



WOODNEWTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 18th May 2026, 8.15pm, Village Hall

(DRAFT) MINUTES

Present: Cllr Blackmore (Chairman) Cllr Swallow, Cllr Kiesel, Cllr Phythian, Cllr Brookes and Amy Miller (Clerk and RFO)

1. Declarations of Interests from Councillors

None

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Guttridge and Cllr Neville

3. Public Time

One resident attended to discuss the village rewilding and orchard. An action plan for the orchard was discussed with Cllr Brookes tasked with pricing up tree guards again, possible water bases and mulch. It was suggested that as the contractor was tasked with mowing the orchard we should keep to that regime, introduce some wilding and cut some paths to the orchard bench. It was thought with some effort and resources the trees could become healthy again bar potentially three. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting to agree and resolve resources for the orchard maintenance.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 14th April 2026.

Having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record – along with the meeting minutes from the March meeting and also the APM held 14th April 2026.

5. Matters arising from Previous Minutes (not covered elsewhere on Agenda)

None.

6. Councillor Responsibilities.

It was agreed there was no change to the prior year responsibilities.

7. Church Yard and Cemetery (Cllr Phythian)

The cemetery had rewilded well, and it was suggested with lots of native flora coming up that the area be left to extend naturally with a little help of some more seeding. It may need additional help in the future, but it was clear appetite at present is limited. However, it was noted we did have several volunteers to help look after the orchard going forward.

The clerk had met with a councillor from Yarwell to discuss the retaining stone wall at the church yard. Currently we have reserves of 10k for potential works, but it was

agreed that this should be gradually increased on a yearly basis – to be an agenda item next meeting.

A resident had mentioned the addition of bird boxes later in the year to support our biodiversity and nature drive. It was noted we could have a village note to see if there were any willing volunteers to make a couple perhaps over the summer holidays and a possible project younger residents could get involved in.

8. Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (Cllr Kisiel and Cllr Blackmore)

All vehicle activated signs are working well – results for the last quarter had been downloaded and will be presented next month.

9. Playing Fields/Playground

- (a) There was no playground check this month, but the RoSPA check is due in June.
- (b) Cllr Guttridge and Cllr Blackmore have completed all remedial works and await the results of the next external inspection.

10. Planning

Nothing to be considered

11. CAN (Climate and Nature Champion – Cllr Phythian)

Covered in item 6.

12. Accounts

As at 31/04/2026 the bank balance stood at £38,289.00

The following payments were **AGREED** and signed off

Clerk Salary (April)	£587.20
SSE (DD)	£95.69
VH rental (April)	£10.00
Robinson's Gardening (1372)	£235.00
Robinson's Gardening (1390)	£235.00
Cler Councils Insurance	£815.44

The following remittances were **NOTED:**

Precept 2026/27	£21,316.00
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13. 2025/26 Year End Internal and External Audit

The Council **NOTED** that the expenditure and income for the year was below the £25,000 limit making the authority exempt from external audit requirements.

- (a) Council **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED** the Internal Audit Report, discussed and noted the advisories presented by the Clerk/RFO.
- (b) Council **AGREED** the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 presented by the Clerk/RFO. The statement was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- (c) Council **AGREED** the Accounting Statement 2025/26 presented by the Clerk/RFO. The statement was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- (d) Council **AGREED** the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights to inspect the Council's accounts 3rd June to 14th July 2026.
- (e) Council **AGREED** the Analysis of Variances using the proforma supplied by the auditors and the Bank Reconciliation 2025/26 previously prepared and signed off.
- (f) Council **AGREED and APPROVED** the Certificate of Exemption for 2025/26 this was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

14. Insurance

The renewal quote had been received and was **AGREED** as it was £6 more than the previous year and the risks were adequately covered with index linking.

15. Village Hall Noticeboard (Cllr Kisiel)

The grant application submitted to the Ward Empowerment Fund was refused as they felt the request was not congruent to the values of the fund. Cllr Fairhall was unable to advise of other potential funding avenues, so it was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the order without grant funding - £960.00 +VAT

16. Allotments (Cllr Brookes)

Possibly one allotment becoming available and one resident on the waiting list.

17. Village Maintenance (Cllr Swallow)

A resident and local farmer has agreed to cart the bonfire remains away (3 loads) subject to the remains being picked by volunteers to remove any foreign objects, metal, glass etc so it can be safely spread on fields.

It was **RESOLVED** one flag to be purchased up to £45 and Cllr Swallow could purchase more bulbs for the next planting season up to £150.00

Two streetlights require fixing - the parts are in stock and the works will be carried out when the weather is less inclement.

Pathway clearance required in Orchard Lane where conifers are overhanging the footpath.

18. Ongoing

A rolling agenda item to **CONSIDER** which topics should be included on future agendas, discussed when relevant. This will be titled "rolling agenda items" to ensure items are remembered, although they may not be addressed at every meeting.

(a) Village Information Boards

(b) Children's tree planting scheme

(c) Neighbourhood Plan\consultation on the local plan from Feb 2026 (expected 2028)

(d) Newsletter articles.

19. Correspondence

(a) Clerk updated on attendance at the cluster meeting in early May

(b) Clerk updated on meeting with Yarwell PC re church wall.

20. Councillors' Opportunity to Update Colleagues

Cllr Blackmore updated on a speed awareness volunteer scheme that was being offered to villages. If there was a demand from residents and a resident led volunteer group set up the PC would consider granting the funding for the scheme.

21. Woodnewton Newsletter

It was agreed the next Newsletter feature would be a call to residents who may have a little free time to help with the occasional small job repairing something around the village or play area.

22. Date of next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Monday 6th July 2026.

23. Close of Meeting

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21.33

Chairman's Signature.....

Date 6th July 2026

Prepared by Amy Miller Clerk and RFO

E-mail: clerk@woodnewtonparish.gov.uk

Telephone 07767 308859

26th May 2026