

Old Stratford Parish Council

MINUTES - OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday 12th August 2025 held at the Memorial Hall Commencing 7.30pm

Present:

Mrs N Laurence (Clerk), Cllrs Mr T Pateman (chairman), Mr R Smith, Mrs N Gibbs, Mr L Hart, Mr M Fitch, Mr B Clayton, Mr M Kelk. District Councillors: I McCord, Members of the Public– None

Item	Subject	Action	Status
1	Apologies for Absence Mrs T Arthur (away) Mrs L Murgatroyd (commitment)		Noted
2	Councillor Vacancies Following the election (uncontested) one vacancy remains and must be filled by co-option	Clerk	FB & website
3	Members Declaration of Interest (for items on the agenda) 5a – Cllr Kelk		
4	Minutes for approval The minutes of the annual parish council meeting dated Tuesday 8 th July 2025 was signed as a true record. Resolved.	Chair	*Signed
5	Clerks Report		
5(a)	Parks Trust proposals update Meeting held between 3 representatives of the Parks Trust, District Councillors and OSPC Chairman and Clerk. Proposed that a public meeting be held in September at the community hall.	Clerk	Arrange public meeting in Sept
5(b)	Streetwatch update - volunteers undergoing vetting process.		
5(c)	Insurance policy updates Noted at July meeting that Clear Councils cover for personal accident appeared low, however on checking with insurer the cover aligns with the existing provision. A three year term was accepted on this basis.		
5(d)	Updates from questions to WNC Highways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30mph painted markers along Deanshanger Rd not permitted by regulations as they would constitute repeater signage which cannot be placed within a 30mph limit which is denoted by the presence of street lights. Bus stop markings possible next year – to request Towcester Rd, Deanshanger Rd nearest crossroads Advisory 20mph boards provided – to be installed in September Not possible to restrict HGVs using the bridge as MKCouncil not supportive of and impossible to enforce. Not possible to reduce speed limit over the bridge but could place advisory 20mph signs 	Clerk	Feedback to highways.
5(e)	WNC Local Plan draft Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Nothing noted as requiring comment.		
5(f)	Memorial Hall Electrical testing 2/4 supplier quoted for emergency lights and PAT testing Resolved to go with cheapest quote - £300		Resolved
5(g)	Defibrillator Servicing 2/4 suppliers – resolved to go with option to assess and quote		Resolved

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5(h)	Trial of Parish Online Mapping. 90 day free trial (expires 25/10/25). Renewal £150/yr. Use with location of Trees for Tree Survey, Mowing – verges etc, Asset mapping		Review and update
5(i)	Purchase of projector as one was requested for Parks Trust meeting (£41.99 + £4.70 for extension lead – expenses.) Resolved		Resolved
5(j)	Kick Fence in Oxfield Park Drive - Section by playground broken with exposed nails etc – replaced using clerks delegated authority whilst the section on the green (approved July) was being done		
5(k)	OSIB – Number of OSIB sponsors declining. Team requested a QR code that can be scanned for donations. Advised would need to be linked to a crowdfunding page and risk of fraud if on public display. Await OSIB feedback Sarah Bool MP will visit in September		
5(l)	Autumn Newsletter – contributions by 22 nd Sept		
6	<i>*Meeting Closed</i> Public Speaking Time No representation <i>*Meeting reopened</i>		
7	WNC Councillors Report Planning enforcement requested to look at archaeological dig in MK Parks Trust land WNC - Gritting route review in September. Check Parish has sufficient coverage along bus routes etc Lime bikes/scooters – geofence now altered to prevent them entering the village Proposed Potterspury / Yardley solar farm – OSPC should consider impact of cabling works on OS traffic		
8	To consider the following items:		
8(a)	To consider and approve OSIB spending requests for bulbs and compost and to approve plant supplier for fixed period OSIB would like to purchase dwarf bulbs for the barrier and half moon baskets this Autumn from J Parkers cost of £78.86 Request to purchase 20 bags peat free compost @ £8.86 at Odells Quote for planter for Towcester Rd (money earmarked in this years budget) - £470 incl delivery – 6 weeks lead time Following market review for winter planting (approved in July meeting), proposed that RS Barnwells be the preferred plant supplier until end of 2027/28 financial year as they offer best value in terms of the plants being mostly cheaper and more established (hardy) than those from other suppliers.		*Resolved *Resolved *Resolved *Resolved
8(b)	To approve design and quote for production of playground signage £300, including preparation of proof artwork. Three quotes obtained		*Resolved
9	Correspondence received since last meeting		
9(a)	Resident expressing concern re bus shelter roof Two quotes to remove roof -£750 / £850. Replacement shelters – living roof £12,319 incl installation or Glasdon £4000 no installation Concern expressed about removing roof for winter period. Proposed to look at sealant spray and budget for replacement next year	Cllr Hart	Advise sealant options

9(b)	"All about" community magazine. To be delivered in September		
9(c)	Letter from Sarah Bool, thanking for work we do, offering support and asking to contribute to newsletter.	Clerk	Send response
9(d)	Parish Path Warden – NG and TA volunteered earlier in the year. Still happy to be part		
9(e)	Church group – no longer meeting at the memorial hall – send thanks for the Parish Councils support.		
9(f)	Potential home buyer– land east of the meadows: Any new / relevant information? Parks trust proposal adjacent	Clerk	Send response
10	Planning		
10(a)	Applications received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025/2767/MAF- Proposed solar farm, associated infrastructure. Land near Yardley Gobion, West Northamptonshire, NN12 7TT (OSPC not a formal consultee) Write to WNC to ask to be official consultee. Proposed response to next meeting re traffic disruption for cabling,		
10(b)	Decision Notices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025/0348/FULL - Construction of a single storey garden room and erection of a garden machinery store shed, The Tithe Barns, Passenham Manor. REFUSED 2025/0349/LBC - Construction of a single storey garden room and erection of a garden machinery store shed, The Tithe Barns, Passenham Manor REFUSED 2025/2061/FULL – Single storey rear extension, 48 Chapmans Drive. APPROVED 2025/2363/FULL Loft conversion, 16 Oxfield Park Drive. APPROVED 		
10(c)	Enforcement / Appeals - None		
10(d)	Press Notices - None		
11	Finance		
11(a)	To Approve Current State of Finance and budgetary controls to date Current State of Finance at 1 st August 2025 Bank Accounts £ 68028.17 Earmarked Reserves: £ 60031.00 Available Capital: £ 52997.17 (inc £45000 unpaid precept) Proposed by Cllr Fitch and Seconded by Cllr.Kelk. Unanimous.		*Resolved
11(b)	To note Clerks pay increase backdated to April 25 in line with contractual agreement at SCP28 and to agree clerks salary to be set up as a standing order at 20 th of the month (as per contract) from September 25		*Resolved
11(c)	To Approve Accounts for Payment as scheduled below – totalling £6646.03) Proposed by Cllr Clayton and Seconded by Cllr Fitch. Unanimous.		*Resolved
12	Streetlighting None		
13	Highways Pothole in centre of crossroads – and Oxfield Park entrance. Continue to report via fix my street		
14	Councillor Project Updates Thanks to Cllr Hart for helping to mend the flagpole Fence belonging to Anglian water collapsing – report via rights of way team on Fix my street		

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	S106 funding identified for OS can be applied for - next agenda Furtho Pit - new info on flood relief on WNC portal as of 1 st August. Ncalc training on devolution -to be considered once direction known		
15	Items for Next Agenda To receive External Auditors Report Bus shelter proposals S106 Planning response.		

Payments Made since last meeting

Payee	Detail	Value
Yu Energy	Public lamps - unmetered supply 2000190121	595.52
Yu Energy	Public lamps - unmetered supply 2000190122	41.45
Yu Energy	Memorial Hall Gas 2000190113	8.89
Yu Energy	Memorial Hall Electricity 2000190112	33.75

Accounts for Payment

Payee	Detail	Value
N Laurence	Clerks Salary & expenses	1192.27
HMRC	PAYE	480.96
L Peach	Memorial Hall Cleaning	215.74
NJ Blackwell Garden Services	Mowing and OS Maintenance	2711.64
Shield Maintenance Ltd	Dog Bin emptying	208.00
Viking	Paper towels & ink cartridges	125.62
Axiomb2	OSIB planter watering May & June	702.00
Axiomb2	OSIB planter watering July	631.80
PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Auditing Fees	378.00
Nest	Clerks Pension	104.07

Meeting ended at 9:05 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 9th September 2025 commencing 7:30pm

Nicky Laurence, Clerk
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