

Monday, 29 September 2025

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SOUTH MORETON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY
24th SEPTEMBER AT THE CROWN AT 7.30PM**

1/027 Apologies for absence

Anne-Marie Simpson SODC (AMS), Sue Willis (SW),

1/028 Present

Lyn Deeley (LD, Chair), Richard Macdonald (RM), Jonny Gilbert (JG), Cath Gordon (CG),
Charlotte Ray (Clerk), Crispin Topping SODC (CT), Johnny Hope-Smith OCC (JHS),

Members of the public: 1

1/029 Declaration of any relevant interests

None

1/030 Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on the 23rd of July 2025 were then agreed by all and signed by the Chair.

1/031 Public questions, comments, or representations

Church Update

- 4 weddings have taken place this summer, two funerals and two ashes. All Four weddings have been village people which is lovely to see.
- Harvest festival is on the 12th October. There will be a service and fun day in the afternoon. The school has confirmed they will take part supplying artwork from all the children.
- Remembrance Sunday on Sunday 9th November. The school are taking part with the exhibitions - artwork/memorabilia.
- Christmas Eve service and Christmas morning service will be happening as usual.

Following the closure of the footpath, individuals have been climbing over the Church wall and using gravestones as stepping stones. A message will be posted on the Facebook page to inform the public that an alternative route is available. The Parish Council (PC) proposed installing a gate; however, the church expressed concerns that converting this area into a walkway would not be appropriate. The PC will continue to discuss possible solutions to address this issue.

The Safari supper is taking place this weekend with confirmed 34 people attending.

1/032 SODC and OCC Reports to the Parish Council

The report was read and noted by the councillors.

SODC Update:

- The Councillor Community Grant scheme is open for applications. The deadline for applications is midday 5 December. SM will be submitting a grant in the next couple of weeks.

Monday, 29 September 2025

- Residents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse should use a new number for district council waste and recycling enquiries: 01235 422 123.
- Currently carrying out the electoral register annual canvass – that’s the requirement to contact residents each year to ensure they check that their details on the register are up to date.

OCC Update:

- Oxfordshire County Council has launched OxRAIL 2040, a bold 15-year strategy to improve rail transport across the county. The plan sets out a vision for a more connected, accessible, and sustainable rail network, with proposals grouped under three key themes and four priority projects.
- Oxfordshire County Council has awarded £64,572 to four organisations to support essential community transport services. Grants will help fund new routes, vehicle costs, and driver expenses.
- Oxfordshire libraries have launched their 11th annual short story competition, inviting writers of all ages to submit original stories. Hosted by Oxfordshire County Council’s libraries service, the competition celebrates creativity and local voices. Entries are open from Monday 8 September to Sunday 9 November.
- Oxfordshire County Council’s Adult Social Care service has been rated ‘Good’ following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This is a strong endorsement of the council’s efforts to deliver high-quality, person-centred care across the county.
- Oxfordshire County Council’s Adult Social Care service has been rated ‘Good’ following a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). This is a strong endorsement of the council’s efforts to deliver high-quality, person-centred care across the county.
- Council priority fund opening soon. There is a total of £10,000 to spend and parish Councils can submit a grant for a portion of the amount. – SM will be submitting a grant.

1/033 To note recreation ground update

The monitoring report for the two benches the PC purchased earlier in year has been completed and submitted.

Two grant applications will be submitted, one to SODC and one to OCC for the above available grants.

The Parish Council (PC) has received the report following the ROSPA playground inspection. Several issues have been identified that will require repair or replacement by the PC. The Council has agreed to take a copy of the report to the playground, review each item individually, and develop a comprehensive plan for upgrading all equipment. The PC acknowledges that the playground may not be a priority for every resident in the village. A message will be posted on the Facebook page to gauge the community’s priorities. In

Monday, 29 September 2025

addition, the PC is actively collaborating with the local council on matters related to traffic calming, flooding, and planning.

The pathway requires treatment with a weed control solution. Councillor Deely will follow up on this matter.

The PC have agreed to schedule a working party for the mound/old pump track in November or December, when the ground conditions are softer, to facilitate a thorough clean-up and planting of bulbs.

1/034 Grants

Two grant applications will be submitted, one to SODC and one to OCC for the above available grants.

1/035 General/Dog Waste Bins.

The Clerk has obtained two quotes from private waste companies to compare with the charges SODC currently charge for emptying the general and dog waste bins in South Moreton.

SODC currently charge the PC £2,576.18 (Inc VAT) per year to empty the bins. The first quote is from a company called Tactical Group Uk and the yearly total they have quoted is £1,371.52 (Inc VAT). The second quote is from a company called Pet Waste Solutions and they have quoted £2,730.00 (Exc VAT).

Following discussion of the above quotes, it was agreed that the Clerk will contact local councils near South Moreton, for whom Tactical Group UK currently provides services, to obtain references and subsequently update the Parish Council (PC). Provided these references are satisfactory, the PC has authorised the Clerk to proceed with negotiating a contract with Tactical Group and to give notice to SODC, the current service provider.

1/036 Bus Stop Seating

A resident from the village volunteered at the last meeting to look into the different options available for a replacement seat at the bus stop and has reported back to the PC with four different options available.

Option 1: An inexpensive unpainted wooden seat 15 inches wide (as before) treated but unpainted, wood will age naturally.

Option 2: Made of massive oaken sleeper, taking much longer to rot or degrade and less liable to damage or splinters.

Option 3: A charcoal-coloured plastic composition resembling wood which costs £90 for 4 metres, for a ten-inch-wide seat.

Monday, 29 September 2025

Option 4: A 15inch seat (would be more comfortable for a long wait) we would need two 4metre lengths at £90 and hardware.

The PC discussed the above options in detail and agree to go with option 1 and thank the resident for offering to carry out the work. The PC are enormously grateful.

1/037 Finance

a) Payments below approved

| Payee | Gross | VAT | Net |
|--|---------|--------|---------|
| Charlotte Ray Clerk Salary | £418.08 | | |
| Charlotte Ray Work from home allowance | £26.00 | | |
| Charlotte Ray back pay to 1st April 2025 (following local government pay award for clerks) | £65.00 | | |
| Simplicity Payroll Service | £26.40 | £4.40 | £22.00 |
| Employers NI Liability payment due to HMRC (1 st April 2025 – 31st August 2025) | £47.78 | | |
| Employers NI Liability payment due to HMRC for September | £13.81 | | |
| External Audit Invoice (Moore) | £283.50 | £47.25 | £236.25 |
| Printer Ink for Clerk | £22.71 | £3.79 | £18.92 |

b) Approve bank statement for August – Approved

c) Approve budget spreadsheet – Approved

d) Acknowledge the National Local Government Services pay agreement for 2025/26 has been awarded for Clerks with a 3.2% increase on rates from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. – Acknowledged

1/038 Drains

Discussed in heading reference 1/040

1/039 Trees by the Railway

After discussions with the contractors, the Parish Council was informed that the company has authorised the removal of trees on their property that pose a risk of falling onto the railway track and potentially causing fatal or serious injury. Nevertheless, the company has agreed to maintain collaboration with the Parish Council to achieve a mutually satisfactory outcome.

1/040 Meeting with OCC Councillor

Some drainage work has been completed; however, several drains are still pending attention. The spoil from the cleared drains has been deposited in the gullies near Councillor MacDonald's residence. The Parish Council believes that the appropriate procedure should involve removing the spoil entirely, rather than relocating the issue. Oxfordshire County Council will relay this feedback, as it is agreed that the current practice is unsatisfactory.

Monday, 29 September 2025

Highway concerns were addressed during a one-on-one meeting between the Parish Council and OCC, which included a site walk-through. The parties are awaiting the return of another staff member to continue discussions.

1/041 Planning

P25/S1614/HH – The PC have reviewed the application and have no comments to submit.

1/042 Items for next agenda

Date of the next meeting is at 7:30pm on Wednesday 26th November 2025 which will be held at the Crown.

The meeting closed at: 20:32

1/043 Review monthly calendar tasks

Upcoming Parish Council meeting dates:

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Wednesday 28th January 2026

Wednesday 25th March 2026

Wednesday 27th May 2026