



Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

Minutes for a meeting of Sutton Courtenay Parish Council (SCPC) held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at Sutton Courtenay Village Hall, commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Rita Atkinson (Chairman), Robert Dalby (Vice Chair), Paul Galliver (PG), Jason Warwick (JW) Joanna O'Callaghan (JOC), and Cathy King (CK)

Absent: Councillors Hugo Raworth (HR), Ian Pratley (IP), and Lia Plowman (LP)

In attendance: Allison Leigh, Locum Clerk; District & County Councillor Peter Stevens; 6 members of the public.

2025/142 Public Participation:

- SCPC presented a certificate and book token to a young child for their volunteering at the Recreation Ground.
- Dan Angell of TFA Ltd delivered a presentation on the proposed Didcot Data Campus, who reported the following:
 - o The plan achieved hybrid planning permission in July for delivering the campus. The reserved matters application has been submitted by the applicant, Amazon Data Services UK Limited. In addition, an S73 application has been submitted to vary a permission. An application for a small data centre will be forthcoming. The developer will wish to come to a future SCPC meeting.
 - o It was noted that Amazon is keen to engage with the community and would like to set up a meeting as to how to work together. It was noted that a construction and community employment plan will be put in place.
 - o It was noted that Amazon will own the land.

Queries were raised about district heating and piling. Dan Angell will investigate these.

It was suggested that Dan Angell speak to those involved with the Signia Park application.

- Two members of the Damascus Youth Project were in attendance. They noted that the founding trustee stepped back in February but work is continuing. They provided a report. It was noted that they will be putting in a grant application.

2025/143 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hugo Raworth, Ian Pratley and Lia Plowman

2025/144 Declarations of Interest
No declarations of interest were received.

2025/145 Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 were a true and accurate record, and would be signed by the Chairman.

2025/146 Planning applications

(a) SCPC noted the planning matters considered during September under delegated authority.

(b) Planning applications to be considered:

P25/V1869/FUL OKA Purshas Road, Didcot OX11 7BF

SCPC has no comments on this planning application.

P25/V1917/FUL Sutton Courtenay Recreation Ground

It was noted SCPC won't comment on its own application.

Series of R3 application: SCPC has received a series of planning applications from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) which are seeking to discharge planning conditions for HIF1 application. SCPC resolved for the planning working party to review all of the applications and circulate a draft response to SCPC and invite a representative from Appleford Parish Council to the meeting.

P25/V2037/CM: SCPC noted that it has not been consulted.

P25/V1947/O and P25/S2937/O: SCPC would like to consider a strategic approach to traffic entering the village and **RESOLVED** to explore this. JW will circulate some initial thoughts.

SCPC **RESOLVED** for the planning working group to consider the above application and delegated authority for the Clerk to submit the response.

(c) The Council noted the additional planning correspondence.

Update on Scrutiny Committee: The Scrutiny Committee has informed SCPC that the Committee agreed that it would like to consider an item on minerals and waste planning and has put that on its work programme. That is scheduled to be received at its meeting on 22nd April 2026.

SCPC received a letter on the 7th October 2025 to address what OCC perceived as a complaint despite SCPC clarifying this was a request not a complaint. OCC has logged it as a complaint and is requesting a response by 5th November. SCPC **RESOLVED** to ask the planning working party to consider a response to the letter to be agreed at the SCPC meeting on the 4th November.

(d) SCPC **RESOLVED** to adopt the protocol for pre-application meetings with developers with one edit.

(e) Planning application MW.0167/23 is going to Planning Committee on the 13th October. SCPC **RESOLVED** for the Chair to attend online or David Hignall of planning working party.

2025/145 Finance

(a) To approve the September and October payment reports: SCPC approved the September and October payments.

September payments and receipts from 1/30/25 - 30/9/25

Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	Total
Precept	05/09/2025	Unity	Precept - 2nd Half	Vale of White Horse District Council	51,000.00

September Payments

Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	Total
Maintenance - additional	02/09/2025	Unity	Maintenance	Tactical	42.00
Subscriptions	24/09/2025	Unity	Data protection fee	ICO	47.00
Locum fees	04/09/2025	Unity	Locum Clerk salary and expenses	Allison Leigh	850.30
Planning Fees	24/09/2025	Unity	Planning fee	The Planning Portal	532.00
Salaries	29/09/2025	Unity	Salary	J Currie	1586.00
Salaries	29/09/2025	Unity	Pension	Oxfordshire Pension Fund	556.40
Bank fees	30/09/2025	Unity	Service charge	Unity Trust Bank	7.80
S106 Cricket nets	08/09/2025	Unity	Cricket nets	Slatter Cricket	495.00
Office equipment	17/09/2025	Unity	Phone	EE	15.60
Total					4132.10

October Payments for authorisation

Code	Date	Bank	Description	Supplier	Total
Salaries	29/09/2025	Unity	NI & Tax	HMRC	560.36
Grounds maintenance	07/10/2025	Unity	Grounds maintenance	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	1,454.54
Grounds maintenance	07/10/2025	Unity	Grounds maintenance	Tactical Facilities Management Ltd	1,454.54
Bins	07/10/2025	Unity	Waste collection	Shield Maintenance Ltd	166.40
Bins	07/10/2025	Unity	Waste collection	Shield Maintenance Ltd	166.40
Insurance	07/10/2025	Unity	Insurance	Gallagher	2,821.78
Maintenance - additional	07/10/2025	Unity	Cemetery work	Corderoy Heating & Plumbing Ltd	144.00
Locum fees	07/10/2025	Unity	Locum Clerk salary and expenses	Allison Leigh	842.20
Total					7,610.22

- (b) The online banking platform: The Council **RESOLVED** for the Vice Chair and JOC to raise and approve the payments.
- (c) To note the budget and reserves reports: SCPC noted the budget and reserves report.
- (d) To consider the purchase of a new laptop for the clerk: SCPC **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to investigate a new laptop.
- (e) To agree a £200 donation to the Royal British Legion: SCPC **RESOLVED** to donate £200 to the Royal British Legion.
- (f) To consider a litter pick on the 29th October 2025 and the purchasing of refreshments/hiring of the Village Hall: SCPC **RESOLVED** to pay for the hire of the Village Hall and refreshments. SCPC **RESOLVED** to take any overage from the Chairman's allowance and the General Reserve. The Clerk will advertise this on Facebook once materials are received.

2025/147

Recreation Ground

- (a) New cricket nets (S106 project): The Chair reported that the S106 application has been registered and is now going through an internal consultation at the District Council. The planning application has been submitted and there has been an objection from Sport England. Slatter Cricket and Play is looking at updating the plans. SCPC **RESOLVED** for the plan to show the cricket nets in the location previously planned, and show a replica of the current single football pitch moved further east so that it is 8m away from the cricket nets (3m run-off, then a further 5m to the cricket nets). This plan should also show the BNG area. SCPC **RESOLVED** to pay a fee of £200 should there be a fee for plans.

It was reported that there had been a request from a Didcot girls' team to use the field. As the request was for a Saturday this was not possible.

- (b) To review the fortnightly checks and consider any action needed, including:
- i. Recurring damage to fence: SCPC **RESOLVED** to ask the Recreational Amenities working group to investigate options. It was noted that perhaps the group can speak to the football club and Nordic walkers. It was noted that perhaps CCTV could be included in the 2026/2027 budget.
 - ii. Damage to the wooden shelter: See 2025/147b iii.
 - iii. Trampoline safety: The Chair reported she has spoken to Kompan and they will fit the safety rings around the trampoline at no cost.

(The District/County Councillor arrived at this point in the meeting).

The Chair noted she spoke with Kompan about the damage of the wooden shelter and whether there is an issue with the design. SCPC **RESOLVED** to cover this when Kompan comes to the area to look at the state of all of the equipment.

CK reported that on her visit to the area it was largely ok other than some graffiti on one of the wooden shelters.

2025/148

Drayton High Street VAS: The Council **RESOLVED** to support the installation of the VAS on the dangerous bend on the Drayton Road or to investigate the possibility of placing it on Appleford Road if it needed to be in a 30mph zone. A discussion was had as to how dangerous it is to cross Appleford Road and the possibility of a putting a crossing there. The possibility of contracting someone to move signs every few months was also suggested as a potential item for the 2026/2027 budget.

2025/149

Thames Water & Hobbyhorse Lane: The Chair noted that meetings to discuss the condition of Hobbyhorse Lane are in progress.

2025/150

South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO)

PG provided an update:

Should flooded Culham Bridges coincide with a reservoir drawdown much of S.C would be underwater with wholesale evacuations necessary.

GARD and CPRE did intend to appeal the judicial review but the lack of news suggests insufficient funds.

- 2025/150 South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) continued
It is reported that the TW creditors' consortium had stated that infrastructure projects should be curtailed leaving core activities only.
The District and County Councillor noted that public opinion on SESRO is mixed. OCC has taken on a hydrologist to investigate any issues with SESRO.
The District and County Councillor welcomed SCPC continuing discussions with GARD.
- 2025/151 Reports
(a) The County & District Councillor reported on the following:
The Joint Local Plan has been withdrawn over the duty to cooperate with Oxford City Council. The District and County Councillor will have a briefing next month.
HIF 1 has gone into detailed designs.
Congestion charge.
Local government reorganisation.
He has called in the Partridge Close application.
SCPC would like the District/County Councillor to call in the planning application for the Land behind Buckridges Barn. The Chair will send information to the County/District Councillor as to their reasons.
The waste transfer station application is going to the planning committee.

RESOLVED to extend the meeting beyond 2 hours.

- (b) Parish Councillors:
Vice Chair – He had a discussion with the PCSO about the erratic motorcycle traffic. The PCSO is investigating this. It was noted that some of the motorcycles are licensed, exhibiting anti-social behaviour but some who are not licensed and dangerous. SCPC would like to thank the PCSO for their assistance on this matter.
- (c) Locum Clerk:
- i. The Locum Clerk noted that she and the Clerk are meeting on Friday 10th October and that the Clerk will be returning to work on Monday 13th October.
 - ii. Hobbyhorse Lane:
 1. The Locum Clerk has investigated the process of applying for a change in status of a section of Hobbyhorse Lane via a Definitive Map Modification Order. The first step is to submit (to OCC) a brief summary and details of the supporting evidence SCPC intends to submit'. SCPC would like this on the November agenda.
 2. The Locum Clerk reported that she has been in touch with OCC about bollards at Hobbyhorse land. SCPC would like this on the November agenda.
 3. The Locum Clerk has not yet investigated the possibility of diverting sat nav directions taking drivers to Hobbyhorse Lane.
 - iii. The Locum Clerk noted that 2 of the requested bins have been placed but the Cemetery one is yet to be placed. She is in touch with Shield on this.
 - iv. SIDS – The Clerk will be conducting a consultation as to locations for the new SIDs upon her return.
- (d) The Council thanked the Locum Clerk for her assistance over the past 2 months.

- 2025/152 Parish Council Assets
To report any issues with the current SIDS: None noted.
- 2025/153 Village Green vehicle barrier project (S106 funding): The Vale is in discussion with the developer on the S106.
- 2025/154 Sutton Courtenay Parish Council Action Plan: CK reported that the Action Plan is in progress. SCPC asked for the to be on the November agenda. There may be items raised to consider in the budget for 26/27.
- 2025/155 Casual Vacancies
The Council has not had any applications for councillor vacancy at the meeting.

Close of meeting

The next ordinary meeting of SCPC would be held on Tuesday 4th November 2025.
There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed

Dated