North Moreton Parish Council

Chmn	

Minutes of North Moreton Parish Council Meeting
held North Moreton Village Hall on Tuesday 08 September 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. Anne Marie Simpson, Mr. A. Wise (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

	VG opened the meeting at 7:30 pm	
26/3429 Apologies	Cllr. Jonny Hope-Smith	
26/3430 Report on OCC and SODC activities	**SODC Report** – Reviewed– attachment 6 • Individual councillor grants are now open for applications from parishes **OCC Report** – Reviewed – attachment 7	
26/3431 Hear representations from members of the public	A member of the public raised the issue of storage over the winter of the cricket clubs pitch covers. KH will remind the cricket club that they had previously agreed to store them behind the cricket club nets over winter, now that the season has finished. They should not be left in a position that obstructs the use of the football playing field or stop the grass from growing	KH
26/3432 Approve the minutes of the meeting of 07.07.26	It was proposed by VG, seconded by DT, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con.	
26/3433 Consider matters, not taken elsewhere, arising from the minutes of the meeting of 07.07.26	All actions completed except 26/3416 and 26/3420	
26/3434 Receive reports from Parish Councillors and the Clerk	• Chair reported that KD was now going to relinquish the to NMPC and she was thanked for the work she had done for the village. Chair will now meet with her to understand timescales and costs involved. Once all the information has been gathered, then a councillor will be appointed to take over this responsibility. Clerk to add this as an agenda item for November Meeting. Chair to continue to explore fundraising options for purchasing a second village defib. • Chair will speak to the new village fundraising committee, if it is formed and report back at next PC Meeting. • CIS will change the payment method for the village website from Credit Card to Direct Debit or annual invoice, so that the clerk can pay and monitor.	VG AW VG VG CIS
26/3435 Financial matters	• Parish Clerk Salary increase - It was proposed SH, seconded VG, and carried that clerk's hourly rate be raised from £14:13 (SCP9) to £15.31 (SCP12) with effect from November meeting and back dated to April. • Ahead of November Meeting, clerk to calculate bi-monthly salary and PAYE payments including back pay and ask Cllr Harrison to check numbers. • Clerk to look into Clerk's refresher courses (possibly in conjunction with West Hagbourne?) • Clerk to send chair original Parish Clerks Contract for updating • Approval of payments. It was proposed VG, seconded SH, and carried that the following invoices be paid: Parish Clerk's Salary, Expenses, PAYE and reimbursement to Cllr Shipton for playground fence repairs - attachments 2 & 3. • Clerk to produce a draft 2027/28 Budget for review at November meeting with sign off Jan'27 Meeting.	AW/SH AW AW

	• Clerk to invoice both Cobbs Clay Club and Rob Nickless for annual rent	AW
26/3436 Planning since meeting of 07.07.26	• AW presented the current planning application situation – attachment 4 • 16 Bear Lane planning application was approved • Councillors held a site meeting outside Old Manor Cottage and discovered that to create a rear vehicular access to the garage at the end of the garden would involve dealing with a steep bank and moving current bollards some distance. Chair to arrange a site meeting with householders once they get in touch for a meeting prior to application being submitted.	VG
26/3437 Highways, Transport and Footpaths	Footpath Report – Bob Price • BP asked the PC to approve his approval of producing and then displaying a NM footpath map in the Bear Pub. This was unanimously supported by all councillors. Transport – Kathy Howat • Nothing to report	
26/3438 Recreation and Playground matters	• CIS asked clerk to increase tree pollarding expenditure for planned works on the Rec in 2027 by £6k in the 2027/28 Budget. • CIS confirmed that the damaged fence which acts as the entrance to the playground on the Rec had now been fixed. CIS was thanked for the all the time he had spent on these repairs.	AW
26/3439 Risk assessment	Reviewed– attachment 5	
26/3440 Respond to Communications as the Chairman may direct	• None	
26/3441 Attend to any other business at the Chairman's discretion	• Chair thanked Cllr Howat for writing the piece in the latest edition of the village newsletter on "How a Parish Council works" and advertised the forthcoming elections due in May 2027 when some of the existing councillors will be stepping down and will need replacing. • Chair reported that the Village Emergency Plan had now become the responsibility of the Parish Council and that she has updated it accordingly and will run it past the members of the public named in the document to see if they are still willing and able to offer the emergency support. She thanked MP for the work he had done coordinating it in the past. When the clerk receives the final copy he will check all the contact numbers for the various council bodies and ensure they are correct • Chair reported that a local land owner has very kindly offered to route the small amount of power needed for a 2nd defib in the bus shelter from their property at no charge to the village. She also explained that, although the WI would make a donation towards the purchase, other funding sources may need to be explored. In the meantime, the chair will not only seek quotes for an installation but work out annual costs for spare parts etc based on the 1st defib base outside the village hall. • CIS reported that if the PC wanted to increase the capability of how many emails can issued each month, then this would be a move	VG VG

	upwards to a monthly fee. It was proposed VG, seconded CIS, and carried that CIS contact the email provider and arrange for this to be paid as an annual invoice sent to the clerk for payment or an annual DD payment. • Clerk to publish 2027 meeting dates and book village hall accordingly	CIS
26/3442 Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 7:30pm	
Closure	VG declared the meeting closed at 8:15pm	

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	8 September 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.

Consultation on Councils' second Joint Local Plan launched

A consultation has launched this week on the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils' second Joint Local Plan.

A local plan sets out how development will be planned and delivered over time to meet the current and future needs of people living and working in a particular area. It guides where development should go (and where is shouldn't) including new housing and employment, as well as identifying the supporting infrastructure needed.

The two councils are working on a joint plan that covers both districts.

This stage of the process, known as a 'scoping consultation' is an initial step to get an idea of what communities, businesses and the planning industry think the plan should include and how the councils should approach future engagement.

This consultation does not include any proposed policies or strategies for the plan as the councils are at such an early stage in the plan making process.

The consultation runs from **Tuesday 8 September until Tuesday 29 September at 11.59pm.** People can take part online here: www.southandvale.gov.uk/JLP2-scoping-consultation

Visit www.southandvale.gov.uk/JLP2-scoping for more background information on the Joint Local Plan 2045 (JLP2) and all the ways to take part in the consultation.

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

This needs to be in line with the government's new requirements for preparing, examining and adopting plans in 30 months, which the councils must start by 31 October 2026.

The councils' first Joint Local Plan is currently being 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, the second stage in July 2026, and a further third stage is expected this autumn.

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

Joint statement from South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Announcement

The government has announced it will review its local government reorganisation (LGR) decisions across England.

This has implications about the future of councils in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.
In a joint statement, the leaders of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Council expressed their disbelief and disappointment at the latest government announcement:

Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council:
"We're deeply disappointed to have received this information at such short notice. All along, our councils have all done what government had asked of us in the preparation for local government reorganisation. Every pound and every officer hour spent responding to a process that is subsequently paused, is a resource that could have been spent on housing, social care, roads, planning and other frontline services. The uncertainty this has caused is a further erosion of our trust in government.

"We will now do our utmost to understand the way forward for our districts."

Councillor Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council:
"This unexpected announcement [yesterday] has come as a shock to us all at Vale and completely disregards the huge amount of time, money and effort we have put in so far to follow what has been asked of us.

“We will be seeking further clarity from the government on how this will affect the Local Government Reorganisation timeline in our area. We hope the government will provide the detail required urgently given the impact this announcement may have for us.

“In the face of such confusion created in Westminster, our priority remains to secure the best possible future outcome for our communities.”

New signage to boost walking, cycling and connectivity across Didcot

New information and visitor signage is being installed across Didcot to improve awareness on walking and cycling routes to connect communities across the town.

The new signs aim to help residents and visitors find their way around Didcot more easily, as well as encourage sustainable travel and strengthen connections between neighbourhoods, facilities and open spaces.

A total of forty-nine wayfinding signs will be installed, with the first thirty going in from this week, 7 to 22 September. The signs will be placed across the town including locations across Ladygrove, Great Western Park, and the Jubilee roundabout.

Three types of signage will be installed:

- Totems (tall, freestanding structures with maps of town and local areas)
- Fingerposts (traditional directional signposts)
- Waymarkers (small directional markers placed along public paths)

The new signs will all be made from sustainable and recycled materials and where possible, any signage being replaced will be recycled.

The Didcot Garden Town team have been working with Oxfordshire County Council's highways department and Great Western Railway to identify the best locations and the most suitable signage before installation.

The new wayfinding project for Didcot has been funded by £50,000 CIL (developer contributions) from Oxfordshire County Council and government funding allocated to the Didcot Garden Town programme.

The idea for the signage came from the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Didcot Garden Town programme’s “Wayfinding Strategy”, which was set up to create a coordinated approach to signage, mapping and navigation across the town.

The councils are working alongside local housing developers and Milton Park to continue the signage as areas develop. Oxfordshire County Council will use the designs from these signs on the routes that will be part of the HIF1 improvements so that there is a lasting legacy to project across the area.

Further notes:

- The Didcot Garden Town Wayfinding Strategy was adopted by South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council in 2024.

- The study area covers the Didcot Garden Town boundary, including the town centre, existing neighbourhoods and future growth areas.

- The strategy supports the wider Didcot Garden Town vision and Delivery Plan

- You can find out more about Didcot Garden Town on the South Oxfordshire District Council website.

Residents urged to prevent waste before it starts

People across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being encouraged to discover how preventing waste can be easier than they think as **Zero Waste Week** gets underway.

As part of the councils' **Waste Less. Clean Spaces. Better Places campaign**, this week's focus is on preventing waste before it's created.

That could mean planning meals to reduce food waste, borrowing instead of buying, repairing broken items, refilling household products or donating unwanted belongings.
Throughout the week, the councils will be highlighting local refill shops, Libraries of Things and practical ideas that make it easier for residents to waste less without changing their lifestyle.

To find out more,
visit southoxon.gov.uk/Reduce&Reuse / whitehorsedc.gov.uk/Reduce&Reuse, or pop along to one of the upcoming town markets where members of the councils' Waste Team will be on hand to answer your questions:

- 12 September – **Didcot** – 9am-2pm
- 16 September – **Wantage** – 8am-3pm
- 25 September – **Wallingford** – 9am-2pm
- 6 October – **Faringdon** – 8:30am-1pm
- 13 October – **Thame** – 8am-2.30pm
- 22 October – **Henley** – 9am-2pm

7. **OCC Report**

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

North Moreton Parish Council

Chmn	

Dear Parish Councillors and Residents,
Here are some updates and news I have gathered for you. Please provide any feedback; or 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 Parish Councils to consider advertising or acting upon

Best wishes,
Johnny

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Free Electric Blanket Checks – Book Early for Winter Safety

Key Details

- Oxfordshire County Council is once again offering free electric blanket safety checks to help residents stay safe and warm this winter.
- Last year, more than a third of blankets tested failed safety checks, highlighting the importance of regular testing. Faulty electric blankets can present a risk of fire or injury.
- Testing sessions will be held across Oxfordshire during September and October, including nearby locations in Didcot on the 5th October
- Appointments are expected to be popular and should be booked in advance.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Share the opportunity with residents, particularly older people and vulnerable households who may rely on electric blankets during the winter.**
- **Encourage residents to have blankets tested even if they appear to be in good condition.**
- **Direct residents to the OCC booking page to arrange or manage an appointment:**

Site for further details: https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting

Temporary Restrictions on Fridge & Freezer Disposal

Key Details

- A national shortage of specialist facilities for recycling fridges and freezers has led Oxfordshire County Council to introduce temporary restrictions at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs).

- Residents can now only see fridge and freezer booking availability up to one week in advance rather than the usual two weeks.
- Households are limited to one fridge or freezer booking every three months, although up to two appliances can be taken per booking.
- OCC reports that national treatment capacity has fallen by around one third, creating a significant backlog across the country.
- Residents are encouraged to use retailer take back schemes, or to sell or donate working appliances where possible.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Share the temporary restrictions with residents who may be planning to dispose of fridges or freezers.**
- **Encourage residents to book early and check availability before travelling to an HWRC.**
- **Promote retailer take back services and reuse options for working appliances.**
- **Remind residents that proof of Oxfordshire residency is required when attending an HWRC and that visitors from outside the county are charged £15.**

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – Government Review Announced

Key Details

- The government has announced it will review its Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decisions across England following legal advice, including the previously announced proposals affecting Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.
- As a result, the government's earlier “minded to” decision for Oxfordshire has been paused while the underlying evidence and advice are reviewed.
- OCC has stated that significant preparation work has already been undertaken for LGR and is now seeking further clarification from government on the implications for the programme.
- Questions remain about the future timetable, including how this may affect local elections scheduled for May and the overall implementation timeline.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Keep residents informed that no final decision has yet been made on future council structures in Oxfordshire.**
- **Continue to engage with existing county and district councils as normal, as current governance arrangements remain unchanged.**
- **Monitor future updates from government and Oxfordshire County Council, as further announcements are expected on timescales, elections and implementation.**

Botley Road Reopening – Expected This Month

Key Details

- Network Rail and its contractors are currently working towards reopening Botley Road to traffic on 20 September 2026, following more than three years of closure associated with the Oxford Station expansion project. The road has been closed since April 2023 and has experienced several delayed reopening dates during that period.
- The most recent delay was announced in July after gas leaks were discovered during excavation works. Gas network operator SGN has since confirmed its work was completed on 3 August.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Continue to advise residents that the current target date for reopening is 20 September 2026, whilst recognising that previous reopening dates have been postponed.**
- **Share updates with residents who regularly travel to Oxford, particularly commuters and those accessing the city centre and rail station.**
- **Monitor Network Rail announcements for confirmation that the reopening date remains on track as September progresses.**
- **Be aware that traffic patterns around Oxford may continue to evolve even after the road reopens as wider station improvement works continue.**

Site for updates: https://www.networkrail.co.uk/our-work/our-routes/western/oxfordshire/

REMINDER: Councillor Priority Fund – Supporting Local Projects – DEADLINE NOVEMBER 2026

The Councillor Priority Fund is still open, offering each Oxfordshire County Councillor £10,000 to support community projects within their division. This funding is designed to help deliver local priorities and strengthen community initiatives.
Parish councils, community groups, and local organisations are encouraged to apply for funding to support projects that benefit residents. Examples might include:

- Improvements to community facilities
- Local environmental initiatives
- Activities that promote wellbeing or inclusion
- Smaller-scale projects are especially encouraged, as the fund is modest and intended to support a wide range of communities across Oxfordshire

Key Details:

- Applications must be submitted by 30 November 2026
- Grants are typically paid within 28 days of approval
- Applicants must register for an account to apply and track progress
- Monitoring and reporting are required for successful projects

To ensure your project meets the funding criteria, please read the guidance document before applying.

What Parishes Can Do

- **Identify local projects that could benefit from modest funding**
- **Collaborate with community groups to develop proposals**

- **Submit applications early to allow time for review and payment**

Keep records and be prepared to report on outcomes
For more information and to then apply, visit the Councillor Priority Fund page.
https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund