

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council held at West Kidlington Primary School on
Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Councillors present: Cllr Clive Stayt (Vice Chair), Cllr Merlin Smith, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Chair), Cllr Nigel Simpson, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Suzanne McIvor,

Member of Public: Jackie (Resident)

To receive and accept apologies of absence from: Cllr Carol Matheson

Other attendees: The clerk

26/033 Declarations of interest: Cllr McIvor is part of Friends of Stratfield Brake and is also Chair of Cherwell Development Watch Alliance. Cllr Simpson declares he is a season ticket holder for OUFC.

Cllr Simpson is Chair of Shipton on Cherwell. Cllr Middleton is a councillor for Yarnton and Kidlington Parish Councils.

Cllr M Smith and Cllr S Wilson-Higgins declare an interest in the EWR consultation as they have properties in the close vicinity of the proposed works.

26/034 Public Participation: A member of public queried Kidlington Town Council and what will happen to Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council. The council confirmed we remain as a parish council and that the parish will be growing with the new housing coming into the parish. The council aims to keep us a parish.

The member of public asked if the proposed Oxford United stadium is in our parish. Councillors confirmed that the proposed stadium sits within Kidlington Town Council.

26/035 To confirm the minutes of the previous council meeting on 10th March 2026. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 10th March 2026. Proposed Cllr N Simpson, Seconded Cllr M Smith

26/036 Update on progress and matters arising from the minutes held on 10th March 2026. The parish council notes the yellow lines at Water Eaton Lane have still not been actioned. The clerk and Cllr Middleton continue to follow up with Highways again. There is no update still.

26/037 Updates from District and County Councillors:

(26/037.01) Cllr Middleton shared his report. This will be shared on our website.

Cllr Mawson mentioned OCC required flood wardens. This will be shared to councillors (Cllr M Smith, Cllr Stayt are volunteers) and it could go in the newsletter for further members of the parish interest.

26/038 Clerks report summarise and questions:

The clerk and Cllr Stayt talked through the Cromwell Way play area.

Council would like the roundabout removed as a matter of urgency. Several pieces of equipment will be replaced and quotations shared to council.

26/039 Financial Matters

(26/039.01) To approve the financial payments. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the financial payments.

Finance committee receive copies of the invoices to review ahead of the meeting. Statutory payments were already authorised and have been paid via standing order.

Statutory salaries, HMRC, pensions already approved and set up – All to be made via online banking. These are set up by the RFO to be clicked in the approvals list.

Other immediate payments – budgeted and approved in annual budget:

West Kidlington venue Apr - £89

Clerk office expenses (Mar) £53.75

(26/039.02) Playground at Cromwell Way needs to be refurbished. Now that we have seen some quotes council has **RESOLVED** to spend up to £19,000 plus VAT.

Proposed Cllr Stayt, Seconded Cllr Simpson.

Councillor Wilson-Higgins and Cllr C Stayt will work with the clerk to sign off on the design detail.

Ongoing council will need to budget further sums for additional play equipment provision. There are currently no CDC grants available and S106 money will not cover this as it is an existing park.

(26/039.03) Newsletter budget. Council **RESOLVED** to approve up to £350 spend for APM newsletter print and delivery. Proposed Cllr Wilson Higgins, Seconded Cllr Stayt.

26/040 Planning:

(26/040.01) To consider all recent applications received from Cherwell District Council since the last meeting. None.

(26/040.02) To receive an update from the Stratfield Brake user group. There have been no meetings since the last meeting, but Kidlington Town Council are working on negotiations with the clubs.

26/041 To confirm attendance for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in May:

To confirm a date for the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in May. Proposal is to use the date 12th May 2026 for APM. The clerk will see if Edward Feild can accommodate us for this meeting. 6pm start for full council and APM to follow.

26/042 Items for information or next agenda only.

EWR consultation 2026 paperwork has come in. Council need to put together a response before the June deadline. The details of the consultation will be placed on the website. The clerk will support drafting a response for councillors to add comments. The clerk will request a copy of the map from EWR.

Note: Cllr Wilson-Higgins and Cllr Smith will not be inputting in the council response due to declarations of interest.

Date of the next full council meeting – 12th May 2026 – 7pm West Kidlington Primary School APM (6pm pre meeting).

Meeting ends 8.35pm