ISLIP PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 13th January 2026, at 7.30 pm held at Islip Village Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Parish Councillors:** Dennis Price (Chairman), Nicola Richardson, Sophie Miller, Anneka Streule, Doreen Cole and Andrew Smith.

OTHER COUNCILLORS: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: **Members of the Public**: None

APOLOGIES: The following apologies were received

County Councillor: Laura Gordon
District Councillor: None
Parish Councillor: Nathan Wiles

82/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None

83/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

84/25 MEETING MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to accept as a true record the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13th January 2026.

85/25 COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The councillors present gave their reports.

86/25 PLANNING

The Clerk reported that planning application 25/02918/OUT (Land at Islip Fuel Depot) has been referred to committee at Cherwell District Council. The committee date is expected to be in February 2026.

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Richardson would represent the Council and speak at the Cherwell District Council planning committee meeting to represent the Council's views.

Action: Clerk to confirm committee attendance process.

87/25 MID CHERWELL MODIFIED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Council discussed the Mid Cherwell Modified Neighbourhood Plan consultation concerning 12 parishes north of Islip.

Members noted the consultation period runs from 19th December 2025 to 15th February 2026, and that while Islip is not included in the plan area, it has been notified as a neighbouring parish.

Discussion included brief consideration of green belt designation matters and the classification of Upper Heyford as a new town.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no formal representation to the Mid Cherwell Modified Neighbourhood Plan consultation

88/25 VILLAGE MATTERS

1. **Playground - Basket Swing and Gate quotations**

Council reviewed quotations from RPM for works at Church Lane Play Area following the RoSPA inspection of 22 July 2025, which identified timber decay in the basket swing as HIGH RISK (Risk Score 15) requiring immediate action.

The Clerk confirmed the basket swing itself was last replaced in 2022.
It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept quotation ref. 9629 to repair the existing basket swing by replacing two rotten timber uprights with new pressure treated timber with steel ground anchors and making the grass surface good at a cost of £2,425.00 plus VAT.

2. **Landscaping - Tree Survey**
   The Council received and **NOTED** the December 2025 Tree Condition Survey completed by The Whole Tree Company.
   Cllr Smith provided a detailed report on the survey findings, including medium priority items (dead cherry tree removal, ash tree ownership clarification, poplar tree pruning near power lines, and Millennium Wood ecological assessment) and low priority maintenance works.
   These matters will be included on a future agenda for formal council consideration and approval.
3. **Traffic Calming Measures**
   Concerns were raised regarding Kings Head Lane junction and highway signage. The matter was **NOTED** and will be kept under review.
4. **Items for the Newsletter**
   The council **AGREED** that the newsletter should include information about the approved 2026-27 budget and precept increase

89/25 **BUDGET 2026-27**

The draft budget was reviewed and it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve.

Budget Heading with Breakdown	**2026-27**
Insurance	**£1,500.00**
Grants	**£1,750.00**
7 requests @ £500.00	
Subscriptions	**£1,230.00**
OALC	
SLCC	
Microsoft Office	
ICCM	
Campaign to protect rural England (CPRE)	
Oxford Playing Field Association (OPFA)	
Oxford Green Belt Network	
Community First Oxford	
Parish Online	
Parish Property	**£3,000.00**
Land registry checks to confirm ownership	
Specialist Quarterly Risk Assessments for Burial Ground	
Dog Bin Maintenance	**£1,500.00**
Dog Waste bins (6 monthly)	
Dog bags	
Audit	**£600.00**
External Audit	
Internal Audit	
Ground Maintenance - Green Scythe	**£7,500.00**

Maintenance - Playing field	
Maintenance - Millennium Wood	
Maintenance - Verges & Greens	
Maintenance - Footpaths	
New Burial Ground - maintenance	**£1,500.00**
Maint - Mowing of the burial area x 14 (Apr-Oct)	
Maint - Mowing of the meadow edge x 14 (Apr-Oct)	
Maint - Annual Internal Hedges trim	
Maint - Top and Road/field side hedge trim. (24 months)	
Maint - Mowing and raking the Wildflower meadow 2 days (July)	
Land Maintenance & Small Works	**£1,450.00**
Maintenance - War mem/cross tee	
Maintenance - Hedges	
Maintenance - Planters of the village	
Maintenance - Strim footpaths	
Maintenance - tree surgery	
Maintenance - tree survey	
Maintenance - tree planting	
Website	**£675.00**
Annual Wix Subscription	
Mailboxes	
Domain Name 2 Yearly (£200)	
Training	**£600.00**
Allocation per councillor - £100 each	
Staff Costs	**£13,150.00**
Clerk wages	
National wages increase	
Working from home allowance	
Allocation for additional hours for clerk (to be reviewed)	
Clerk Bonus	
HMRC	
Playground Maintenance/Refurbishment	**£150.00**
Rospa annual check	
Stationery	**£100.00**
Printer Ink	
Stamps	
Paper (box)	
Mobile phone credit	
Envelopes	
Solicitors' fee's	**£1,000.00**
Total budget expenditure	**£35,705.00**

Reserves 2026-27	
General	£4,500.00
Grants	£2,000.00
Earmarked reserves	
Running costs approximately (from budget)	£35,705.00
Precept	£23,611.24
Remain in Bank Account (Jan 2026)	£19,200.00
Jan, Feb and March Running cost Approx	-£2,730.00
Basket Swing Quote (up to)	-£6,000.00
Earmarked Reserves	
General	£1,250.00
Grants	£500.00
Staff costs	£500.00
Councillor training	£200.00
Land maintenance and small works	£500.00
Ground maintenance	£450.00
Playground refurb/replace	£15,000.00
Insurance claim excess	£200.00
Election costs	£250.00
Solicitors fees	£500.00
Total	£19,350.00
Savings Account Bank Balance	£19,337.92

90/25 **PRECEPT**

The Council reviewed the precept request for 2026-27. The Clerk explained that the current precept of £23,611.24 has remained unchanged for approximately 25 years, creating a structural deficit, and that approximately £36,000 per annum is required to run the parish sustainably.

Cherwell District Council confirmed the tax base for 2026-27 as 329.4 (increased from 321.9 in 2025/26). The Band D equivalent would increase from £73.35 to £88.17 (£14.82 per annum), remaining below the national parish average of £92.22.

It was **RESOLVED** to set the precept at **£29,041.83** for 2026-27, representing a 23% increase that will yield approximately 20% additional income due to the increased tax base.

The Council agreed to include information about the precept increase in the parish newsletter.

91/25 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

1. **Finance Report**
   The report was received and **NOTED.**
2. **Income**
   Allotment rent received £40 from 6 tenants.
   Budget Update
   The following budget update was **NOTED**

	Insurance	Grants	Subscriptions	Dog Bins	Audit	Grd Mnt
Budgeted	£2,500.00	£1,500.00	£780.00	£1,500.00	£600.00	£6,500.00
Spent	£1,341.38	£1,456.40	£688.79	£792.80	£493.50	£6,364.80
Remaining	£1,158.62	£43.60	£91.21	£707.20	£106.50	£135.20

	BG Mnt	BG Rem.	Land Maint Small W	Website	Training	Staff Costs
Budgeted	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,350.00	£550.00	£600.00	£13,150.00
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£1,399.00	£645.12	£0.00	£10,016.64
Remaining	£1,500.00	£0.00	-£49.00	-£95.12	£600.00	£3,133.36

	Playg Mnt & Ref	Stationery	Solicitor Fees	Grants	General	Staff Cost
Budgeted	£150.00	£267.50	£1,500.00	£2,000.00	£4,500.00	£0.00
Spent	£134.40	£48.11	£457.32	£0.00	£1,222.43	£0.00
Remaining	£15.60	£219.39	£1,042.68	£2,000.00	£3,277.57	£0.00

	C. Training	New C mbox	Ground Maint	Land Main &SW	Playground
Budgeted	£800.00	£250.00	£1,310.00	£1,900.00	£26,676.00
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,425.00
Remaining	£800.00	£250.00	£1,310.00	£1,900.00	£24,251.00

	Playing field Project	Insurance Claim Excess	Election Costs	Solictors fees
Budgeted	£6,000.00	£250.00	£250.00	£500.00
Spent	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Remaining	£6,000.00	£250.00	£250.00	£500.00

92/25 CASHBOOK PAYMENTS

It was **RESOLVED** by unanimous vote to pay the following payments.

Date	Payee	Description	Total Cost	Budget Code
13/1/2026	Amazon	Pads, plastic wallets and post it	£17.13	STATIONERY
13/1/2026	Clerk	Wages - January	£893.60	STAFF COST
13/1/2026	Clerk	WFHA - January	£24.00	STAFF COST
13/1/2026	Islip Village Hall	Film Night - Dec	£38.40	GRANT
14/1/2026	Islip Village Hall	Toddler Group	£38.40	GRANT
14/1/2026	Reid	Basket Swing	£2,425.00	PLAYGRD
			Total	**£3,575.43**

93/25 CLERK'S APPRAISAL

It was **AGREED** the staffing committee would liaise with the clerk to arrange a suitable date.

94/25 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

SIGNED: _____

Councillor Price