

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Cumnor Parish Council
on Monday 2 June 2025 at 7.30pm
held in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.

In attendance.

Council. Tom Christophers, Chairman, Laurence Waters, Vice-Chairman, Dona Foster, Judy Roberts, Ray Stone, Chris Westcott, Oliver Wright and Tina Brock, Clerk.

County Councillors. James Plumb and Judy Roberts.

District Councillors. Judy Roberts.

Visitors. Angus Richards, Savills, and Dick Mayon-White, Chair of Cumnor Conservation Group (CCG).

155/25 Apologies for Absence.

Alison Jenner (unwell), Basil England (approved absence), Paula Lopez (prior commitment), Gary Mason (prior commitment) and DC Scott Houghton (prior commitment). Council resolved to approve these apologies.

156/25 Declaration of Interests. None.

157/25 Variance of Order of Business.

Council approved bringing forward of the agenda item 9 i Cumnor Hurst SSSI.

158/25 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for the Cumnor Parish Council.

Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 May 2025.

159/25 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cumnor Parish Council.

Council resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 May 2025.

160/25 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum. Received

- i. Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 161/25.

161/25 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 (£)
BACS Telecom Act 1984 s97	BT	Credit note	185.92
6 Local Auth Cemeteries Order 1977	Haven Memorials	Memorial tablet	72.00
7 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Cumnor Minors FC	Reimbursement of Red Box invoice (26)	458.94

Table 2 List of receipts.

Statutory Power	Payments now due:	Description	Total (£)
29, SO LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff costs		3,305.62
30 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	As New Home & Office Cleaning Services	April clean of pavilion	96.00
31 Public Health Act 1875	Total Pest Control	Pest control at Closes Pavilion	240.00
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile Mar	21.60
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile Apr	22.98
BACS LGA 1972 s111	Unity Bank	Bank charges	8.10
32 LGA 1972 s111	Maltby's Bookbinders	Binding of 2022-2024 minute books	110.00
33 Accs & audit (Eng) regs 2011/817	Lisa Wilkinson	Internal audit for the year ended 31 March 2025	250.00
34a LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	MRH Services	Repairs to MUGA at Mayfield play park	1,062.46
34b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	MRH Services	Service inspection of play equipment, fit new trampoline mat at Glebe play	

		park, remove membrane from sand pit at Pinnocks play park	
DD LGA1972 s143	Information Commissioners Office	Data protection fee	47.00
35 LGA1972 s143	CPRE	Membership	60.00
36 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Amicus	Asbestos	582.00
DD Telecom Act 1984 s97	EE	Mobile phone – May	22.98
37a Highways Act 1980 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19 Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbery Ground Care	Grass cutting, litter picking, raking sand at burial ground, parks and verge	2,902.80
37b LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Ground Care	Grass cutting, litter picking, weed treatment, raking pea shingle and cutting snowberry hedge at parks	
37c Highways Act 1980 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Ady Podbery Ground Care	Grass cutting, litter picking, raking pea shingle at parks and verge	
37d Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbery Ground Care	Strimming common land at Appleton Road	

Notes.

- i. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Unity Bank account will be in credit at £31,817.25.
- ii. After all payments/receipts are accounted for the Santander Community Account will be in credit at £73,678.47.
- iii. The Council has the following debtor for 2025/2026: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £1,400.28.

162/25 Public Presentation. None.

COUNCIL

163/25 Cumnor Hurst SSSI unit 2.

- i. Council noted the letter from David Renton, Bursar, All Souls College expressing appreciation for the work carried out by the volunteers of the Cumnor Conservation Group and encouraging Council to engage with Savills.
- ii. Council considered and resolved to approve a shorter term supplemental lease until February 2026 to allow for a long-term solution to be found and the continuation of the management of the site by the volunteers of the Cumnor Conservation Group.
- iii. Council considered and agreed to revisit negotiations for a sale. Target end date of end of July 2025.
- iv. In the absence of an agreement of iii Council agreed to revisit a long lease. Target end date end of September 2025.
- v. Council noted that the decision of Council would be presented to All Souls College Property Sub committee on Friday 17 October 2025.
- vi. In the absence of an agreement of iii or iv All Souls College would take over the management of unit 2.
- vii. Council agreed that the Clerk would draft a response to David Renton and Savills for circulation and approval.

Dick Mayon-White and Angus Richards left the meeting.

REPORTS

164/25 Report from County Councillor(s).

CC Plumb submitted a written report.

Gully & Drainage Clearing

Oxfordshire County Council has [announced here](#) to clean and empty every highway drainage gully in Oxfordshire this year, and every year going forward. The £2.6 million programme is taking place after an additional £1.5m investment to improve highway drainage was approved in the council's 2025 - 26 budget. Gullies and drains in Cumnor and Farmoor will receive their first clearing as part of this new scheme between October-November this year. Drain clearing was previously carried out on a four-year cycle.

Eynsham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan

A document is being prepared by Oxfordshire County Council which seeks to identify where improvements can be made to local cycling and walking infrastructure in Eynsham and surrounding areas. A draft geographic scope for the plan has been developed which extends to Farmoor. The document is currently in the process of being drafted, with a view to holding a public consultation between September and October 2025. The B4044 cycle path is already on the project team's radar and this route will be audited as part of the plan.

An initial 'pin drop' consultation is currently being held where residents/organisation can raise issues with the existing walking and cycling provision in Eynsham and the surrounding area and give suggestions for how this can be improved. The consultation is open until Tuesday 24 June 2025 and can be found [here](#).

44 Bus Service

Oxford Bus Company has made changes to the 44 Bus Service, including extending the weekend operating hours. The lack of service on the weekend had been raised as an issue with me by multiple residents, so hopefully this is a positive step forward. The new timetable can be found [here](#).

CC Roberts submitted a written report.

General OCC

At the full County Council meeting, the Conservative Independent group was announced, which has 12 members. This means that, with the Labour Group, there are now two opposition parties of 12 members each. In the budget in February 2025, there is only sufficient funding for one opposition party, so this matter has been referred to the Audit and Governance committee for resolution.

Traffic and Highways

On the 26 August 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.

There is a request for there to be a drop off point here for taxis, but they are still working on that given the change of pedestrian route in May 2025.

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. Thames Water says they need the space on the bridge for their work vehicles now they can no longer work on the riverside.

Library

The Botley library now provides free coffee and tea as part of their warm spaces program, this is continuing for 2025. There are also newspapers to read and a jigsaw puzzle to complete.

Consultations

Let's Talk Oxfordshire.gov.uk website:

Oxfordshire tobacco control strategy 2026-2030 – closes on 1 June 2025.

Improving walking and cycling in the Eynsham area – closes on the 24 June 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.

165/25 Report from District Councillor(s).

DC Scott Houghton submitted a written report.

Joint Local Plan Update

A reminder that the public hearings for the Joint Local Plan start this week, dates and topics are as follows:

- Tuesday 3 June 2025: Matter 1 – Procedural and Legal Requirements followed by Matter 2 – The Duty to Co-operate
- Wednesday 4 June 2025: Matter 3 – The Housing Target/Requirement
- Thursday 5 June 2025: Matter 4 – The Employment Land Requirement

Full details can be found on the examination website:

<https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/joint-local-plan-2041-examination/>

2025 Waste Survey

Vale of White Horse District Council is inviting residents to have their say on how rubbish and recycling are handled across the district. The survey can be found at the link below; it is open for comment until the 13 June 2025. Alternative formats such as large print or Braille are available by contacting the waste team directly.

<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/housing-and-environment/waste-survey-2025/>

The Vale has consistently been one of the country's best recycling areas, scoring a very positive result with 60.7% of waste recycled during 2023/24, the fourth highest score nationally.

Homelessness Consultation

The council is also inviting people to have their say on proposed objectives for the new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy. Plans include identifying issues early on such as 'hidden homelessness' and sofa surfing – as eviction by family and friends is the top reason for home loss in the district. The council will continue to work closely with every individual at risk of homelessness to help them find sustainable accommodation. Whilst the numbers of people sleeping rough are relatively low in the Vale, the council's outreach team will continue to proactively identify any rough sleepers without delay, ensuring that they receive advice from the council's dedicated team.

The survey can be found at the link below and is open for comment until the 16th of June.

<https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/housing-and-environment/homelessness-and-rough-sleeping-strategy/>

Planning Enforcement Update

I was asked last month for an update regarding a planning enforcement case on Norreys Road. I have asked the new cabinet member for planning for an update on this case but have not yet received one.

166/25 Report from Representatives on Outside Bodies. None.

TRAINING

167/25 Training/Events.

No member was available to attend the virtual OALC Councillor Forum on Tuesday 10 June 2025. CC Plumb left the meeting.

FINANCE

168/25 Insurance.

Council considered quotes received and resolved to approve the quote from Gallagher insurance brokers of £4,865.45.

169/25 Expenditure.

Council resolved to approve the following expenditure.

- i. Cumnor Village Hall £45 for room hire for a Stop Botley West public meeting.
- ii. Play Safety Ltd £80 + Vat per parks to carry out the annual RoSPA inspection.
- iii. Ady Podbery £474 + VAT to supply and lay stones at common land at Appleton Road, Cumnor.
- iv. Ady Podbery £480 + VAT to supply and lay sand for Pinnocks Way play park.

170/25 Grants.

Council resolved to approve a grant for Botley Bridges of £5,000. Funds to be split between Major Projects dedicated reserves and the general fund.

171/25 Audit for the year ended 31 March 2025.

- i. Council received and considered the recommendations made in the Internal Audit Report carried out by Lisa Wilkinson and agreed to claim VAT quarterly.
- ii. Council resolved to approve the end of year accounts 31 March 2025.
- iii. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/2025 Form 3 for the year ended 31 March 2025.
 - a. Council noted that Lisa Wilkinson, Internal Auditor had completed and signed the Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/2025.
 - b. Council completed and approved Section 1 Annual Governance Statement which was signed by the Chair and Clerk.
 - c. Council approved Section 2 Accounting Statement which was signed by the Chair and RFO.
 - d. Council approved the bank reconciliation for the year ended 31 March 2025.
 - e. Council approved the reconciliation between box 7 and 8 in Section 2 of the AGAR.
 - f. Council approved the explanation of variances.
 - g. Council approved the breakdown of reserves
 - h. Council approved the dates for the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of unaudited AGAR for the year ended 31 March 2025. To commence on Thursday 5 June 2025 and end Wednesday 16 July 2025.

ENVIRONMENT AND AMENITIES

172/25 Ad-hoc cutting of grass verges in the parish.

Council approved the request for the cutting of the grass verge on the corner of Oxford/Glebe Road, Cumnor.

173/25 RoSPA annual play inspection.

Council noted that the inspection would take place in July 2025.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH

174/25 Verbal update.

The digital mapping of the parish for both the refresh of the NP and the Grey Belt study was being reviewed. VWHDC had replied that the required Strategic Environmental Assessment had been received. The next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Refresh Working Party is scheduled for Wednesday 11 June 2025.

175/25 Draft minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Refresh Working Party meeting held on Wednesday 7 May 2025.

Received.

PLANNING

176/25 Draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 19 May 2025.

Received.

177/25 Submitted Planning Applications.

The Council would submit the following observations:

Table 3 List of planning application.

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P25/V0611/FUL amended details	2 Pinnocks Way, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DG <i>Add front extension with matching illuminated signage to Yasmin store, add side extension to Yasmin store to increase floor area and provide improved layout and fire exit door; add front extension to Jamona take-away with matching illuminated signage, to provide improved customer area, and staff wc and office.</i> Support.
ii	P25/V1023/HH	99 Eynsham Road, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9BY <i>Single storey rear and side extension. New door opening in existing wall to ground floor rear elevation.</i> Support.

178/25 To note permitted planning applications. Noted.

Table 4 List of permitted planning application(s).

Ref	Planning application number	Address and proposal
i	P24/V2720/FUL	18 Dean Court Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9XD <i>Subdivision of existing 6 Bedroom dwelling into: 1x 2 Bedroom Dwelling Class C3 and 1x 3 Bedroom Dwelling House, with associated internal, external and plot boundary changes. Proposed cycle storage to rear (amended and additional information received 04 April 2025)</i>

179/25 Proposed Industrial installation (Solar Power Station) for the production of electricity on Green Belt land.

i. Proposed 'Botley West' solar power station.

- a. Council received the notes from the meeting with Stuart Walker, Major Applications Team Leader, VWHDC on Tuesdays 6 and 27 May 2025.
- b. PINS public sessions 13 – 15 May 2025 update. Chris Westcott attended the preliminary session and attended remotely for the remaining sessions. During the sessions the inspector requested that the applicant supplied more information by the deadline of 1 of 4 June 2025. Council noted that the Written Representation and documents requested by the inspector had been submitted prior to deadline 1 of 4 June 2025.
- c. Community Benefits update. Oliver Wright reported that the group had submitted a list of potential projects. Council could only support projects that it had the power to spend funds on.

ii. Land West of Red House Farm, Farmoor.

- a. Council noted that as of 24 May 2025 the VWHDC planning portal was suspended and no submissions from the Landscape Officer, OCC PROW officer, the Environment Agency requesting more flood risk assessment information or any additional information from the applicant had been published.

iii. National Grid's Farmoor Substation.

- a. Council noted that VWHDC confirmed during the PINS public session that no planning application, or any pre-application correspondence, had been received from National Grid by that date.

180/25 Items for next month's agenda. None.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

181/25 Next meeting.

The next meeting would be held **on Monday 30 June 2025 at 7.30pm in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

Further meetings would take place in **2025 on Mondays:** 4 August, 8 September, 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 9.40pm.

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