

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Stonesfield Village Hall on Wednesday 5th November 2025 at 7.00pm

Attendees: Cllrs U Rice (Chair), C Renshaw (Vice Chair) D Brown, P Lowe and S Powell.

Others present: The Parish Clerk. 0 members of public.

25/971 To receive and accept apologies for absence: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr L Bate.

25/972 Public Participation:

25/973 Declarations of interest: There was none.

25/974 To approve the minutes of the meeting 1st October 2025: It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes as a true record.

25/975 Co-option of a Councillor: No applications were received. The item will be carried forward to the next meeting.

25/976 Actions Register: The action register was reviewed and updates noted.

25/977 Planning applications: Planning comments submitted under delegated authority in between meetings were noted: 25/02373/HHD, 10 Wootton End, Construction of carport on the side of the property. (Retrospective) – no objection. There were no new planning applications received this month

25/977 To receive reports from County and District Councillors:

- 1. OCC Cllr Andy Graham report:** Cllr A Graham provided an update on County matters, including:

Woodstock

- Doctors Surgery**

Real progress has been made towards delivering a new surgery for Woodstock. The GPs have developed a specification for a new surgery building, which the NHS has approved in principle. An in-principle commitment has been secured from the NHS to provide finance for the running and operation of a new surgery. Three potential sites have been identified on Blenheim owned land for a new surgery, with the Hensington Road site ruled out because it does not have the expansion potential to cope with the anticipated growth in patient numbers. Work is underway to draw up outline plans for the surgery. Viable funding models to deliver the new surgery are being reviewed and finalised. If progress is maintained, we could expect planning permission by late summer 2026 and a new surgery to be opened by the end of 2028.

- **Street Lighting in the Historic town centre**

With the introduction of LED lighting bulbs work is ongoing to mitigate glare and overspill into resident's homes by warmer bulbs that soften the glare and reangling the street lighting to balance the need on highways and pedestrian safety with that of unnecessary glare. Residents have helped to identify the problem and OCC officers are further taking action to improve and mitigate impact.

Bleed Kits

Bleed kits are available for town and parish councils to use in an emergency and can be housed appropriately possibly with the defibrillator. These kits are free of charge and have been funded from my Councillor priority Fund. Requests received in writing via email andy.graham@oxfordshire.gov.uk (limited availability)

Highways Consultation (Cadogan Park/Princes Ride area)

Having assessed the feedback from the parking consultation, the consensus from residents wasn't supportive of widespread restrictions or controls over the whole of the estate. However, there was some localised interest from residents in Cadogan Park and for some restrictions on Princes Ride. Subsequently we have drawn up proposals for no waiting restrictions (double yellow lines) and our aim is to formally consult with residents affected towards the end of October/ early November. When the consultation begins, residents will be written to for their views and all feedback received will be presented in a report to the cabinet member for Transport at a Public meeting early in the new year.

In the shorter term, we have recently met with the events management team at Blenheim Palace and agreed in principle for an application to come forward for temporary traffic controls to be put in place on the first section of Cadogan Park (including the bend) and the beginning of the access road leading to the Bowls Club. This is to be put in place to cover Christmas events.

Stonesfield

Flooding issues at Laughton Hill are being investigate by the district and county council and awaiting scheduled date for investigative works to start.

2. **WODC Cllr Genny Early report:** Cllr G Early provided an update on District matters, including:

Local Plan

Further sections of the draft West Oxfordshire Local Plan had been published for consultation. The plan proposes around 18,000 new homes to be built between now and 2043 (around 902 per year) and includes a spatial strategy identifying areas of potential development. Stonesfield is designated as a Tier 3 large village, allowing for small to medium-scale developments. Cllr G Early encouraged all councillors and residents to respond to the consultation before the closing date of 23 December 2025 and asked that a link to the consultation be included in the minutes so residents can access it easily.

The consultation can be viewed at: www.westoxon.gov.uk/localplan2043

3. **WODC Cllr Tim Sumner report:** Cllr T Sumnor provided an update on District matters, including:

Leisure

- 3.5 million pounds is being spent on updating facilities at leisure centres in the area.
- Carterton regeneration is going ahead to make it a popular destination spot.

25/977 To receive reports from Stonesfield PC working groups:

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

To receive reports from Stonesfield PC Working Groups.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group:

Report from Cllr P Lowe:

NPSG

The NPSG met on 27/10.

Most of the discussion was on points of detail to finalise the Basic Conditions Statement & Consultation Statement.

Basic Conditions Statement was completed last week but is pending a response from WODC regarding compliance with EU Law; response expected any day.
Consultation Statement is 99% complete.

These documents need sign off by Cllrs Brown/Lowe so that the Clerk can formally submit to WODC.

We can choose the Examiner. Many Parishes locally have used Andrew Ashcroft, we are doing some due diligence and also enquiring about alternatives.

WODC LP2043 Consultation

I attended a workshop for Parish Councils organised by WODC, who are consulting on

- Draft settlement hierarchy and spatial strategy
- Preferred site options for development to meet the housing and economic needs of the district.

They have amended the tiers into which capacity for development are ranked. Now 5 tiers, Stonesfield is in Tier 3, large villages.

Size of development has also been categorised as 1-10, 11-50, 50-100, 101-300 and 300+ houses. Tier 3 allows for 1-10 and 11-50.

Most of development is in main service centres. No sites are proposed for Stonesfield, but several had been put forward by Landowners which were assessed red, amber or green.

Much of the proposal is ok, but we do need to respond to this and probably quite robustly on a few areas, particularly two:

The tiers made no allowance for a village being in the CNL and so an indication of the capacity for development is disingenuous. Given Stonesfield lacks employment, transport is poor and we have limited facilities, under the NPPF, it is hard to envisage circumstances where a development of 11-50 houses will ever meet the exceptional circumstances test. This affects 3 other CNL villages too. Combe has been moved in to tier 4 and although smaller has similar

characteristics, so Stonesfield should be downgraded or a new subset of tier 3 created akin to tier 4 to allow for being in the CNL.

There are issues with the assessment of sites put forward for development by landowners (HELAA). We have already done a much more in-depth assessment on all bar one of the 6 sites, for the NP e.g. via the Landscape Assessment, than WODC have been able to do and we would certainly differ on conclusions.

WODC assessment as follows:

Cala Field - Red, unsuitable. houses (130)

Brook Lane - Red, unsuitable (59)

The Dene - Red, unsuitable (15)

Manor field - Amber, part suitable (42)

Behind Charity Farm - Amber, (44)

East of Charity Farm - Green (25)

A draft response will be drawn up to the consultation for circulation to PC members (agreed). We have until 23 December to respond.

25/978 Finance:

a) **Payments:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the ratification of payments.

Gross Amount (£)	VAT Value (£)	Payee	Details
192.96	32.16	Microshade VSM	Oct IT & Email hosting
562.14		Gallagher Insurance	Annual Insurance
348.84		OCC pensions	Oct LGPS
150.00		C Carruthers	RFO Nov 2025
11.29		Alan Kendall	Cattle Signs – The Common
1593.39	265.57	WODC	£198.00 Glebe Clearance £1271.08 Apr Grass Cutting £124.31 Dog Bins
Confidential		K Linnington	Clerks Salary
65.00		K Linnington	Clerks Monthly Expenses

b) Expenditure under the Clerk's delegated authority

The following expenditure was ratified:

- I. Cleaning Company – to clean and remove graffiti on all 3 bus shelters £180.00

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the ratification of payments and expenditure under the Clerk's delegated authority.

25/979 Clerk Report: The PC noted the Clerks report.

- Website development is underway; the preview link will be circulated once available.
- Bus shelter cleaning and graffiti removal scheduled for late Oct/early Nov.
- Draft budget is in progress; councillors to send any suggestions to the RFO before the December meeting.

- Notices about the new meeting venue have been issued on the noticeboard and social media.
- All correspondence has been received and responded to; key items forwarded to councillors.
- OCC temporary road closure and no-waiting notices for B4022 were circulated.
- Wilderness Festival organisers have expanded the Local Tickets and Bursary Scheme to include Stonesfield; postcode list provided.

25/980 Parish Council logo/emblem: To discuss and approve a design. **Action:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve to ask a graphic designer to draw some designs using suggestions made by the members that mean something to the village. These would be bought back to a meeting at a later date.

25/981 Biodiversity Plan/Policy: To discuss and approve the draft plan completed by Cllr U Rice. Cllr U Rice reported that the Biodiversity Policy was nearly complete and would be circulated to members once finalised. It was noted that a few sections remain to be completed and these were discussed briefly. It was suggested that the policy be cross-checked with the Neighbourhood Plan to ensure consistency.

25/982 Purchases.

Video and audio-conferencing device: To receive an update from Cllr L Bate and to discuss and approve a contribution towards the purchase of a 360° video and audio-conferencing device, in partnership with local village groups, to enable the Clerk to attend meetings remotely in the event of illness or adverse weather. **Action:** It was agreed that the pub group apply for a grant towards the purchase price and with the understanding that the PC can use the equipment at short notice for the Clerk to attend remotely i.e. adverse weather conditions, illness or she is unable to travel to the meeting.

25/983 Working Groups Membership and Representatives to Outside Bodies

- a) **Working Groups Membership:** To review membership of working groups and to approve the appointment of additional members.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve that Cllr D Brown be added to the Glebe working group. However, it was agreed that whilst the PC only have 6 councillors working groups will not be able to run at the present time. All projects, until the PC has 8 members, will be dealt with at the monthly council meeting bypassing the working group.

- b) **Reps to Outside Bodies:** To approve Parish Council representatives to outside bodies who will be responsible for attending meetings and reporting back to the Parish Council:
- I. Village Hall
 - II. Playing Fields
 - III. Stonesfield Community Trust

It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the Chair, Cllr U Rice makes initial contact with the Outside Bodies before a decision is made on whether there is a need for PC representation.

25/984 Maintenance.

- a) **OCC Delegated Model:** To receive an update on further enquiries into the OCC delegated model, under which the Parish Council can be funded to carry out tasks that are not its responsibility but are not currently being maintained in the village. The Clerk reported that she had still not received a response from OCC.

- b) **Maintenance Operative Advert:** The PC agreed to discuss and approve the advert for a self-employed, zero-hours Maintenance Operative. **Action:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve to advertise for a maintenance operative and to make a list of jobs i.e. noticeboard repairs and painting railings as and when we have any interest.

25/985 Meeting Venue: To note the change of venue for Parish Council meetings and approve the associated new annual hire cost of £177.10. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the new meeting venue and the associated price for hiring it.

25/986 Budget 2026/27: To review the draft budget and consider any amendments prior to final approval in December. **Action:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve that Councillors review the draft budget and submit any suggestions or proposed amendments, including indicative figures, to the RFO prior to the next meeting to allow for inclusion in the final version for approval in December.

25/987 Items to be added to the next agenda:

1. Budget approval
2. Biodiversity Plan/Policy
3. Defib training
4. Safer equipment

25/988 Date of the next Full Council Meeting: The date of the next full Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 3rd December 2025 at 7.00 pm.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm