

DEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7:30pm in the Old School Room, Hempton, on Wednesday 19 March 2025.

Present: Cllrs H Oldfield (Chair), N ap Simon, M Cox, N Mylne, S O'Neill, M Robinson, N Smith, C Snashall, M Swadling and T Timms **Also, present:** County Cllr A Fatemian, Cherwell District Cllr D Rogers, 5 members of the public, and a Deddington News Representative.

36/25	Apologies: Cllrs A Collins, J Norton and J Watts.
37/25	Declarations of Interest: None.
38/25	Minutes: Cllr M Swadling proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous by those in attendance) that the minutes of the meeting held on the 19 February 2025 were a true record of the meeting.
39/25	Matters arising from the minutes and not referred to later on the agenda: None.
40/25	10 Minute Open Forum: A Deddington resident addressed the Council regarding agenda item 45/25 Finance and General Purposes item p) Friends of Castle Grounds – goal post and badger path. The resident was concerned about the amount of dog mess at Castle Grounds, and the health hazard should children be encouraged to use the space by the purchase of new goal posts. Plenty of dog bins available on the site, but concern that people are not even trying to clean up after their dogs. The resident also expressed concern regarding dog mess at the cemetery and other public areas around the Parish.
41/25	County Cllr A Fatemian update: Written report received.
42/25	District Cllr D Rogers update: Written report received.
43/25	Highways and Transport report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hempton traffic calming. OCC have informed the council that a meeting to determine where the remaining USAF money will be spent will take place next month. Permission has been given to the Council to view the results of pneumatic strips, assessing traffic flow. A letter had been received from a Hempton resident expressing their disappointment regarding the delays for the proposed Hempton traffic calming measures. This had been forwarded to OCC alongside a letter from the Council expressing frustration that the traffic calming measures have been delayed, and the wish that traffic calming in the village should be taken forward even if it can't be funded from this year's budget and the USAF money. Three Hempton residents addressed the Council about the proposed traffic calming scheme. One expressed concern that the proposed measures, in particular the build-out on the east edge of Hempton, may be counterproductive, causing gridlock and accidents with vehicles on the wrong side of the road; a second resident supported a build-out on the west side of the village; the third emphasised the potential for a serious accident at the pinch point. The Hempton residents were encouraged to contact OCC Highways to share their opinions. Data gathered during the trial of a temporary build-out will also be helpful to inform further decision making. b) Fardon Way, Clifton Gate. Cllr H Oldfield wrote to CDC regarding unfinished road works. Response received, which stated that it is being put in the hands of CDC's legal officers. c) Clifton CAST (Clifton Against Speeding Traffic) group. The PC's Highways & Transport working group met Peter Barrett from CAST. He was advised that the H&T group cannot support the group's traffic-calming proposals as they don't have the technical or engineering expertise to make an informed decision. That is the role of OCC professionals. Asked that if the CAST group organise a meeting with OCC, a member of the H&T working group should be invited. OCC say there is no funding for this year but they are still putting a wish list together for next year. If there is funding, they will speak to the CAST group and DPC. d) Clifton – pneumatic strip results. Received and discussed in Council. e) Community speed watch. Now have 17 volunteer operators. Still waiting for roadside training. Suitable sites on the New Street end of the village have been identified which comply with community speed watch Thames Valley Police regulations. f) Build-out – Hempton Road alongside Hempton Gate. Resident complaint due to the absence of an advanced warning sign. Passed on to OCC. g) The Grange – lighting. Deddington Grange resident asked who would be responsible for their street lighting. OCC appear to have no record or plan of this development – according to the Road Agreements team it is designated a private road and the lighting would therefore not be adopted by OCC. Information to be passed on to The Grange resident management group. h) FIX my Street. Loose kerb stone in Wimborn Close.

	<p>i) Communication from resident regarding a near miss in Tays Gate with a child from the primary school. Resident is requesting that both parents and children are reminded of the importance of road safety.</p>
44/25	<p>Environment and Recreation report.</p> <p>a) Ideas for teens. Suggestion that DPC look into removing the sides of the Lookout, retaining the corner pillars and roof, with this becoming the teen hangout. Cllr N Smith has asked a local builder for a view on feasibility and cost.</p> <p>b) Wimborn and Welford play area update. Outdoor Play have completed upgrades to both sites. Invoices received and match the quotes – contingency on each project has not been touched. Contractor TGM laying path between Hempton Gate and Wimborn Close. One item not on spec is a dropped curb. The Council agreed in principle to add a dropped curb at a cost of up to £500.</p> <p>c) 'No Bikes' signs. Cllr N Smith suggested an alternative that, over the next month, the E&R working group work up a plan that defines the nature, volume and frequency of bike usage in the copse and proposes a management regime for controlling the risk. The Council can then decide whether they believe it provides a reasonable response to mitigating any risk. Cllr M Robinson proposed, Cllr Oldfield seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) to purchase 'no bikes' signs to put up in the children's playgrounds. Concern expressed by Cllr M Robinson and the Clerk regarding insurance cover for the informal BMX track in the copse. Duty of care for any people on Parish Council land. Advice from RoSPA is that bikes should not be allowed in a shared space. Cllr M Robinson proposed to put up signs banning bikes in the copse and woodland trail. No seconder so the motion FELL.</p> <p>d) Mini tennis finishing off and Tennis Club. Discussion regarding the possibility of monetising the mini tennis courts, which are unique in the area. One option is to allow coaches to use them for junior coaching. Another option is to market the use of the courts for Touch Tennis. Consideration of VAT needed. Majority of access will remain open and free.</p> <p>e) Windmill Management Committee and the Mini Tennis Courts agreement. Suggestion that the WMC could keep the courts clear of fallen leaves, with their own leaf blower.</p> <p>f) Wassail event at Clifton orchard. Event to be organised by the Clifton Community Orchard Group, not a DPC event. Cllr N Smith has offered to add to the DEN insurance. Cllr M Robinson proposed, Cllr C Snashall seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to give permission for use of the Clifton orchard for a wassail event, subject to appropriate insurance.</p> <p>g) Play equipment servicing. Outdoor Play have fitted new bearings and rollers to the aerial skate, but it is still sticking badly in the middle. Outdoor Play quoted £400 for this work. Not yet invoiced until the problem is established. No progress on quote from TGM regarding slide mound. Suggestion to cover it in astroturf. More research needed.</p>
45/25	<p>Finance and General Purposes.</p> <p>a) To sign off Internal control checklist – February 2025.</p> <p>b) Mini tennis area benches. Location of benches to be brought back to next month's meeting. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr N Mylne seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to purchase two benches for outside the Mini tennis area, at a cost of £250 per bench, meaning a total of £500 +VAT. This money should come out of S106.</p> <p>c) Four Farms Run. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr N Smith seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to approve the Four Farms Run (Sunday 18 May 2025). English Heritage have requested a stall at the event.</p> <p>County Cllr A Fatemian entered the meeting.</p> <p>d) To update on library funding. Update to be provided at next meeting.</p> <p>e) 80th Anniversary of VE Day. Events in Deddington – 10am May 8th on village green including children from the primary school, and a piper. Cllrs encouraged to attend, and volunteers requested to help with the road closure. Bonfire – landowner and tenants have agreed it can go ahead, and wooden pallets have been sourced for burning. Official lighting at 9:30pm, with arrivals from 9pm. Parties being held in Hempton and Clifton at the weekend. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr T Timms seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to approve arrangement of a skip at a cost of £300 +VAT.</p> <p>f) Windmill Management Committee report on the Future of the Lookout. See 44/25 Environment and Recreation report item a) Ideas for teens.</p> <p>g) OCC priority action flood projects 12025/26. Has money attached to it but no staffing or management. Concern that DPC would need to manage it, so only worth applying for funding if someone is willing to undertake this task. Potential for concerned residents to take on this management. Residents known to the council to have concerns with flooding to be informed of this project.</p>

	<p>h) CCTV maintenance contract. See 45/25 Finance and General Purposes item n) CCTV maintenance premium confirmed at £422.</p> <p>i) Aero skate refit. See 44/25 Environment and Recreation report item g) Play equipment servicing.</p> <p>j) Frog replacement. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr N Smith seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to approve frog replacement at a cost of £380 +VAT.</p> <p>k) Parish newsletter. Newsletter was well received previously. To be sent in late May/early June. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr T Timms seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to send a parish newsletter, at a cost of approximately £120. Volunteers will be requested to help distribute it amongst the Parish.</p> <p>l) Meet the Councillors session – Cllr N Smith. Event held in the Grange a few years ago. Suggestion that it might be good to hold another session to increase visibility, and encourage future council members. Suggested a quarterly event – maybe in a pub/at the Farmers Market. Provides opportunity to engage informally with parishioners. Suggestions of date/time/place to be brought to next month’s meeting. County Cllr A Fatemian reported that Adderbury hold a once-a-month session, at a set place and time each month, and councillors take it in turns to attend. Need to have somewhere private for conversations if needed. Cllr S O’Neill flagged that the office at the library is now available to hire.</p> <p>m) Market Community Hub and events listing, and proposals for recruiting new councillors – Cllr N Smith. Hospitality hub has been present at the Market. This is going to become the community hub, to enable any community groups to come together, and to share their activities with market attendees. Possibility for Cllrs to be part of this.</p> <p>n) CCTV maintenance. The premium confirmed at £422.</p> <p>o) Friends of Castle Grounds – tree planting. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr H Oldfield seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to approve the Friends of Castle Grounds request for permission to plant native trees to replace ones felled in recent years.</p> <p>p) Friends of Castle Grounds – goal post and badger path. Historic England wanted their contractor to do the badger path work, but the contractor has now gone out of business. No other contractor has been suggested. DPC to state that since have heard nothing further, will proceed and amend the badger path unless receive further suggestion from Historic England in the next fortnight. Can then claim the money on S106. Goal posts – concern that they are dangerous to leave due to height. Clerk to ask RoSPA their position on these.</p> <p>q) Welford’s Piece fencing. Fencing not compliant with RoSPA has been removed from Welford’s Piece. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to allow the sale of the fencing removed from Welford’s Piece.</p> <p>County Cllr A Fatemian and Cherwell district Cllr D Rogers left the meeting.</p> <p>r) Thanking members/groups of the community. Cllr H Oldfield proposed, Cllr N Mylne seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to write letters of thanks to Richard Spencer for repairing a wall at Castle Grounds, Mark Humphries for putting out the cemetery bins, and Richard Broadbent for his work as project manager.</p>
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46/25	<p>Review of policy documents.</p> <p>a) Financial Regulations – noting changes to 5.4, 5.6 and 5.10. Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr M Swadling seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to accept the Financial Regulations policy document.</p> <p>b) Code of Conduct. Cllr H Oldfield proposed, Cllr N Mylne seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) to accept the Code of Conduct policy document, subject to an amendment to the definition of co-opted members to remove the second half which references members of committees or sub-committees.</p> <p>c) Equality and Diversity. Cllr H Oldfield proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) to accept the Equality and Diversity policy document.</p> <p>d) Complaints procedure. Cllr H Oldfield proposed, Cllr M Robinson seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (9 for, 1 abstention) to accept the Complaints Procedure policy.</p>
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47/25	<p>Approval of invoices: Cllr C Snashall proposed, Cllr N Mylne seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) that the invoices totalling £73,819.37 be approved for payment. £39,487.65 monies were received.</p>
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48/25	<p>Report upon the investment of the Council’s Funds as at 28 February 2025.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Account</th> <th>Balance</th> <th>Interest</th> <th>Notice</th> <th>Matures</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Current</td> <td>124,516.44</td> <td></td> <td>Current</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imprest</td> <td>8,665.15</td> <td></td> <td>Imprest</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Account	Balance	Interest	Notice	Matures	Current	124,516.44		Current		Imprest	8,665.15		Imprest	
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	<p>Unity Trust Bank 173.93 Current</p> <p>Unity Trust Bank 43,414.69 2.60% Savings *6 May rate reducing to 2.25%</p> <p>Redwood Bank 90,420.26 3.75% 95 Day Notice Opened Aug 2019</p> <p>Cambridge and Counties 85,000.00 5.21% 1-year fixed deposit 14 August 2025</p> <p>United Trust Bank 85,000.00 5.01% 1-year fixed deposit 23 May 2025</p> <p>Skipton Building Society 92,593.74 4.40% 1-year fixed deposit 27 May 2025</p> <p>Total</p>
49/25	<p>Planning report.</p> <p>Applications</p> <p>a) 25/00548/PC 3 Castle Eng, Castle Street, Deddington. Tree works. Cllr S O'Neill proposed, Cllr M Swadling seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) no objection.</p> <p>b) 25/00388/LB Plough House, New Street, Deddington. Addition of bathroom to existing lean-to extension and associated works. Addition of access from the main building and to brick up the existing access from the garden. Cllr S O'Neill proposed, Cllr N Smith seconded the motion and the Council RESOLVED (unanimous) no objection, but would defer to the conservation officer re the LB aspect of the application.</p> <p>Approvals</p> <p>25/00307/TCA Castle Antiques, Berwick House, New Street, Deddington.</p> <p>24/01946/F Mayfield, Earls Lane, Deddington.</p> <p>25/00126/LB The Stile House, New Street, Deddington.</p> <p>Appeals</p> <p>East Of Combe Cottage and South of St Johns Way, Hempton. Appeal date of 20th May 2025 agreed.</p>
50/25	<p>Large Scale Developments Working Group report.</p> <p>Letter sent to all councillor members of CDC planning committee and officers emphasising the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan. CDC is in danger of being designated 'underperforming' in so far as approving major planning applications is concerned. May make neighbourhood plan more fragile.</p>
51/25	<p>Neighbourhood Planning.</p> <p>The Deddington NDP to be put forward for an award for Homer O'Neill consultants.</p>
52/25	<p>Items for information. None.</p>
53/25	<p>Update from the Parish Council Representatives.</p> <p>Cherwell sustainability meeting – report for next month's meeting.</p>
54/25	<p>Date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting will take place on 16 April 2025 at 7:30pm in the Hempton Lounge, Windmill Centre, Deddington. Meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p>
55/25	<p>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. The Clerk informed the Council that the remaining annual leave at year end to be either carried forward, paid or a combination of the two.</p>