

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
IN OXHILL
ON TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026 AT 6.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr Robertson (Chair of Oxhill Parish Council), Cllr Hobill, Cllr Mercer, Cllr Shepard and Cllr Rivers Fletcher

Christine Coles, Parish Clerk, County Councillor Chris Mills, District Councillor Malcolm Littlewood (arrived at 6.38pm) and three villagers

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive a report from the Parish Council (Cllr Robertson, Chair of Oxhill Parish Council)

Another busy year for the Parish Council but progress made in a number of ongoing areas of activity. There are three new Councillors who are getting used to the process and getting stuck in.

Speeding has long been a concern in the village, but with little if any support from the Police, Warwickshire Highways or other interested authorities the Council took the decision to acquire a Radar Speed Sign with integrated solar panel to monitor speeds along Whatcote Road. It discourages speeding.

The issues with the sewer across the Manor fields and consequent pollution of the fields has been a major factor this year, culminating in 2 signed petitions to Severn Trent demanding remedial works, culminating in a BBC news report. We are continuing to work with the affected landowner in ongoing discussions with ST and the Environment Agency, but firm proposals for works to rectify the issues remain outstanding. Interim arrangements have included the creation of layby parking for one tanker adjoining the pumping station. ST have completed the repair of the damaged road surface and kerbs on Kineton Road, although the adequacy of the road gulleys remains to be tested by heavy rainfall.

The PC has again supported Oxhill Village Hall with part funding for solar panels and battery installation, to mitigate the not insignificant electricity costs of heating and lighting. A lot of work is involved in running events at the hall. 12 events per year is ambitious and the Chair congratulated the Village Hall Committee on their achievements.

Other areas of work have included continuing to support the footpath group keeping the local footpaths open and easy to access. We have routinely reported damaged or missing road signs, potholes and subsidence on the parish's roads alongside other issues, unfortunately to only limited effect.

We continue to provide the Community Website which provides a platform for local information, alongside the Oxhill News which is co-ordinated by their brilliant editorial team.

The Parish Council are pursuing their enquires into establishing an effective Defibrillator messaging system, so that in the event of an emergency those trained in its use can ensure assistance is provided to those in need. The Parish Council continues to fund the defibrillator making sure that it passes its health and safety checks and that is in good working order.

Signed

Dated 21st July 2026

It remains for me to thank our Parish Clerk without whose expertise the Council would cease to function, and to my fellow Parish Councillors who have given their time to the Community.

3. Presentation of audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026

The audited accounts were presented. Income was £13.5K and expenditure £6.2K. The main source of income is the precept which is paid twice a year. The main areas of expenditure continue to be the Clerks salary and copying of the village newsletter. These figures do not reflect the provision in the accounts made for payment of the pre agreed figure of £6,000 to the Village Hall, that payment having been made on 29th April 2026, after the account year end.

4. To receive a report from the County and District Councillor

The following report was received from **District Cllr Malcolm Littlewood**.

Is it already another year gone by, and what a year for Stratford on Avon District Council. My focus as Ward member has as always been on residents. I have been active supporting residents in their problems with Planning, Housing Associations, Severn Trent Water, and Highways (potholes etc.). I have attended as many Parish Council and Parish Meetings as I have been able to, in line with my Role and Responsibilities as your Ward Member. For those interested a full description of the role and responsibility of a District Councillor can be read at [Ward Councillor](#).

After the General Election in 2024, the new Government started a range of democracy changes including Local Government reform abolishing County, District, and Borough Councils replacing them with Unitary Authorities (UA's). At the moment, these changes are planned to take effect after the next elections for the current Authorities in May 2027.

When SDC is abolished, a new shadow authority will be established. Wards are likely to disappear, and the old County Divisions, or close to those boundaries, replace them. This would reduce democratic representation significantly, so I think it is likely that the 'new divisions will have two councillors, but this is yet to be determined. For Town and Parish Councils this will mean little change.

This change coincides with the need to produce a new Local Plan which was started before 2023 by SDC and Warwick District Council; known as the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP). The SWLP is now almost ready to be agreed and move to Regulation-19 by the end of 2026; the major step in its progress to planning and development policy. Sadly, in December of last year the current Local Plan – the Core Strategy – was found to be not fully up to date because an Inspector found that SDC's Housing Land Supply was only 2.7 years and not the required 5 years.

This means that local communities have come under increasing pressure from housing developers who wish to build in our rural communities because of the higher housing value and increased profitability. Rural communities need housing to meet local needs, but these are not the dwellings that developers want to build necessarily. To help rural communities protect their settlements, I successfully put down a motion (seconded by Cllr. Anne Parry Wellesbourne North and Rural) to provide funding for Town and Parish Councils to bring up to date existing Neighbourhood Development Plans and help to fund new NDP's. When 'made' an NDP has equal planning weight with the Local Plan and forms part of local planning policy.

At the same time as introducing Planning and Local Government Reform, the Government has required the new UA's to come together to form Mayoral Strategic Authorities with populations around 500,000 with mayors. Strategic Authorities will take on the role of Police Authority, Fire Authority, and Highways and receive additional funding it is promised.

Signed

Dated 21st July 2026

The new Mayoral Strategic Authorities are supposed to geographically match with Police and NHS organisations, whilst at the same time looking to reduce the number of Police authorities significantly, so this latter responsibility is proving almost impossible to incorporate into strategy planning!

Our Ward has seen significant planning applications. Here are a few of the current proposals:

- 1,150 houses off Fell Mill Lane Honington
- Solar Farm proposal off Fell Mill Lane Honington
- Travelling Snowpersons' Site proposal Pillerton Priors/Hersey

I will continue to represent all residents in the Ward to the best of my ability, and remain available to help, signpost and advise as well as I am able.

Both Cllr Littlewood and Cllr Mills said they would continue to help with the problems with Severn Trent following years of underinvestment.

Cllr Littlewood left the meeting at 7pm to attend another council meeting.

The following report was received from **County Councillor Chris Mills**.

Warwickshire County Council approved its budget for 2026/27, alongside the medium-term financial strategy for the next five years. The budget includes a 4.4% increase in Council Tax, including the 2% adult social care precept. This is lower than the maximum permitted increase of 4.99%, reflecting the Council's wish to support residents with cost-of-living pressures. The medium-term financial strategy also sets out a programme of efficiency savings and investments to maintain the Council's strong focus on prevention to help reduce future demand on services. For a Band D property, the overall increase in the Council Tax bill will amount to an additional £1.56 per week.

SEND provision

Warwickshire County Council has approved additions to the Education Capital Programme 2025/26 to expand specialist resourced provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities to allocate over £320k from the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation. £110.5m per year spent on SEND.

Adult Social Care Service Rated 'Good' by CQC

WCC is celebrating a positive outcome from the Care Quality Commission's assessment of Adult Social Care which recognises the county as a high performing on Adult Social Care needs. Adult Social Care is the largest expenditure for Warwickshire County Council @ £310m per year. As an example, in 2024 The average cost of a local authority-funded care home place for someone aged over 65 was £951 a week and the costs are rising. 80% of Council budget on Adult Social Care.

Home to school transport

Home to school transport is another big spend for WCC at over £46m per year. Total home to school transport costs have more than doubled from £17m in 2018.

Total Expenditure budget for Warwickshire County Council @£700.2m

Signed

Dated 21st July 2026

However, we are Recalibrating Warwickshire and Fundamental changes are coming. We are focused on the future and have set out our objectives for the next four years in our draft Council Plan which details our purpose and direction for our residents, partners, businesses and staff.

The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive.

Severe financial pressures on the Home to School Transport Budget and SEND are being addressed by the continuing expansion of ‘resource provisions’ in schools, which allows children with special educational needs to attend a specialist resource within a mainstream school, facilitating greater inclusion and making it easier for all children to attend a school local to them.

Families are experiencing the benefits of new Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing service

Since launching in December 2025, Warwickshire Child and Family Wellbeing (WCFW) meet the evolving needs of families through an integrated ‘whole family’ approach, ensuring that public health nursing across Warwickshire is accessible, responsive, and focuses on local communities. With emphasis on prevention, early intervention, and community partnership, the service also ensures that children, young people, and families receive the right support, at the right time, and in the right place.

WCFW teams have already been integrated across Warwickshire’s Health Visiting and School Nursing services, with staff continuing service delivery at the same bases across the county and having a strengthened presence in schools to promote good health, spot concerns early, and support children’s wellbeing. WCFW has also been bringing professionals together to share knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and provide more seamless and accessible support for children and families within their local communities.

Unitary Authority

Warwickshire County Council submitted its plan for a Single Unitary Authority. The plan indicated that a saving of over £18m per year would be made. The Government will make the decision.

Warwickshire County Council

Our plan is to deliver improvement for the people of Warwickshire. Rising demand for children’s services and adult social care and a SEND system are under pressure.

This plan sets out how we will recalibrate Warwickshire, to make sure that the people of Warwickshire get a better deal. We will: Put residents of our County and their interests first in everything that we do. From planning decisions to how we allocate school places and design social care, we will fight for the best interests of local people.

Support residents who need help to make sure they don’t get left behind. We will do this by putting a new focus on prevention, personal responsibility. Our towns and villages are the lifeblood of our economy, heritage and culture and we must do all we can to support them.

We will do this while keeping council tax increases as low as possible, to recognise the financial pressures faced by all the residents of Warwickshire, always remembering that every pound we spend needs to deliver for you, the taxpayer. The plan outlines our mission to improve services, build a new, better form of local government, and transform for the future – ensuring that Warwickshire remains a place where people are safer, healthier and able to thrive.

Signed

Dated 21st July 2026

5. Open Forum

The damaged and missing road signs will be reported again and Cllr C Mills copied in.

Action: The Parish Clerk and Cllr Rivers Fletcher to compile the report.

Housing was discussed and a member of the public noted that there are no facilities to support the extra housing. Schools are over subscribed and this should be part of a bigger plan when developments are agreed. Cllr Mills said that this time last year there was a five year housing land supply but the government moved the goalposts.

Mr Harbour of the Village Hall Committee spoke about the community website. The village hall have their own website now (www.oxhillvc.co.uk) and asked if a link to it could be put on the community one.

Action: The Parish Clerk will look at this and find out usage statistics.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed

Dated 21st July 2026