

**Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting
 Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 8.00pm**

Present:

Councillor Peter Gorman
 Councillor Phil John (Chairman)
 Councillor Sullivan
 The Clerk
 Residents and Public – 2

Welcome and introductions

Members are reminded that this is a meeting in public, not a public meeting, and all points, questions and comments should be addressed through the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Received from District Councillor Chris Brant and Councillor Banister

Declarations of Interest *Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.*

1226 Minutes of the meeting held 25th November 2025 (previously circulated) and Matters arising. The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. It was agreed that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**1227 Clerks Report
 Financial Statement**

The Clerk reported that 7 cheques had been raised in the period November and December 2025

819	F Pile	Chainsaw parts	25.40	In Budget
820	Kalkwik	Printing Mollington Matters	99.00	In Budget
821	DM Payroll	Payroll Services	60.00	In Budget
822	Clerk	Salary	803.44	In Budget
823	HMRC	PAYE	181.20	In Budget
824	Thomas Fox	Hedgecutting	829.24	In Budget
825	Glasdon	Dog waste bin	159.38	In Budget

There is £707.73 VAT outstanding and not yet claimed.

Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance is £25,301.26 which is reconciled to Bank statement at the 30th December 2025. This balance contains the remaining reserves of £2857.50 for Orchard Piece Community Play Area. The General Fund at the end of December stands at £22,140.65.

Resolved: To accept the financial report and approve payments

1228 Appointment of Internal Auditor

After reviewing a number of quotes, it was recommended to appoint Kate Houlihan as Internal Auditor.

Resolved: To appoint Kate Houlihan as Internal Auditor

1229 Precept Request for 2026-2027

The Parish Council are required to submit a precept demand to CDC for the next financial year based on the likely parish expenditure and income, including grants and reserves.

Resolved: To authorise the Clerk to submit the 2026-2027 Precept Requirement notification to Cherwell District Council for the sum of £17,780 by 11th January 2025

1230 Budget Proposals 2026-2027

The budget proposal, including a 2.5% increase in the precept, was previously circulated and approved by the Parish Council. This increase represents the Parish Council's commitment to the continued upkeep of the two play areas, and to improving the appearance and safety of the village with further tree and hedge cutting work. According to the Clerk's contract, the salary must also increase annually.

1231 Consultations

Request for Documents relating to sale of a property

The Parish Council had been asked to prepare and sign a document relating to the sale of a property where access crosses Parish Council and Village Hall land. The contents and format of this document had been previously agreed by the Parish Council in 2003 and is included in the relevant property deeds. Subject to receiving agreement from the Village Hall management committee, it was agreed that any two Councillors could sign this document on behalf of the Council and as Custodians of the Village Hall if the sale was to proceed.

It was noted that there had been difficulties and delays recovering the Council's documents from the solicitors advising the Council historically which had necessitated seeking legal support from a new firm.

The Parish Council recognise the need to protect the interests of the Village Hall and the Parish Council and may look to consult on the subject at a later date.

Councillor Co-option

The Parish Council welcomed Chris Hackley, who was co-opted as a Councillor and signed the acceptance of office form.

Dog Bin Lower Farm Lane

Following residents' requests, a new dog waste bin has been purchased and, once sited in Lower Farm Lane, will be added to the dog waste bin collection contract with CDC.

Mollington Fete

The Mollington Fete and Dog Show will be held on Saturday 16th May. Any surplus (including proceeds of the raffle) will be split 50/50 between the Church and Village Hall, making it a wider 'village event'.

The Parish Council will be supporting this event by publicising it in the Spring edition of the Mollington Matters, and by sharing details with nearby parish councils.

1232 Planning matters

Applications

- **25/03117/TEL** Chestnut Road Installation of 1 x 9m medium wooden pole. *This is classed as an observation so MPC are not required to comment*

Decisions

- **25/02842/DISC The Crest, Whiteway OX17 1BL** Discharge of Condition 3 (stone sample panel) of 25/02142/F. *Application permitted*



- **25/02517/TCA Ivy House Ivy Lane Mollington OX17 1FF T1 Cherry** - Cut back the north side of the cherry tree along the north boundary back to the boundary by approximately 3 metres. *Application permitted*

1233 Councillors Reports

Councillor Banister

It was advised that Councillor Banister will be looking for content for the next edition of Mollington Matters for issue early May. As well as the normal content, there will be an article on the Fete and perhaps some topical issues, eg parking in the Village Hall carpark and any update to the play areas.

Councillor John

It was reported that hedge cutting was done in Dec 25 as per contract conditions in the two play areas. Further bark will be purchased in early Spring to be spread in the Chestnut Vale play area. A decision will be made in the next 2 weeks with regard to the appointment of grass cutting / specific hedge work contractors for the next 3 + 1 yr option. Some site meetings are planned. A site meeting with an OCC representative for roads / drains was undertaken in December, specific areas of maintenance work was discussed and agreements reached in principle on a short- and long-term basis. Several road works – potholes and drains, have recently been undertaken.

Villagers are asked to continue to utilise FixMyStreet to ensure focus and continue to apply pressure on outstanding works.

Works by Open Reach contractors took place in January. Some complaints have been received from residents on the scope / levels of communication and parking issues. The PC has written to the contractor directly seeking responses to the complaints.

Village Hall activities continue with coffee mornings, the Munch (Dec & Jan), quiz in November and Xmas Fayre.

Future events planned are Village Summer Fete, Car Boot sale, Quiz night and Bingo. These events need to be supported by villagers to ensure the future of the hall.

Councillor Gorman

Councillor Gorman continues to record the effectiveness of the drains throughout the village, and also reported the abandoned van bumper on School Hill to CDC as fly tipping.

Work on updating the Emergency Plan will continue with volunteers' names and contact details recorded where appropriate.

Councillor Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan advised that he had nothing to report concerning Dogs and Footpaths. On maintenance, in addition to points raised by other Councillors, Councillor Sullivan noted that the new salt bin to be placed on Main Street by the allotments is still awaited but Oxfordshire County Council has advised that it will be provided free of charge.

1234 Councillors Points of Interest:

OCC have programmed to complete the full width resurfacing of Mollington Road on **Monday 2nd March; 0730 – 19:00Hrs** via a series of **fifteen (15) consecutive daytime full road closures**.

Mollington Road will be fully reopened outside of these working hours and at the weekends. Works will include ironwork adjustments and the resurfacing of the existing carriageway surface, following which all existing road markings will be reinstated.

1235 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 24th March 2026 Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council

