

STANTON ST JOHN PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Andrew Clark (Chair), Cllr David Polgreen, Cllr Justin Worrall, Cllr Greta Shepherd, and six members of the public. **Clerk:** Anita James

51/26 Apologies for Absence: Received from Cllr David Elliot.

52/26 Declarations of Interest, Dispensations, or Use of Delegated Powers: None received.

53/26 Public Forum (7:36 pm-7:10 pm) This discussion commenced directly after the report from Cllr Tim Bearder.

A resident gave a thorough and full update on **Mill Steet drains near Mill Cottage**, and the continued flooding issues. The resident stated that limescale/tufa build up was a major problem that had contributed to the blockage and subsequent flooding. The resident also explained that apart from the flooding onto the road, there is also the problem of pollution of the stream, as debris and waste (engine oil, fuel spills, copper, zinc) flow directly into it.

The resident had been in communication with Highways, who had visited, and the resident believes that there are two possible solutions to the problem:

1. Re-route the drain water from Mill Street to the new overflow pipes on the north side of Mill Street to stop pollution of the stream.
2. The pipes need to be regularly “rodded” out to prevent a limescale and tufa build up. However, Highways said that the residents shouldn’t be doing this. The problem is that Highways are unlikely to make this a priority.

54/26 Report from County and District Councillor Tim Bearder (Brought forward to 7:31pm after agenda item 52/26)

Shepherds Pit Lane Closure and Cycle Lane: Highways are aiming for installation early summer, based on an experimental traffic order. Highways will continue to engage with the community on the design ahead of installation and formally after installation.

Local Government Reorganisation, the deadline for submission of responses to the government consultation ends on the 25 March 2026. Cllr Tim Bearder and local three MPs, including - Freddie van Mierlo (Henely and Thame) along with other local Cllrs will deliver a petition to 10 Downing Street on the 25 March.

55/26 Approval of the Minutes from the 23 February 2026: These were approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair, Andrew Clark.

56/26 Update on Mill Street Flooding (JW)

Cllr Justin Worrall appreciated and understood the issues and enquired about what the Parish Council could do to help. He acknowledged that it was unlikely, given the economic climate, that Highways would be de-scaling the pipes on a regular basis to help prevent the build up of limescale and tufa and could the Parish Council contribute financially?

In the first instance, Councillors agreed that the Clerk should follow up with Highways.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Highways and report back to Council.

57/26 Shepherds Pit Lane update: (Brought forward to directly after agenda item 53/26, Cllr Tim Bearders report)

The update had been provided by Cllr Tim Breader in his report under agenda item 54/26.

Cllr Greta Sheppherd commented that the dangerous junction at Bayswater Road, on to the B4027 opposite the "White House" should be prioritised over the planned Shepherds Pit closure.

58/26 Cox Lane Repairs

The Chair, Andrew Clark, put forward a proposal to install a stone kerb in Cox Lane, to help preserve the verges which had become partly destroyed and eroded due to the passing traffic. Cllr David Polgreen said that passing cars would just go onto the adjacent verge and that the real issue was that the road wasn't designed for today's cars (which are becoming increasingly larger and wider). In addition, residents in Cox Lane often parked their cars in the road, outside their houses. There was a general agreement amongst Councillors that if residents of Cox Lane could be persuaded to park their "overflow" cars (those that are not parked on their premises) in the nearby Village Hall Car Park then that may help, with less cars parked in the road, passing cars are less likely to drive on the verge. Council RESOLVED that the clerk would write to the residents asking them to use the Village Hall Car Park instead of the road.

Action: Clerk to write to Cox Lane residents asking them to use the VH car park when possible.

59/26 Path Clearance (requested by a resident)

A resident had asked for the raised path outside of their premises to be cleared of debris as they were struggling to do this themselves.

Council RESOLVED that this was a reasonable request as other residents also used the raised path.

Action: Clerk to reply to Julian Money to clear the raised path.

60/26 Updates on Previous Actions: see appendix A

The Clerk had sent out via SSJ News the notice of landowner deposits at Wadley Hill Farm.

Loft Space in VH: Clerk to speak to Julian Money, carried forward.

Essential Maintenance: no reply from OCC, Clerk to chase once more and if no response then ask JM to clean up.

61/26 Clerk's Report

- i. St John Ambulance Defibrillator Course: 27 March 2026. Seven places remain available, and the Clerk will continue to advertise via SSJ News and the Parish Council website.
- ii. No dog signs in the park/recreation ground. Council RESOLVED that the Clerk should source these and ask JM to fit.
- iii. Annual Parish Meeting 20 April: Clerk to advertise via the newsletter and SSJ News

62/26 Financial Matters

62.1/26 Payments for Approval

- Clerk salary / HMRC / pension
- Microshade IT – £107.64 (February 2026)
- TFM (dog bin) – £55.85 (February 2026)
- Clerk reimbursement for paper and ink cartridges £47.10
- OALC Subscription for 2026/27 £228.00
- ONPA subscription 2026/27 £25.00
- Howe Trust Donation £70.00
- Martin Page Lights Village Hall £506.40

Council RESOLVED to approve the payments following the meeting.

62.2/26 Disposition of Council Funds as of 28 February 2026

Unity Current Account: £8,190.76

Unity Savings Account: £30,492.80

Total: £38,683.56

Council noted the balances

62.3/26 Councillors to Authorise Online Payments following the Meeting

Cllr Andrew Cark and David Polgreen will authorize the above approved payments.

63/26 Strategic Session

David Polgreen explained that the Council does not have a formal agreement regarding the Village Hall. For example, what is the Parish Council responsible for and the Village Hall Management Committee. There was a general discussion and Council RESOLVED that there should be a formal agreement in place.

Action: Clerk to enquire initially with the Oxford Association of Local Councils and report back to Council.

64/26 Feedback from Planning Seminar (AC & DP)

Cllrs Andrew Clark and David Polgreen had attended a recent planning seminar and updated Councillors on recent developments, including the pending reduction in planning powers for local government, including Parish councils.

65/26 Planning

66/26 New Applications: None

66.1/26 Planning Decisions

[P26/S0162/PDS](#) Stowford Bayswater Road near Barton OX3 9RZ. Planning application agreed 19 February 2026.

66.2/26 Pending Applications

[P25/S4022/DIS](#) Breach Farm Wheatley Road Stanton St John OX33 1FG. Discharge of conditions 2 (details of new roof or new colour of roof to be submitted) & 3 (landscaping scheme (trees)) on application ref. P24/S3095/FUL (Erection of open sided hay barn for agricultural use).

[P25/S3380/FUL](#) Breach Farm Wheatley Road Stanton St John OX33 1FG. Conversion of agricultural building to three dwellings with associated works. (Additional Information Received 30th January 2026 and 03 February 2026.) (Amended & Additional Plans Received 20th February 2026 and 09 March 2026.).

[P25/S3488/LDE](#) Bassetts House, Middle Road, Stanton St John OX33 1EX Lawful Development Certificate relating to P97/N0403 and P97/N0404/LB (residential extensions and alterations), confirming that a material commencement of works has been undertaken and that consent remains extant.

66.3/26 Applications Withdrawn: None.

67/26 Urgent Business (no decisions will be made)

Cllr David Polgreen requested that the Parish Council enter into an agreement with the Public Sector Geospatial to use their services, including access to Ordnance Survey maps. The OS

information will be used to further develop the Councils biodiversity aims as defined in the Councils Biodiversity Policy.

As no decisions can be made under this agenda item, this subject will be carried forward and listed as a proposal to the meeting on the 20 April.

68/26 Date of Next Meeting: Monday 20 April, **earlier time of 7pm**, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm

Agenda items to be submitted to the Clerk by **10 April 2026**

Meeting ended at 9:30 pm.