Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council, held on **Thursday 30th July 2026** at **7pm** at Sibford School

Present: Cllrs Ginny Bennett, Michael Gordon, Clerk.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.

As the meeting was inquorate it was agreed that the meeting would remain open but only for information items, with no decisions being made.

23. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies received – Cllr Abecassis. Apologies accepted – None.
24. **Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – None.
25. **Co-option to fill remaining vacancy** – No applications received. **Clerk and councillors to continue to advertise.**
26. **Public participation session** – 2 residents were in attendance to hear if there had been any progress re speed reduction in the parish. The residents are particularly concerns about speeding on Hook Norton Road. The Clerk advised that despite chasing, she has not had any response from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) regarding the possibility of a Vehicle Activated Sign or other speed reduction methods being put in through the village. **Clerk to continue to chase, to ask if speed cushions may be an option, and to ask the police if they would consider putting a speed detection van on Hook Norton Road occasionally**. It may also be an option to apply for a 40mph limit from the crossroads to the current village 20mph sign.
27. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 21st May 2026** - The minutes cannot be approved as the council is inquorate. Defer to next meeting.
28. **Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**
    i) Update re contact with Deanfield Homes regarding the planned gap in the hedge, and alternative pedestrian access to the site – Deanfield Homes has now made the gap in the hedge and has provided the following update: The connection to the existing path through the land within Deanfield Homes' ownership is also planned and we anticipate this being completed in the coming months. We will keep you updated on progress and confirm once the works have been finished.

    This element will form part of the wider package of works associated with the eventual handover of the play area and open space to Cherwell District Council and/or Sibford Ferris Parish Council.

    On a related matter, we have become aware that, despite the formal opening not previously being available, a resident from the village (outside of our development) appears to have taken it upon themselves to create and use an unofficial route through the wildflower meadow to a smaller opening in the boundary fence. This is clearly not the intended route and has the potential to damage the meadow area.

    We will be installing signage to help discourage this activity and direct pedestrians towards the formal connection once it is completed. We are also monitoring the situation to assess the extent of use and any impact on the meadow, so that appropriate measures can be considered if the issue continues.

    It was agreed that this item can now be taken off the agenda.

    ii) Update re request to transfer remaining S106 funds allocated to a bus shelter to Sibford Gower Primary School – This is still with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). The Clerk has requested an update on where they are with this and they advised that it appears the e-mail they thought they had sent to the legal team to make the request but it had not sent so they have now sent it to try to start the process.

    iii) Update re Pitch Hill Field – The **Clerk** has obtained clear guidance regarding which forms need to be completed and what evidence should be sent to HM Land Registry to try to get the land registered and will **now proceed with this.**

iv) Update re new website and councillor e-mail addresses – The website is now live and Cllrs have been provided with details to log in to their new PC e-mail accounts.

v) Update re request to Highways for advice regarding the possibility of installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on Main Street – Highways initially replied and said they were forwarding to the traffic team for them to consider but no reply has been received. The Clerk has chased this up but still no reply.

29. Planning applications received

26/01589/TCA – The Long House, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. T1-7 Southern Beech - Fell lesser stems to give space for more desirable trees. T8 x Sequoia- Removal of hanging fractured limb remove deadwood. No comment. *(Response made using delegated powers).*

30. Play area

i) To receive the annual professional inspection report and agree any actions required – There were a small number of issues raised. **Clerk to get a quote for the repairs.**

ii) Updates re repairs and any other issues – None.

31. Finance

i) To consider changing bank account provider from Lloyds Bank to Unity Bank. Charges and interest rates for both accounts are:

- Lloyds Bank – £4.25 per month fee, 0.5% interest
- Unity Bank - £7 per month fee, 1.95% interest

Defer to next meeting.

ii) To confirm completion of an asset condition check and agree any actions required – A new rota needs to be agreed. **Clerk to e-mail all councillors to ask for a volunteer to complete the next check before the next meeting.**

iii) Proposal to add the dog waste bin on Stour View to the Asset Register at a value of £1 as it has been donated to the Parish Council by Deanfield Homes – Defer to next meeting.

iv) Confirmation of payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers: Defer to next meeting.

01.06.26	Sue Rowley	Internal Audit 25-26	£75.00
29.05.26	Kirsty Buttle	Expenses	£33.50
01.06.26	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Play area mowing May	£61.42
01.06.26	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office May	£267.67
01.06.26	HMRC	Tax May	£64.40
02.06.26	NEST	Pension May	£18.71
19.05.26	Lloyds	Account fee	£4.25
12.06.26	Zurich	Annual parish insurance	£500.00
25.06.26	Citizens Advice Bureau	Donation	£25.00
25.06.26	CDC	Uncontested election fee	£200.00
25.06.26	Parish Online	Website 1 year	£300.00
19.06.26	Lloyds	Account fee	£4.25
25.06.26	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office June	£257.42
25.06.26	HMRC	Tax June	£62.00
30.06.26	NEST	Pension June	£17.97
20.07.26	Lloyds	Account fee	£4.25

v) To note the following receipts: Defer to next meeting.

09.06.26	Lloyds	Interest	£6.37

vi) To approve payment of the following invoices: Defer to next meeting.

Thomas Fox Landscaping	Play area mowing June	£61.42

Playsafety Ltd	Annual play equipment inspections	£104.40
Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office July	£257.42
HMRC	Tax July	£62.00
NEST	Pension July	£17.97

32. Planning decisions received

25/03347/F – Austin Grounds Farm, Hook Norton Road, Sibford Ferris. Alterations to and conversion of barn to form one dwelling (self-build). Withdrawn.

33. Information exchange – Cllr Borkmann introduced herself as the new District Councillor replacing Phil Chapman. Cllr Borkmann lives in Swalcliffe.

Meeting closed @ 8:06pm.

Date of next meeting – 16th September 2026

Signed……. Date……