

MOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor Phil John

Councillor Tim Banister

Councillor David Sullivan

Councillor Peter Gorman

Councillor Chris Hackley

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 Councillors Chris Brant, Nicola Borkmann and Douglas Webb

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.*

1261 Minutes of the meeting held 26th May 2026 (previously circulated) and Matters arising.

The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. They were agreed to be a true record of the Meeting and were signed by the Chairman. It was agreed that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

The Chairman and Councillor Sullivan signed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office, and the Chairman and Councillor Hackley signed the Code of Conduct.

1262 Clerks Report Financial Statement

The Clerk reported that 7 cheques had been raised in May and June 2026.

838	T Banister	KallKwik MM printing	99.00	In Budget
839	Gallagher	Insurance	691.48	In Budget
840	K Houlihan	Internal Audit	165.00	In Budget
841	Mollington Village Hall	Annual Hire	70.00	In Budget
842	4 th Corner	Grass Cutting April	1441.80	In Budget
843	4 th Corner	Grass Cutting May	1441.80	In Budget
844	Vision ICT	Email Account	30.00	In Budget

Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance is £25847.03 which is reconciled to the Bank statement at 30th June 2026. This balance contains the remaining reserves of £2857.50 for Orchard Piece Community Play Area. The General Fund at the end of June stands at £25950.01.

Resolved: To accept cheque payments and the financial report

1263 Consultations

Play Areas Maintenance

Councillor Hackley outlined that the equipment in the play areas was ageing and required servicing and ongoing maintenance to ensure they are usable and safe, and to prolong the life of the equipment. Currently, to date, to comply with RoSPA's standards, the play areas are inspected annually and a report is received, with the maintenance and repair being left to the Parish Council. Following extensive research into other options, Sovereign were found to offer a fixed price package for 5 years, which would include twice yearly inspections, basic maintenance and minor repairs and quotes for any work recognised as needing to be done.

The zip wire is not included in this price, Due to the nature of zip wire maintenance work, the inspection and re-tensioning of zip wires requires additional equipment and safety precautions; it is recognised that as it has not been serviced in nearly 20 years, and paying the separate fee of £599 for an inspection and service would be advisable, recognising that this is unlikely to need to be repeated for some time.

Councillor Hackley proposes the PC engages in a service, inspection and maintenance contract with Sovereign as the preferred contractor, at an initial cost of £399 per play area for five years and to carry out a one-off service inspection of the zip wire at a cost of £599.

Resolved: to agree a maintenance and service contract with Sovereign and to carry out a one-off service inspection of the zip wire

Quiet Lanes

Oxfordshire County Council are looking to introduce Quiet lanes which are minor roads where motor traffic is reduced to make it safer to walk, cycle and ride a horse.

Most through-traffic is removed by use of signs, speed limits and physical measures such as bollards or gates, but access is still allowed for: residents, farmers and landowners, local businesses and emergency services

They are only implemented where there is local support and a suitable alternative route for motor traffic.

OCC have now formalised how they identify, trial, and designate a quiet lane to ensure the process is consistent across the county. This will also speed up the delivery of appropriate schemes.

The programme is voluntary and locally led. A quiet lane will only be brought forward where there is strong local support and a clear evidence-based case.

They are hoping to launch a pilot programme of up to 10 new sites in late 2026, and are currently identifying potential sites.

The Parish Council has been made aware of a proposal in its early stages for Hanwell and, if it is proven that Hanwell suffers significant through traffic, the proposal could have an impact on the volume of traffic through Mollington, as there would be no route through Hanwell for traffic to and from the Warwick Road to the Southam Road.

Councillor Gorman made the following points

- Closing or restricting traffic on a road will have an effect on other nearby roads and villages. The proposed Hanwell Lane "Quiet Lane" scheme is 1.1 miles long from its junction with the A423 (near Great Bourton) to the white gating to Hanwell village. It would close off the lane to cars, vans, lorries, tractors, school buses, ambulances, fire engines, dustbin collections, post office letter deliveries and collections, school runs, residents, and through traffic. Alternative route to the south is 4.3 miles and includes 7 roundabouts, an existing traffic calming scheme, and passes through a residential area. The northern alternative is even longer 6.1 miles through the villages Mollington and Shotteswell, using single track roads and roads with existing signage informing that the road is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles. These alternative routes are through villages without safe pavements.

- Another major concern is the increase in response times for emergency vehicles, or if the only route available is blocked by eg. a fallen tree; the quiet lane closure may actually increase the traffic in the Hanwell as any traffic entering into the village including residents would have to return out the same route, unlike in OCC's models, where quiet lanes are introduced where there are 4 or 5 routes through a village.
- Looking at the applications/proposals published by OCC for Quiet Lanes there have been 3 withdrawals from the 12 original applications.
A major difference/concern is that all the other villages apart from Hanwell that have applied have at least 2 to 5 alternative routes into and out of the village.
- Checking online there is no OCC cycle route connection to Hanwell Lane.
- Local businesses are likely to see a reduction in business.
- Primary School or Pre School children living in Hanwell and attending Cropredy School will have much longer journey times and costs with increased environmental impact.
- There is no data available to support Hanwell's proposal

The Parish Council is aware that neighbouring parish councils have also expressed concern at Hanwell's proposal; this is at its early stages having not (to date) received full backing of Hanwell PC. A meeting of all local parish councils will be suggested, to discuss and put forward a view and potentially a proposal for villages in the North Oxfordshire area.

1264 Planning matters

Applications 26/01759/CLUE The Yews OX17 1AZ Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development for excavation of drainage trenches, the laying of underground foul drainage pipes and the installation of inspection chambers at the site, carried out in connection with the foul drainage system for the two dwellings approved under planning permission 24/00072/F. *MPC is not required to comment on this application*

Decisions

- **26/01141/TCA Lanes End Cottage Lower Farm Lane OX17 1BJ** Tree work to willow
Application permitted

1265 Councillors Reports

Councillor John

It was reported that overall the grass cutting was being completed as per contract, though they have been asked to cut further back in Orchard piece play area, to keep the brambles down, and not to park on the corner of the Southam Road junction, as it is difficult to see around them at the junction. The second cut in July was cancelled due to the lack of growth; August cuts will be reviewed, and there would then be scope to add further mowing to the end of the year. Drain clearance in Lower Farm Lane has been completed, but until it rains, the success of this will not be known.

Highways have advised that repairs to March Road is in their schedule for Oct/Dec 2026, but further details will be requested as this requires a full road closure with 3 months' notice.

A tree survey is proposed to include all known parish council owned trees, to plan and budget for any work that needs to be done.

With current traffic levels, and a potential increase in the volume of traffic through the village if a local quiet lane is introduced, Councillor John suggested that further traffic calming measures should be looked at and introduced where possible.

The Village Hall's Munch took the form of a BBQ, with thanks to John Summers, Bob Wadsworth and the ladies, who all made it a successful event.

Due to lack of support for social events, these are to be reduced, and the next planned event will be a quiz in November.

Councillor Gorman

Councillor Gorman's report on the quiet lanes was provided earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Sullivan

Councillor Sullivan advised that the Parish Council has received the annual order form for winter salt. The salt levels of all bins will be reviewed and further salt ordered as necessary. In addition, Oxfordshire County Council are being pressed to fulfil last year's order for a new salt bin that was to be placed at the western end of Main Street free of charge.

Councillor Banister

Councillor Banister provided the update on planning activity under the earlier agenda item. He reported that the next edition of Mollington Matters was planned to be issued early November and that it would expect to cover the normal content.

Councillor Hackley

An update on the play areas was provided in an earlier agenda item.

1266 Councillors Points of Interest:

The Parish Liaison meeting due to be held on 10th June was postponed, date to be confirmed.

As per Councillor Hackley's report, the scheduled play area inspections originally booked for July have been postponed.

Councillor John reported that the noticeboard and bus shelter required some repairs, and will obtain quotes once the work needed has been identified.

It's been announced that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire's seven existing councils will be replaced by three unitary councils from 1 April 2028 as part of its plans for local government reorganisation.

The new councils will be:

- Northern Oxfordshire Council – covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts.
- Greater Oxford Council – covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings.
- Ridgeway Council – covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts, combined with West Berkshire.

All the existing local authorities in Oxfordshire - excluding the parish and town councils - will start to wind down.

This includes Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and Oxford City Council.

Next May, people will be able to vote for councillors to sit on the unitary councils. These will be "shadow authorities", running alongside the existing county, district and city councils until April 2028.

Links to information about the change can be found on the Mollington Parish Council website.

Parish Council minutes and records over 10 years old can be stored in secure archive conditions in Oxford, whilst remaining the property of the Parish Council.

It is proposed that records currently stored in the Village Hall are sorted, digital copies made where necessary and archive storage arranged. Sorting and making digital copies may incur an admin fee of £15/hour.

Resolved: To accept the proposal to sort, make digital copies and arrange storage of PC minutes over 10 years old, payment as agreed where necessary

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting closed at 8.55pm

Public Participation Session

The residents present expressed their concern at the quiet lane proposal in Hanwell and its lack of qualifying data or appropriateness. It was suggested that a traffic survey for speed and volume was conducted in Mollington in the near future, so that data was available to use if looking to introduce a quiet lane through the village, or to compare how the village is affected in the future.

Enquiries are to be made to our local district councillors regarding the best way to approach a traffic survey.

DRAFT