

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th March 2026 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Cllr R Jarrett (Chairman), Cllr M Patterson, Cllr M Chivers, Cllr G Page, Cllr S Meek, Cllr E Batchelor.

In attendance: Clerk, 0 members of the public.

98.Apologies for absence – County and District Cllr Brant sent his apologies.

99.Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

100.Public participation session - None.

101.To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 13th January 2026 - The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

102.Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

102.1 Update re flooding on Thorpe Road outside Sabins – The Head Groundsman at The Manor has advised that they are going to put a diverter into a pipe to make water go straight down to the ditch, and then when the water is clean they will allow it to run into their lake. Cherwell District Council (CDC) are also in contact with The Manor owners and contractors to review the current drainage plans/maps and consider any possible improvements.

102.2 HS2 update – Nothing to report.

102.3 Update re information from PCC regarding the pathway adjacent to the old school – In response to minute 97 from the last PC minutes a representative of the Church sent the following information to the PC:

- The path adjacent to the Old School is not a “church path” – it is outside the churchyard curtilage.
- The path is somewhat overgrown but is not blocked.
- The fence on the north side is very dilapidated and is the responsibility of the PCC – plans are already in hand to replace it as well as clean up, etc, the hedgerow.

The correspondent also reminded the PC about it's responsibility to maintain the churchyard extension to the southwest of the current churchyard. Cllr Page advised that it has been impossible to get up to that section of the churchyard with a tractor to remove the clippings from last year as the access road is too narrow but he will see if he can get access to a narrower tractor and try again.

103.Play Area

103.1 Update re play equipment safety inspections and repairs – The March inspection has taken place and no issues have been found. It is believed that the repairs have still not been completed. Clerk to chase up contractor.

103.2 To discuss renewal of the lease of the Play Area – The Memorial Hall Trustees are happy for the PC to renew the lease but they need to get the deeds changed into their name, now being the owners of the Land. This could take some time.

104.Concerns raised about the state of the A361 through Wardington – The Clerk has been chasing Highways on this to find out what issues they are aware of, what they have done so far

to resolve the problem, and what plans they have for repairs going forward. Their reply received today is as follows:

‘Our Drainage Team is still actively working to resolve the issues, which have proven to be quite complex. The latest development is that we've addressed the mainline problem, but the issue has now migrated further down the road, from Vicarage Cottage towards the pedestrian crossing.

To address this, we'll need to coordinate a switch out on the pedestrian crossing, allowing us to continue the work further along the road. We're hopeful this will lead to real improvements in the mains once we can move forward.

In the meantime, our Engagement Officer, Kat Gash, is maintaining weekly site visits to monitor the situation (she was there today) and is raising any necessary works to ensure the area remains safe. I know she raised a further three ‘make safe’ defect repairs for the road today. Clearing water from the highway remains a top priority before we can begin any permanent repairs. I'll make sure to keep you informed as we make progress with the drainage works.’

A resident is also in contact with HS2 regarding the state of the road and the HS2 vehicles mounting the pavement and speeding through the village. A representative from HS2 came out to see the situation in person and she has stated that no vehicles triggered the 20mph VAS, and suggested that the resident should start keeping records of number plates and timings and report to HS2 for them to follow up.

There is a fund provided by HS2 to local authorities for repairs to roads that have had extra damage due to HS2, but the local authorities have to apply for money from that fund. The Clerk has contacted OCC to ask if they have accessed those funds and if not, whether the A361 is now in a condition where it would be appropriate for them to apply for some of the fund but this question was not answered as part of the response received. **Clerk to follow this up.**

105.Planning applications received

26/00044/OUT – Tuthill Park, Banbury Road Through Wardington, Wardington. Car storage, workshop and offices. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

26/00204/TCA – Long Cottage, Thorpe Road, Wardington. medlar (T1) - reduction by approximately 1 metre in height, reducing the sides to suit. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers). **APPROVED.**

26/00226/F – Lower Lodge, Williamscot. Erection of two extensions and associated engineering works. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

26/00445/TCA – Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. T1 Willow - pollard at 5 metres leaving lower stem epicormics. T2 Robinlas - Lift crowns roadside, reduce and reshape by 2 metres. T3 Holly – fell. **No objections.**

26/00571/TCA – Old School House, Street from centre to north west, Williamscot. T1. Taxus baccata Fastigiata - Height reduction by 4 metres approx. in order to lower to the same level of adjacent hedge (Taxus baccata). **No objections.**

26/00500/F and 26/00501/LB - Wardington Manor, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Variation of Condition 1 (plans) of 25/01993/F and 25/01995/LB - changed to include additional external CCTV cameras to the Main House and Stable. **No objections.**

106.Planning decisions received – None.

107.To consider adopting a Social Media Policy – It was agreed to approve the policy subject to the removal of the line ‘and others who engage with the council using online communications, collectively referred to as social media.’. **Clerk to update policy and publish on the PC website.**

108.Finance

108.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 11.03.2026 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£452.44
PC Savings	£25,941.93
Total	£26,394.37

	WPC Main	Williamscot	Total
Cashbook balances as at 11.03.2026	£17,586.09	£8,808.28	£26,394.37

108.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

26.01.26	Kirsty Buttle	Salary Jan	£385.25
26.01.26	HMRC	Tax and NI Jan	£107.83
30.01.26	NEST	Pension Jan	£18.49
23.02.26	Kirsty Buttle	Salary Feb	£385.45
23.02.26	HMRC	Tax and NI Feb	£107.63
27.02.26	NEST	Pension Feb	£18.49
31.01.26	Unity Bank	Account fee	£6.00
28.02.26	Unity Bank	Account fee	£6.00

108.3 To note the following receipts: Noted.

09.01.26	Lawrence Furnishings	Warbler	£80.00
12.01.26	Barn Farm Plants	Warbler	£80.00
19.01.26	Humphris	Warbler	£100.00
19.01.26	Tuthill	Warbler	£50.00
11.02.26	Shire Forest	Warbler	£80.00
12.02.26	Jones	Warbler	£27.00
03.03.26	Douglas	Warbler	£80.00

108.4 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

OALC	Annual membership	£228.00
Parish Magazine Printing	February edition of the Warbler	£326.50
Kirsty Buttle	Salary and SIM/One Drive share	£402.69
HMRC	Tax & NI Mar	£107.83
NEST	Pension Mar	£18.49

Unity Bank	Account fee	£7.00
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109.To agree date(s) for the 2026 Spring Clean/Litter Pick – It was agreed to hold the litter picking event at 10:30am on Saturday 11th April. **Clerk to arrange loan of equipment from CDC and publish notices advertising the event. Cllr Patterson to speak to Barn Farm Plants to see if it is ok for the items to be delivered and picked up from there.**

110.Information exchange – Cllr Batchelor noted that he and others who live in Williamscot have made numerous reports on fixmystreet regarding blocked drains which are now causing flooding in residents gardens but no action is being taken by Highways. **Cllr Batchelor to send report reference numbers to the clerk who will escalate the issues to the Highways Engagement Officer.**

111.Proposal to exclude the public and the press in order to discuss a confidential staff matter – Proposed and agreed.

The Clerk left the meeting @ 8:41pm

112.To review the Clerk’s pay for the 2026-27 financial year – It was proposed and agreed to increase the clerk’s pay by 4% from 1st April 2026 resulting in a new hourly rate of £19.49.

Meeting closed @ 8:55pm

Date of next meeting – 12th May 2026

Signed..... Date.....