

HIGHMOOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 7.00pm at the Memorial Hall, Highmoor

Present: Councillor Richard Stacpoole (Chairman); Councillors Catherine Clarke, Stephanie Gibbons, Judi Stacpoole and James Waite.

Also Present: Theresa Goss (Clerk, Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer), District Councillors Jo Robb and Babu Loganathan, Reading Lions Cricket Club.

1. **Apologies for absence** – County Councillor Ben Higgins and District Councillor James Norman.
2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2025 and Matters Arising** - The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
3. **Highmoor Parish Council - Annual Report 2025/26** - The Chairman of Highmoor Parish Council, Councillor Richard Stacpoole welcomed Stephanie Gibbons to her first Annual Parish Meeting.

The Chairman summarised the work of the Parish Council during the year, from April 2025 to date.

The Chairman reported that the Recreation Ground was looking fantastic thanks to Reading Lions Cricket Club and their hard work maintaining the site. The Chairman had met with Paul Wyatt who had previously completed work to the front hedge. They discussed competing work to all the hedges around the site and Mr Wyatt would be submitting a quote for this work in due course.

The Chairman highlighted the maintenance work to the phone box and the sign next to it and how much better they both appeared. A new noticeboard had been erected on the bus shelter and the majority of the trees at The Glebe were doing well. The Clerk would provide the Chairman with the contact details for the contractor who had previously cut the grass at The Glebe, to discuss future work with him. **Action TG/RS**

There had been a modest turnout for the village litter pick, but it was pleasing report that not much litter had been dropped around the village. The Council would advertise the litter pick more widely next year.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their work over the last 12 months.

4. **Discussion of Chairman's Report and questions from electors on the Highmoor Electoral roll, on the work of the Parish Council** – There were no questions from the electors.
5. **Parish Council Accounts 2025/2026** - The Clerk presented to the Annual Parish Meeting, the Accounts for 2025/2026. There were no questions on the accounts.

The accounts for 2025/2026 were available on the Parish Council web site. www.highmoorparishcouncil.gov.uk

6. **Reports from County and District Councillors** – Prior to the meeting, County Councillor Ben Higgins and District Councillors Jo Robb and James Norman had submitted their reports to the Annual Parish Meeting.

District Councillor Jo Robb highlighted a number of items in her report and she was thanked for her continued support over the last year.

The County and District Councillors were thanked for their reports for 2025/2026 and they were available on the Parish Council web site. www.highmoorparishcouncil.gov.uk

6. **Village Organisations – Reports were received from the following local organisations:**

- i) Highmoor Education Charity – Presented by Councillor Judi Stacpoole.
- ii) Highmoor Memorial Hall – Presented by Councillor Richard Stacpoole.
- iii) Highmoor Footpaths – Submitted by Sean Clarke, Footpath Warden – There were no major issues with the footpaths around the village. The dangerous stile on footpath HM3 had been replaced and the footpath was in good order.

There was a discussion regarding a new gate at the Recreation Ground, however the Chilterns Society had advised that there was no requirement to have a gate at that location on footpath HM19.

Councillor James Waite suggested that a gate or a safety barrier might be suitable because the access opened straight out onto a 60mph road. It was agreed that the Chilterns Society be contacted via Sean Clarke, to make a request for a quote for a new gate or safety barrier.

There were a number of other minor issues on other footpaths which would be reported to Sean Clarke for forwarding onto the Chiltern Society, to enable the landowners could be contacted.

- iv) Reading Lions Cricket Club – Babu Loganathan, representative of Reading Cricket Club reported that their last season had been successful. A new cricket square was now in place at the Recreation Ground and it looked fantastic due to all their hard work.

The Chairman advised on his discussions with the contractor who would be completing the hedge cutting and he would also remove the fallen tree along the back of the Recreation Ground. If possible, the hedge work across the back of the site would be completed first.

There were two senior teams playing at the Club, as well as a women's team, which had been supported by funding from the ECB. There was also a new ladies toilet and the redecoration of Club house was undertaken about a year ago, inside and outside.

Councillor Judi Stacpoole asked Mr Loganathan to forward to the Parish Council, a copy of the Cricket Club's insurance for 2026/2027. **Action BL**

The lease between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club expired in March 2029.

Mr Loganathan was applying for funding from the ECB for new cricket nets, but the ECB would only sanction two nets. Practice facilities were required too, because the square could not be used for practice sessions.

It was also reported that bags of concrete still needed removing from the site. Councillors James Waite agreed to investigate this matter. **Action JW**

Councillor Jo Robb advised that there was grant funding available at South Oxfordshire District Council and also Oxfordshire County Council which the Cricket Club could apply for and she would send further information to the Clerk. **Action JR**

The organisations were thanked for submitting their reports and they would be available on the Parish Council web site. www.highmoorparishcouncil.gov.uk

7. **Questions from electors who were on the Highmoor electoral roll** – There were no questions.

(Meeting closed at 7.30pm)

May 2027