

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
Of Broughton Parish Council
Held on Monday 30th June 2025 at 7.00pm
At St Marys House, Wykham Lane, Broughton

Councillors Present

Cllr Leech (Chairperson), Cllr Byrne, Cllr Crawley, Cllr Hilsdon and Cllr Howarth

Clerk to the Council, Mrs C Coles and County/District Councillor Chris Brant

25/47. To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

25/48. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

25/49. Public participation session

No members of the public were present.

25/50. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2025

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

25/51. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda

a. *Update on new bench in the closed churchyard.* The new bench will be installed on 24th July.

b. *Update on repair of churchyard wall and gate.* Part of the churchyard wall by the double gates is collapsing. The double gates require repair after the wall has been fixed and the gate at the far end leading to the path to the Main Road. The Broughton Estate will get a quote to repair the wall. The Parish Council will get a quote to repair the gates. The costs will be shared between the two parties.

Action: The Chair and Clerk to meet to look at the two gates which need repairing.

25/52. To discuss quotes for a new village website

Cllr Byrne and the Parish Clerk had both got quotes for a new website. It was agreed to proceed with the more competitive quote from Aubergine 262 Ltd who will charge £499.00 & VAT. A new website will be set up and information transferred across. It is hoped the village hall can be linked to the new site.

Action: The Parish Clerk to confirm this with Aubergine 262 Ltd and pass contact details to Cllr Chris Brant.

25/53. To discuss a new bench on the Main Road near Wykham Lane

The land belongs to the Broughton Estate and they have agreed it can be used to site a new bench at a peppercorn rent. The bench will be secured on paving slabs.

Action: The Chair and Clerk to meet to measure the area.

25/54. Financial Report

Update on bank balances

a) The Clerk reported an account balance of £11,559.95.

b) *The following payments were approved under statutory powers*
£378.00 to Thomas Fox Landscaping (cutting of closed churchyard)
£23.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC Membership)
£399.49 To Parish Clerk (hours) and £99.80 to HMRC
£34.49 To Parish Clerk (expenses)

c) *To consider a donation request from Volunteer Driver Service*
Volunteer Driver Service was taken over as a Community Interest Company.

A team of 175 volunteer drivers operate throughout Oxfordshire offering transport for hospital appointments, medical appointments, supermarket trips and classes that benefit health and wellbeing. They have three service users in Broughton and one volunteer driver. It was agreed to give a donation of £400.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to process the payment.

25/55. To receive Councillors Reports

The Chair had met the Broughton Estate recently. 7 Almshouses is being refurbished. Work will be done to trees near the pub and the village will be notified as the road will have to be closed.

The Chair attended the Rural Policing Forum. School parking was discussed. There has been a reduction in rural crime by 13% but that covers the whole county. The next forum is in Broughton on 23rd September.

Action: Cllr Brant to contact TVP about more awareness as local crime is increasing.

More rubbish is being dumped near the pumping station. It can be reported as fly tipping to CDC.

The hedge at the bottom of Danvers Road is overhanging the highway and affecting the sight line when turning out onto the B4035.

Action: The Parish Clerk to type a letter.

County/District Councillor Chris Brant spoke about Local Government Reorganisation. Every authority will be affected and one council will do everything. The size of the new council is unclear. Proposals will be put forward to the Government in November and they will make the final decision. It is hard for Cherwell District Council to plan. Oxfordshire are not in the first phase. Some unitary authorities are in place already. Cllr Brant is also a Public Transport Champion. He wants to improve rural buses and will be looking for feedback on size of buses used and timings. Previously the Parish Council had asked about a footpath linking Broughton to Banbury but the costs were too high to proceed with the idea.

Action: Cllr Brant to draft a list of questions on bus travel that could be circulated for feedback.

22/56. To receive the following correspondence

- CDC, Local Government Re-organisation. Change is coming to local government. District and County Council's have been asked to come up with proposals for new unitary councils. CDCs preference is for two unitary authorities to cover Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. A period of public engagement has started on the preferred model of local government reorganisation. This proposal aims to create strong, financially stable councils that provide high quality, cost effect and locally driven services. **Oxford and Shires Council** would comprise the existing district areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire. **Ridgeway Council** would be made up of the area of West Berkshire Council and the existing district areas of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Action: Cllr Brant to forward OCC proposals for LGR to the Parish Clerk.

- OCC, Part night lighting consultation. This framework is about how part-night lighting could be implemented in Oxfordshire. All parishes were emailed and asked to respond irrespective if they had street lighting or not.
- Oxford City Council, One Council: Local decision. A better place to live. Noted.
- CDC, Parish Council Elections 7th May 2026. Noted.

25/57. To note next meeting date and time

8th September 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.