

**Minutes of the Cumnor Parish Council
on Monday 6 July 2026 at 7.30pm
held in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court**

In attendance.

Council. Laurence Waters, Vice-Chairman, Basil England, Dona Foster, Gary Mason, Judy Roberts, Ray Stone, Chris Westcott, Oliver Wright and Tina Brock, Clerk.

County Councillors. Judy Roberts.

District Councillors. Scott Houghton and Judy Roberts.

Visitors. One.

171/26 Apologies for Absence.

Tom Christophers, Chairman (prior commitment), Alison Jenner (prior commitment), Paula Lopez (prior commitment) and CC James Plumb (prior commitment). Council resolved to approve these apologies.

172/26 Declaration of Interests.

Prejudicial interest.

Minute 186/12 ii and iii Gary Mason has worked for L Harris.

173/26 Co-option to the Council.

Council received the written application for the office of parish council for the ward of Dean Court and unanimously resolved to co-opt Robert Knowles.

174/26 Variance of Order of Business. None.

175/26 Minutes of the Meeting for the Cumnor Parish Council.

- i. Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 June 2026.
- ii. Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Monday 22 June 2026.

176/26 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum. Received

- i. Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 177/26.
- ii. Council noted expenditure approved by the Chair and Clerk. MRH Services to remove the old bench, concrete and tree stump in the maze at the Glebe play park £225.
- iii. Council noted expenditure approved by the Chair and Clerk. Sutcliffe Play hand grips for slingshot at The Glebe play park £86.16 + VAT.

177/26 Payments of Accounts.

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

Table 1 Income received.

Statutory Power	Expenditure now due	Description	Total (£)
4 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Cumnor Minors FC	Reimbursement for fire extinguisher service	70.38
5 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Mr K Ali	Paid in error	45.00

Table 2 List of expenditure.

Statutory Power	Expenditure now due	Description	Total (£)
27a,b,c,d, SO LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff costs		5,140.00
28 LGA 1972 s111	Cardinus Risk Management	Reinstatement cost assessment	216.00
29 LGA 1972 s111	Gravita Oxford LLP	Year-end procedure and SAGE accounting fee	1,162.13
30 Parish Councils Act 1957 s1	Earth Anchors Ltd	New bench – overbridge Cumnor	602.40
31 Public Health Act 1936 s234	WelMedical	Defibrillator parts – Closes Pavilion	154.34
32 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	As New Home & Office Cleaning	May clean of pavilion	48.00
33 Town & County Planning Act 1990 s61F	rCOH Ltd t/a ONH	Review of Neighbourhood Plan Reg 14 documents	693.60

DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	BT	Office and broadband	154.04
BACS LGA 1972 s111	Unity Bank	Bank charges	9.70
34 LGA 1972 s111	T Brock	Advance on petty cash	164.98
35 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Luke Harris Property Maintenance	Relay surface of youth shelter at Pinnocks Way park	4,576.28
36 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Fogwell Road Pavilion	Paid into wrong bank account	45.00
37 LGA 1972 s142	Wix.com Ltd	Cumnor F4F website renewal	230.40
38 LGA 1972 s111	The Net Result	Payroll Apr-Jun	88.50
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile fees – May	24.65
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile fees – June	24.65
BACS LGA 1972 s111	Santander	Bank charges May and June	14.97
39 Public Health Act 1875	Total Pest Control	Quarterly mole control – Fogwell Field	120.77
BACS LGA 1972 s111	Unity	Bank charges	10.40
40a Highways Act 1980 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking, raking sand, weed treatment at various locations	2,995.20
40b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting and litter picking at parks	
40c LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Highways Act 1980	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking and raking pea shingle at various locations	
41 Public Health Act 1936	Andy Berry	Repairs to Closes Pavilion Defibrillator	150.00

Notes.

- i. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Unity Bank account will be in credit at £58,081.79.
- ii. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Santander Community Account will be in credit at £2,776.43.
- iii. The Council has the following debtor for 2026/2027: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £3,261.43.

178/26 Public Presentation. None.

REPORTS

179/26 Report from County Councillor(s).

CC Plumb submitted a written report.

Update on HGV Study (Cumnor & Farmoor)

At the most recent full council meeting, I requested an update from the Cabinet Member for Transport on freight movements around Cumnor and Farmoor. Progress on this study has been delayed because it has been treated as interdependent with the Windrush Valley Freight Study, which has taken longer than expected to complete. Although it had been anticipated that officer resources would return to the B4017/B4044/B4449 work before the summer, further work on the Windrush Valley study has prevented this.

The Cabinet Member has offered to meet with myself and other local County Councillors to help expedite this progress. However, to strengthen the evidence base around freight movements, officers are also progressing an internal business case to release s106 funding for traffic surveys at the Blackditch junction, which will help provide clearer data on how heavy vehicles are routing through the area. I will continue to monitor this and provide a further update once I have met with the Cabinet Member.

Vision Zero Road Safety Programme.

The County Council is progressing its review of rural speed limits as part of the Vision Zero road safety programme and is seeking feedback from parish councils on potential changes to speed limits on a number of rural roads, including the B4044 and B4017. The review is being carried out in accordance with current Department for Transport guidance and focuses primarily on improving safety for all road users, while also recognising potential benefits such as reduced traffic noise.

The current stakeholder consultation runs until 18th September 2026 and will be followed by a review of responses, before a formal public consultation later in 2026, and the implementation of any approved changes from mid-2027 onwards. Parish Councils are being encouraged to consider the proposals affecting their area and submit any additional comments or local evidence by the consultation deadline.

Electric Vehicle Charging information.

The County Council is seeking feedback from Parish Councils and residents to help identify suitable locations for new public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, as part of a countywide programme to install around 1,500 public charging bays by mid-2028. The programme will prioritise areas where residents do not have access to off-street parking and may include larger charging hubs in public car parks and smaller community charging hubs at locations such as village halls and community centres.

CC Roberts submitted a written report.

General OCC..

More than one council, including OCC, refused to accept Swindon being part of the Thames Valley Foundation Authority area. Tim Bearder, the leader of OCC, has sent a letter to Andy Burnham asking for his consideration that the Thames Valley Foundation Authority should be a geography of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. The government is still saying that a decision on Local Government Reorganisation for Oxfordshire will be known before the summer recess on the 17 July 2026.

The following three motions were all supported unanimously at the full council meeting on 30 June 2026.

Conservative – Improving Home adaptations for people living with Disabilities in Oxfordshire – OCC agrees to review how the Disabilities Facilities Grants can better support those who need it.

Green – Increased investment in climate adaption across Oxfordshire – to include more local, councillor-led action to build resilience to flooding and extreme heat.

Lib Dem – Support action to end dangerous pavement parking – asking for effective enforcement, local solutions and proper government funding to make it work.

Nobody could remember all motions being cross party accepted before.

Traffic and Highways

The plans to re-open Botley Road are still on track for the end of August 2026. The Facebook page is being kept up to date. They are now making changes to the road layout in front of the Westgate hotel but the cyclists are still waiting in a small space on the road by Mill Street. They will change the route onto the Southern side walkway when that is completed so that they can finish the re-fit of the Northern walkway, hopefully before the end of August but they are having to work 24/7 to achieve that deadline.

The works by Thames Water to replace the damaged water main to the City will continue until July 2026 with a one lane closure over Osney Bridge that should end in July 2026.

Library

The Botley library is operating as a warm/cool Space areas over the winter/summer

180/26 Reports from District Councillor(s).

DC Houghton submitted a written report.

Joint Local Plan

The second stage of public hearings for the Joint Local Plan takes place this week. These hearings are held in public and anyone can attend in person to watch at Abbey House. They will also be available to watch via livestream on the council's YouTube channel.

The dates and the topics covered are as follows:

Tuesday 7th July 2026, 9:30am – 5pm - Matter 1: Legal and Procedural and Matter 2: Maintaining Effective Cooperation.

Wednesday 8th July 2026, 9:30am – 5pm - Matter 5: Vision, Objectives, and Spatial Strategy.

Thursday 9th July 2026, 9:30am – 5pm - Matter 3: The Housing Target/Requirement.

New Director of Planning

Following the retirement of Adrian Duffield, we now have a new Director of Planning, Jeni Jackson. Jeni has nearly 30 years local authority experience and has come to us from Basingstoke and Deane Council, having previously worked in the London Boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Business Rates - Local Discretionary Relief Scheme

The Vale Cabinet at its meeting on 3rd of July approved the introduction of a local discretionary relief scheme for business rates on pubs and rural businesses. Exact details will be released once they are finalised.

181/26 Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies. None.

FINANCE

182/26 Quarter 1 financials.

- i. Council received and verified the bank reconciliations (quarter 1) as of 30 June 2026.
- ii. Council noted the quarterly accounts (budget and prior year reports) as of 30 June 2026.

CUMNOR PUBLIC PURPOSES CHARITY

183/26 Cumnor Hurst

Unit 2. Oliver Wright reported a sale document had been drafted by All Souls solicitors which raised a couple of issues regarding the water supply and fencing around the unit. The water supply needs to be available all year round but the charity would accept a proviso which allows for the water pipe to be diverted and a right to repair and stockproof both fences (there are two fences to prevent contagion between herds).

COUNCIL

184/26 Training.

Rob Knowles would be available to attend the OALC Councillor Forum on Wednesday 8 July 2026 at 6.30pm.

FINANCE

185/26 Grants.

Council resolved to approve the following grants.

- i. Friend of Botley School £500 (LGA 1972 s137).

186/26 Expenditure.

Council resolved to approve the following expenditure.

- i. £511.95 insurance adjustment following reinstatement cost assessments for Closes and Fogwell Road Pavilions.
- ii. £348.20 L Harris to repair the guttering of the brick bus shelter Cumnor Hill corner of Chawley Lane.
- iii. £150 L Harris to repair the guttering of the brick bus shelter Oxford Road, Farmoor.
- iv. £310 Tim Lights, Lightatouch to carry out the Independent Examination of the Cumnor Public Purposes Charity.

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

187/26 Ad-hoc grass cutting requests. None.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH

188/26 Regulation 14.

Council was reminded that the Regulation 14 consultation closes on Sunday 12 July 2026.

Councillors can respond as individuals and were encouraged to remind friends and family of the closing date.

The Clerk had received comments from 3 utility companies.

PLANNING

189/26 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 22 June 2026.

Received.

190/26 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council would submit the following observations to VWHDC Planning:

Table 3 List of planning application.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P26/V1628/S73	96 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9HY <i>Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on planning permission P24/V2480/FUL (Subdivision of land to rear and erection of detached dwelling and garage. Use of new access to Cumnor Hill allowed by application P23/V1945/HH. Provision of fire appliance turning space, associated landscaping and bin store.) - to omit detached garage, add rooflight to rear-facing roof slope and alterations to front fenestration and glazing and internal rearrangements.</i> Supports.
ii	P26/V1694/HH	Pinkhill House, Oxford Road, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4DA <i>Construction of a single-storey front and side extension, the addition of a front porch and associated alterations to fenestration at ground floor level.</i> Supports.
iii	P26/V1687/FUL	Wytham Woods, Wytham, Oxford OX2 8QQ <i>Replacement of existing elevated walkway for academic study purposes.</i> Supports.

191/26 Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development applications. Noted.

Table 4 Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use or Development applications.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P26/V1683/LDP	Rochester House, Eynsham Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NH <i>Certificate for a proposed Change of use from office use (Class E(g)(i)) to a day nursery/crèche E(f) with associated internal alterations</i>

192/26 Planning Inspectorate appeal decision. Noted.

Table 5 List of appeal decisions..

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	Appeal ref 6006499 P25/V1924/PIP	108 Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9HY <i>The development proposed is permission in principle for residential development of a two-storey 4-5 apartment dwelling with sloping driveway. Ground floor level roof top parking (covered and enclosed), bicycle shed and dustbin store.</i> Appeal dismissed.

193/26 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 of the meeting with Stuart Walker, Major Applications Team Leader, VWHDC held on Tuesday 16 June 2026. Chris Westcott updated council on a meeting held today. Chris Westcott would share the councils draft response to the Secretary of State on questions relating to ancient woodland and veteran trees, sky larks and bats, flooding, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Residents Visual Amenity Assessment with Stuart Walker.
- b. Community Benefits. Oliver Wright updated Council that the Steering Group had been informed by Phil Martin, CE, WODC that having produced a proposal that the Steering Group has approved the structure set out in the Heads of Terms would be adopted which means without the involvement of the Steering Group. This is extremely disappointing following two years of discussions. The Steering Group would respond requesting a meeting to discuss the proposal to see if a compromise can be met. Council agreed to write to Phil Martin supporting the Steering Groups request.

- c. Council had forwarded to Layla Moran MP a response from the Planning Inspectorate to councils questions about the process now underway.
- d. Council noted information received from Layla Moran MP and/or Calum Miller MP regarding their interactions with DESNZ.
- ii. **Red House farm 49.99Mwe solar power station.**
 - a. Council received the notes of the liaison meeting with VWHDC held on Tuesday 16 June 2026.
 - b. Councils response to appeal 6009163 had been submitted to the Secretary of State. Council is registered as an Interested Party at the 5 day public inquiry in October 2026.
- iii. **Thames Water – Farmoor Reservoir.**
 - a. Council noted Thames Water letter dated 12 June 2026.
- iv. **Proposed solar power stations and National Grid’s Farmoor substation.**
 - a. Council noted that details of the VWHDC screening opinion, National Grid’s referral to the Secretary of State and the HMG response can now be found on the VWHDC Planning portal at [P25/V1685/SCR](#)

FUTURE MEETINGS

194/26 To consider/approve any items for the next meeting’s agenda. None.

195/26 Next meeting.

The next meeting would be held **on Monday 3 August 2026 at 7.30pm in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

Further meetings would take place in **2026** on **Mondays** 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December and in **2027** 4 January, 1 February, 1 March and 5 April.

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on **Tuesday 4 May 2027 at 7.30pm in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed..... Date.....2026