

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7:30pm at St Peter and St Pauls Church, Deddington on Wednesday 17 December 2025.

Present: Cllrs M Robinson (Chair), M Cox, D Mobbs, H Oldfield, S O'Neill, E Palin, D Rogers, C Snashall, M Swadling and T Timms **Also, present:** County Cllr G Epps, the Clerk, 3 members of the public, and a Deddington News Representative.

228/25	Apologies: Cllrs N ap Simon and J Watts.
229/25	Declarations of Interest General Interest: Cllr S O'Neill 237/25 Finance and General Purposes item f) library funding. Cllr D Rogers 241/25 Planning Report, all items, as is on the CDC Planning Committee.
230/25	Minutes: Cllr M Robinson proposed, Cllr C Snashall seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous by those in attendance) that the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 November 2025 were a true record of the meeting, subject to the following changes: 209/25 Large Scale Development item a) <i>Clifton Gate – Auction of affordable houses</i> , to be amended to state that the County Cllr was reasonably confident that the works would be carried out; 219/25 item f) <i>Consideration of 'Movement and Places Plan: Bicester and Mid-Cherwell' plan</i> , to be amended to highlight that a lot of money would be required for the initial purchase of the cars for a car club proposal; 227/25 <i>Staff Matters</i> , to be amended to include the following text 'Discussion of resignation of Assistant Clerk. More information required in order to bring back to the December meeting'.
231/25	Matters arising from the minutes and not referred to later on the agenda: None.
232/25	Large Scale Developments Working Group report. To consider resident's input regarding small scale solar farm. Proposal for a solar farm on the East side of the Banbury Road, South of Deddington. The site is in line of cherished view 11C 'Chapmans Lane South towards North Aston' listen in the Neighbourhood Plan. Development proposals that would have an unacceptable detrimental impact on the integrity of the identified key views would not be supported. It was noted that whilst the proposed site is located within this area, it is concealed by the brow of the hill and trees, and therefore does not impact on the cherished view. Cllr H Oldfield proposed, Cllr C Snashall seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (5 for, 3 abstentions, 2 against) to agree in principle to support the solar farm project, as the Council have determined that it does not materially impact the Neighbourhood Plan.
233/25	10 Minute Open Forum: None.
234/25	County Cllr G Epps update: Written report received. See 245/25.
235/25	District Cllr D Rogers update: Written report received: a) New Homes Bonus has ended, as anticipated; b) the Environment Agency is dealing with the huge illegal fly tipping at Kidlington; c) CDC has the ability to double charge council tax on second homes. Cllr D Rogers confirmed that a decision regarding this has not yet been made by CDC. Discussion regarding primary care, and the economic difficulties of building branch surgeries.
236/25	Environment and Recreation Working Group. a) Grass and hedge cutting contracts. Cllr D Rogers proposed, Cllr H Oldfield seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to proceed with the Clerk's recommendation regarding grass and hedge cutting contracts, at a cost of up to £50,000 over the next three years. b) Lookout. Is now open and in use. The floor is de-laminating. Has been referred on to project manager. Suggestion that the disabled access be stained. The bill is less than is quoted and is less than the amount to be approved, meaning there is wiggle room for extra work to be done.
237/25	Finance and General Purposes. a) To sign off Internal Control Checklist – November 2025. b) Lookout. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr D Rogers seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to amend the August 2025 minutes to include the appointment of a contractor for the Lookout work at a cost of up to £11,000 c) To consider the new copier options. Updated costs to be brought back to the January meeting. d) To consider the grass tender and appoint contractor(s) up to £50,000 over the next three years. See 236/25 Environment and Recreation Working Group, item a) Grass and hedge cutting contracts. e) Tree Survey. Require these to be undertaken formally for safety and insurance purposes. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr D Rogers seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to approve costs of up to £500 +VAT for a tree survey.

	<p>f) Library funding. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr D Mobbs seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (8 for, 2 abstentions) to approve in principle a one-off expenditure of £2,440.80 for library funding. Formal vote to be held next month due to incorrect figure on the agenda. Cllr H Oldfield expressed a keenness to look further into the use of S106 money for the library.</p> <p>g) Mowers servicing. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr T Timms seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to service the mowers at a cost of up to £400.</p> <p>h) To approve the budget for 2026/2027. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr H Oldfield seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) to approve the budget for 2026/2027 of £110,884.</p> <p>i) To approve the precept for 2026/2027. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) to approve the precept for 2026/27 of £83,748.</p> <p>j) Christmas tree. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to thank all involved in the installation of the Christmas Tree and the management of Darke & Taylor for providing their services free of charge for the installation of the lighting.</p> <p>k) Arnold Baker Local Council Administration. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr S O'Neill seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) to purchase new Arnold Baker Local Council Administration at a cost of up to £150 (via SLCC).</p> <p>l) 'No parking' cones. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr T Timms seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to purchase 12 'No parking' cones at a cost of £120 + VAT.</p> <p>m) To consider the Church clock maintenance up to £200 + VAT. To be discussed at January meeting.</p> <p>n) Dog bin QR codes. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr E Palin seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 against) to purchase QR code stickers for dog bins up to a cost of £80.</p> <p>o) Battery at Windmill. Progressing as expected.</p> <p>p) To consider the Allotment Society request to fund their banking up to £50 per annum. Previously requested that alternative banks should be explored. Will await information on this prior to considering the request.</p>
238/25	<p>To confirm Policies for review:</p> <p>a) Health and Safety. To be discussed at January meeting.</p>
239/25	<p>Approval of invoices: Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) that the November invoices with a total of £11,326.05 be approved for payment. £9,280.00 monies were received.</p>
240/25	<p>Report upon the investment of the Council's funds as at 30 November – next month.</p>
241/25	<p>Planning Report.</p> <p>Applications</p> <p>a) 25/03149/F The Orchard, Main Street, Clifton. Rear extension – replace conservatory with new orangery. Cllr S O'Neill proposed, Cllr M Swadling seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) no objection.</p> <p>b) 25/03160/LB Crown & Tuns Flat, New Street, Deddington. Plaster replacement, ceiling repair reinstate stud wall. Cllr S O'Neill proposed, Cllr M Swadling seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) no objection.</p>
242/25	<p>Large Scale Developments Working Group report.</p> <p>a) To consider resident's input regarding small scale solar farm. See Item 232/25.</p> <p>b) Land north of the Fire Station. The Council expressed thanks to the Fuller family for their generosity giving the nursery and car park to the Parish at a cost to themselves. Was noted that the Council need to be vigilant that the new owners of the land honour their commitments to the Parish, and that the district and county councils provide the backing and planning expertise needed to ensure that it goes according to plan. A meeting has been held with the nursery managers regarding the future building and suggested rent. Discussion regarding VAT in the context of <i>de minimis</i> rent. Was noted that VAT advice would be needed prior to entering into an agreement. The Nursery Managers have assured the Council that they would be able to maintain the building.</p>
243/25	<p>Highways and Transport.</p> <p>a) Air pollution. Clerk to chase the air pollution data. Cllr M Cox to find a contact for this.</p> <p>b) Gates – Clifton Road. Reply received from OCC, who appear to be willing to support the moving of the boundary and the speed restriction sign. Request for approved budget of £1400 to come out of revenue reserves. Agenda item for the January meeting.</p>

	<p>c) Farmers' Market parking. Need to wait and see whether the actions taken will help the situation. OCC to be asked for a bollard at Cyclogical entrance.</p> <p>d) Tree planting. Form to fill in – 16 trees to be felled, will receive 32 in their place.</p> <p>e) CAST. Their latest report to be sent to OCC, via DPC. DPC not to make comments on the document, despite some reservations. Cllr H Oldfield proposed, Cllr D Mobbs seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) that Cllr H Oldfield send in the document provided by CAST to OCC, without comment from DPC.</p> <p>f) Highways Asset Response Team (HART). Thanks extended to those who have supported this.</p>
244/25	Emergency and Resilience report. Cllr T Timms to purchase the shovels. Emergency planning meeting to be held on 14 January.
245/25	County Cllr G Epps update: Written report received: a) OCC has received significant cuts to funds from central government; b) discussion regarding the Fire Service consultation which is open for another month. One of the options being considered is to close 2/3 fire stations. Retained firefighting model – response rates for some fire stations have fallen to as low as 13%. Therefore, a review of overall capability is being undertaken. Cllrs encouraged to fill out the consultation. Cllr G Epps encouraging OCC to provide some public support for Friends of Library groups. Meeting to be held with County Cllr G Epps, and Cllrs H Oldfield and S O'Neill regarding S106 funds for the library.
246/25	Items for information. None.
247/25	Update from the Parish Council Representatives. None.
248/25	Date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 21 January 2026 at 7:30pm in the Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, Deddington. Meeting closed at 9:20pm
249/25	Exclusion of the Public and the Press: because the nature of the business to be transacted is sensitive the public and press be temporarily excluded from the meeting (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 1) Staff matters Role of Assistant Clerk is to be offered for a period of six months subject to satisfactory references 2) High Sheriff. The person discussed would be nominated, this had been previously agreed. 3) Allotment Rent. It was agreed that rent would not be charged for one former resident. and 4) Future PC considerations. These were discussed but no action to be taken