

WESTON ON THE GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held in Village Hall on Wednesday 5th March 2025

Meeting Number 25.420

Note for information: Cherwell District Council – CDC, Oxfordshire County Council - OCC

Public Participation

There was nothing to note.

25.420.1 To Receive: Apologies for non-attendance

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davies (SD), Rowan (TR), Miller (JM) and Aldridge (MA) were in attendance.

DB confirmed the Council had received Councillor Lanham's letter of resignation and he was thanked for all his hard work and support, he will be truly missed.

Councillor Simpson (Oxfordshire County Council) was in attendance for the latter part of the meeting. Councillor Coton (Cherwell District Council) sent her apologies.

1 member of the public was in attendance.

Action: Clerk to inform CDC of Councillor Lanham's resignation.

25.420.2 To Receive: Declarations of Interest

JM declared an interest in relation to planning application 25/00361/AGN – Land North of Filling Station adjacent to the track south of The Chequers Inn, Northampton Road.

25.420.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2025 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2025 were discussed with no changes required.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 5th February 2025 was proposed by DB and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council with one abstention.

Action: Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

25.420.4 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 17th February 2025 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th February 2025 were discussed with no changes required.

The resolution to approve the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 17th February 2025 was proposed by DB and seconded by TR. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

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25.420.5 For Information: Chair report (DB)

DB informed the Council that the annual Parish Council meeting (where officers of the council are elected) would be held before 7th May 2025 Parish Council meeting.

The annual parish meeting, chaired by DB, will be held on 22nd April 2025 in the Village Hall with the aim of including as many new people to the village as possible. It is planned that SD will provide a presentation on the new Cherwell Local Plan and what it means for Weston on the Green.

DB has updated the resident welcome packs and has been visiting new residents. She will allot new residents to Councillors to visit and introduce themselves and listen to their views.

DB highlighted the importance of engaging with the Lets Talk Oxfordshire site regarding consultations, and commented it would be interesting to see the feedback regarding the central Oxfordshire travel plan to 2050.

25.420.6 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerks report to the Council was noted which confirmed payments from the Parish Council bank account including payments relating to the monthly clerk salary.

Ongoing highways issues such as the sink hole, potholes and hedge cutting have been raised with OCC. CDC has been asked over an update on the missing street sign at Church Close. A highways operations officer will investigate if any additional works e.g. grip works can be done on Bletchington Road to aid flooding issues. Grips have been cut into soft verges around the local area already.

Cherwell District Council has sent confirmation that the council tax and the precept request from Weston on the Green for the upcoming fiscal year (2025/26) were successfully approved.

The clerk provided confirmation that the Parish Council completed its re-enrolment and re-declaration as an employer to The Pensions Regulator in February 2025.

Cherwell District Council are supporting the annual village spring clean again this year and will provide equipment and collection of the rubbish; the event will be held on Saturday 29th March 2025.

Action: Clerk to advertise annual litter pick to the village for 29th March 2025.

The clerk confirmed that the defibrillator for the playing field had been ordered and is waiting to hear on next steps and the training session. Installation and placement of the unit will need to be discussed. The clerk will advise the Council over how we are notified if the unit is used and should we buy spare pads in advance. Inspection of the unit will be added to the weekly and monthly playground and playing field inspection.

25.420.7 To Note: Playing field and playground inspection report (Clerk)

The new format playground inspection report undertaken by the clerk was noted, no new defects to the equipment were identified.

A large section of fencing from around the playground had been removed and taken to use in the picnic area stream. Thanks were passed to JM for retrieving the fence panel and fixing it back on along with fixing gates in the car park and playground and fixing car park fencing. JM has ordered one replacement panel for the playground and will fix this on when received.

DB discussed the playground fence panel removal with the community police at their visit last weekend. They considered it to be a level of activity which has the potential to escalate and the issue will be passed to the Neighbourhood Police team for their consideration.

The clerk has been working on flattening the mole hills on the field (cleared as of Tuesday 4th March) and has used some of the excess topsoil to fill in gaps around the playground edging, rabbit holes and repairs to the football pitch.

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Spinney clearance works and planting had been undertaken over previous weekends. The Council thanked David Williams and the volunteers for all their hard work and support.

Outstanding issues/questions were discussed:

- Basketball hoop requires removing as highlighted in 2024 RoSPA inspection report: JM to support on this issue.
- Caps broken (spares previously ordered): JM to help fix
- Clean of playground: quote to be obtained by clerk
- Brambles smothering part of hedge edging the car park/Church Lane: quote for clearance to be obtained by clerk.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for playground clean and hedge bramble clearance and advise JM of works required.

25.420.8 For Discussion: Discuss recommendations from the Planning Group on planning applications (SD)

Key planning applications on the planning report were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications

Decisions Received - Permitted

None

Decisions Received – Refused

None

Withdrawn

None

Awaiting Decision

24/02685/F – Southview, Northampton Road

Infill extension to existing bungalow and addition of first floor. Erection of garage and store with room in loft, including demolition of existing pole barn.

Commented

24/03356/PIP - Land North East Of Knowle Farm, Knowle Lane

Planning Permission in Principle is sought for the provision of 2-4 dwellings.

Commented

25/00142/CLUE - North View, North Lane

Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development for domestic car parking area for two vehicles.

Commented

25/00139/F - Part of OS Parcel 0006 Adjacent and North of Normandy, North Lane

Demolition of existing buildings and the erection of five detached single and two-storey dwellings together with access, parking and garaging, amenity space, landscaping and drainage works.

DB informed the Council that the developer had been in contact and had volunteered to come to the council meeting to discuss any points. DB confirmed this was not required as the Council has submitted its comments already following a planning meeting discussion with councillors.

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New Applications

25/00449/REM - Reynards Lodge, North Lane

Reserved Matters application to 24/00804/OUT - Access (with Construction Traffic Management Plan), Layout (with part drainage), Scale, Appearance, Landscaping and Biodiversity (with Construction Environment Management Plan). Comments by 27/3/25

25/00361/AGN - Land North of Filling Station adjacent to the track south of The Chequers Inn, Northampton Road

Prior approval application for erection of a Grain and Crop Store, behind A34 BP garage.

25/00356/DISC - Kelberg Ltd, Northampton Road

Discharge of Conditions 3 (construction management strategy), 4 (Arboricultural Method Statement), 5 (surface water drainage), 6 (biodiversity method statement) and 8 (lighting details) of 24/00893/F.

Tree Applications

No new applications

DB had received an email from the owner of a house on North Lane regarding queries over the pond area. DB and SD will discuss further and see what response is required.

Action: SD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

25.420.9 For Discussion: Update on village works and spinney trees (JM/DB)

This area had been discussed above, there was nothing further to add.

25.420.10 For Information: Update from Traffic Calming Action Group (MA)

MA confirmed that following approval at the 17th February 2025 Extraordinary Parish Council meeting the invoicing details were sent to OCC for the progression of the speed limit reduction application and consultation on B430 on 18th February 2025. There has currently been no further communication.

The Speedwatch programme is continuing and two sessions have been carried out recently on B430 and Church Lane; concern was raised by MA over the speed levels reached (26-35mph) on Church Lane.

DB suggested meeting with MA and the Chair from Middleton Stoney to enquire over the process undertaken in their area.

25.420.11 For Information: Update on community bus usage and costs (TR)

TR provided an overview of the usage and costs for the community bus since its inception.

Over 3,000 miles have been covered across more than 150 trips to approximately 20 different destinations, benefiting over thirty residents who rely on this invaluable community asset.

This year, we have received several donations and applied for grant funding to help cover the ongoing costs of the bus. Running and maintaining a community bus is costly, but these contributions are greatly appreciated and enable the Parish Council to support other initiatives as well. The service cost the Parish Council £3,320 in 2024, around £0.53 per mile.

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The Council expressed its gratitude to the volunteer drivers for their dedication to this service. A special thank you to Graham Barnett for driving and coordinating the efforts, as well as to all the past and present drivers: Nigel, Tony, Robin, Greg, and James.

A summary of the community bus service will be included in the next edition of the Village News.

25.420.12 Resolution: To Approve the following invoices for payment (TR)

TR requested approval of the invoices detailed in the table below.

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2024-25 Budget
484	Howdens UK Brokers	Community bus vehicle insurance, 08/02/25-07/02/26	£1,071.99	Village Works/Community Bus Scheme	£1,049.99
485	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for PC meetings (April-June 25)	£45.00	Meeting Costs/Hire of Village Hall	£90.00
486	WotG Memorial Village Hall	Village Hall hire for Annual Parish meeting PC meeting (22 April 2025)	£15.00	Meeting Costs/Hire of Village Hall	£45.00
487	OALC	Annual membership renewal subscription (2024-25)	£216.00	Subscriptions/OALC	£160.00
488	JE Miller Services	Community bus MOT & servicing works and oil for mower (£120.00)	£630.00	Village Works/Community Bus Scheme & Playing field mower maintenance	-£22.00 / -£306.72

Invoice reference 484 had already been paid to ensure the continuation of insurance for the community bus, following approval on 5th February 2025. Additional grants and donations have been secured to help cover the ongoing operating costs of the community bus next year. The Council will determine the funds to be reserved and carried over for use in next year's budget. The overspend in the playing field mower maintenance budget is due to the unplanned purchase of four necessary new tyres.

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by TR and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

25.420.13 For Information: Update on oak tree footpath (OCC Councillor/DB)

DB confirmed that the removal of the oak tree footpath by Milestone had commenced in February 2025. The work wasn't easy as under the top layer of the soil they found large amounts of hard core and concrete. Although the instructions were that this was to be all hand dug, it proved impossible to break up the concrete without mechanical assistance. Breaking up the concrete with the jack hammer and hand removing smaller chunks of concrete isn't ideal but they were constantly under supervision and once the large pieces of concrete were removed they hand dug all of the smaller pieces.

The contractors were frank about their shock at the several tons of concrete poured directly on the roots of the tree. The Milestone arborist watched the work very closely.

The roots are to be treated with a special formulated soil and specific nutrients. The hard soil will have compressed air pumped into it to enrich the nutrient deprived soil.

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The method statement has been received but there was concern there was very little detail over what the end result would look like and that the concrete kerbing may still be quite high. Milestone confirmed that the concrete edge is required to hold the soil back. DB will discuss this further with Roger Evans.

The campaign to remove the path has gone on for five years and has used up far too much time and effort. This tree could have another two hundred years and the Parish Council with the tremendous support of Roger Evans and our OCC councillor Nigel Simpson is proud to have championed for its survival.

25.420.14 For Information: Oxfordshire County & Cherwell District Councillors updates (OCC/CDC Councillors)

Councillor Simpson provided updates on the following matters:

- **Oak Tree Footpath:** Pleased that this long-awaited project is finally moving forward.
- **Highways Issues:** Has contacted the Director of Highways regarding the adoption of Milestone Lane and the reduction of the B430 speed limit but has not received a response. He will follow up.
- **S106 Funding:** Requested information from Jackie Cox at OCC regarding the amount of S106 funding available for Weston on the Green.
- **County Elections:** Scheduled as usual for 1st May 2025. Due to boundary changes, six additional county councillors will be elected. However, Councillor Simpson confirmed that he will not be standing for re-election in this area.
- **Unitary Authority:** Expected to progress in 2028. Potentially, two or three boundary areas in Oxfordshire could be included, but details remain uncertain as proposals are still under review.
- **Budgets:** CDC’s budget includes a £5 increase for a Band D property, while OCC’s budget will see a 5% rise.
- **Development Issues:** Growth in the area remains limited due to a lack of strategic planning for sewage, water, and power resources. Concern was raised about speculative developments, given the current housing land supply figure of only 2.3 years, well below the required five years.
- **Great Wolf Development:** Currently on hold due to rising material costs and borrowing expenses. There are reports that the site could be sold for housing.
- **Puy du Fou Development:** An application is expected in late summer. The company is in discussions with National Highways regarding traffic management concerns, particularly if the Ardley rail freight site also moves forward.

DB highlighted the positive feedback received on the community bus and thanked Councillor Simpson for his support of the initiative through the Councillor Priority Fund.

25.420.15 For Discussion & Resolution: To Approve Report of the Independent and Parish Remuneration Panel on the Review of Parish Members’ Allowances for the 2024/2025 Financial Year (TR)

TR presented the report, received from CDC, of the Independent and Parish Remuneration Panel on the Review of Parish Members’ Allowances for the 2024/2025 financial year. It was noted that any allowance claimed would be provided from the precept of the parish.

In the past Councillors have not taken an allowance for undertaking their role, should a Councillor wish to do so they are advised to talk to DB. The report also detailed Travel and Subsistence Allowances, providing guidance for the figures to use (a form will be circulated with the minutes).

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The resolution to approve the Report of the Independent and Parish Remuneration Panel on the review of parish members’ allowances for the 2024/2025 financial year was proposed by TR and seconded by DB. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

The report summary will be placed on the Parish Council notice board and website.

Action: Clerk to add the Independent and Parish Remuneration Panel report for 2024/25 to the PC website and noticeboard and to circulate expense form with the minutes.

25.420.16 Resolution: To Approve Parish Council Risk Register update (TR)

The resolution to approve the updated Parish Council Risk Register subject to amending the risk setting for flooding concerns was proposed by TR and seconded by MA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload the updated PC risk register to the PC website.

In conclusion, DB also commented on rising complaints regarding dog poo being left on footpaths in the village and a polite notice will be placed in the Village News.

In response to a query it was confirmed that enforcement are continuing to work with Saint Hill Copse owners around clearing the site and things are moving forward but slowly.

25.420.17 Next Parish Council Meeting Date: Wednesday 2nd April 2025, 7.30pm (DB)

Meeting Closed: 21.28

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