

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Cumnor Parish Council
on Monday 4 August 2025 at 7.30pm
held in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.

In attendance.

Council. Laurence Waters, Vice-Chairman, Dona Foster, Alison Jenner, Paula Lopez, Gary Mason, Judy Roberts, Chris Westcott, Oliver Wright and Tina Brock, Clerk.

County Councillors. James Plumb and Judy Roberts.

District Councillors. Scott Houghton and Judy Roberts.

Visitors. 2 residents, Emily Highmore-Talbot and Jenny Chaplin, Thames Water

210/25 Apologies for Absence.

Tom Christophers, Chairman (prior commitment), Basil England (approved absence) and Ray Stone (prior commitment). Council resolved to approve these apologies.

211/25 Declaration of Interests. None.

212/25 Variance of Order of Business.

Council approved bringing forward of the agenda item 8 Thames Water Presentation.

213/25 Minutes of the Meeting for the Cumnor Parish Council.

Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 30 June 2025.

214/25 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum. Received

- i. Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 215/25.

215/25 Payments of Accounts.

Council resolved to authorise the payments specified in the Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum and reproduced below.

Table 1 List of receipts received.

Statutory Power	Receipts received	Description	Total (£)
8 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Derrick Abbot	Interment of ashes and erection of tablet	214.00
9 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Abingdon Stone & Marble Ltd	New tablet	72.00
10 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Jonathan Despres	Interment of ashes	142.00
11 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Sandra Homewood Funerals	Interment of ashes	142.00
12 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Edward Carter Funeral Directors	Additional inscription to headstone	18.00
13 LGA 1972 s111	Cumnor PC	Transfer of funds from Santander to Unity bank	10,000.00
14 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Reeves Memorial Co Ltd	Erection of tablet	72.00
15 VAT Act 1994 s33	HM Revenue & Excise	VAT refund 2024-2025	14,429.27
16 VAT Act 1994 s33	HM Revenue & Excise	VAT refund 1/4/2025-30/6/2025	1,863.72

Table 2 List of receipts.

Statutory Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total (£)
47, SO LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff costs		3,305.42
BACS LGA 1972 s111	Unity Bank	Bank charges	8.40
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile phone	22.98
48 Public Health Act 1935 s 234	Wel Medical	Defibrillator pads	313.86
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	BT	Office and broadband	139.52
49 Town & Country Planning Act s61F(1),(2)	rCOH Ltd	Grey Belt assessment – NP refresh	5,049.00
50 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	As New Home & Office Cleaning Services	June clean of pavilion	96.00

51 LGA 1972 s111	The Net Result	Payroll fee Apr-Jun	88.50
52 Public Health Act 1875	Total Pest Control	Quarterly mole control – Fogwell Field	120.77
53 LGA 1972 s111	Property Formula Ltd	Valuation of land	720.00
54 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Playsafety Ltd	Annual RoSPA inspection of play equipment	902.40
55 Accs & audit (Eng) regs 2011/817	Moore	External audit year ended 31 March 2025	504.00
56 LG (misc prov) Act 1953 s4	The Bin Cleaner	Quarterly clean of bus shelters	680.00
57 LGA 1972 s111	Cumnor PC	Transfer of funds to Unity bank from Santander	10,000.00
58a Public Health Act 1875	Total Pest Control	Quarterly mole control – Mayfield Road	209.38
58b Public Health Act 1875	Total Pest Control	Quarterly mole control – Closes field	
59a Highways Act 1980 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking and raking sand at various sites	1,943.40
59b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, hedge cutting and litter picking	
59c Highways Act 1980 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting, litter picking and raking pea shingle	
59d Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbery Grounds Care	Grass cutting Appleton Road common land	

Notes.

- i. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Unity Bank account will be in credit at £25,217.02.
- ii. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Santander Community Account will be in credit at £63,399.43.
- iii. The Council has the following debtor for 2025/2026: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £.3,668.88 – Qtr1 Vat reclaimed £1,863.72 = £1,805.16.
- iv. As of 17 July 2025 the Santander Corporate Notice account held a credit balance of £83,303.17.

216/25 Public Presentation. None.

PRESENTATION

217/25 Thames Water proposal to install a floating solar project at Farmoor Reservoir.

Emily Highmore-Talbot and Jenny Chaplin presented the proposal. The array of floating solar panels would help to power the water treatment works and would be located at the north section of the reservoir. The output would be 4MewDrop in events were recently held at the reservoir with a good mix of attendees including Councillor Ray Stone. Conversation with the district council began in 2018 and it is proposed that the application would be made under permitted development rights. The floating panels would generate electricity more efficiently than land based alternatives due to the water cooling the panels. Recent bird surveys had been conducted which recorded the movement of the waterbirds and supported the chosen location of the proposal. Construction is expected next year, and regular updates would be circulated. The project web page is

<https://www.thameswater.co.uk/farmoor-solar>

Q&A

How would the panels be anchored? This would depend on the design. An exclusion zone would be marked out.

Could you share the bird survey with council? Yes.

Did you consider installing a larger proposal? 7.3<w was considered but the cost analysis didn't stand up.

Have you considered battery storage? Not adverse to it but Thames Water are not considering selling on electricity and it would increase the pay back period beyond 7 years.

Would you be considering the cumulative impact of solar projects in the area ie Botley West, Red House Farm? Yes.

Emily Highmore-Talbot and Jenny Chaplin left the meeting.

REPORTS

218/25 Report from County Councillor(s).

CC Plumb submitted a written report.

Part Time Lighting Consultation

Oxfordshire County Council are consulting on a framework whereby Parish and Town Councils can apply for part-time lighting in their local area. This framework will work in a similar way to that of the 20mph implementation. More information is available [here](#).

B4044 Resurfacing

Advanced notice that there will be overnight closures of the B4044 from Farmoor to Dean Court to facilitate the resurfacing of the road near the Farmoor end. The closure will be from 30th September 2025 up to and including 2nd October 2025 and will operate between 20:00 and 06:00. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for those frontages within the closure area. More information is available [here](#).

Eynsham to Botley Active Travel

Oxfordshire County Council has secured £250,000 from Active Travel England's ATF5 fund for the preliminary design of the West Way Junction scheme, which is progressing independently of the B4044 Eynsham to Botley path. Procurement of a design consultant will begin shortly. For the B4044 scheme, cost estimates and a section-by-section breakdown will be provided by consultants following completion of the preliminary design. Further updates will be provided as both schemes progress.

Changes to Household Waste Recycling Centres

Oxfordshire County Council is currently consulting on proposed changes to Household Waste Recycling Centres. The consultation seeks residents' views on how centres are used, accessibility, and ways to improve reuse and recycling, including the sale of second-hand items. Feedback will help shape future service delivery. The consultation runs until 11th August 2025, and residents are encouraged to participate via the council's [online survey](#).

CC Roberts submitted a written report.

General OCC

All three proposals for Local Government reorganisation of Oxfordshire have all been published for public consultation by their proposing council.

Traffic and Highways

On the 1 September 2025, the path will dogleg around a new works enclosure to give a pathway that cuts across Roger Dunman Way and then drops back to the new pedestrian tunnel bridge on Botley Road. They have added cycle ramps to the Osney Lane Bridge, which makes it easier to transport a bike across this pedestrian bridge, which will, hopefully, reduce the number of people using the tunnel.

There is a new arrangement to allow disabled people to access the Western Entrance of the station. They have removed the kiosk and people need to ring the bell outside the western entrance to the station. Staff will then open the gate and assist people to the correct platform.

This section on the OCC's website should cover the Botley Bridge Road closure:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/future-transport-projects/oxford-city-station-phase-2c>

It will have all cycle paths, bus and Network Rail and Thames Water information and various links to other websites posted on there.

This is the website that the latest information will be posted on from Network Rail

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/western/oxfordshire/botley-road-bridge-replacement/>

The works by Thames Water to replace the damaged water main to the City will continue until December 2025 with intelligent traffic lights and a one lane closure over Osney Bridge for the rest of the year. There is some information that this work may now continue until August 2026, but it has yet to be confirmed.

Library

The Botley library is running a children's activity programme over the summer and hopes to run a larger programme of activities from September onwards.

Consultations

Let's Talk Oxfordshire.gov.uk website:

Oxfordshire tobacco control strategy 2026 – 2030 consultation – closes on 10 August 2025

Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centre (HWRC) consultation - closes on 11 August 2025

The "You said/We did" section gives a lot of information about forthcoming changes based on the surveys. This can be useful even when you didn't respond to the surveys.

At the induction day, we were asked to highlight this part of the website to our parishes as they do answer a lot of enquiries. The Transport and Travel box on the main page of OCC's website takes you through to a page where, at the bottom, there is "Latest road repairs" this takes you through to [Highway Capital Programme - map view](#)

This tells you where all the sections of roads that are being repaired in 2025 -2026 have been identified and what and possibly when that will happen.

This link tells you about the OCC roadworks and if you press the live roadworks button, it takes you through to One Network where there are all the live roadworks for that day:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/major-current-roadworks>

This will tell you all the emergency works that have suddenly appeared with no notice.

219/25 Reports from District Councillor(s).

DC Houghton submitted a written report.

Waste collection from village halls

The treasurer of Cumnor Village Hall (Harry Dickinson) asked a question to the cabinet member for environmental services at the last full council meeting. The question and the response are both attached as separate documents.

Summer Holiday Activities

During the school holidays, the councils' Active Communities team offers a range of free and low-cost activities for young children, teenagers, and families to enjoy at locations across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. More details on all of these activities can be found at the link below. Of particular interest locally is the Summer of Skate event at the Botley Bowl on the 27 August 2025 between 9:30 and 12:30, aimed at children ages 5-16, no booking required, simply turn up. [South and Vale Holiday Activities - South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council](#)

Reservoir

The claim for a judicial review into Thames Water's plans to build a new reservoir near Abingdon has been dismissed in the High Court. Cllr Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council said: "Although we were not party to the Judicial Review, we remain opposed to Thames Water's proposal for the reservoir. We submitted our response to Thames Water's public consultation in August 2024, reaffirming our objections. We will continue to urge water providers, regulators and government to listen to local voices and reject these plans. The council has urged water providers to consider all the alternative solutions more seriously before committing to this reservoir. We will continue to do everything we can within our power to ensure that the voice of our community is listened to."

I would also like to take the opportunity to make people aware of the series of three articles on the subject written by Cllr Andy Cooke (Drayton) published in the Oxford Clarion which cover the proposal in detail.

220/25 Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies. None.

COUNCIL

221/25 Cumnor Hurst SSSI Unit 2.

Council is waiting to review the draft lease, overdue from All Souls College.

TRAINING

222/25 Training/Events.

- i. No member was available to attend the virtual OALC Councillor Forum on Tuesday 12 August 2025.
- ii. Council approved the expenditure of £65 + VAT for Dona Foster to attend the OALC online Councillors Fundamentals event on Thursday 9 October 2025.

FINANCE

223/25 NALC's 2025/2025 pay scales.

Council noted and approved the pay increase for 2025/2026 to be back dated to 1 April 2025.

224/25 External Audit 2024/2025.

- i. Council noted that Moore, External Auditor had completed their review of sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance Return, and in their opinion the information supplied is in accordance with the Proper Practices and no other matters had come to their attention to give cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.
- ii. Council resolved to approve and accept the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025.

225/25 Santander Business account.

Council resolved to approve closing the account and transferring the balance to the Unity Trust bank account.

226/25 Expenditure.

Council resolved to approve the following.

- i. Future maintenance of a donated defibrillator.
- ii. Expenditure to install the donated defibrillator to the outside wall of GC Interiors(permission given) not exceeding £200 + VAT.
- iii. Council resolved to defer approving expenditure to set up councillor emails as further information was required.

227/25 Grants.

Council considered the grant from Cumnor School Parent Teacher Association and agreed to not award the grant until it was clarified whether or not the project was part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and so should be funded by Oxfordshire County Council. Council is unable to grant awards to subsidised statutory funders as per the Council's grant application policy.

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

228/25 Ad-hoc cutting of grass verges in the parish. None.

229/25 Draft minutes of the Environment and Amenities Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22 July 2025.

Received.

- i. Council approved the recommendation from the Environment and Amenities Committee to approve the quote of £8,500 + VAT to carry out roof works at Closes Pavilion. Funding to come from the CIL budget.

2 residents left the meeting.

230/25 Public Art Project.

- i. Council received the notes of the Public Art Working Party held on Wednesday 4 June 2025.
- ii. Council received the notes of the Public Art residents meeting held on Tuesday 15 July 2025.
- iii. Council noted the approved artists proposal.
- iv. VWHDC section 106 public art funds.
 - a. Council supported and approved the Public Art project and nominated artist.
 - b. Council approved requesting the section 106 funds from VWHDC.
 - c. Council approved a 2 phased approach of requesting the section 106, first funded stage for engagement and design and the second for production and installation.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH

231/25 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Council noted that after 2 months, CPC was informed on 2 July 2025 that the SEA - submitted 1 May 2025 - had been sent out by VWHDC for consultation with the statutory bodies.

232/25 Next meeting.

Council noted that the Working Group would meet on 11 August 2025 to discuss and agree the next steps on two pieces of work completed by ONH – Council's consultants. These documents address a 'design code wrapper' for the planning policies in the NBP Refresh and the

commissioned 'Grey belt' analysis for the Parish.

PLANNING

233/25 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 21 July 2025.

Received.

234/25 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council would submit the following observations:

Table 2 List of planning application.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P25/V1372/HH	135 Eynsham Road, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9BY <i>Rear extension out 6m joining a single storey over the existing garage, creating a double storey side extension.</i> Supports.
ii	P25/V1376/HH	6 Hanson Drive, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9RY <i>Proposed single storey porch to front elevation. Glass door to the rear elevation ground floor. Two new windows to the side elevation.</i> Supports.
iii	P25/V1072/HH	The Stables, Oxford Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NN <i>Retrospective application for garden building ancillary to the dwelling. To form car port, workshop, wc and store room. Revision to previous application revision to P21/V1202/HH.</i> Supports.
iv	P25/V1400/HH	48 The Glebe, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QB <i>Front extension.</i> Supports.
v	P25/V1333/LB	The Farmhouse incorporating 5 Lower Whitley Farm, Lower Whitley Farm, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NX <i>Replace old windows with new crittal windows and replace old crittal and wooden doors with flood doors.</i> Supports.

235/25 To note permitted development rights and planning applications. Noted.

Table 3 List of permitted development rights and planning application(s).

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P25/V1399/PDH	28 Eynsham Road, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9PB <i>Single storey rear extension. (Depth 8m, height 3m, height at eaves 3m)</i>
ii	P25/V0919/HH	6 Scholar Place, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9RD <i>Single storey side extension, internal alterations, new air source heat pump and replacement garage door. (Additional information rec'd 28/5/2025.)</i>
iii	P25/V0012/LB	Archangel House, 1 Abingdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QN <i>Installation of solar panels and 2 no. wall mounted batteries (amended pans and additional information re'cd 8/3/2025 and 18/6/2025).</i>
iv	P24/V2567/S73	22 Norreys Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PT <i>Variation of conditions 2(Approved Plans) and 8(Access, Park. & Turn. in accord. Plan) on application P19/V1804/FUL to have two external parking bays rather than the double garage. (Demolition of the existing bungalow and erection of a pair of semi-detached houses).(Amended application form submitted 12 February 2025).</i>

236/25 Proposed Industrial installation (Solar Power Station) for the production of electricity on Green Belt land.

i. Proposed 'Botley West' solar power station.

- a. Council met with Stuart Walker, Major Applications Team Leader, VWHDC on Tuesday 1 July to discuss deadline 3 responses to the ExA first written questions, suggested locations

for accompanied site inspections and comments received by deadline 2. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 5 August 2025. Noted.

- b. Council noted Councils three responses to the Examining Authority (ExA) submitted for Deadline 3 (23:59 on 22nd July) have been published by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS): [Comments on responses to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions \(ExQ1\)](#); [Comments on any submissions received at D2](#); [Comments on the suggested locations to be included in any ASI](#) (Accompanied Site Inspection)
 - c. Council noted that the ExA has requested an additional consultation beginning 22 July 2025 and ending 22 August 2025 (Deadline 4) that includes the applicant's proposed changes to their plans for panels and built equipment in Cumnor Parish. Council had received a posted notification of the consultation on 1 August 2025. This consultation would require Council to submit a response by 23:59 on 22 August 2025. This response would be in addition to the other responses CPC will need to make:
 - Responses to Examining Authority's Second Written Questions (ExQ2)
 - Notification by Affected Persons of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing
 - Comments on the Applicant's draft ASI itinerary
 - Comments on any other information and submissions received at Deadline 3
 - Any further information requested by the Examining Authority under Rule 17 of the Examination Procedure Rules
 - d. Community Benefit. Oliver Wright reported that progress was very slow. A meeting was scheduled for 15 August 2025 to try to get an agreement from all parties. This is now a matter of urgency as in the second written questions PINS are requesting confirmation of the amount of the proposed community benefit fund
- ii. **Land West of Red House Farm, Farmoor.**
 - a. No update.
 - iii. **National Grid's Farmoor Substation.**
 - a. No update.

237/25 Items for next month's agenda. None.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

238/25 Next meeting.

The next meeting would be held **on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm** venue to be confirmed. Further meetings would take place in **2025 on Mondays**: 6 October, 3 November and 1 December and in **2026** 5 January, 2 February, 2 March and 13 April.

The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on **Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 7.30pm venue TBC.**

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed..... Date.....2025