



BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the APM Parish Council meeting duly convened on 21st October 2025 @ 7.30pm In the Stewart Village Hall

DRAFT & UNAPPROVED MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT NOVEMBER MEETING

Present: Cllrs. J Davys (Chair), R Nielsen, S. Robson, J. Debney, C Hollebone, G Gilgrass, D Fisher

In attendance: J Gray (Clerk), James Barlow (OCC) Anne-Marie Simspn (SODC) K Sherman (Viewing) B Horsefield (History Group)

1)	Receive Apologies: Cllr. J Harding - Accepted
2)	To Confirm and sign a true record of the last meeting of Parish Council 16/9/25 – Agreed by all
3)	Declaration of Interests; Cllr. J Debney – Chair of History Group
4)	Public Participation: A further presentation was given by the History Group (BH) regarding funding for St Agatha's Cob Wall restoration. Quotes had been obtained from a Thatcher and a Cobb Wall specialist. These figures cumulatively came in at £17,500.00. A request was made for Parish Council funding towards this cost. It was explained that the History Group are going to set up a Just Giving page, apply for grants from SODC (application is currently in progress) as well as £500.00 from the Grant Community Association. It was also proposed to involve local residents and school children (as a learning opportunity). All of the Councillors agreed that this was a good cause to preserve this very historic part of the Cobb Wall at St Agatha's Church Yard. Currently, the Parish Council have proposed that they could offer some funds but, have requested, in the first instance, that the Just Giving Page be set up to start donations and to see if there are any other ways of obtaining further Grants. It was proposed that if all of the above could be put in place then, a review can then take place with the Parish Council regarding additional funding towards this from the Parish Council Grant Fund and also with consideration of CIL Funding (as a one of payment) This will be revisited/reviewed.
5.	Reports
5a)	County Council: • Cllr. James Barlow: Discussed the situation with regards to the lighting on A4130. Both the District Council/Parish Council and Wallingford Town Council are fully supportive of the turning off of the street lights from 1130. Clerk to send a supporting email to the District Council on this proposal. Also, the Clerk to contact Wallingford Town Council on this matter. • Update that there is currently no roadworks in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. • Closure of North Morton 27-29/10 – Thames Water • Local Government re-organisation meeting 1/11/25 in Oxford
5b)	District Council: Cllr. Anne-Marie Simpson in attendance • Joint Local Plan: No decision as yet; The District Council are looking at other opportunities • Advised the Parish Council to continue to review the local Neighbourhood plan



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5c)	Clerks Report: • Update on new Internal Auditor, Jane Olds, now officially appointed for 25/26 AGAR Audit – forms sent to Clerk to start inputting information • Confirmed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies due to the Parish Council at the end of October • Confirmed addendum to 16/9/25 minutes regarding the Grant money to the Village Hall for the dishwasher – it was accepted at this meeting that the Village Hall could hold this money until the purchase was made • Late Invoice to be paid re Bat Survey on The Pavillion to MKA Ecology for £3048.00 – previously approved at meeting 16/9/25 – unanimously approved by all Councillors																											
5d)	Planning: <table><tr><td>P25/S2161/HH</td><td>Hillside, High Road, New Driveway</td><td>No Objections – comments made</td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2668/HH</td><td>Maitland, Sotwell Street, Double Storey Extension</td><td>No Comments</td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2761/DIS</td><td>Brightwell Manor – Discharge of condition 5</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2480/HH</td><td>Farthing Corner Sotwell Street – Retrospective Planning</td><td>Comments made</td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2886/DIS</td><td>1 Sotwell Manor – BCS -</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2322/HH</td><td>Langton House, Bell Lane -</td><td>Planning Permission 19/9/25</td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2923/S73</td><td>Highlands Farm -BCS – Removal of condition 5</td><td>No Objections</td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2857/HH</td><td>Church House, Sotwell Street – Conversion of existing building</td><td>No objections</td></tr><tr><td>P25/S2842/S73</td><td>Benjamin House, BCS – Variation of condition 2</td><td></td></tr></table>	P25/S2161/HH	Hillside, High Road, New Driveway	No Objections – comments made	P25/S2668/HH	Maitland, Sotwell Street, Double Storey Extension	No Comments	P25/S2761/DIS	Brightwell Manor – Discharge of condition 5		P25/S2480/HH	Farthing Corner Sotwell Street – Retrospective Planning	Comments made	P25/S2886/DIS	1 Sotwell Manor – BCS -		P25/S2322/HH	Langton House, Bell Lane -	Planning Permission 19/9/25	P25/S2923/S73	Highlands Farm -BCS – Removal of condition 5	No Objections	P25/S2857/HH	Church House, Sotwell Street – Conversion of existing building	No objections	P25/S2842/S73	Benjamin House, BCS – Variation of condition 2	
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	Agree October Payments – All Agreed for payment																											
6).	Pavillion Update: Cllr. R Nielsen advised that there was no update other than the Bat Survey had now been carried out and the bill to MKA Ecology is due for payment																											
7).	Village Hall Update: Cllr. G Gilgrass – Advised that there was no update – Trustees are due a meeting on 22/10/25. RT and PJ have spoken to Kingerlee to discuss possible ways of reducing the costs. Fundraised will also be discussed at the meeting of 22/10/25																											
8)	Playground Update: No Change – Wood has been ordered and repairs due to be carried out – Cllr. Gilgrass, Cllr, Fisher will all deal with the repairs																											
9)	Millenium Wood: Cllr. Davys advised that Vertex Team had done a good job tidying the wood. Cllr Davys mentioned he wanted to know what the Environment Group would be doing to the Millennium wood going forward. Cllr C Hollebhone (Environment Group) stated that they wished for the path around the wood to remain clear but, the rest of the wood to be left in a ‘wild’ state. Cllr. Hollebhone advised that he does not think it																											



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	a good idea to remove a section of fencing and he will work on a management plan for the future maintenance of the wood.
10)	Remembrance Sunday: Cllr. J Davys went through who was doing what at the Remembrance Parade this year
11)	S137/Grant Application: Cllr. C Hollebone had submitted a Grant Application for funding for work at Swan Wood. He requested that he wished this application to be deferred at the moment.
12)	Matters for Reporting & Item for Inclusion on November Agenda: • Village Hall Update • Pavillion Update • Finance Update • Playground Update

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on **18th November 2025 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business the meeting was **declared closed at approximately 20.57pm**