

Minutes of North Moreton Parish Council Meeting held North Moreton Village Hall on Tuesday 16 September 2025

Present: Cllr. V. Gibbs (Chair), Cllr. C.I. Shipton (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Kathy Howat, Cllr. S.C. Harrison, Cllr. D. Tebworth, County Cllr. Johnny Hope-Smith, Mr. A. Wise (Clerk) and 9 members of the public

	VG opened the meeting at 7:30 pm	
25/3357 Apologies	Cllr. AM. Simpson and Cllr. C. Topping	
25/3358 Report on OCC and SODC activities	SODC Report – See attachment 6 OCC Report – See attachment 7 All residents can take part in the OXRAIL 2040 survey by clicking on www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/railplan	
25/3359 Hear representations from members of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath Warden reported that the Arthur McEwan- James (Countryside Access Officer) had been out to view the large tree currently overhanging the footpath in Bear Lane and confirmed by email that as Countryside Access Officer covering North Moreton, he had inspected the tree yesterday and didn't find any defects. He has now requested a further inspection by one of OCC's Tree Officers. Member of public asked the chair to investigate the dangerous practice of multiple cards parking either side of the T-Junction. 	FW VG
25/3360 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 08.07.25	It was proposed by VG, seconded by DT, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
25/3361 Consider matters, not taken elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting of 08.07.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All action items have been completed. 	
25/3362 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
25/3363 Financial matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of payments. It was proposed SH, seconded VG, and carried that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's Salary, Expenses, PAYE, Tree Pollarding on Rec and reimbursement for materials for repairing playground gate x 2 - attachments 2 & 3. It was proposed SH, seconded VG, and carried that the Clerks Salary increase (national agreement) be accepted and back dated to 1 April 2025. Chair has been busy applying for suitable grants towards financing an extension to existing car park on the Rec Ground by purchasing more Mud Control tiles. She will apply to SODC Councillors Grants and OCC Councillors Grants. She will also approach Moreton Cricket Club again and get the offer from NMCT confirmed in writing. The village hall has promised £500:00. Clerk to produce a draft 2025/26 Budget for the councillors to review at the Nov Meeting 	VG AW

North Moreton Parish Council

Chmn

25/3364 Planning since meeting of 08.07.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AW presented the current planning application situation – attachment 4 Clerk reported that he had finally received an update on the enforcement notice served on 1 Long Wittenham Road. The update is that the resident having has their appeal turned down by SODC Planning, now appealed to the Secretary of State for Housing. If this final appeal is unsuccessful then the resident will be given a notice period to take down the illegal building and if not done by the deadline, then SODC will use a contractor to demolish the illegal building. 	
25/3365 Highways, Transport and Footpaths	Footpath Update - None Bus – None <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	
25/3366 Recreation and Playground matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As mention in 25/3363 NMPC are currently exploring suitable grant and donation options to fund an extension to existing car park on the Rec Ground by purchasing more Mud Control tiles. It was proposed DT, seconded SH, and carried that the Chair place an order upto £5k worth of tiles from Mud Control supplier that was previously used. Alongside the chair exploring funding options, Clerk and SH to come up with a year end forecast to see if the PC can afford to do this work by itself or at least fund some of it. 	VG/SH
25/3367 Risk assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VG signed off appropriate parts of the current Risk Assessment Checklist. - attachment 5 	
25/3368 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	<p>Clerk read out an email from a NM resident on behalf of the children of ex residents of the village who wish to plant a tree in memory of their parents who lived in the village for 48 years.</p> <p>It was proposed SH, seconded VG, and carried that the clerk reply confirming that the councillors are very happy for a tree maybe a fruit tree be planted in the picnic area on the recreation ground.</p>	AW
25/3369 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clerk to circulate 2026 Meeting Dates to councillors before booking the village hall, if the proposed dates are agreeable to all councillors. 	AW
25/3370 Date of Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30pm Tuesday 11 November 2025 in North Moreton Village Hall. 	
Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VG declared the meeting closed at 8:15pm 	

Signed:

Date:

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Financial Statements
3. Expenditure against Budget 2023-2024
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
Date	16 September 2025

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

Remembering South and Vale's New Waste Services number is as easy as 123

From today, residents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse should use a new number for district council waste and recycling enquiries: **01235 422 123**.

The previous number (03000 610 610) is being phased out and will be switched off soon. The new number is already active, so residents should update their records and start using it right away.

01235 422 123 is new number is for all household waste, recycling, food, garden waste (collections only*), bulky waste collections, clinical waste collections and street cleaning services. It is also the number to call to report fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

*For queries about garden waste permits, residents should continue to call 01235 422 422.

For enquiries relating to Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC's), please continue to contact the county council on 0345 310 1111.

Save on Autumn classes at Cornerstone

Autumn is just around the corner at Cornerstone, and their new season of classes is almost ready to start! The best part? There's still time to grab an Early Bird discount of £10 off when you book before the season begins..

From creative workshops to active sessions, there's something for everyone. Adults can dive into printmaking, life drawing, Pilates, tap dance and plenty more. For the younger ones, they've got art activities, drama groups, and youth theatre to keep them inspired and entertained.

But hurry the Early Bird offer ends one week before classes start, and spaces are going fast! If you're not sure whether a class is for you, participants can contact their Box Office to arrange a free taster session and try before you commit.

[Visit their website](#) now for full details and to secure your place.

Councillor Community Grant –live!

The Councillor Community Grant scheme is still open for applications. If there's a community project near you that could do with a boost, please reach out to them and help us spread the news about the funding available from each of our councillors. We've also [created this poster](#) which can be downloaded and put up around your parish to help spread the news.

The deadline for applications is **midday 5 December** and more information can be found on the

grants pages on our website.

Annual canvass update

We are currently carrying out the electoral register annual canvass – that’s the requirement to contact residents each year to ensure they check that their details on the register are up to date.

We have already sent yellow letters to 28,753 households whose details we either don’t have, or we know are not up to date, asking them to update their information. Around 17,000 households have not responded and so we will send them a pink reminder on 29 August.

Most households, whose details we do have, will shortly receive an email - this will ask them to visit householdresponse.com/southandvale to either confirm ‘no change’ to our records, or to make changes online, if required.

More than 135,700 electors (62% of households across the districts) should receive the email. Anyone who doesn’t respond to it (by 3 October), or who hasn’t registered an email address with us, will receive a green letter in October. Please help us encourage people to respond by email as it avoids us having to send a letter to them, saving printing and postage costs.

The important bit:

An email will go out from Monday this week, 8 September, from elections@southandvale.gov.uk with the subject line “South & Vale District Councils - Annual Electoral Register Check” and will contain both council logos.

Residents can find more information at southoxon.gov.uk/ElectionsCanvass or whitehorsedc.gov.uk/ElectionsCanvass

7. OCC Report

Title	County Councillor’s Report
Author	Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith
Parishes	Cholsey East Hagbourne, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Moulsoford, North Moreton, South Moreton, West Hagbourne
Date	Sept 2025
Contact Details	johnny.hope-smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,

Here are some updates and news I have gathered for you. Please provide any feedback, if its too much or not enough and of course any more information on a specific topic I can help with. I have put in **BOLD** the items which I think may be specifically appropriate for the Parishes to consider advertising or acting upon

Best wishes,
Johnny



1. **OxRAIL** Oxfordshire County Rail Strategy Consultation

Oxfordshire County Council has launched OxRAIL 2040, a bold 15-year strategy to improve rail transport across the county. The plan sets out a vision for a more connected, accessible, and sustainable rail network, with proposals grouped under three key themes and four priority projects.

A public consultation is now open, inviting residents to share their views on:

- The overall vision for rail in Oxfordshire
- The themes and priorities shaping the plan
- The proposed timeline for delivery

The consultation runs until Wednesday 1 October 2025, and responses will help shape the final strategy, due for adoption by the County Cabinet in November 2025.

You can read the full consultation document and complete the short survey (5–10 minutes) online.

[OxRAIL 2040: Plan for Rail | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#)

Alternatively, comments can be emailed to OxRAIL2040@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

2. **Community Transport Grants Awarded Across Oxfordshire**

Oxfordshire County Council has awarded £64,572 to four organisations to support essential community transport services. Grants will help fund new routes, vehicle costs, and driver expenses.

Recipients include: Daybreak Oxford – expanding dementia-friendly transport, Thame Senior Friendship Centre, Filkins & Broughton Poggs volunteer car service, Wallingford Town Council - launching the new 131 town bus

These services support residents without access to private transport, especially in rural areas. **The council also backs new community transport groups with start-up funding and volunteer training..**

[Community transport | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

3. **Electric Blanket Testing**

Summer may have just recently finished but it's never too early to prepare for the cold winter nights, **which is why residents are being encouraged to take advantage of free electric blanket testing later this year –book your appointment as soon as possible to avoid disappointment**

In 2024, of the 743 blankets tested, more than 30 per cent failed the safety test.

Sessions will be held by Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards teams at locations across the county.

The full address and a specific time slot will be provided at time of booking:

September 2025:

- 22 September: Rosehill, Oxford City
- 23 September: Henley on Thames, South Oxfordshire

- 24 September: Bicester, Cherwell
- 25 September: Chipping Norton, West Oxfordshire
- 26 September: Abingdon, Vale of White Horse

October 2025:

- 6 October: Risinghurst, Oxford City
- 7 October: Didcot, South Oxfordshire
- 8 October: Banbury, Cherwell
- 9 October: Witney, West Oxfordshire
- 10 October: Wantage, Vale of White Horse

Spots can be prebooked by calling 01865 519800 (option 4), by emailing duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk or by booking online.

[Electric blanket testing - Oxfordshire County Council](#)

4. Short Story Competition Returns to Oxfordshire Libraries

Oxfordshire libraries have launched their 11th annual short story competition, inviting writers of all ages to submit original stories. Hosted by Oxfordshire County Council's libraries service, the competition celebrates creativity and local voices.

Winning entries will be published as ebooks and audiobooks on the libraries' OverDrive platform, making them accessible to readers and listeners across the county.

The competition is free to enter and open to:

- Children (7–11 years) – up to 1,000 words
- Young adults (12–17 years) – up to 3,000 words
- Adults (18+) – up to 3,000 words

Entries are open from Monday 8 September to Sunday 9 November. Full details and submission guidelines are available on the Oxfordshire libraries website

5. Adult Social Care Rated 'Good' by CQC

Oxfordshire County Council's Adult Social Care service has been rated 'Good' following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This is a strong endorsement of the council's efforts to deliver high-quality, person-centred care across the county.

The CQC report highlights:

- Effective partnerships with local organisations
- A strong community-based approach
- Positive outcomes for residents, helping them live well and independently

This result reflects the dedication of care teams and partners, and aligns with the council's Oxfordshire Way vision for adult social care. The council remains committed to continuous improvement, building on this success and extending progress across all areas of the service
Oxfordshire County Council Adult Social Care service graded 'good'

6. UPDATE - Major Road Resurfacing Programme Under Way

Oxfordshire County Council continues with its significant resurfacing programme to improve road quality and safety across the county. Running from late June to 17 October, the works will cover over 111,000 square metres of road surface across 36 sites, using nearly 22,000 tonnes of material. The programme, delivered in partnership with highways contractor M Group, includes:

- Safety schemes to improve skid resistance in accident-prone areas
- Surface inlay to replace worn layers where road foundations remain sound
- Structural maintenance for roads requiring deeper reconstruction

To minimise disruption, most road closures will take place overnight. However, more intensive works may cause daytime disruption in some areas.

Key sites in South Oxfordshire include:

- Wantage Road/Station Road, Wallingford (26 August – 9 October)
- A4155 Reading Road, Henley (15–19 September)
- A4155 Reading Road, Henley (Station Road to Friday Street) (8–15 October)

Other major routes affected include parts of the A40, A361, A420, and B4495, with works in areas such as Witney, Oxford, Chipping Norton, and Burford.

Motorists are advised to follow signed diversion routes and check the council's website for the latest updates and maps. All dates are subject to change depending on weather conditions.

This programme follows the council's earlier surface dressing maintenance completed between April and June, further demonstrating its ongoing investment in Oxfordshire's road network

[Planned, routine and reactive road maintenance information | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

7. County Hall Sale Agreed

Oxfordshire County Council has exchanged contracts to sell County Hall to L&G, who plan to transform the site into a high-quality hotel. Proceeds will fund the refurbishment of Speedwell House, the council's future HQ. The move is planned for spring 2027, though archaeological findings may delay occupation. The redevelopment will preserve the historic Old County Hall and contribute to the regeneration of Oxford's West End.