

**CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on**  
**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025, hosted at Culham Village Nursery School**

<b>Attendees – Councillors:</b>	<b>Apologies noted:</b>
Chris Pritchard (CP) CHAIR	Siobhan Sargeant (SS)
Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR) Parrish Councillor and District Councillor	Robin Jones (RJ) County Councillor
Nacho Gimenez (NG)	
Caroline Baird (CB)	
Mike Richmond-Cooper (MRC)	
<b>Members of the public:</b>	<b>In Attendance:</b>
5	Denise Corney – Clerk

The meeting opened at 7.30pm

<b>1</b>	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Quorate</b>                  The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. The meeting was Quorate.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest</b>                  None for this meeting.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Public Participation</b>                  Five members of the public were in attendance. Residents of Thame Lane brought to attention their concerns with aspects of the recent Europa School planning proposal.                  Councillors RESOLVED to write a letter to the school asking to engage with the neighbours in Thame Lane to address their concerns.                  The position is not against what the school is doing but how this is being done, with the hope that the school can adapt the project to mitigate concerns. These concerns are mostly with respect to the installation of flood lights, direct line of sight from the houses to the new building windows and the impact in safety in the area. Other questions remain with respect to impact in wildlife, increased noise levels and traffic.                  A resident proposed the need for a safer route for pupils of Europa school instead of walking along the pavement by the A415 into school. The proposed path would be inside the boundary of the school alongside the hedge/line with a new gate and surface laid. The Clerk requested a copy of the proposal and suggested that fundraising could be carried out with parents and to set up a working group. The Clerk would also investigate the possibility of a small contribution from grant funding.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Report from SODC Councillor – Sam Casey-Rerhaye</b>                  The report is appended to these minutes and uploaded to the Parish Council website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Joint Local Plan has been recommended to be withdrawn by the government inspectors.</li> <li>• Food and Warmth Grant, previously known as the Household Support Fund, is now open for applications to help residents who are struggling with the cost-of-living pressures</li> <li>• Cornerstone Arts Centre invites you to embrace the “eerie” this November with two spine-tingling performances</li> </ul>

5

**Report from County Councillor – Cllr Robin Jones**  
**CEO & Directors of Oxfordshire County Council Visit to Divisions:**

- September 8<sup>th</sup>. With my Green Party colleagues from Wallingford, (James Barlow), and Benson (Gavin McLaughlan) we arranged a visit to our area by Martin Reeves (CEO), Lorna Baxter (CFO) and Karen Fuller (Director of Adult Social Care). Our timetable aimed to demonstrate the reality on the ground of issues such as road and junction safety, lack of active travel provision, school and creche inadequacies, flooding, HIF1 road and gravel extraction impacts, etc. We are immensely grateful to all the residents who gave up their time to meet the officers and explain these local issues. We hope the briefings prove worthwhile as we grapple with these issues henceforth.

**Motion on Gaza**

- September 9<sup>th</sup>: Full County Council meeting. The motion of ‘one’ opposition party payment as opposed to the current payments to ‘two’ equal oppositions, hastily formed after the elections in May, was brought, this time by the Lib Dems and voted in, although it was considerably watered down from the original motion we brought in June. Our motion this time was to write to the Oxfordshire MP’s and the Police and Crime Commissioner about the use of Oxfordshire Air Bases and Military Training Centres by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF). Although we had a lot of support, the motion fell. The feeling was that the wrong question had been asked (only because we hadn’t been allowed to ask the question we wanted!). As the next tier of government down from national politicians it felt essential for us to signal to Westminster the mass disgust over Israel’s prosecution of their response to October 2023.

**Councillor Priority Fund**

- This grant fund is now open until the end of November 2026. I have £10k to award over two years. Individuals are not eligible, only groups with a committee and a constitution (or rules governing their operation). The application must demonstrate community benefit. Applications can only be made online through: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund)

**A4074 Layout**

- After concerted efforts with Thames Valley Police, H café owners, and local councillors, the road markings on the A4074 on the Berinsfield to Shillingford section, have at long last been re-drawn by Oxfordshire County Council Highways team during the recent re-surfacing. The extensive area between lines in the middle of the road which encouraged disastrous speeding and overtaking has been drastically reduced. We hope the accidents and deaths are too – in line with OCC’s Vision Zero strategy.

**The Future of Rail.**

- OxRail 2040. The Council’s consultation about the future strategy options for rail in Oxfordshire closed on October 1<sup>st</sup> but details for anyone interested in this vital transport option can find more at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/railplan> There will no doubt be more discussion and engagement once plans are defined and those with issues of concern can talk to me.

A full report can be found on the Culham Parish Council website and is appended to these minutes.

**Clerk’s Report and Financial Update:**

**Finance:** –Unity Trust Bank: Instant Access **£41,079.09** Current: **£1,166.50** - **6<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Budget Variation- no major differences during September.

Final signed external audit report received from Moore and is now uploaded to the website.

**Recommendation of Purchase Card from Unity Trust Bank** – I resent information requested and am awaiting a response. (chasing on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025). Direct debit signatures required for final processing – in progress.

**Diocese of Oxford and Community Orchard.** I have written to the lawyers to advise them to

	<p>include the community orchard in the renewed lease. I also queried if the lease could be extended to 30 years. I will follow up again. Update – Wellers acknowledged and are progressing with query for 30 years lease.</p> <p><b>The Green</b> – No further updates, being progressed with Adkins.</p> <p><b>Emergency Plan</b> – I have circulated a draft template to Councillors for their input and finalising at November meeting. <b>Clerk to upload into the workdrive file store (Zoho)</b></p> <p><b>Repairs/maintenance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground repairs - Quote was accepted at the last meeting and I have written to Playdale to authorise purchase and repair.</li> <li>Dog waste bin – new post ordered from Glasdon. <b>Additional bin to be ordered for Thame Lane.</b></li> <li>Noticeboards – post crete ordered from AWBS and delivered.</li> <li>Contacted Muddy Spades re tree surgery requests. Exact locations needed for me to follow up. – Update – Meeting with Muddy Spades on 17<sup>th</sup> October.</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates from Councillors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SIDS – ordered and in progress.</li> <li>SESRO - residents have received a letter asking for details re mortgage and title deeds. Residents unhappy with request.</li> <li>Swift Ditch and Culham old bridge covenant – <b>follow up with Cllr Jones for further information.</b></li> <li>HIF1 updates and schedule Sep 25 to early 26 – Pre-construction works including archaeological strip, utility diversions, ecological works, veg clearance</li> </ul> <p>Late Jan 26 – earliest main construction start date for Culham River Crossing and Clifton Hampden Bypass  Apr/May 26 – anticipated construction start date for Didcot Science Bridge  Mar 28 – anticipated construction completion date.</p> <p>Councillors RESOLVED to request an extension of one month to provide comments/objections to the planning application.</p> <p><b>Public engagement activities</b> -Drop-in event roadshow – w/c 13 Oct. 4/5 events in Didcot, Culham, Clifton Hampden and Appleford. Events to be promoted via leaflets to Didcot, Culham, Clifton Hampden and Appleford, via website and social media.</p>
7	<p><b>To approve: Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025</b>  The minutes 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>
8	<p><b>To update: progress with feasibility study for village hall/premises</b>  MRC had contacted an architect based at the Culham Science Park and would follow up again regarding carrying out an initial study. Initial costs to carry out would be circa £5,000 which would include planning advice and initial ideas.</p>
9	<p><b>Emergency Plan</b>  See item 6, Clerks report.</p>
10	<p><b>Finance:</b>  See Clerk's report item 6.</p>

11.	<p><b>To agree: Accounts for Payment</b>  Councillors RESOLVED to approve payments</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Clerk's Salary October 2025 inc. HMRC PAYE</td> <td>£477.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scribe monthly fee for accounting software</td> <td>£37.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Petwaste September. (twice per month)</td> <td>£7.92 x 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Payments made in between meetings:</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drewe Landscaping</td> <td>£776.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parish Online (website)</td> <td>£60.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Expenses September</td> <td>£35.05</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AWBS Post Crete for noticeboards</td> <td>£70.20</td> </tr> </table>	Clerk's Salary October 2025 inc. HMRC PAYE	£477.10	Scribe monthly fee for accounting software	£37.20	Petwaste September. (twice per month)	£7.92 x 2	<b>Payments made in between meetings:</b>		Drewe Landscaping	£776.27	Parish Online (website)	£60.00	Clerk Expenses September	£35.05	AWBS Post Crete for noticeboards	£70.20
Clerk's Salary October 2025 inc. HMRC PAYE	£477.10																
Scribe monthly fee for accounting software	£37.20																
Petwaste September. (twice per month)	£7.92 x 2																
<b>Payments made in between meetings:</b>																	
Drewe Landscaping	£776.27																
Parish Online (website)	£60.00																
Clerk Expenses September	£35.05																
AWBS Post Crete for noticeboards	£70.20																
12.	<p><b>To Review: Planning Applications</b>  <b>P25/S2837/HH</b>  Culham Station House Station Road Culham OX14 3BT  Retrospective planning application for the change in windows, solar panels and rear patio following approval (P23/S4271/HH).</p> <p><b>Councillors RESOLVED to agree comments which included several objections regarding the type of windows used. Comments to be forwarded to the Clerk prior to deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025. Clerk to submit.</b></p>																
13.	<p><b>Items for inclusion on the next agenda:</b> Emergency plan; feasibility study – village hall; budget planning; progress on bus shelters; purchase of trees for community orchard</p>																
14..	<p><b>Date and Venue of Next Meeting</b>  Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at Culham Pre School/Nursery  The meeting closed at 9.15pm</p>																