ISLIP PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th September 2026, at 7.30 pm held at Islip Village Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Dennis Price, Nicola Richardson, Anneka Streule, Andrew Smith and Sophie Miller.

OFFICERS PRESENT: **Clerk to the Council:** Emma Kearney.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: **County Councillor:** Laura Gordon
District Councillor: None

OTHERS PRESENT: **Members of the Public:** 1

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received.
District Councillor: Timothy Faltermeyer – written report provided.

056/26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**
None.

057/26 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None.

058/26 **MINUTES**
It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept as a true record the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 14th July 2026, amended to remove a duplicated cashbook entry (£200 uncontested election fee).

059/26 **REPORTS**

1. **Councillors**
   Those present gave their reports.
2. **Clerk**
   The clerk provided an update.
   It was **NOTED** that the Clerk's appraisal has been scheduled for 6.30pm, ahead of next month's meeting.

060/26 **OIL DEPOT DEVELOPMENT – 25/02918/OUT**

1. **Application Outcome and OALC Guidance.**
   It was **NOTED** that Cherwell District Council's Planning Committee met on 23rd July 2026 and voted unanimously to approve the application, for up to 150 homes, a 70-bed care home, and up to 65 retirement/assisted living units, subject to conditions including contamination clean-up (requiring Environment Agency sign-off before works begin), a surface water drainage scheme, and sewerage capacity.
   It was further **NOTED** that Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC's) advice is that judicial review is the only means of challenging a decision of this kind, that this would require a strong case to justify given the cost involved and the low likelihood of success, and that OALC would not recommend pursuing this route without one.
2. **Written Representations**
   It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to write the following three letters, raising the Council's concerns arising from the discussion above:
   i. **Cherwell District Council and the Environment Agency**
   Regarding public safety and potential PFAS/PFOS contamination on the site.
   ii. **The Ministry of Defence (RAF)**
   Regarding consultation on the Weston-on-the-Green Airfield Safety Zone.
   It was **NOTED** the consultation had not taken place despite the site's proximity to the airfield.

iii. **Cherwell District Council's Chief Executive and Head of Planning**
Regarding the Council's concerns about the due diligence applied in the handling of the application.

061/26 KIDLINGTON & SURROUNDING VILLAGES – MOVEMENT AND PLACE PLAN (PUBLIC CONSULTATION)

1. **Pre-Consultation Response**
It was **NOTED** that Oxfordshire County Council is consulting on its Movement and Place Plan, closing 14th September 2026, and that the Council had submitted a pre-consultation response in June 2026.
2. **Walking, Wheeling and Cycle Routes Out of Islip**
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council supports exploring walking, wheeling and cycle routes out of Islip, in line with the Islip Village Plan 2013 (Action 11), and that this be included in the Council's response to the consultation.
3. **Whether to Submit a Response**
It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would submit a further short response to the consultation, highlighting the omission of any reference to a walking, wheeling and cycle route between Islip and Oxford Parkway.

062/26 WALKING, WHEELING AND CYCLING ROUTE – ISLIP TO OXFORD PARKWAY

1. **Village Plan Position**
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to endorse the position adopted in the Islip Village Plan 2013 (Action 11) and to resolve that the Council explore the potential for walking, wheeling and cycle routes out of Islip.
2. **East West Rail**
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Council would contact East West Rail to request a meeting between East West Rail and one or more councillors, to discuss a possible walking, wheeling and cycle route between Islip and Oxford Parkway ahead of planned electrification works. Cllr Smith was nominated to make contact.

063/26 THE SWAN CAR PARK

1. **Clearance of the Car Park**
It was **NOTED** that the car park had been cleared ahead of the Islip Bridge works.
2. **Swan Inn Car Park**
A request to retain use of part of the car park was received. It was agreed that this would be deferred to a future meeting.

064/26 YEAR END AUDIT 2025-26

1. **Response and Actions from the External Audit**
It was **NOTED** that the external auditor issued a qualified opinion on the 2025/26 accounts (certificate signed 12th August 2026).
Findings included a recording error on the assertions form, since corrected, and a breach of Regulation 16(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, as the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had not been published as a separate document; this has since been addressed.
The external auditor also noted that the Council's reserves are higher than usually recommended for a council of this size, and that a Reserves Policy is required.
2. **Conclusion of Audit and Notice Published**
It was **NOTED** that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been published on the Council's website, alongside the AGAR and the audit findings.

3. **Effectiveness of the Internal Audit**
   It was **NOTED** that a review of the effectiveness would be deferred to a future meeting.

065/26 YEAR END AUDIT 2026-27

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint Theresa Goss as Internal Auditor for 2026/27, at a fee of £275, and to take up the interim audit offered partway through the year.

066/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. **Income**
   None
2. **Cashbook Payments**
   It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to pay the following September cashbook payments.

Date	Payee	Description	Total
14/09/2026	Clerk	September Wages	£933.20
14/09/2026	Clerk	Wages arrears Apr–Jul 2026	£158.20
14/09/2026	Clerk	September Working from Home Allowance	£24.00
19/08/2026	Moore East Midlands	External Auditor's limited assurance review	£283.50
06/07/2026	M. P. Pauling	Burial ground maintenance, Apr25 – Mar26	£1,500.00
		Total	**£2,898.90**

067/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 13th October 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.35

SIGNED: _____

Councillor Price