

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on
Wednesday, 14th January 2026, hosted at St Paul's Church, Culham**

Attendees – Councillors:	Apologies noted:
Nacho Gimenez (NG)	Denise Corney – Clerk
Caroline Baird (CB)	Chris Pritchard (CP) CHAIR
Mike Richmond-Cooper (MRC)	
Robin Jones (RJ) County Councillor	
Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR) Parish Councillor and District Councillor	
Siobhan Sergeant (SS)	
Members of the public:	In Attendance:
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The meeting opened at 7:45 pm

1	Welcome, Apologies and Quorate The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. The meeting was Quorate. Apologies were noted from Cllr Pritchard and Denise Corney (Clerk). The Clerk was unable to attend at short notice due to illness. In the Clerk's absence, notes were taken by Cllr Richmond Cooper.
2	Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest None for this meeting.
3	Public Participation No members of the public attended the meeting.
4	Report from SODC Councillor – Sam Casey-Rerhaye. In summary: SCR gave an update regarding the Joint Local Plan, confirming that the Council has written to the Planning Inspectors following the Minister's statement, asking them to resume hearings and continue the examination of the Joint Local Plan, with the aim of progressing it to adoption, which would help resolve the uncertainty the Plan has been facing. SCR gave a summary of the report regarding the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Commission. An interim report has been published, which focuses on the requirement for large numbers of homes without being clear what homes for whom, despite the fact we can see that private market homes are not solving the housing affordability crisis for those on lower incomes and young people. Vale and South District councils had donated working, but older laptops to SOFEA and Aspire, helping the 'getting people online' programme and supporting local people. A full report can be found on the Culham Parish Council website. Culham Parish Council

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Report from County Councillor – Cllr Robin Jones

Cllr Jones confirmed that at the full cabinet meeting DEc 9th, OCC submitted the SESRO report. Robin also highlighted that OCC have adopted OxRail2040, confirming the Oxford Branch Line would be reopened, including stations at Cowley, Littlemore, Begbroke, Wantage and Grove and Ardley. Robin also emphasised that the public should use Fix My Street, to report potholes and other road/path infrastructure matters. The verge adjacent to the A415 falls into this category, as it is not a Culham Parish Council grass-cutting responsibility

Cllr Jones confirmed that a motion was passed that OCC would write to the Secretary of State requesting clarity on the SESRO proposed emergency discharge and OCC had requested resources to manage issues prior to consent. Cllr Jones confirmed that OCC opposed the SESRO project in their response to the consultation.

Clerk’s Report and Financial Update:

Bank Reconciliation: Current Account: 31st December 2025 – £3367.28. Instant Access: £26769.46

I have completed collating and supplying the information/documentation required for the interim internal audit and submitted to Theresa Goss.

Additional payments to be approved since agenda was posted on noticeboards and website:

• J Drewe – one outstanding payment for grass cuts during October £588.76 • Feasibility study – Pavilion – LAPD Architects £650.16. Will be added to the agenda of February meeting as paid in between meetings.

Recommendation of Purchase Card from Unity Trust Bank – in progress, forwarded the updated direct debit signatures as requested.

Diocese of Oxford and Community Orchard. – I have written to Wellers for an update regarding the renewal of the lease for The Glebe which included the request for a 30-year extension. Section 106 discharge requested by Morrells – agreement required from PC. Councillors to approve (letter received from Morrells has been circulated to Councillors).

Fallen Tree/damage to property adjacent to The Glebe Recreation Ground – insurers have been advised and will liaise with the resident’s insurance company. Muddy Spades have been very helpful in responding quickly to remove as much of the tree as possible prior to Christmas and have since attended site to finalise work.

The Green – I have written to Kerry Holbrook-Bull at Adkins to supply previous information/correspondence regarding the negotiations on the transfer of The Green.

Emergency Plan – Draft template was circulated during November to Councillors for their input with a reminder to ask residents for their input. Progress update from Councillors requested.

Repairs/maintenance:

- Dog waste bin – confirmation that the bin has been re-located?
- Purchase of salt bin for the Burycroft
- Tree Survey to be carried out – in progress – Muddy Spades have requested a

	boundary map. Updates from Councillors General Meeting CB had received feedback from Culham Science Center, confirming that they will review overnight lighting, aiming to switch off some parking space lights. The centre has requested a copy of the Culham Dark Skies plan, which will be sent. Community Orchard Following an initial meeting regarding the pavilion feasibility study, the location of the community orchard has been confirmed adjacent to Tollgate Road in the Recreation Ground. Cllr Siobhan Sargeant will contact another village to discuss their community orchard plan. Pavilion Feasibility Study An initial meeting took place Dec 23rd, 2025, to start the feasibility study process. LAPD Architects have a remit to provide an interim report early in 2026, with the goal of delivering a village update during the May Community Meeting. SESRO - Abingdon Reservoir The Parish Council and many residents have submitted feedback as part of the SESRO consultation process, with the deadline extended to Jan 23rd, following issues with the online form.												
7	To approve: Minutes 10TH December 2025 The minutes from 10th December 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and would be signed by the Chair at the February meeting.												
8	To approve: Grass/Ground Maintenance Contract 2026 For February agenda												
9	Finance: a) Bank Reconciliation – see Clerk’s report, item 6 b) Budget Variation – no major variations compared to forecast.												
10	To agree: Accounts for Payment <i>Councillors approved the following payments:</i> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Clerk’s salary January 2026</td><td>£477.10 includes HMRC payment</td></tr> <tr> <td>Scribe</td><td>£37.20</td></tr> <tr> <td>J Drewe</td><td>£77.50</td></tr> <tr> <td>LAPD Architects</td><td>650.16</td></tr> <tr> <td>J Drewe October/Nov</td><td>£588.76</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Expenses</td><td>£45.40</td></tr> </table>	Clerk’s salary January 2026	£477.10 includes HMRC payment	Scribe	£37.20	J Drewe	£77.50	LAPD Architects	650.16	J Drewe October/Nov	£588.76	Clerk Expenses	£45.40
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11	To review: Planning Applications listed to 5th January 2026: P25/S3887/LB European School Thame Lane Culham OX14 3DZ Internal re-structuring of existing second floor space comprising two seminar rooms and a corridor. Removal of non loadbearing partition walls to create a large classroom space for sixth form teaching. P25/S3827/LDP European School Playing Field Abingdon Road Culham OX14 3DZ												

	Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed stationing of a temporary toilet block.
12.	Items for inclusion on the next agenda: Emergency plan; feasibility study – village hall; tree planning – Community Orchard; to consider increase of Clerk’s hours by one hour per week to 7 hours. Update on Assertion 10 – within Clerk’s report.
13.	To confirm date of next meeting: Wednesday, 11th February 2026, Culham Pre-school/nursery
	The meeting closed at 8:52pm