STANTON ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 28 September 2026 at 7.30 pm Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Justin Worrall (Chair), Cllr Dina Cooper (Vice-Chair), Cllr David Elliott, Cllr David Polgreen, Cllr Andrew Clark, County and District Councillor Tim Bearder, four members of the public, and the Clerk, Anita James.

135/26. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Greta Shepherd.

136/26. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

No requests for dispensations or declarations of interest were received.

137/26. Public Forum

A resident raised concerns about noise coming from the Village Hall during the daytime and evening at weekends.

A councillor commented that the hall has limited insulation and may require modernisation and improved insulation. Councillors expressed sympathy with the concerns. The Village Hall Management Committee had been informed. It was noted that the hall needs to be hired by non-residents to help meet the costs of running the hall.

138/26. County and District Councillors' Report

Cllr Tim Bearder reported that Local Government Reorganisation had been put on hold until at least mid-October, pending further scrutiny by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). District Council elections will now take place in May 2027, as planned before the Local Government Reorganisation proposals.

The Traffic Filters scheme came into operation in Oxford on 28 September 2026, replacing the Temporary Congestion Charge scheme. It is a six-month trial. Botley Road is now open.

Work has commenced on the Shepherd's Pit Lane Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). Motorbikes were still being reported as travelling along the lane.

Cllr Bearder had met with Richard Stanley and Cllr Justin Worrall to discuss fly-tipping on Shepherd's Pit Lane.

139/26. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 July 2026 were approved.

Proposed by Cllr Dina Cooper and seconded by Cllr Justin Worrall. The proposal was carried.

140/26. Clerk's Report and Update on Actions

The Clerk's Report was received. The following actions were reviewed:

a. Defibrillator grant – allocation of surplus funds.

Carried forward by the Clerk.

b. Communications and Social Media Policy.

Carried forward by the Clerk.

c. Trial administration of SSJ News.

Cllr Justin Worrall has completed the necessary work and the administration is ready to be handed over to the Clerk.

d. Donation Policy.

A draft has been prepared. The Clerk will produce a list of existing grants.

e. Village Hall – recording historical knowledge.

Cllr Andrew Clark has some relevant documents. Cllr Justin Worrall will digitise them.

f. Signage indicating ramp access.

Cllr Andrew Clark to communicate with the Clerk. Carried forward.

g. Bike rack feasibility study.

Cllr Andrew Clark has obtained a quotation of approximately £700. Although the Council has approved the expenditure in principle, the Clerk advised that two further quotations are required before a formal expenditure proposal can be approved. There may be funding available from Cllr Tim Bearder's Priority Fund. **Action:** the Clerk to contact Cllr Bearder to ask whether funding is available for the project.

h. Car park lights.

Cllr Andrew Clark to communicate with the Clerk. Carried forward.

The Clerk reported that IT hosting costs had increased by 30% since Microshade was sold to Flotek. Comparable quotations had been obtained from other companies.

The External Audit Certificate has been received and published. No issues were raised.

141/26. Financial Matters

a. Payments for approval

- Clerk salary, pension and HMRC.
- TFM – dog bin waste, September: £55.85.
- Flotek – IT hosting: £125.23.
- Moore – external editor: £252.00.
- Greenfield Farm Partnership – Christmas tree: £438.00.

Cllr Justin Worrall proposed approval of the payments. Cllr Dina Cooper seconded the proposal, which was carried.

b. Council funds as 31 August 2026

- Unity Current Account: £8,334.42
- Unity Savings Account: £30,806.00
- Total: £39,140.42

The Council noted the balances.

142/26. Approval of Councillors to Authorise Payments on Unity

Cllr Dina Cooper and Cllr David Polgreen were agreed as the councillors who will approve payments on Unity.

143/26. Budget Monitoring Report to 31 August 2026

The budget monitoring report was carried forward to the next meeting as councillors had not reviewed it and the overhead projector was not working.

144/26. Planning Matters

144.1/26 New Applications

MW.0115/26 – Sewage Treatment Works, Polecat End Lane, Forest Hill, Oxford, Oxfordshire OX33 1EH.

Cllr Andrew Clark proposed that the Council support the application. Cllr Justin Worrall seconded the proposal, which was carried.

P26/S3210/FUL – Retrospective change of use of land from agricultural use to domestic garden, Wynburgh, Pound Lane, Stanton St John, Oxford OX33 1HF.

Cllr Andrew Clark proposed that the Council support the application. Cllr Justin Worrall seconded the proposal, which was carried.

144.2/26 Planning Decisions

P26/S1607/HH – Middle Road, Stanton St John, Oxford OX33 1HD. Planning permission granted on 10 August 2026.

145/26. Traffic and Parking Issues on Cox Lane

There was an in-depth discussion about this ongoing issue. The main concern was the protection of the verge.

Action: Cllr David Polgreen to produce a simple A4 flyer covering verge protection, traffic flow and safety issues for approval by the Council at the October meeting.

146/26. Letter Supporting a 40 mph Speed Limit on Woodperry Road

The Council considered Cllr Andrew Clark's letter supporting a 40 mph speed limit on Woodperry Road.

Cllr Justin Worrall proposed supporting the letter. Cllr David Polgreen seconded the proposal, which was carried. **Action:** Clerk to send to Highways/Tim Bearder and the Quite Lanes leader.

147/26. Strategy – Councillors' Areas of Responsibility

Cllr Andrew Clark – Village Hall Hub/planning. Cllr Clark showed councillors a plan for extending the Village Hall. The additional area could potentially be used for a village shop. Cllr David Elliott suggested that a smaller trial shop could first be considered using the existing Village Hall premises before progressing with an extension. Carried forward.

IT/communications – Cllr Justin Worrall. Administration of SSJ News will be handed over to the Clerk in the next few weeks.

148/26. Cricket Club – Costs and Benefits to the Community

The cost for the Parish Council is £350 per year, paid as rent to New College for the lease of the recreation ground. The cricket club maintains the grounds to an exceptionally high standard.

149/26. Grants Policy

Cllr Justin Worrall requested information on grants provided during 2026/27. This item was carried forward.

150/26. Internal Control – August Payments

Cllr Justin Worrall checked the August payments on the Unity bank statements against the accounts spreadsheet.

151/26. Urgent Matters

No decisions were made under this item.

Cllr David Polgreen expressed concern about the number of power cuts affecting the village and asked whether the Parish Council could contact the electricity supplier to establish the cause. He estimated that there may be six to eight power cuts a year, or more. The Clerk will place this matter on the agenda for the October meeting.

152/26. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 19 October 2026. Agenda items to be submitted by 9 October 2026.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.