

Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of Council meeting on Thursday 28th August 2025 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm

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

Members of the public: 16

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence.

Apology from Nick Field-Johnson.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 26th May 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.

District Councillor Rosie Pearson's report is attached. A discussion took place about the forthcoming introduction of Unitary Councils in Oxfordshire. It is not yet clear what the final solution will be but it will result in the closure of West Oxford District Council as a separate body. Government is forcing this through and there seems no possibility of stopping the process.

Policy and Finance

7. Finance update – to review and approve finance update.

Some money was spent on the pond, making more space for when it rains. John Colson offered to do this next time. Cllr DC noted that it was unusual to do this at this time of year but the dirt etc was more exposed and accessible, and a smaller digger was used. We are solvent and more money will come in September via the precept. The budget will be set at the next meeting.

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

Reviewed and approved.

Planning

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

None.

10. Update on previous planning applications.

Steve Harrison's application has gone to appeal. Anne Rawlings appeal has been dismissed. We didn't comment on the Wood Store application.

11. Carterton/Brize Norton planning.

There have been a series of meetings about 2 big developments around North Carterton, and more are taking place throughout September. The proposal is for 6000 new houses over the next 10 years. The District Council are continuing to work on the new local plan to 2043 which will include a list of preferred site options for new development. In total West Oxfordshire will have to accommodate 18,000 new homes in the plan period.

Highways, flooding & village maintenance

12. Highways.

Cllr AP noted that there were a number of issues to raise with the new engagement officer, and a meeting has been scheduled for 2nd September at 2pm with Cllrs DC, AP, SH and Rosie Pearson attending. The dip is a high-risk junction and there have been a couple of accidents over the last few months. Traffic calming measures are being considered and as a first step a traffic survey will be undertaken. Cotswold Wildlife Park traffic remains a nightmare for residents of Bradwell Village and Shilton. Bradwell village residents reported that the park is letting cars in earlier, which has made a bit of a difference. Cllr SH said that the CWP traffic along Hen N Chick Lane is a serious issue, and the traffic flow could be alleviated by allowing people to park, then pay. Paul Hedges asked if we could have road markings at junctions repainted. Alex Postan noted that Stonelands could end up as a failed road.

13. Ridge report

Cllr AP had two subsequent meetings with Ridge since the last Parish Council meeting to review their report and identify further steps. The cost of full survey and hydrology data modelling is very expensive – around £40,000. The data would clarify options but would not reduce our flood risk, so would be a poor use of resources. Flow gauges to monitor water levels and send text alerts would cost around £7,000. Alex Postan noted that there are EA text alerts already. The Environment Agency Hydrology Data Explorer website tracks water levels across the country using similar technology. Chris Bourton asked if anyone was monitoring this now, as there is a manhole cover in the field with an aerial attached to it: not known.

John Colson asked about the water levels, which are bone dry between Bridge House and Willow Cottage. Cllr Dc said a meeting has been arranged with the new residents of Field House to discuss how best to manage the Shill past their property. Cllr AP said that digging a channel/ground trench behind the Bourton's property would be sensible and could be done by us. Designing a culvert across Bridge Street would also be more straightforward than any work on Sheep bridge, which would be complicated and expensive. Exploring other, more straightforward options first seems best. Advice was also to focus upstream on storage of the bunds. It was suggested by Ridge that the bund tops might be reinforced with timber, grass reinforcement blocks, anti-erosion mats, as solutions having minimal visual impact.

14. Grass cutting.

Nothing to report on.

15. Pond clearance.

There is no flow at the moment but it has been cleared of silt.

16. Conservation.

No new updates on conservation.

Other matters

17. 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.

Alex Postan mentioned that 15 years ago a tulip tree was planted, presented by Carterton Links. It is currently surrounded by brambles and needs freeing. It will be flowering in a few years. It is located near the old park and road on the triangle. Cllr DC said that the Manor Road work had been done and that he will get someone to do this. Someone asked if there is a WhatsApp group for the village. Cllr AP said that there was and that people could be added.

The meeting ended at 8.29.