

STANTON ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 July
2026 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

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

116/26 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

117/26 Declarations of Interest, Dispensations, Gifts and Hospitality

Cllr Greta Shepherd declared that she is a Councillor for Forest Hill Parish Council, which has recently written to Oxfordshire County Council opposing the proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in relation to Shepherd's Pit Lane. This was noted as the first occasion on which this specific declaration had been made.

Cllr Andrew Clark declared that he is a member of the Gresswell Environmental Trust.

Cllr David Polgreen declared that he is the spouse of a resident who has asked the Parish Council to consider the management and editorial policy of Stanton St John News.

118/26 Public Forum

Residents raised a number of comments in relation to the proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order for Shepherd's Pit Lane, including biodiversity, the adequacy of consultation, the inclusion of proposed speed limit reductions on sections of the B4027, potential impacts on journey times, and the future legal consultation process should the temporary order proceed.

119/26 Shepherd's Pit Lane – Results of Public Survey and Proposed Experimental Traffic Regulation Order

The Clerk reported the results of the door-to-door consultation undertaken by Councillors between 3 and 12 July 2026. A total of 183 residents were consulted: 98 supported the proposal, 61 opposed it, and 24 were undecided.

A proposal that the Parish Council support the Oxfordshire County Council Experimental Traffic Regulation Order in relation to Shepherd's Pit Lane was proposed by Cllr Andrew Clark and seconded by Cllr David Elliott.

Following a show of hands, three Councillors voted in favour, two voted against, and one abstained.

Resolved: That Stanton St John Parish Council support the proposed Oxfordshire County Council Experimental Traffic Regulation Order relating to Shepherd's Pit Lane.

120/26 County and District Councillor Report

County and District Councillor Tim Bearder reported that the decision regarding Local Government Reorganisation was expected to be made during the week.

121/26 Approval of Minutes of the Meeting Held on 15 June 2026

Cllr Andrew Clark proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2026 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Greta Shepherd.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

122/26 Clerk's Report and Update on Actions

The Council received the Clerk's report and noted the action updates set out in Appendix A.

The following items were carried forward:

- Defibrillator grant – allocation of surplus monies.
- Communications and Social Media Policy.
- Donation Policy.
- Village Hall – documentation of historical knowledge.
- Discussion with Russell Warner regarding the Village Hall.
- Bike rack feasibility study.
- Car park lighting.

Cllr Andrew Clark would liaise with the Clerk regarding signage indicating ramp access and the car park lighting matter.

123/26 Ownership and Management of Stanton St John News

The Council discussed the current arrangements whereby Cllr Justin Worrall has sole responsibility for distributing communications via the Stanton St John News portal. A complaint had been received regarding a decision not to publish a communication considered to be controversial.

Councillors discussed whether communications of a potentially controversial nature should be considered collectively rather than by a single individual.

Cllr Justin Worrall advised that, since becoming Chair, his availability had reduced and suggested that the Clerk might undertake the distribution of communications, including Parish Council communications.

The Clerk agreed to trial this arrangement and to monitor the amount of time required.

It was agreed that the Clerk would trial the distribution of communications through the Stanton St John News portal and report back if necessary.

124/26 Financial Matters

- A. Payments for Approval
 - Clerk salary, pension and HMRC.
 - TFM (dog bin waste) – July – £55.85.
 - Microshade IT hosting – £107.94.
 - Clerk expenses (ink and keyboard) – £109.96.
 - Parish Online annual website fee 2026/27 – £336.00.
 - Light payments (7 x £18.00) – £126.00.

Cllr Andrew Clark proposed that the payments be approved. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Dina Cooper.

Resolved: That all payments listed above be approved for payment.

- B. Council Funds and Quarterly Reconciliation
 - Unity Current Account: £11,451
 - Unity Savings Account: £30,806
 - Total: £42,257

The Council noted the balances and the quarterly reconciliation and bank statements were signed.

125/26 Councillors to Authorize Payments on Unity

Cllr Andrew Clark and Cllr Dina Cooper agreed to act as payment authorisers on the Unity portal.

126/26 Planning Matters

New Applications: None.

Pending Applications:

- 19 Middle Road, Stanton St John, Oxford OX33 1HD – Application P26/S1607/HH.

Planning Decisions: None.

127/26 Car Park Lighting Update

The matter was carried forward.

128/26 Oxfordshire County Council Community Transport Scheme

The Chair reported that a request had been received from the community transport representative, John Batty, asking whether the Parish Council would support a grant application to the Oxfordshire County Council Community Transport Scheme. The application deadline was within 48 hours.

Resolved: That the Parish Council support the grant application in principle, noting that a detailed operating plan had not yet been provided.

129/26 Silver Birches and the Conservation Area

The Council noted that conflicting information had been received regarding whether Silver Birches lies within a conservation area. The Clerk had sought clarification from South Oxfordshire District Council and would continue to pursue a response.

130/26 Strategy – Updates on Areas of Responsibility

Cllr David Polgreen reported that he had attended a meeting with REBORN regarding environmental improvements.

Cllr Justin Worrall reported positively on the use of the WhatsApp group for informal councillor communication.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that all official Council communications would continue to be issued via the Clerk's email address.

Cllr David Polgreen emphasised that decisions and approvals should be made through official channels, including email, rather than through WhatsApp.

131/26 Review of Public Forum Speaking Time

The Council considered whether the time permitted for an individual to speak during the public forum should be reduced from five minutes to three minutes.

Councillors confirmed that they were satisfied with the current arrangements and did not consider a reduction necessary.

Resolved: That the existing five-minute speaking limit remain unchanged.

132/26 Urgent Matters

Cllr Greta Shepherd reported concerns raised by residents of Bayswater regarding disturbance caused by motorcycles in a nearby field. The matter was noted for further consideration, and no decision was taken.

133/26 Communications Received Since the Last Meeting

- Residents' comments regarding the editorial policy of Stanton St John News and matters relating to Shepherd's Pit Lane.
- OALC newsletter, including information on Village Hall practical measures training on 16 July.
- Oxfordshire County Council information relating to climate resilience grants, speed limit reviews, community support and performing arts.
- Correspondence concerning the Local Plan objection from Beckley.

134/26 Date of Next Meeting

The Clerk advised that she was unavailable on 21 September 2026 and suggested 14 September 2026 as an alternative date. Cllr David Polgreen advised that he was unavailable on both 14 and 21 September 2026. Cllr Greta Shepherd suggested 7 September 2026. The Clerk advised that she would check her availability.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____