of 18.03.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items have been completed. 	
25/3334 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob Price to hold a meeting with Mr and Mrs Vacher to further explain the PC's position with regards to the tree that needs to be pollarded to a safe height that borders their property and Bear Lane. Chair happy to attend meeting as well. VG and KH to meet to sign the lease between NMPC and Moreton CC which will now be extended to 2037. Signed copies to be lodged with cricket club and Clerk and also uploaded to website on PC page. 	VG/BP VG/KH
25/3335 Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2024/25 Annual Accounts. It was proposed VG, seconded SH, and carried that the annual accounts be approved. Chair and clerk to sign off the accounts and clerk to submit to external auditor. Approval of payments. It was proposed VG, seconded KT, and carried that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's Salary, Expenses, PAYE, Open Spaces Membership, Audit Fees, OPFA membership, OALC membership, Parish Online renewal, Dog Poo Bin emptying, Insurance policy renewal, Football goal nets and pegs and pdf software for website - attachments 2 & 3. Clerk to prepare PC donations for approval at the July meeting as per the 2025/26 Budget. 	Clerk Clerk
25/3336 Planning since meeting of 18.03.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW presented the current planning application situation – attachment 4 	
25/3337 Highways, Transport and Footpaths	<p>Footpath Update Bob Price recently attended a footpath training day BP recommended that residents who enjoy using the footpaths take a look at this website: https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access</p> <p>AP1 Chair reported that her predecessor had finally received a reply from the Land Registry asking for further information concerning AP1. Chair will convene a meeting on the 28 May featuring VG/RPT/BP/JC to answer these questions based on their particular knowledge before responding to the Land Registry.</p> <p>Bus No bus update as there was nothing to report from the most recent PTR Meeting.</p>	VG
25/3338 Recreation and Playground matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair reported that there had been a complaint of overflowing bins on the rec ground. Chair was able to meet with stakeholders from cricket club, caravan site and the Bear Pub and they all agreed to empty the nearest bins to them and to continue to empty them going forward as these are not emptied by Biffa. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair also reported that thanks to Jonny Yaxley the Rushcroft is now free of stinging nettles. She is to meet with Jonny to discuss his ideas for further development there Following a site meeting between chair and Rob Nickless it was agreed that the PC would apply for a grant totalling £5k to finance an extension to the existing car park by purchasing more tiles from Mud Control. It was proposed VG, seconded SH, and carried that RN should purchase 2 bags of hardcore at £70 per bag to cover the area near the new gate. CIS to purchase replacement combination locks for the new gate on the Rec ground to replace the rusted locks. Then to inform all interested parties of the combination. CIS to add the trees currently growing by the new Rec Ground gate to the list agreed with the tree expert who recently examined the trees on the rec to enable better entry and exiting of the car park. It was proposed that CIS move the pedestrian access gate onto the Rec Ground away from the vehicle access gate to make it safer for pedestrians. CIS to review the proposal and come back to advise the PC at the July Meeting. KH raised the issue of the cricket club acquiring for free as a result of a donation from a local private school, 2 cricket pitch covers for the club's use as it hosts more higher level games. When not in use they will be stored behind the nets. It was proposed by VG, seconded by KH, that the PC give their permission for these to be used to protect the square when it is raining. Chair reported that the PCs marquees are now stored in the cricket club shed Chair reported that the PCs PA system is stored in the village hall storage cupboard. 	<p>VG/SH</p> <p>CIS</p> <p>CIS</p> <p>CIS</p>
25/3339 Risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VG signed off appropriate parts of the current Risk Assessment Checklist. - attachment 5 	
25/3340 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jo Nickless the Village Hall Chair reported that her committee had decided to allocate space in the storage rooms to x 2 5 drawer filing cabinets for use by the PC and the PCC (church). PC to purchase 2 x filing cabinets and claim back the VAT. The PCC will then reimburse the PC for one filing cabinet. It was proposed SH, seconded CIS, and carried that the clerk purchase 2 x 5 draw filing cabinets as per quote previously circulated. Clerk to liaise with JN about delivery arrangements to the village hall. Chair has made enquiries about the exact number of Ukrainian visitors still living in the village as there is still a pot of money left that was allocated for their transport needs. Chair to enquire with grant provider if there are any alternatives for spending the remaining money. Clerk to send any articles for circulating amongst the village by sending them to nmoretonmail@gmail.com for onward distribution. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>VG</p> <p>Clerk</p>
25/3341 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
25/33421 Date of Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Tuesday 8 July 2025 in North Moreton Village Hall. 	
Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VG declared the meeting closed at 8:45pm 	

North Moreton Parish Council

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Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2023-2024
4. Planning Applications
5. Risk assessment checklist
6. Rob Nickless Statement

Statement from Rob and Jo Nickless

I wanted to make a statement regarding our position, and that of our business, in North Moreton.

Jo and I have operated our business, Meadow Honey Farm, in North Moreton at Melhuish Farm for 15 years and enjoy excellent relationships with both our current and our previous landlords. I am now disconcerted to find that our business is cited in potential enforcement investigation actions, and as a result it is now called into question whether our food premises can operate from our current location. That is despite the very same local authority recently awarding us a 5-star food hygiene rating. We will also shortly need to accommodate planning officers who are acting on an investigation case. These actions in themselves don't worry us, but they all take considerable time and effort to deal with. And any of you who know us, will recognise that we are not swamped in spare time.

To be absolutely clear with everyone, our business is as a primary food producer, and we also provide invaluable pollination services to other farms and agricultural businesses across a 20-mile radius. At its most simple, our business is agriculture. We are bee farmers, *not* beekeepers. And we operate that farming business from a farm. It seems clear to us that we should therefore be able to carry out that work, as we have done over 15 years, without unnecessary investigation or interrogation.

Since our residential move to North Moreton in 2017 our family has been actively involved in the parish – the village emergency plan, the parish council, the church, this hall, green shoots all benefit from our contributions of time, expertise and equipment. I am here today to ask for something in return for that. I'd like to ask that the Parish Council and the local community support us, as and when we need it, to enjoy our tenancy and work in the village unhindered by the continuing actions of one or two individuals.

7. SODC Report

Title	District Councillors' Report
Councillors	Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson & Cllr Crispin Topping
Parish	North Moreton Parish Council 20 May 2025

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

Joint Local Plan Examination – start of public hearings on 3 June

We are pleased to update you on the latest progress of our Joint Local Plan. The dates for the start of the public hearings for the South and Vale Joint Local Plan have been published this week.

This stage of the examination involves our appointed Planning Inspectors (Inspectors R A Bust and C Mulloy) holding hearing sessions to hear from the Councils and other participants about whether the JLP is sound and has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements.

The first week of hearing dates will cover the following topics:

- **Tuesday 3 June 2025:** Matter 1 – Procedural and Legal Requirements followed by Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate
- **Wednesday 4 June 2025:** Matter 3 – The Housing Target/Requirement
- **Thursday 5 June 2025:** Matter 4 – The Employment Land Requirement

All the hearing sessions will be held at Bee House on Milton Park, OX14 4SB. Those who made representations seeking changes to the local plan at the Publication stage in autumn 2024 may have registered with the Programme Officer by 6 May if they would like to speak at the hearings as a participant. The hearing sessions will be held in public and anyone can attend in person to watch (subject to capacity at the venue). The sessions will also be available to watch online via a livestream from Bee House.

Our [Joint Local Plan examination webpage](#) contains all the details produced by the Inspectors: the Matters, Issues and Questions ([ID02](#)), Guidance Notes ([ID03](#)) and a draft Hearings Programme ([ID04](#)).

If you have any questions regarding this next stage, please contact planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk

We have also published a statement on both Council news websites here:

[South](#)
[Vale](#)

Introducing Ridgeway Council – part of a two unitary council option for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire

Introducing **Ridgeway Council**, an ambitious proposal to create a brand-new council that delivers high-quality services, improves financial resilience and value-for-money, and ensures it is able to

maintain truly local representation.

[An initial proposal](#) has been submitted on behalf of West Berkshire Council and the district councils in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse for the creation of a new unitary council that would see the three areas combined. The move is in response to a government invitation following its [announcement in December 2024](#) to end two-tier authorities like those in Oxfordshire.

As part of the shake-up of local councils, the government has also indicated all unitary authorities will need to serve around 500,000 residents or more, which will require West Berkshire Council - which covers around 170,000 people - to merge with neighbouring councils.

Ridgeway Council forms one half of a two-unitary council proposal for Oxfordshire, with the other half made up from the district council areas of West Oxfordshire, Oxford City and Cherwell. West Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council have [confirmed they will be developing the North Oxfordshire Council](#) half of the proposal, strongly complementing the Ridgeway Council work being carried out by West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and the Vale, coming together to create a proposal for two unitaries covering what is currently Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

With strong demographic and economic similarities and significant historic ties between West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, the three councils began discussions to explore the possibility of coming together as one single council. All three councils have now produced a detailed interim proposal document, which is available on their new website dedicated to keeping the public informed about the proposal at ridgewaycouncil.org.uk. The proposal is being developed under the title 'Ridgeway Council' - named after [the famous 5,000-year-old trail](#) that travels through the heart of the three council areas.

At their Executive and Cabinet meetings last month, members from all three councils agreed to support the submission of the interim proposal. Following the government's request that Oxfordshire authorities submit interim proposals together, the county council has submitted an outline proposal for the Ridgeway Council and North Oxfordshire Council to the government alongside two other options being developed in Oxfordshire.

Speaking about the proposals [Councillor Jeff Brooks, Leader of West Berkshire Council](#), said: ***"This initial proposal is the result of some very positive and productive discussions, and I am delighted it has been submitted to the Government for their consideration. There is more work to do on the proposal and, importantly, that includes engaging with and listening to our residents and partners. It is an exciting proposal and one which I believe will serve our communities very well for future generations."***

- [Councillor David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council](#), said: ***"We've been working hard on our interim proposal for a new 'Ridgeway Council' to provide a financially sustainable future for local government in our area in a way that reflects the shared needs and ambitions of all three existing councils. We're very pleased to submit this interim proposal to the government and look forward to engaging with our communities in the coming months to hear their views before we submit our final proposal."***

- [Councillor Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council](#), said: ***"It makes good sense to base this proposal on the entire geographies of existing councils that provide high-quality, cost-effective and efficient services. Combining our strengths***

would create a modern and robust local authority that puts people first and ensures our communities are served by a council that is focused on the needs of our areas, which are very similar in nature. It will be financially robust and able to ensure that the needs of all residents are met, including those with complex needs.”

The government has set a deadline for final submissions for unitary council proposals no later than 28 November 2025. In the meantime, the councils will continue to develop the proposals along with a programme of communication and engagement to ensure local voices and community needs are reflected in the proposal and will also continue working positively and collaboratively with the other authorities in Oxfordshire.

If the final proposal is accepted the government's indicative timeline sets out that the new council could go live in 2028.

Oxfordshire County Council's submission to the government this week also included an initial proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire, and a third option from Oxford City Council proposing the area is divided up into three small unitary councils based around an expansion of the city's borders that hasn't yet been defined.

Reducing need for temporary accommodation part of new homelessness consultation

Minimising the use of temporary accommodation which can be disruptive to people's lives, especially for children, is one key aim of proposed updates to how councils tackle homelessness in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Increasing the provision of genuinely affordable, long-term homes remains a core focus of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils' work to reduce homelessness and end rough sleeping.

The councils are now inviting people to have their say on proposed objectives for the new strategy to reflect changes in homelessness and lay out their plans.

Plans include identifying issues early on such as 'hidden homelessness' and sofa surfing - as eviction by family and friends is the top reason for home loss in the districts. The councils will continue to work closely with every individual at risk of homelessness to help them find sustainable accommodation.

Whilst the numbers of people sleeping rough are relatively low in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse, the councils are committed to continue doing all they can to end rough sleeping by preventing it wherever possible. The council's outreach team will continue to proactively identify any rough sleepers without delay, ensuring that they receive advice from the councils' dedicated team.

Supporting rough sleepers who have complex needs through continued partnership work is an important area of the strategy. By strengthening close, collaborative working with partners in health, criminal justice, the Department for Work and Pensions, social care services and local agencies, the councils will help those who are vulnerable and have multiple needs.

The consultation is now open and runs until 11.59pm on 16 June.

To take part in the consultation go to
southandvale.gov.uk/homelessnessandroughsleepingstrategy/

Cabinet Members and Chair confirmed at South Oxfordshire District Council – May 2025

Councillor David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council at the Annual Council
The new cabinet has been confirmed as:

[Councillor David Rouane](#) – Leader, plus legal and democratic services and communications

[Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers](#) – Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Hub

[Councillor Tony Worgan](#) – Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

[Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker](#) – Cabinet Member for Finance and Property Assets

[Councillor Georgina Heritage](#) – Cabinet Member for Communities

[Councillor Sam James-Lawrie](#) – Cabinet Member for Environment

[Councillor Leigh Rawlins](#) – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Policy and Programmes

[Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson](#) – Cabinet Member for Planning

The appointments were confirmed at the council's annual meeting on Thursday 15 May. At the meeting councillor members also elected [Cllr Katherine Keates-Rohan](#) as Chair of the Council for the year, taking over from Cllr Kellie Hinton. [Cllr Andrea Powell](#) was appointed as Vice Chair.

During the meeting, Cllr Rouane also delivered [his latest Leader's report to council](#).

Work to create accessible moorings on the River Thames at Wallingford is now complete

Over £209,000 has been invested in major accessibility improvements at the riverside in Wallingford.

The project has been managed by South Oxfordshire District Council, with the support and eager anticipation of the local volunteer-run charity, Wallingford Accessible Boat Club.

The package of improvements has been designed to be step-free to provide easy access to people of all disabilities and to enhance the whole riverside as an attractive destination for residents, visitors, clubs and river users alike.

Work has covered improvements to the existing access path, roadway, ramp and moorings at the riverside – in addition to the installation of an accessible pontoon designed for river lovers with a disability.

Whilst the facility is available to all, it has been specifically designed to meet the requirements of the Wallingford Accessible Boat Club's wheelyboat, WOW-one, to enable disabled and less mobile people to have equal access to the river. To contact the club for further support or guidance, visit www.wabc.org.uk

To support the Wallingford Accessible Boat Club's activities, the site includes a wheelchair accessible cabin with access to water and electricity. The ambition is to create cheerful artwork on the cabin to brighten up the area.

In a related project, a Changing Places accessible bathroom has also been created at the riverside, next to the existing toilet facilities and is now available for use.

The completion of the work times perfectly with the summer opening of the Riverside site. The popular campsite opened at the beginning of May and the outdoor pool and splash pad will follow later this month.

An experienced civil engineering firm, Greenford Ltd, who are based in Wheatley, completed the work on behalf of the council. The project has been financed by £209,534 of CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money, charged by South Oxfordshire District Council on new development in the district. This refurbishment work follows a £400,000 boost of the onsite wash facilities and a revamp of the splashpads in 2023.

[Riverside Park and Pool](#) are run by GLL on behalf of the council, whilst South Oxfordshire District Council owns and manages the park and moorings at this site.

Find out more about [Wallingford Riverside Meadows here](#).

Wallingford bathing

The bathing season in England has started, and this means that from 15 May, regular tests will be carried out on water samples from the River Thames at Wallingford throughout the summer.

Since Wallingford Beach was designated as a bathing water area last year, the Environment Agency is obliged to take weekly water samples from the site during bathing season (15 May – 30 September), test them for two types of bacteria (both of which can cause serious illness, including vomiting and fever) and publish the results within a few days.

South Oxfordshire District Council has installed a new noticeboard at the site, and this will display information about the bathing water site including details of how to find the test results. This allows swimmers and other river users to make informed choices about how they can safely enjoy the river at Wallingford.

At the end of each bathing season the Environment Agency then gives a classification depending on the results of that year. Bathing water sites can be classified as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient' or 'poor', based on the analysis of levels of the bacteria, E. coli and intestinal Enterococci, found in the samples.

Following testing during its first season in 2024, Wallingford Beach was classified by the Environment Agency as 'poor'. Analysis of the samples showed that there were high levels of bacteria on two occasions during the weekly testing over the five months of testing.

A poor bathing water classification means the water at a designated bathing site has not met the minimum standards set by the Bathing Water Regulations. It indicates a potential health risk for people who bathe in the water, and sites with this classification, such as Wallingford, are marked with a sign advising against bathing. This does not mean that bathing is banned, sites remain open for people to enjoy as they choose to. River users are always advised to check up to date data sources to help understand the current water quality and, links to these data sources have been provided on the new sign.

Summer fun comes to Riverside

The pool and splash pad at Wallingford Riverside are set to open later this month on Saturday 24 May,

kicking off a summer of fun for families and fans of outdoor swimming in South Oxfordshire.

The Riverside Park and Pools which is owned by South Oxfordshire District Council and managed by their leisure contractors GLL, is being prepared ready for everyone enjoy this Summer.

The Riverside campsite is now open to welcome campers for the new season. The site has seen some exciting upgrades since last year, including new accessible mooring and associated paths and ramps, a new Changing Places accessible bathroom - providing better accessibility to all Riverside visitors including wheelchair users .

The pool will offer popular activities such as aqua aerobics, swim for fitness, adult and children swimming lessons, swimming Dr sessions and more.

Following the success of last year's event, Riverside will once again host the 'End of Season Dog Swim', where dogs can take a splash in the pool accompanied by their owners.
The splash pad will be available to use daily from 9am to 6pm until early September.

The pool will be open from 7am to 6pm weekdays and 9am to 6pm at weekends.

The campsite can be booked via the Better UK website and bookings for the pool will open 7 days before for members and 5 days for non-members.

Bookings can be made via the Better UK app and [Better website](#).

Cornerstone Arts Centre bursts with Pride this June

Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot is set to sparkle this June with a fabulous celebration of Pride and everyone's invited!

From 6 to 14 June, the venue will host a vibrant programme of drag and cabaret, alongside creative workshops, family-friendly fun and all the glitter audiences could wish for.
The festivities kick off on Friday 6 June with *The PHWOAR Next Door*, a dazzling night of drag, burlesque and bold comedy. Back by popular demand, this cabaret extravaganza features unforgettable performances from Bolly Ditz Dolly, Mild Peril, Fae Wildfyre and more. Audiences can expect lip-syncs, sass and unapologetic celebration in one of the most talked-about nights of the year.

On Saturday 7 June, the celebrations continue with a free drop-in Pride Art Workshop from 11am, where visitors can create personalised bookmarks in a fun, crafty session for all ages.
That afternoon, *The Magic Bookmark* brings everyone's favourite panto dame, Mama G, back to Cornerstone. Known for her appearance on *Britain's Got Talent*, Mama G shares a heart-warming, magical tale filled with puppetry, songs and sparkle. Celebrating the power of reading and staying true to yourself, this joyful family show is perfect for ages 4 and up.
The week draws to a fabulous close on Saturday 14 June with the Pride Drag Makeup Class, led by Cairo Iman Ali and Dr Acula from the Oxford Drag Collective. This inclusive, hands-on workshop welcomes participants of all experience levels to learn the art of drag makeup from everyday glam to full-stage transformation and encourages everyone to feel fabulous, inside and out.

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You can find out more about the shows and workshops taking place [on the Cornerstone website](#).