



Minutes of Kidlington Parish Council meeting

Held at Exeter Hall on Thursday, 30 October 2025 from 7.30pm

Councillors present: Cllr Lesley McLean – Chair, Cllr David Robey – Vice Chair, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Dave Kanonuwa, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr David Betts, Cllr Phil Wyse, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Robert Packard, and Cllr Linda Ward

In attendance: Sarah Kearney (**Parish Clerk**), District Councillor – Dorothy Walker, and County Councillor - Laura Gordon

Residents: 1

Apologies: Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace, Cllr William Easdown Babb, and Cllr Nik Soheili

The Chair, Councillor McLean, opened the meeting by expressing condolences for the passing of former Councillor Alan Graham. The Councillors recognised his long service and contributions to the Parish Council, where he served as Chairman and Councillor from 1999 to 2024.

25/83 To receive Councillors' Apologies for Absence

The Council received and accepted apologies from Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace, Cllr William Easdown Babb, and Cllr Nik Soheili

25/84 To Record Members' Declarations of Interest regarding the Agenda Items

To receive any requests for Dispensations or Declarations of Interest from Councillors relating to items on the agenda, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, and to note any gifts and hospitality (please refer to the notes at the end of the agenda).

Nothing to be declared

25/85 To facilitate public participation with regard to items on the agenda – Public participation is limited to 10 minutes in total. Members of the public may make only one address to the Council of no more than five minutes' duration and only concerning topics on the agenda.

1 - attended to listen to section 87.1

25/86 To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 17 September 2025

The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chair, Cllr Lesley McLean

25/87 Governance:

87.1 Consideration of the Parish of Kidlington becoming a town – verbal update

The Council held a lengthy discussion on the next steps required to move this matter forward. After most Councillors had expressed their views, it was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange an informal residents' meeting for **Kidlington residents only**, allowing them to discuss the issue directly with the Council, share their views, and ask

any further questions they may have. The meeting will finalise the engagement process. Following this, the Full Council will arrange an **Extraordinary Meeting** to make a formal decision on the matter.

The Council voted (by an unnamed vote) in favour of holding a Residents' Meeting, followed by an Extraordinary Council Meeting to make a formal decision.

Councillors in favour: 10

Councillors not in favour: 1

87.2 LRG - Local Government Reorganisation

87.2a Update on Unitary Councils – see attachment

The councillors discussed in great detail the three proposed options for the formation of unitary authorities within Oxfordshire:

1. A single county-wide unitary authority.
2. Two unitary authorities (North and South Oxfordshire)
3. A "Greater Oxford" unitary proposal, incorporating Oxford City with surrounding parishes.

After a long debate, councillors agreed that they were **strongly opposed to the "Greater Oxford" proposal**, as they felt it would not serve the best interests of Kidlington residents. The Council agreed that they strongly preferred either of the remaining two options, believing these would offer better opportunities for local representation and influence for the Parish Council. It was agreed not to express a preference between the two.

87.2b Request for Transfer of Local Powers – see attachment

Transfer of Local Powers / Neighbourhood Lead Role

The Councillors discussed taking a larger role in local service delivery under the new government structures. It was agreed that:

- KPC will serve as the Neighbourhood Area Lead through an Area Oversight Group (AOG), collaborating with neighbouring parishes.
- The existing draft proposal will be finalised by Cllr Robey, Cllr McLean and the Clerk, outlining the services over which KPC would like to greater influence this document will be distributed to members and will be passed to the Development & Strategy Committee for approval and will then be sent to the surrounding Parish Councils for adoption and acceptance.

87.2c General Powers of Competence – see attachment

This document regarding the General Powers of Competence has been prepared by the Clerk to be posted on the Council website. It aims to inform residents that the Parish Council possesses the General Powers of Competence, which were approved at the last meeting in September 2025.

87.3 Launch of new Kidlington PC Website

The Clerk presented the new website design to all the Councillors, showcasing the updated logo and colour scheme. Some sections of the website will require further development, which the office staff will address in the coming months. The next step will involve training the office staff on how to access the system and input information. Once this training is completed and the transfer from the previous company to the new company is finalised, the website will be ready to launch in January 2026.

25/88

Finance:

88.1 Draft Budget for 2026/27 – to consider the attachment

Cllr McLean informed all the Councillors that the draft budget is currently under development, and the process is proving to be quite challenging. It has been agreed at the Finance and Assets Committee meeting that there will be a process in place for all Councillors to access the draft budget and share their input.

The process is as follows:

Monday 3 November – 3:30 to 5:00 pm at Exeter Hall (Committee Room)

For Cllr Mclean, Cllr Robey, Cllr Soheili, Cllr Konanuwa, and Cllr Moorhouse (if possible). This meeting will focus on making any necessary changes to the budget. After this session, we hope to finalise a version to circulate to all councillors for review.

Thursday 6 November

The Clerk and RFO will send out the new draft budget to all councillors, incorporating the agreed changes.

Monday 17 November – 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Office Drop-In)

The Clerk and RFO will be in the office all day. Any councillor who would like to discuss or clarify any part of the budget is welcome to come in during this time.

Thursday 11 December – 6:30 pm (Finance & Assets Committee Meeting) & 8.30 pm (Full Council Extraordinary Meeting)

The Committee will discuss and agree on the Budget to go to Full Council for approval. We would like **all councillors** to attend the F&A meeting, so that any final adjustments can be made if required.

Following the F&A meeting, the Clerk will be calling an **Extraordinary Full Council Meeting** to formally agree the **2026/27 Budget**, ready for submission to **Cherwell District Council (CDC)**.

25/89 Update on Progress from the Committee Minutes

- 89.1 Development and Strategy Committee** – to consider the draft minutes of the meeting held on **09 October**, and to note any recommendations or actions
The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** and noted these recommendations and actions
- 89.2 Personnel Committee** – No further meetings since the last Full Council meeting to consider
- 89.3 Finance & Assets Committee** – to consider the draft minutes of the meeting held on **23 October**, and to note any recommendations or actions.
The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** and noted these recommendations and actions
- 89.4 Community Committee** – No further meetings since the last Full Council meeting to consider

25/90 To receive a report from KPC Working Groups:

- 90.1 Exeter Close Working Group** – verbal update
There was a meeting to discuss sustainability, but the notes hadn't been released yet. The architects delayed the project proposal and hopefully will have further updates at the next meeting in January.
- 90.2 Flooding Defence Working Group** – Report from CDC meeting
Slides have been circulated by the CDC, and the KPC has also received an email update from OCC. It is becoming increasingly concerning that all parties are having difficulty contacting Thames Water, especially since there are outstanding jobs that need to be addressed. Cllr McLean will reach out to Cllr Calum Miller MP, who is expected to contact Thames Water on behalf of KPC.
Cllr Wyse raised his concern that the Parish Council was not spending enough of its funding on flooding issues in Kidlington and questioned how Yarnton Parish Council appeared to be doing more in this area.
The Clerk explained that flooding is **not the direct responsibility of Kidlington Parish Council**, but instead lies with **Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council, and Thames Water**. The Parish Council's role is to liaise with these authorities to ensure that they are fulfilling their responsibilities and that residents receive the necessary support.
It was also confirmed that **KPC has received £25,000 in flooding grant funding from OCC**, which will be used for a range of flood prevention and resilience projects across

the parish. In addition, there may be further **funding available from CDC** to support future work on flooding in Kidlington.

- 90.3 Stratfield Brake Liaison Working Group** – no further update, since last meeting
Cllr McLean reported that this is still a work in progress, with meetings ongoing with the Clubs. Once these meetings are completed, KPC and GWEPC will advance to the next decision-making stage.
- 90.4 Funding and Grants Working Group** – Verbal update
Cllr Kanonuwa reported: Unfortunately, the application for TVP was not successful. The working group will review further funding applications once the budgets are completed to identify the shortfall.
- 90.5 Environmental Working Group** – Verbal update
Councillors acknowledged reports, and mention was made of several projects currently in progress.

25/91 To receive a report from KPC members representing the Council on outside bodies:

- 91.1 Kidlington Recreational Trust** – no further meetings since the last Full Council meeting
- 91.2 Kidlington Connections** – Verbal update - Their next Big Breakfast is on 31 October
- 91.3 Traffic Advisory Committee** – no further meeting since the last Full Council meeting
Cllr Betts reported: that at the last Full Council meeting, it was mentioned that if any Councillors had suggestions about double yellow lines in Kidlington if they could send the details to either him or the Clerk. The next TAC meeting will be on 7 January 2025.
- 91.4 Police Liaison** – no further meetings have occurred since the last Full Council meeting
- 91.5 High Street ANPR (OCC)** – Verbal update
Cllr Middleton reported: There is still no further information since the last meeting, and the ANPR should happen sometime in early 2026.

25/92 Parish Matters

- 92.1 Clerk report** – see attachment
Councillors acknowledge the Clerk's report
- 92.2 OUFC stadium application** – verbal update
Cllr McLean reported: The Secretary of State has approved the planning application for the OUFC. Now, CDC and OCC will have further discussions with the Planning Department regarding transport plans, licensing concerns, and especially Martin's Law on operational licensing.
- 92.3 Fly Tipping** – see attachment
The Councillors acknowledged the email received from a resident regarding fly-tipping. After discussing the matter, they concluded that it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, as it falls under the authority of the CDC (District Council). Cllr Middleton also confirmed that the CDC is not reducing its efforts related to fly-tipping or waste collection.

25/93 To receive reports from Cherwell District Councillors – update

Councillors acknowledged the reports

25/94 To receive reports from Oxfordshire County Councillors – update

Councillors acknowledged the reports

25/95 Chair's announcements

There is going to be a petition regarding the closure of 'Roundham Crossing'

There are also two parcels of land going up for sale

1. Near to the Railway Line and Canal at Roundham Lock
2. The other one is next to Bransons Land

25/96 Confidential Matters – Public and Press will be asked to leave while confidential matters are discussed by the Council

96.1 Complaint – to discuss the report regarding the investigation of a complaint from a resident – **private attachment**

The Council reviewed the report and **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the complaint should not be upheld. The report proposed recommendations that will go forward to the next Full Council meeting for review in public session.

ACTION: Cllr McLean to write to the complainant

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 29 January 2026 at Exeter Hall, Committee Room

Meeting Finished: 9.55pm