

**BODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2026
AT 7.15PM AT CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET**

PRESENT: Cllrs. J. Washburn (Chairperson), A. Conley, C. Elmitt, D. Hingley, P. Jackson, J. Sacha and J. Slade

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), Mr M Bell of Power On and Mr T Howe of Rogers Civil Engineering (RCE)

26/15. To receive apologies

Cllr Corrigan (personal), Cllr Pattenden (personal) and Cllr Watts (personal)

26/16. Public session (*Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of ten minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes*)

There were no members of public present.

26/17. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda (*Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business*)

No interests were declared.

26/18. To discuss a major electrical project off the Oxford Road with the representatives

Mr Bell of Power On and Mr Howe of RCE were at the meeting to discuss the project to bring in 1603KVA of electrical capacity to supply 860 new homes on Oxford Road. The only capacity available from National Grid is at Ells Lane Primary Substation and a further upgrade will be due at Molyneux Drive. A 7km cable is required to be constructed. The work will start in March 2026 and be complete by October 2026. Roads will be dug up for trenches to lay pipes. The work starts in the School Easter holidays and there is a programme of works for local roads when the work will start and finish. Ells Lane and Wykham Lane will be shut as the roads are too narrow to allow two way lights to be utilised through the area. They have already visited businesses along Ells Lane and Wykham Lane which will be affected. There is a website <https://www.rceltd.co.uk/bankside-oxford> and the Parish Council website will be updated. Both representatives agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting in April to give an update on work which will have started.

The Chair thanked them both for coming and they left the meeting at 7.55pm.

26/19. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on 14th January 2026

The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

26/20. Update on progress from the previous minutes (for information only)

- *Placement of new bench in the cemetery.* A new bench has been placed in the cemetery to replace the rotten bench.

26/21. County Council and District Council matters

- *To receive reports from County and District Councillors.*

Cllr Hingley gave the following update. CDC are meeting next week to approve the budget for the coming year. There was a huge change to grant funding from Central Government over the next three years with no warning given. There has never been a change of this magnitude. CDC lobbied Central Government who have agreed to cover the shortfall for 2026-27. CDC will then have to cover the shortfalls in 2027-28 and in 2028-29. There will be efficiency savings which will help cover this loss.

A lot of people responded to funding of the museum and it has been agreed to carry on funding it. Glass recycling started in the New Year and there are no plans to move to three weekly bin collections this year. Council tax will increase by £5 per year for a Band D property. The Local Plan is being examined this week at Castle Quay. The Bodicote House site was discussed in a closed session and detail will be announced in a few weeks time. The OCC budget was passed last week. There is a £5.4M shortfall. Included in the budget are Adult Social Care costs, SEND requirements, a library refurbishment programme and £2M spend on repairing drains. The work on Cherwell Street/Bridge Street is ongoing and the traffic lights are being monitored. There are three options being offered for the Local Government Re-organisation. CDC are opting for the two unitary council option. The matter will come to the next meeting once everyone has read the detail. Devolution was briefly discussed which is the statutory delegation of powers from central government to regional or local government. The primary purpose of devolution is to bring governance closer to the people, improve administrative efficiency and address local needs.

- *Public Consultation on the proposals for Local Government Reorganisation.* The consultation has begun and there are three options to choose from. The deadline to respond is Thursday 26th March 2026 at 11.59pm. It will be an end to two tiers of local government and one tier of local government providing all of its services to residents. A decision will be made this summer and we expect to be notified of the Ministerial decision confirming which proposal will go ahead. There will be shadow authority elections in May 2027 and vesting day is 1st April 2028 when the new authorities will take over and replace the existing six councils.
- *To receive an update on work on the Neighbourhood Plan.* The green spaces and important views have been marked on a map and passed to Troy Planning.

26/22. To receive an update on the transfer of land south of Blackwood Place and Molyneux Drive and north west of Cotefield Farm

A draft Deed of Variation has been received and copied to Cala Homes. The document is currently being reviewed by the legal team acting for Cala Homes.

26/23a. Planning matters; New applications

- *26/00160/TCA, Apple (T1) - Crown reduction of the Bramley and russet apples by approximately 2 metres in height, reducing the sides to suit. Plum (T2) - removal. Crab apple (T3) - Removal. cherry (T4) - Crown reduction of the cherry by approximately 2 metres in height, reducing the sides to suit at Westerly, Goose Lane.* It was agreed to support.
- *26/00243/TCA, 1 x Horse Chestnut tree which is diseased and splitting. The tree is a health and safety risk and a limb may fall on the family. Therefore we would like to remove the tree at Barnstones, Paddock Farm Lane.* It was agreed to support the decision of the CDC Tree Officer.

- 26/00143/F, Single storey front extensions at 21 Broad Gap. It was agreed to support.

26/23b. Planning matters; determined

- 26/00162/TCA, Beech (T1) - Crown reduction of the neighbours entire beech tree crown by approximately 2.5 metres, removing any deadwood 25mm or greater at the attachment point to functional wood. oak (T2) - Removal. birch (T3) - Removal (dead) at The Old Barn House, Goose Lane. No further comments or objections by CDC.

26/24. Financial report

a) To note up to date bank balances

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|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total | £103,693.75 (excluding Bodfest a/c) |
| Business Premium Account | £20,179.19 |
| Community Account | £200.00 |
| <u>Business Premium Account</u> | <u>£83,314.56</u> |
| Business Premium Account (Bodfest) | £8,657.67 |

- ##### b) To consider S137 applications received from: Bodicote Cricket Club and Banbury Floral Art Group. Two new applications were received. One Councillor abstained from voting for the payment to Bodicote Cricket Club. Six Councillors voted in favour and the payments will be made.

Action: The Parish Clerk to process the payments.

- ##### c) To consider the weed spraying contract for 2026. A new contract has been received for 2026. Three sprays will cost £350.00 each or two sprays at £385.00 each. More councils are moving to three sprays per season. It was agreed that two sprays are adequate and the price was accepted.

Action: The Parish Clerk to reply.

26/25. Passing of invoices for payment

Cllr Slade proposed that the following accounts be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Jackson and carried unanimously. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that these payments be made:

- £90.00 to Mrs P Evett (litter picking January)
- £90.00 to Vision ICT (website February)
- £126.42 to Microshade Business Consultants (emails January 2026)
- £126.42 to Microshade Business Consultants (emails February 2026)
- £126.42 to Microshade Business Consultants (emails March 2026)
- £846.00 To Parish Clerk (hours) and £82.20 to HMRC (tax)
- £4024.80 to Cotefield Treecare (work at the Flyover)
- £383.00 to KMS Litho (Spring newsletter)
- £829.03 to Thomas Fox Landscaping (sign cleaning, stimming flyover and sanding/repainting bench at Keyser Road)
- £835.78 to Glasdon UK (new bench for the cemetery)
- £828.00 to Thomas Fox Landscaping Ltd (installation of new bench in cemetery)

26/26. Village matters

- To discuss setting up an email distribution list for communication. Councillors had read the Bloxham Broadsheet which gives out information.

Action: The Parish Clerk to speak to the Parish Clerk at Bloxham Parish Council for further information on what is involved.

- *To receive an update on the planned landscape management work at Keyser Road.* A planting plan, including a wildflower area was produced and shared with residents. Feedback included more apple trees and holly bushes. The plan has been updated and once approved, a price will be sought from Thomas Fox to do the work.
- *To receive an update on the Bodicote Welfare Fund Charity.* An AGM will be held on Wednesday 25th February and trustees will be standing down. Cllr Conley is the Parish Council representative and has attended several meetings. Quotes have been received to repair the play area floor and money has been raised through fund raising.
- *To receive an update on the village gates.* The Parish Clerk emailed the Highways Engagement Officer to ask for help. The enquiry has been passed to the traffic team.
Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the emails to Cllr Hingley.

26/27. To receive the following correspondence

- Thank you emails from ARCh, Volunteer Driver Service, SWAG and Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell for the recent donations. Noted.
- OCC, Update on Cherwell Street (Banbury) improvements. An update has been put on the website.

26/28. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

New bus shelters on White Post Road and Weeping Cross
Graffiti on the bench on Broad Gap
Tidying of the Weeping Cross Memorial

26/29. To note next meeting date and time

18th March 2026 at 7.15pm at Church House, Church Street.

Signed

Dated 18th March 2026

389