

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Middleton Stoney Parish Council.
held at Middleton Stoney Village Hall
on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors Present: Jonathan Rees (Chair), Juliet Cornford, Al Grenfell, Andrew Fulljames, James Dunne and Henry Teare.

In Attendance: Brian Inglis (Clerk and RFO)

Public Attendance: There was ONE member of the public present.

1. **Election of Chair of the Parish Council for 2026-27**
Cllr Jonathan Rees was elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office
2. **Apologies for Absence**
There were no apologies.
3. **Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the agenda.**
None recorded.
4. **Appointment of Vice-Chair(s) of the Parish Council for 2026-27**
Cllrs Juliet Cornford and Al Grenfell were appointed as Vice-Chairs and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office
5. **To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th March 2026**
The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.
6. **Public Participation** – One member of the public spoke about flooding in the village, giving a personal account of their home being flooded, and asked the Parish Council for any support which it may be able to provide. Cllr Rees will seek an update from OCC on a previously agreed plan for mitigation.
7. **Parish Council Action Log**
The list was updated, with some items removed as complete.
8. **To Receive a Report from the District / County Councillors**
There were no District or County Councillors present.
9. **Vacancy on the Parish Council**
The Clerk reported that there have been no applications to fill the vacancy.
10. **Governance –**
 - 10.1 Councillors considered the Annual Internal Audit Report and noted the findings. (Action – The Clerk to produce an action plan to ensure full compliance with some outstanding governance matters)
 - 10.2 Councillors voted to approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section1) for 2025/26
 - 10.3 Councillors voted to approve the Accounting Statements (AGAR Section 2) for 2025/26
 - 10.4 Councillors voted to approve the Bank Reconciliation at 31st March 2026
 - 10.5 Councillors voted to approve the Statement of Variances for 2025-26
 - 10.6 Councillors noted the dates for the period of the Exercise of Public Rights

11. Finance

- 11.1 Councillors approved the May payment list, which was duly signed by Cllrs Rees and Cornford. Corresponding cheques and stubs were signed by the same Councillors.
- 11.2 Councillors scrutinised and approved the Bank Reconciliation to the end of April 2026.
- 11.3 Councillors noted the contents of the Parish Council Insurance Documentation for 2026-27.
- 11.4 Councillors considered the Parish Council budget for 2026-27, with no modifications made.
- 11.5 Councillors considered a grant request towards the cost of independent local PFAS testing. After discussion, it was decided not to contribute. Councillors agreed that a local, village specific testing of a stretch of the Gagle Brook would be more appropriate. **(Actions - Cllrs Teare and Cornford will look into a crowdfunding campaign for this. Cllr Teare will investigate costs of the testing).**
- 11.6 Councillors considered a grant request for £1,000 towards the cost of professional and legal fees regarding the OxSRFI project and agreed on a contribution of £500. **(Action – Cllr Rees to communicate this decision to the applicants).**
- 11.7 Councillors considered a grant request from the ABC Magazine team and agreed on a contribution of £100. **(Action – Cllr Rees to communicate this decision to the applicants)**

12. Parish Matters

- 12.1 Cllr Rees gave a short update on the most recent meeting of the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum, with input from Cllr Cornford who had also attended the meeting on 16th April.
- 12.2 Cllr Cornford spoke on PFAS matters, referring to the wider discussion at 11.5
- 12.3 Cllr Rees gave an update on the new Book Exchange at the Bicester Road Bus Stop, noting that some volunteers who may be prepared to curate the project have been identified. **(Action – Clerk to follow up the progress of the shelving due to be installed)**
- 12.4 Blossom Wheel – There was no update.
- 12.5 Councillors considered a message from the War Memorials Trust and noted the comments made on the condition of the Middleton Stoney Cross, which Councillors consider to be adequate.
- 12.6 Cllr Rees gave an update on grass cutting which had recently been carried out ahead of the Open Gardens weekend, paying thanks to James Godden for work involved in this. Plans for a second cut will be finalised later in the season.
- 12.7 Flooding – Cllr Rees noted that there had been no progress on plans to carry out work at the Ardley Road culvert. The CDC Flood Lead and the OCC Highways Officer are working to schedule this.

13. Highways

- 13.1 Cllr Rees gave an update on the correspondence string with the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire CC which was opened following a decision at the March PC meeting, noting his disappointment at the lack of progress and the apparent lack of urgency on the part of OCC to act on the solutions presented previously.
- 13.2 It was noted that one resident had indicated a willingness to organise a Community Speedwatch team, subject to equipment being made available to volunteers. **(Action – The Clerk to investigate the possibility of sourcing a trial loan of equipment owned by a neighbouring Parish Council)**

14. Planning Applications

- 14.1 There have been no new Planning Applications received from Cherwell DC since the last meeting
- 14.2 There have been no Planning Decisions made by Cherwell DC since the last meeting
- 14.3 Councillors noted the progress of THREE applications, previously considered by the Parish Council which are still under consideration by Cherwell DC.

15. General Planning Matters

Councillors considered the following Planning Appeals, against refusal by Cherwell DC

Appeal ref 6005951, Appeal Ref 6007564 and Appeal Ref 6007565.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would submit an objection to all three.

Comments submitted by the Parish Council will be available to view on the Appeals portal.

(Action – Clerk to submit the objection wording, by the deadline on 22nd May)

16. Date of Next Meeting - The date of the next meeting was set as Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7.00pm.

The meeting finished at 8:52pm.

Signed: Date:
(Chair)

**The Parish Council meets every other month, in Middleton Stoney Village Hall, commencing at 7pm.
Members of the public are welcome to attend. Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2026 are set as follows -**

Wednesday 15th July – Thursday 3rd September – Thursday 5th November