Shilton Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Council meeting on Thursday 29th May 2025 held at The Old School, Church Lane, Shilton, OX18 3AE at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr David Cuthbertson (Chair), Cllrs Andrew Bray, Andrew Pearson, 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.

PSCO Daryn Moulding came to talk to us and gave up an update on crime in the area. The West Oxfordshire area has been blighted by crimes such as car thefts and burglaries, especially Shipton and Milton. There is a problem with individuals selling drugs from around the Old School and Church. It was suggested that surveillance cameras could be put on the Old School building to monitor car movements at night. Local residents were asked to be vigilant and report any unusual activity to the police

A discussion followed concerning the traffic accidents at the dip and various problems with visibility at road junctions. The council are organising meetings with Highway at OCC to address the growing list of issues.

2. To receive or accept apologies for absence.

Nick Field-Johnson.

3. To approve and sign minutes of Council meeting on 27th March 2025.

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from that meeting not on the Agenda.

None.

5. To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

None.

6. Chairman's report.

There is no report but all relevant papers are on the table at the back of the room for people to take and read.

7. Election of Chair for the year.

Cllr DC stood down and was re-elected as Chair proposed by Sarah Royle, seconded by Andrew Bray.

8. Councillor Vacancy.

No vacancy at present.

9. To receive reports from District and County Councillors.
District Councillor's report and County Councillor's report are both attached.

Cat Berisford noted that last year the grass along the A361 has got very long and was a death trap between Kencott along the A361, especially at junctions.
Cllr Rosie Pearson gave a brief outline of the proposals from Government for the creation of Unitary Councils which would result in West Oxford District Council being scrapped.

Policy and Finance
10. Approval and completion of AGAR annual returns 2024-25.
Approved.

11. Finance update – to review and approve finance update.
Approved.

12. Payments and receipts – to review and approve current payments and note receipts.
Approved.

Planning
13. To comment on any planning applications received before the date of the meeting.
There is nothing new to consider/comment on.

14. Update on previous planning applications.
There is an outstanding appeal on Westfield Lodge. No-one is sure what is happening; there will be a meeting or an adjudicator to decide.

15. Carterton/Brize Norton planning.
Cllr DC is on the Carterton Development Group There are two big developments planned at Foxbury Farm and Kilkenny Lane. Both would have an impact on Shilton and the already overstretched local infrastructure.
The removal of a tree in the grounds of Church Cottage was discussed. This should have been stopped by the District Council but was missed as a result of the retirement of the tree officer.
Cllr AB asked about the restoration of the Ashbed/Ladburn Lane now that the planning appeal had been dismissed. Some of the 1200 trees have been replaced. The land is up for sale without planning permission – the buyer would need to replant.

Flooding & village maintenance
16. Ridge report
Cllr AP gave an update on his communications with Ridge. There is nothing in the report that we didn't know already. Cllr AP will attend another meeting with them. The matter is ongoing and councillors will continue discussions with Ridge and OCC to look for further ways to restrict flooding.

17. Grass cutting.
This will be done this weekend.

18. Pond clearance. Further work to be undertaken

19. Conservation.

Cllr AB gave an update on the orchards and tree planting following a workshop arranged by the council. There is not much publicly owned land in Shilton but 5 trees were made available via the Government grant system for community orchards. The established trees are doing well although there are concerns about drought. More trees have been planted along Alvescot Rd. The hedgehog population seem to be recovering. Swallows in the area are not doing so well, although Swift activity seems to be ok.

Report from other organisations

20. Shilton Old School

The report for the Old School Committee and accounts are printed out at the back of the hall.

21. Shilton Welfare Trust

There is a copy of the report at the back of the hall.

22. Shilton PCC

There is a copy of the report at the back of the hall. Big news is that the project to replace the bells is underway. There will be a lunch to support this on 14th June – last date to book is 4th June.

Other matters

23. 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.

Cllr DC raised the issue of one-way traffic through Shilton to alleviate the traffic problems, with no access signs through the village, except for villagers. Marilyn Cox asked how this would be achieved. Cllr DC said that a few years ago a survey monkey questionnaire went out about a one-way system, possibly making the road beyond the Alvescot Rd turning into an access only road, with an exception also for farm vehicles. Marilyn said that people misunderstood the proposed system when reading and responding to the survey. Rosie Pearson suggested doing another survey. Cllr Ap could mention to roads and highways – this has a lot of support. Diana remarked that parked cars are also an issue re traffic. Cllr DC will create an online survey.

Cllr DC asked if people were happy to prices together for security cameras? The answer was yes. One problem identified was the 4G signal for the cameras.

The meeting ended at 20.46.