

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Cumnor Parish Council
on Monday 3 February 2025 at 7.30pm
held in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.

In attendance.

Council. Tom Christophers, Chair, Laurence Waters, Vice-Chair, Basil England, Dona Foster, Alison Jenner, Paula Lopez, Judy Roberts, Ray Stone, Chris Westcott, Oliver Wright and Tina Brock, Clerk.

County Councillors. CC Judy Roberts.

District Councillors. DC Scott Houghton.

32/25 Apologies for Absence.

Gary Mason, (prior commitment). This apology was approved.

33/25 Declaration of Interests.

Personal interest for.

Minute 49/25 i Tom Christophers knows the applicant.

34/25 Variance of Order of Business. None.

35/25 Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council.

Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 January 2025.

36/25 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum. Received

- i. Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 37/25.

37/25 Payments of Accounts.

Council resolved to authorise the payments specified in the Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum and reproduced below.

Table 1 List of income.

Statutory Power	Receipts received.	Description	Total (£)
21 Town & Country Planning Act s61F(1),(2)	Groundwork – Locality Fund	Funding for refreshing Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan NPG -14291	7,564.00
22 VAT Act 1994 s33	HM Revenue & Excise	VAT refund 2023-2024	12,292.73

Table 2 List of receipts.

Statutory Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total (£)
120, SO LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff costs		3,305.62
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	BT	Office phone and broadband	240.44
121 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	As New Home & Office Cleaning Services	December clean of pavilion	96.00
DD LGA 1972 s111	Eurosolve	Annual Office 365 subscription	174.00
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile fee	21.60
BACS LGA 1972 s111	Unity Bank	Bank charges	8.10
122 LGA 1972 s111	Cumnor Village Hall	Room hire – Botley West public event	45.00
123 Town & Country Planning Act s61F(1),(2)	rCOH Ltd	Refresh of Neighbourhood Plan	4,855.20
124 LGA1972 s111	Tyrrell-Willaims Research Consultancy	Questionnaire design and project management	1,012.50
125 LGA1972 s111	Emma Bearpark Market Research	Project set up for Cumnor Parish survey	1,215.00
126a LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Litter picking, raking of sand and pea shingle at play parks	1,135.80
126b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Tree work at Meadow and Mayfield play parks	
127a LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	MRH Services	Service inspection of play parks and installation of new cradle seat at The Glebe	558.60
127b LG (Misc Prov) Act	MRH Services	Visual inspection of play parks	

Notes.

- i. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Unity Bank account will be in credit at £33,606.02.
- ii. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Santander Community Account will be in credit at £73,892.75.
- iii. The Council has the following debtor for 2024/25: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £10,924.46.
- iv. As of the 17 January 2025 the Santander Corporate account held a credit balance of £81,455.55.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**38/25 Public Participation. None.****REPORTS****39/25 Report from County Councillor(s).**

CC Roberts submitted a written report.

General OCC.

The Devolution White Paper was published on the 16 December 2024. The details outlined that the smallest unit of local government should be a unitary council of 500,000 population and these should then coalesce to form Combined Authorities with Mayors. At the extra meeting of the Cabinet on 9 January 2025, the County's response was to send a letter to the Secretary of State saying that they would like to be fast tracked with 4 of the District Council leaders supporting that position and one District Council leader opposing that position. All the District Councils wished to be fast tracked to a Combined Mayoral Authority. The letter stated that the preference was for the 2025 elections to be held. On 31 January 2025, the leaders of the 6 Berkshire Unitaries, the 6 leaders of councils in Oxfordshire and the Leader of Swindon Borough Council met and decided to pursue an MCA of Oxfordshire and Berkshire. We are expecting a letter from Government this week.

Traffic and highways.

Lord Hendy announced during his visit on 24 January 2025 that the DfT had provided enough funds to install the new bridge and re-open Botley Road. Other aspects of the project were still being negotiated, such as the Western Entrance, and will be detailed later on. The piling for the box junction for the new pedestrian and cycle paths on the Northern side has started. This path should be open in August 2025.

This section on the OCC's website should cover the Botley Bridge Road closure:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/future-transport-projects/oxford-city-station-phase-2c>

There is a new arrangement to allow disabled people to access the Western Entrance of the station. They have to give 45 minutes notice.

This will have all cycle paths, bus and Network Rail and Thames Water information and various links to other websites posted on there.

This is the website that the latest information will be posted on from Network Rail

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/western/oxfordshire/botley-road-bridge-replacement/>

The works by Thames Water to replace the damaged water main to the City has now begun and will continue until March 2025 with intelligent traffic lights and a one lane closure over Osney Bridge for the whole year. The works on the river area have now re-started and the temporary bridge for the water main is now up. The finish date for the end of the project is December 2025 but the opening of the bridge road has still to be announced.

Library.

The Botley library now provides free tea and coffee as part of their warm spaces program, this is continuing into 2025. There are also newspapers to read and a jigsaw puzzle to complete.

Consultations.

Let's Talk Oxfordshire.gov.uk website:

National Highways and Transport (NHT) Network 2024 – closes on the 28 February 2025

Citizens' Assembly - Information page on the question that has been set.

'What steps do we need to take so Oxfordshire's transport system enables our county's health, economy, and environment to thrive in 2050?'

The "You said/We did" section gives a lot of information about forthcoming changes based on the surveys. This can be useful even if you didn't respond to the surveys.

Highways traffic regulation orders and highway public notices gives notice of all planned and

emergency work.

This link tells you about the OCC roadworks and if you press the live roadworks button, it takes you through to One Network where there are all the live roadworks for that day. If you choose a time option, it will tell you all the planned roadworks:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transpo rt/roadworks/major-current-roadworks>

40/25 Report from District Councillor(s).

DC Scott Houghton submitted a written report.

Local Government Reorganisation.

Discussions around local government reorganisation are ongoing between the various councils. The leader of VoWHDC, Cllr Bethia Thomas, has stated that our preference is for the upper level Strategic Authority (likely a Mayoral Strategic Authority) should be formed along the lines of Oxfordshire and Berkshire, or of Oxfordshire Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. On the possible inclusion of Swindon, she stated "I would not support the inclusion of Swindon within such an MSA, because I do not believe that they are economically or demographically linked to the BOB or the wider Thames Valley area in the same way the Berkshires or Buckinghamshire are." The likely format for the unitary authorities which would sit beneath this strategic authority are still being discussed.

Garden Waste Collection Changes.

VoWHDC is introducing a new permit scheme for garden waste collections this year. To receive garden waste collections from 1 April 2025, residents must purchase an annual permit. This will replace direct debits. From late February 2025, residents will be able to visit the council's website www.southandvale.gov.uk/GardenWastePermit to make a one-off, annual payment for garden waste collections. When they receive their permit in the post, they will need to stick it to the lid of their brown bin. Garden waste customers can also sign up for an online account on our website to make things easier when they purchase the next permit in 2026. Anyone who cannot easily sign up for a permit online can call 01235 422422 for support. In February 2025 Town and Parish Councils will be provided with downloadable posters to display locally promoting the new scheme.

Flooding.

Following the Environment Agency's decision not to go ahead with the Thames Valley Flood Scheme on the grounds of cost effectiveness, the council passed a motion at its December 2024 meeting (which Cllr Houghton spoke in favour of) to write to both the Environment Agency and the Secretary of State to ask for a review of whether the level of resources spent on flood prevention and mitigation is high enough and to ask for urgent action to identify, publicise and implement viable schemes to reduce the growing issues of flooding of homes, businesses and infrastructure in the Vale. These letters can be read in full at the link below.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/about-the-council/official-correspondence/>

Community Defibrillator Scheme.

The British Heart Foundation has recently re-opened their community defibrillator scheme. This scheme allows local community groups to apply and potentially receive a free defibrillator and cabinet which must then be made accessible for use within the local community. Applications close on Friday 2 February 2025.

More information including how to apply is available on The British Heart Foundation website:

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/apply-for-a-free-defibrillator-for-your-community>

GLL Sports Foundation.

Better Leisure, who run VoWHDC's leisure centres, are launching this year's Sports Foundation scheme and applications for this fund are now open. GLL Sports Foundation provides support to athletes across all ages, disciplines and backgrounds. Providing access to free gym memberships, monetary funding and other athletes services including mental health support and physiotherapy. More information including how to apply and eligibility can be found on the GLL Sports Foundation application page and applications must be submitted by 20 February 2025.

<https://www.gllsportfoundation.org/how-to-apply>

41/25 Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies. None.

TRAINING/EVENTS

42/25 Training Programmes.

Tom Christophers would attend the online OALC Councillor Forum on Monday 10 February 2025 at 10am.

Council resolved to approve expenditure of £55 + VAT for the Clerk to attend OALC Talking Tables event on Friday 18 July 2025.

FINANCE

43/25 Expenditure.

Council resolved to approve the following expenditure.

- i. Cumnor Residents Survey. Data processing for coding an extra open ended question of £235 + VAT and £20 for extra copies and postage.

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

44/25 Ad-hoc grass cutting of verges in the parish. None.

45/25 Draft minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2025.

Noted.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH

46/25 Funding.

Council has received a grant of £7,564 from the Locality Team towards the cost of refreshing the Neighbourhood Plan. Funding totalling £17,390 had been received to date.

47/25 Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Planning Alliance (ONPA) AGM.

Chris Westcott attended the AGM on Saturday 25 January 2025 which was very well attended and raised actions for Council to consider.

Council discussed and resolved to approve the following.

- a. Not to volunteer to join the ONPA Executive Committee as the VWHDC area representative.
- b. Noted that there are no allocated sites for housing in the made Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan and no allocated sites in the proposed 2041 VWHDC Local Plan.
- c. To schedule an agenda item at the March meeting addressing possible 'grey belt' sites in the parish.
- d. To delegate liaison with the VWDC Planning Team on the refresh of the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan Refresh Working Group.

PLANNING

48/25 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025.

Noted.

49/25 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council would submit the following observations:

Table 3 List of planning application.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P24/V2723/HH	26 Leys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QF <i>Proposed single storey front and rear extension, proposed replacement of flat roof with pitched roof. Replacement roof finish, windows and doors. Installation of external insulation with render and composite timber cladding.</i> Supports.
ii	P25/V0012/LB	Archangel House, 1 Abingdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QN <i>Installation of solar panels on the south and east facing roofs.</i> Supports.
ii	P24/V2735/FUL	88 Pinnocks Way, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DQ <i>Erection of ancillary annex to existing HMO.</i> Objects.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
		Council objects to the lack of provision for off-street parking. The front garden is completely enclosed by a hedge which means that there is no provision for off street parking. The proposed erection of an ancillary annex will increase the existing HMO to 6 bedrooms. A 5/6-bedroom HMO should have off-street parking for up to a minimum of 3 vehicles. Having checked the VWHDC Planning Application Register no previous application for a change of use for 88 Pinnock's Way from a Class C3 Dwelling to a Class C4 HMO can be found. Council will raise this matter with the Enforcement Team.

50/25 Permitted planning applications. Noted.

Table 4 List of permitted planning applications.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P24/V2549/HH	Swinford Bungalow, Swinford, Witney, Oxon OX29 4BY <i>Erection of timber entrance gate with brick piers and walls.</i>
ii	P24/V2443/HH	16 Meadow Close, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NZ <i>Single storey front and side extension. (Amended plans rec'd 23/1/2025-Omitting the relocation of boundary wall.)</i>

51/25 Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions. Noted.

Table 5 List of Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions.

Ref	Appeal and planning application ref.	Address and proposal
i	APP/V3120/W/24/3347990 P24/V0325/FUL	134 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PH <i>Erection of detached part single part two storey dwelling house with home workshop. Erection of bin and bike stores/energy hub building. Car parking provision. Improved visibility splays to existing vehicular access. Landscaping of the site".</i> Appeal allowed.
ii	APP/V3120/E/24/3349454 P23/V2833/FUL	19 Hids Copse Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9JJ <i>Conversion of existing garage and pool building and creation of a new parking area.</i> Appeal allowed.

52/25 Proposed Industrial installation (Solar Power Station) for the production of electricity on Green Belt land.

i. Proposed 'Botley West' solar power station.

- a. Council received the notes from the meeting on Tuesday 7 January 2025 with Stuart Walker, Major Applications Team Leader, VWHDC. Next scheduled meeting Tuesdays 4 February 2025, 4 March 2025 and 1 April 2025.
- b. Oliver Wright reported. The Botley West Solar Project Community Benefit Steering Group met with officers from Oxfordshire CC and VOWH, West Oxfordshire and Cherwell district councils on 20 January 2025 and agreed a common approach to the negotiations with PVDP, the project developer with regard to community benefit. The same group then met together with Mark Owen-Lloyd of PVDP on 29 January 2025. The Steering Group consider that the amount of Community Benefit on offer is derisory considering the extent of the project and the size of the affected population. It was agreed by Council that this point should be made in the Council's representation to the Planning Inspectorate.
- c. Stop Botley West (STB) community meeting on Saturday 1 February 2025 at 1pm in Cumnor Village Hall. Chris Westcott reported. The meeting was attended by 100 + local residents and STB talked through the process of how to register as an interested party and make a Relevant Representation to the Secretary of State by 27 February 2025.

- d. Council resolved to agree that Chris Westcott and Oliver Wright would draft the Councils Relevant Representation based on the Cumnor Neighbourhood Plan policies which would be circulated for comment prior to the Clerk registering Council as an interested party and submitting the Relevant Representation.
- ii. **Red House Farm 49.99Mwe solar power station.**
 - a. No new update.
- iii. **National Grid's Farmoor Substation.**
 - a. No new update.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.

53/25 Parish Ward information from Councillors.

- i. Tom Christophers requested that the difference in fares between Stagecoach and Oxford Bus Company and the issue of the buses following each other down Cumnor Hill should be brought to the next Parish Transport Representation meeting which Alison Jenner attends on behalf of Council
- ii. Judy Roberts requested an update on the site meeting with OCC to discuss installing traffic calming in Farmoor. The Clerk would inform Judy once a site meeting had been set up with OCC.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

54/25 Next meeting.

Further meetings will take place in **2025** on Mondays: 3 March and 7 April

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6 May 2025** in **Fogwell Road Pavilion. Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed..... Date.....2025.