

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of Council meeting on Thursday 29th January held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 2AE at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chair), Cllrs Andrew Bray, Andrew Pearson & Steve Harrison. Parish Clerk Julie Alden.

Members of the public: 12

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence.

Apologies from Sarah Royle.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 27th November 2025.

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising from that meeting not on the Agenda.

None.

5. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None.

6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors.

As attached.

Cllr DC noted that the decision to approve a 350 house development at Kilkenny Farm was not yet on the website but has been approved. It was noted that this development was in the proposed route for the Carterton/Oxford railway. Crest Homes are actively putting detailed plans together for developments to the west of Carterton. The proposed Foxbury Garden development was also discussed. Rosie Pearson said that 47% of all developments in the Carterton area would be in Brize Norton Parish. Shilton parish council will continue to engage with other town and parish councils to mitigate the effects of the proposed developments. Strong objections to the Crest Developments are called for.

Policy and Finance

7. Finance update – to review and approve finance update. A detailed income and expenditure statement was provided to councillors. The council has incurred large than anticipated expenditure in the year. The pond was desilted twice in the year and £2,800 was spent on trees around the pond.

The precept for next year has been increased in order to cover the legal costs anticipated for the proposed extension of the 30 MPH limit through the dip. It is hoped that the OCC Vision Zero scheme might be persuaded to adopt the proposal and cover the costs. Some opposition to paying the council paying for the scheme was expressed from the public.

8. Payments and receipts – to review and approve current payments and note receipts.

Approved.

Planning

9. To comment on any planning applications received before the date of the meeting.

None outstanding.

10. Update on previous planning applications.

See above. Cllr DC is trying to be as involved as much as possible by lining up with other parish councils in opposition to the Carterton West proposal for 1,000 houses.

Other matters

11. Grass cutting contract.

Matthew is staying in Australia until at least April, so we will need to go out and get quotes for the grass cutting.

12. Flood defence and maintenance of the pond and bridge.

Not a lot has happened – Cllr AP has been trying to engage the Highways department over the 2 bridges, with little success. He has contacted 20 universities, with a view to making the village a hydrology case study. The section 19 report on the flooding last year is expected in February. Discussion took place about the possibility of the community financing alterations and improvements to Packhorse Bridge, as it seems that it is unlikely that OCC funds will be made available.

13. Highways.

We have done well with tree planting season, with dead trees replaced along Alvescot Rd. This was done by volunteers, planting Woodland Trust trees. Everyone is aware of the perilous state of the county's roads. In particular several cars have been damaged in Stonelands.

A second fly tipping officer has been appointed by WODC.

Cllr SH said that there was a big clean up around the war memorial and thanked everyone who took part.

Cllr AB said that the next litter picking session is coming up on 28th February. Cllr DC reminded people that they now need to book to go to the council dumps. Cllr AB that David Wingate is a footpath warden for our area and Cllr AB will pass on any reports of issues.

14. Opportunity for the public to speak – to provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders, this will not exceed 15 minutes in total and 5 minutes per person.

John Coghlan noted that there was a sign regarding track and pony racing near the Farmer's Dog. This is to publicise the recent council decision to ban pony racing on the A40 dual carriageway that has taken place in recent years.

Alex Postan asked about the bench on School bank that has been removed. Cllr Bray said that this was going to be replaced shortly with a more appropriate bench for the setting.

The meeting ended at 20.29