

STONESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Stonesfield Village Hall on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 7.00pm

Attendees: Cllrs U Rice (Chair), C Renshaw (Vice Chair), L Bate, D Brown and P Lowe.

Others present: 4 members of the public. The Clerk and OCC Cllr A Graham.

26/31 To receive and accept apologies for absence: There were none.

26/32 Public Participation: None.

26/33 Declarations of interest: Cllr C Renshaw declared an interest on the grant app for Megalosaurus Society as a committee member and Cllr P Lowe declared she was an ordinary member of the Society.

26/34 To approve the minutes of the meeting 4 February 2026: It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes as a true record.

Proposer: Cllr P Lowe

Seconder: Cllr C Renshaw

All in favour

26/35 Co-option of a Councillor: To consider applications received for the councillor vacancy and to resolve to co-opt a new member to the Parish Council. No applications had been received.

26/36 Actions Register: The action register was reviewed and updates noted.

26/37 Planning.

- a) **Planning Applications:** To note any planning application comments submitted between meetings under the Clerk's delegated authority and to consider and comment on any new applications.

Planning application comments submitted between meetings:

- i. 25/03166/HHD

Location: Walnut Cottage Church Street Stonesfield Witney Oxfordshire OX29 8PS

Proposal: Construction of timber garage together with associated access and landscaping works including the erection of new fencing. (Part Retrospective).

PC Comment: No objection

New planning applications received: There were none received

26/38 To receive reports from County and District Councillors:

1. **OCC Cllr Andy Graham report:** Cllr A Graham provided an update on County matters, including:

Judds Junction has now been allocated a confirmed budget for improvement works. This is considered very positive news, as it means the project can move forward once the design and plans are completed. These plans will be subject to public consultation, giving residents the opportunity to comment before the final report goes to Cabinet for approval. If the process remains on schedule, the work is expected to be delivered within the next year.

The area opposite the garage has also been scheduled for repairs in the coming months, though this work must wait for the dry season to allow proper completion. The bus stop in that location will be incorporated into the new junction design.

The County Council are seeking pothole super users and flood wardens, these are trained local volunteers who can mark potholes directly, resulting in faster repairs. Any residents or organisations wanting to become Fix My Street super users should email volunteercoordinationteam@Oxfordshire.gov.uk for more information.

2. **WODC Cllr Genny Early report:** Cllr G Early provided an update on District matters, including: Cllr G Early was not in attendance and had sent apologies.
3. **WODC Cllr Tim Sumner report:** Cllr T Sumnor provided an update on District matters, including: Cllr T Sumnor was not in attendance and had sent apologies.

26/39 To receive reports from those working groups that have met since the last Council meeting. No meetings had been held since the last PC meeting.

26/40 Finance:

- a) **Payments:** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the ratification of payments – see table below.

Gross Amount (£)	VAT Value (£)	Payee	Details
150.00		C Carruthers	RFO Feb 2026
194.16	32.36	Microshade VSM	Jan IT & Email hosting
348.84		OCC	LGPS Pension Feb 26
65.56		HMRC	PAYE/NI Feb 26
143.09		WODC	143.09 Grass Cutting Sept
120.00	20.00	Oxford Diocese	Glebe Rent
<i>Confidential</i>		<i>K Linnington</i>	<i>Clerks Salary</i>
65.00		K Linnington	Clerks Monthly Expenses

- b) **Expenditure under the Clerk’s delegated authority**

The following expenditure was ratified:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the ratification of payments and any expenditure under the Clerk’s delegated authority. There were none to be ratified.

Proposer: Cllr U Rice

Seconder: Cllr C Renshaw

All in favour

26/41 Grants.

- a) **The Megalosaurus Society of Stonesfield**

To consider and approve funding for printing a 32-page illustrated A5 booklet documenting a September 2025 roundtable with former Pickard’s Gloves workers and their families, capturing first-hand accounts of glove-making in Stonesfield (1951–81), working practices, notable customers, and social history. The booklet will be shared with Society members, local residents, visitors, and local museums.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £354.83.

b) Scouts

To consider and approve a grant for new seating and tables for the 1st Stonesfield Scouts Scout Hut, enabling the space to be fully usable by scouts and local community groups. The improved facilities will support youth activities, forest schools, and wider community use, helping the hut become a welcoming, accessible community resource for the parish.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £1000.00

c) Stonesfield Primary School

To consider and approve a grant towards replacing unsafe, rotten playground equipment at Stonesfield Primary School, as requested by Friends of Stonesfield School (FoSS). The project will create a safe, inclusive play area designed with pupil input, supporting pupils' wellbeing and enriching play and learning for the whole school community.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the sum of £3000.00

Proposer: Cllr U Rice

Seconder: Cllr D Brown

All in favour

26/42 Police:

To report on village matters (if in attendance) including any relevant community information. There were no police in attendance. However, they have asked for future dates of meetings which the Clerk has sent to them.

26/43 Local Government Reorganisation – One Oxfordshire (Draft Parish Council Response) Paper 3.

To discuss and draft the Parish Council response to the Government consultation on local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire (One Oxfordshire proposals). The PC discussed the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation and expressed strong opposition to all three options presented. It was agreed that the most suitable authority, if reorganisation must occur, would be Cotswold District Council, reflecting the parish's rural character and its position within the Cotswolds AONB. However, this option is not being considered. Of the three options actually proposed, the Council agreed that the least damaging would be Cherwell and West Oxfordshire, although members stressed that this arrangement still does not properly reflect Stonesfield's community identity or service needs. Significant concerns were also raised about the implications for GP boundaries, access to health services and wider infrastructure planning should Stonesfield be placed within an unsuitable administrative area. The PC does not support the reorganisation proposals and considers Cotswold District Council the most appropriate authority if change is unavoidable.

Action: Cllrs D Brown and P Lowe agreed to work together to draft the PC's consultation response - deadline 26th March, noting that both will be away for parts of the month.

26/44 Items to be added to the next agenda:

1. Logo/emblem approval
2. Review PC policies and TOR for PC working groups ready for approval at the May meeting.

26/45 Date of the next Full Council Meeting: The date of the next full Parish Council meeting is Wednesday 1 April 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Meeting closed at 7.43 pm