

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.30pm
in The Village Hall

Councillors Present

Cllr Stuart (Chairperson), Cllr Connolly, Cllr Robertson and Cllr Storey

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles, County Cllr Mills (arrived later), District Cllr Littlewood and fifteen villagers

25/01. Apologies for absence

Cllr Rivers-Fletcher (personal) and John Bicknell

25/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/03. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2024

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

25/04. Public Participation Session

No matters were raised.

25/05. To receive a report from the District Councillor

The report from District Cllr Littlewood included:

The Ellen Badger – Rehabilitation Beds – Consultation. Cllr Littlewood noted that option A is the preferred option and he asked everyone to engage in the consultation.

South Warwickshire Local Plan – This is a joint plan and a lot of work has taken place between the County and District. With the change of government the housing numbers have increased in Warwickshire. It's a good plan and strengthens the existing Core Strategy. He encouraged everyone to read it.

Devolution – This is the abolition of District Councils. Nothing may happen until 2028-29. The workload will not reduce but savings will be made with senior managers. The full report will be put on the village website www.oxhillpc.uk.

The Chair then read out the statement on local Government reforms in Warwickshire from Cllr Izzi Seccombe. Cllr Littlewood added that not all District and Borough Council's are in support. The next elections may be postponed which would save a lot of money and there is some sense in delaying them.

25/06. To consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge

Details were circulated and it was agreed to sign up to the Pledge.

25/07. To discuss the filing of Parish Council minutes

The minutes are filed in a hard back book but the book is nearly full. It was agreed that once the book is full the minutes can be stored in a lever arch file.

Cllr Chris Mills arrived at 7.55pm after attending another meeting.

25/08. To receive an update on the current situation of sewage on Manor Fields and the village
There was one issue over Christmas and since then, there has been a dry spell of weather. Problems arise after periods of heavy rainfall. The latest update from Severn Trent is that they are monitoring wet weather forecasts in the area and implementing contingency intervention, with tankers located by the pumping station to cope with the increased volumes of sewage/storm water. This has been largely successful and has prevented eruptions from the manhole in the field and pollution of the watercourse. They have agreed access to undertake the proposed relining works and are confirming the schedule with their contractors. The work should start in the next 2 to 3 weeks and this should take 2 to 3 nights to complete.

25/05. To receive a report from the County Councillor (continued)

The report from County Cllr Mills included:

Quit Smoking in 2025, Warwickshire welcomes new safe accommodation strategy for victim survivors of Domestic Abuse, Energy bill support available this winter, Measles vaccinations, Flu vaccinations, Be better prepared for extreme cold weather, Improving school experiences for neurodivergent children, Becoming a childminder, Cabinet approves Warwickshire SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2024-2029, New Destination Work Programme, Leamington Town Vision, Unitary Authority. The full report can be found on the village website www.oxhillpc.uk.

Cllr Mills added that the timing of the devolution announcement was not nice just before Christmas. There is a concern that the local voice will be lost. There will be teething problem and the aim is 2027-28.

25/09. To receive an update on the Parish Plan and discuss the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Preferred Options

The SWLP consultation dates are 10th January to 7th March. The link to this is [South Warwickshire Local Plan Website](#). it's a joint plan to run from 2025 -2050 and will replace the last plan. The proposal is to build 28,256 extra houses by 2050. Priority areas have been identified and infrastructure will include education. It is hoped it will be adopted in December 2027. A Neighbourhood Plan would work in line with the Local Plan. A housing needs assessment is important and Oxhill have one. This gives some protection. Infill is inevitable.

25/10. To receive an update on planning

New

- 24/03189/TREE, Tree work at Oddcott, Main Street. It was agreed to support.
- 24/03140/FUL, Proposed alterations and extension at 4 Peacock Cottages, Main Street. It was agreed to support.

Older

- 24/01841/FUL, Alterations and extension to existing outbuildings to create ancillary living accommodation for family at Fern Cottage, Main Street. Granted by SDC.

An application was received after the agenda had been published.

24/03277/COUQ, Change of use of barn to single dwelling at Barn adjacent to, Stonecroft House, Kineton Road. Comments are due by 3rd February. Councillors to look at the papers.

25/11. Financial Report

The following payments were approved

- £600.00 to Oxhill Village Hall (grant)
- £194.39 to TEEC (hosting and domain for website)

To consider making a further donation of £500.00 to Oxhill Village Hall to complete the refurbishment

Work on the hall has been significant and a big step forward. However there is more work to be done including laying tarmac in the car park.

Action: The Chair to send the Chair of the VHC a funding form which will be completed before a grant is authorised.

To set the precept for 2025/26

Outgoing costs will continue to rise such as insurance, website, Clerks salary and the emptying of bins. Three Councillors voted for an increase and one abstained. It was therefore agreed to increase the precept by 5% and set it at £12,763.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify SDC.

To confirm the pay award for the Parish Clerk

The new salary for the Parish Clerk, in accordance with the 2024/25 Local Government Services pay agreement, is LC1 17 and will be back dated to 1st April 2024. The new hourly rate is £15.58 based on her experience as a Clerk and her CILCA qualification. The salary will be reviewed annually.

To agree new signatories for the bank and removal of old ones

With the pending Councillor resignations of whom some are signatories, it was agreed to remove Cllr Storey from the mandate and add Cllr Robertson.

Action: The Parish Clerk to action.

25/12. To receive the following correspondence (circulated)

- Shipston First Responders, Recruiting. Details have been put on Facebook.
- Office of the PCC for Warwickshire, Police Budget Consultation. Details have been put on Facebook.

25/13. Councillors Reports

Footpaths were briefly discussed. Wood shavings are cheaper than wood mulch.

The new bridge can be slippery.

Action: Cllr Connolly to look at putting chicken wire up.

25/14. To note next meeting date and time

Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.