

Oxhill Parish Council
Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Held Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 6.30pm
in The Village Hall, Main Street

Councillors Present

Cllr Robertson (Chairperson), Cllr Hobill, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Rivers Fletcher and Cllr Shepard

Mrs C Coles (Parish Clerk), District Cllr M Littlewood and five villagers

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

26/12. Apologies for absence

County Cllr Chris Mills (personal)

26/13. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

26/14. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2026

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

26/15. To receive an update on progress from previous minutes (for report only by the Chair/Parish Clerk)

There were no updates to report on.

26/16. Public Participation Session

A villager spoke about footpaths and he is happy to co-ordinate a group to get paths cleared. Previous landowners were contacted some time ago by the Clerk but she had no responses back. Cllr Mercer agreed to be the PC liaison for the group.

26/17. To receive a report from the County and District Councillors

A report from Cllr Mills was received and circulated. The main points included: Warwickshire County Council Budget 2026/27, Increased SEND provision for Warwickshire, SEND Reform consultation, Adult Social Care Service Rated 'Good' by CQC, Warwickshire Food Strategy update, Utility bill support available in Warwickshire, Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation, Measles, Child Exploitation Awareness Day 2026 – 18 March 2026, WCC Cabinet: March 2026 and Warwick Castle unboxed. The report is on the village website www.oxhillcommunity.co.uk.

A report from Cllr Littlewood was received and circulated. The main points included: Five Year Housing Land Supply, Neighbourhood Development Plans and funding, Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), Devolution, Cost of Living – Iran War effects and vulnerable households fuel costs, Council Tax 2026/27.

The Chair noted that the Cost of Living and the increase in oil price is mentioned in Cllr Littlewood's report. However a lot of people use LPG and this is often overlooked. There are no concessions. Cllr Littlewood replied that there is support at District and County level.

More was spoken about the Housing Land Supply. If SDC cannot show an adequate supply, the Local Plan will be deemed out of date and core policies will be under threat. It will be all about a tilted balance when considering planning applications and the amount of harm caused from building on greenfield sites. Tysoe has a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which is four years old. Housing needs are satisfied within the plan and it has the same legal force as the Local Plan. Parishes can join together to produce one. SDC has agreed a grant fund of £100K per annum over the next three years to fund new and out of date NDP's. Discussions continue on LGR and devolution. An outcome will be known in July.

Cllr Littlewood left the meeting at 6.47pm.

26/18. Funding Request

To consider a funding request for solar panels from Oxhill Village Hall (details circulated)

Mr Harbour of the Village Hall Committee (VHC) gave a summary of the funding request. Electric bills are high and heating/power costs about £3K per year. Total costs to run the hall are £7K per year. The supplier has installed solar panels on Tysoe Village Hall and quoted a good price. The VHC are asking for £6K. Money will be needed in the coming years to repair the roof. Councillors agreed unanimously to support the request. There will be an option to sell electricity back to the grid. The hall is an asset in the village and the Parish Council will continue to support it.

26/19. To receive an update on the sewage problems, damage of Kineton Road and repairs

Severn Trent (ST) are now under scrutiny from the Environment Agency who can issue enforcement notices. It is inappropriate behaviour from a public company. The Chair is in direct contact with the Chief Executive of ST. The extent of the problem is on private land and one resident is affected. The Parish Council are trying to add weight to their arguments. The Chair read out a public statement. ST are going to submit plans by 30th March. The problems arise in heavy rain and in the mid 1970's it was thought that combined sewers were a good idea. The pipes were lined last year which did not cure the problems and the last winter was less wet than 2024/25. The whole system has been inundated. The villager affected is grateful for support and is liaising with the Environment Agency. The Kineton Road to be repaired by Balfour Beatty Contractors on behalf of ST. The Chair hopes to have more positive news to share at the next meeting.

26/20. To discuss the website including the planning tracker and signed minutes

The planning tracker is now set up on the website. Signed meeting minutes will be put on the website after a Parish Council meeting.

26/21. To note the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

Local Government reform will abolish District and Borough Councils and establish a Unitary Authority. There are two options and the deadline to respond is 11.59pm on 26th March 2026. The Government will determine which option is to be established later in the year.

26/22. Finance

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:

£828.10 to Tysoe Childrens Group Ltd (newsletter copying)

£3.60 to TEEC (planning tracker)

£981.05 to Parish Clerk (hours) and £245.20 (tax)

£58.50 To Parish Clerk (mileage)

£430.28 to P Rivers Fletcher (new VAS)

£84.00 to WALC (Councillor Training)

26/23. To receive an update on planning

- 26/00323/TREE, Fell T1 willow at Little Barn. No objection by PC.
- 26/00397/FUL, Proposed one and a half storey side extension to form additional living accommodation at 15 Leys Field. Councillors to review application and comment.
- 25/01271/FUL, Change of use of land to provide 7 travelling showpersons plots and associated works including hardstanding on land adjoining Coverwell Farm, Pillerton Hersey. Under consideration. The plans have been amended but there are lots of issues with the site. The Chair to look at the previous planning history. The Parish Council to respond by 26th March.
- 26/00512/TREE, T1 - Apple - Reduce by 3m in height T2 - Plum - Reduce in height by 2m T3 - Yew - Reduce in height by 2.5m at Payns House, Back Lane. It was agreed to support.

An additional planning application had been received after the agenda had been issued. Oxhill have been notified as an adjoining parish.

- 26/00449/FUL, Proposed redevelopment of existing intensive pig farm to create 10 new dwellings at Hogwood Farm, Pillerton Hersey Road. It is a greenfield site. Earlier applications have been refused by SDC. The Parish Council, who have actively supported previous applications are to comment by 8th April.

26/24. To note the following correspondence

- SDC, Land to the East of Oxhill Village Church. The cutting of trees without permission on this land was reported. SDC Enforcement contacted the landowner and they will apply for the necessary consent next time.

26/25. Councillors Reports

The dead tree on Whatcote Road has not been cut down yet. It is on highway land but was planted by the Parish Council. It was agreed for Cllr Mercer to ask Thomas Fox to quote to cut it down and remove it. Another tree may be replanted nearby.

The 30mph signs on Whatcote Road and Kineton Road have been knocked. The new VAS sign will be mounted on the pole soon on Whatcote Road.

Cllr Shepard reported back about the Defibrillator Runner Scheme. There are a few schemes to be set up. The cost is manageable but more information will be needed about funding.

Thanks given to Cllr Shepard for her work reporting the persistent failures of the temporary traffic lights on Kineton Road in place whilst ST had tankers in place to deal with the sewage eruptions.

Cllr Mercer spoke about Leys Field and a lot of work being done by the developer. The broken pieces of play equipment have been removed. The land may be handed over when the outstanding work is complete.

26/26. To note next meeting date and time

19th May 2026, Annual Parish Meeting at 6.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting at 7pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.