



St Helen Without Parish Council

Working for You

Minutes of St Helen Without Parish Council Meeting

held in Wootton and Dry Sandford Community Centre on Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. Page (Chair), Cllr R. Bahu, Cllr P. Lane-Evans, Cllr M. Littleboy, Cllr M Rusby, Cllr S. Rusby, Cllr V. Talbot

Absent: None

Also in attendance: W Bates (Clerk), District Cllr Robert Clegg

- 1) To note apologies for absence – David O’Hara and County Cllr James Plumb
- 2) To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the Agenda - none
- 3) To receive updates relating to airfield events and related issues –Cllr S Rusby gave a report on behalf of David O’Hara. The calendar of events is still awaiting sign off. A parishioner has raised an issue about rubbish which has been left on MOD land. We have been assured that whilst it is not MOD personnel who are dumping the rubbish, the MOD will clear the rubbish. Cllr Page raised the issue about the uncut hedge along Barrow Road; this is currently being undertaken.
- 4) To receive reports from District and County Councillors
Cllr Clegg: Cothill School Community Use, discussions are taking place but there is no update currently. The Planning Inspectors have recently declared that they are now willing to resume discussions over the Joint Local Plan, with the possibility of resuming examination. A “Procedural Meeting” will be held in public, at a date yet to be confirmed, to discuss the practical arrangements of resuming the examination.
Cllr Plumb submitted a written report covering the consultation about the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, changes to household waste recycling centres, his endeavours to explore the reduction of the speed limit on Honeybottom Lane and the resurfacing of Faringdon Road and Barrow Road.
- 5) To note matters raised by members of the public - none
- 6) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2025 – the Chair requested that the percentage increase of the precept be included in the minutes (5%) and that “none” was added after item 20. To note matters raised by members of the Council and Clerk. The minutes were then approved and signed.
- 7) To receive the Clerk’s Report – Hi-Viz coats ready for collection, precept request submitted, CIL report submitted, still awaiting invoice for Cothill Christmas Tree.
- 8) Governance
 - a) To consider Health and Safety Issues - none
 - b) To consider any training requirements – Cllr M Rusby to sign up for NALC planning training, if this proves worthwhile, Cllr Lane-Evans will do this, otherwise alternative planning training will be sought.
- 9) To consider any grant applications – none
- 10) Finance
 - a) To agree the list of payments and any additional invoices presented for payment since the circulation of the agenda. The following payments were approved:

Ref	Date	Payee	Amount	Method
B230	24/12/2025	BGG/sign installation, verges & grass cutting	£ 1,302.00	bacs
B231	10/12/2025	Sign Wizzard/Speedwatch Signs	£ 456.53	bacs

B232	21/12/2025	St Mary Magdalene/Shippon Church Hall	£ 126.00	bacs
B233	31/01/2026	Payroll	£ 619.31	bacs
B234	31/01/2026	Nest Pension	£ 124.10	DD
B235	30/12/2025	Unity Bank/Service Charge	£ 6.00	DD
B236	30/12/2025	Lloyds Monthly Fee	£ 3.00	card
B237	06/01/2025	Talk Home Mobile	£ 2.74	card
B238	30/12/2025	Virtual Landline	£ 8.75	card
B239	26/12/2025	Shield Maintenance Ltd/Bin Emptying	£ 54.59	bacs

b) To note the list of receipts. The following was noted:

Receipt Date	Ref	Received From	Amount
31/12/2025	R25/9	Credit Interest	£378.42

11) To receive updates from Councillors:

a) Cllr Littleboy

- i) Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground – a report was circulated; bushes on the dead-end path need cutting.
- ii) Road Verges Grass Cutting – the areas with daffodils need to be mapped and shared with the grass contractor.

b) Cllr M Rusby

- i) Highways Issues – the issues with the junction on Faringdon Road and Barrow Road were raised and it was suggested that a request be put to OCC Highways to change this junction from ‘Give Way’ to ‘Stop’. Community Speedwatch signs have been put up and the Community Speedwatch will be recommencing on 13th January.
- ii) Community use of Cothill School Sports Hall – an update was provided regarding the discussions which are ongoing with the school.

c) Cllr S Rusby

- i) Airfield Matters
- ii) The Community Warm Hub – this will start on 24th January at 12 noon in F1 of the Community Centre. Advertising is already underway. Emma has been appointed as the leader and will run the event. Councillors and their families are encouraged to attend. Thanks were extended to Cllr Rusby and the Clerk for their hard work in putting this together.
- iii) Community Orchard – in order to progress with this, the next steps are to apply for a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment and to engage with residents to determine whether there is a requirement for this. Cllr Littleboy expressed a wish to be involved in taking this forward. Cllr Lane-Evans put forward that the Manor School has an unused orchard; she will contact the school to see if it would be willing to make this available to the community.

d) Cllr Bahu

- i) Dalton Barracks Development – there is no movement on this.

12) Planning:

a) To consider any Planning Applications received:

Reference

Location/Description

Date Registered

P25/V2717/DIS

Land off Spey Road Shippon Abingdon

Discharge of condition 6 (Unexploded Ordnance Threat and Risk Assessment) on planning permission

P23/V1360/O Construction of 9 dwellings with associated landscaping and open space to include access from Spey Road.

No objection.

P25/V2715/NM

Laburnum Cottage 90 Church Lane Dry Sandford Abingdon OX13 6JP

Non material amendment to application P24/V1737/HH (Single storey rear extension) - standing seam metal cladding was originally proposed for the West facing aspect of the new single storey extension. This is now proposed to be painted smooth render, in order to better match the existing property.

12 December 2025

Noted

P25/V2687/LDP

88 Lashford Lane Dry Sandford Abingdon OX13 6EB

Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed siting of a mobile home

10 December 2025

Noted

P25/V2523/LDP

Lashford House Church Lane Dry Sandford Abingdon OX13 6JP

Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposal to install a ground mounted solar array on a prepared base, consisting of crushed stone topped with a decorative gravel.

3 December 2025

Noted

b) To note Planning Applications decisions:

Reference

Location/Description

Date Registered

Decision

P25/V2125/HH

The Old Malt House 48 Church Lane Dry Sandford Abingdon OX13 6JP

Installation of a freestanding greenhouse in the front garden.

23 October 2025

Planning Permission

Noted

13) To review and note Communications received and to consider any responses if required.

A communication was received from a resident on Barrow Road about the lack of maintenance of the road and action to prevent the unsuitable use of the road by HGVs. The resident will hold Oxfordshire County Council responsible for any resulting damage to the buildings. The traffic has increased due to the one-way system in Abingdon. The verges have been eroded. OCC Highways has refused to undertake consultation to impose weight restrictions unless this was funded by the Parish Council.

14) To note matters raised by members of the Council and Clerk.

15) Date and location of next meeting:

16th February at 7pm in the Music Room, Cothill School.

The meeting closed at: 20:39

Signed..... Date.....