



Minutes a Meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee of Western Valley Parish Council

Monday 07th September 2026 at 19:30, The District Centre, 1 Gentian Mews, OX11 6GR

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

None.

Members Present:

Chair of the Meeting Cllr A Dearlove (AD)
Members Cllr S Peacock (SP)
Cllr V Humphries (VH)

Officers Present:

Clerk to the Council Mrs L White (LW)

Public and Press: None.

Meeting started 19:35

26.05.1. To receive apologies for absence [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Cllr Clarke was absent from the meeting.

Resolved: Approved Unanimously to appoint Cllr Dearlove as Chair of the Meeting.

26.05.2. To receive declarations of interest for items on this agenda [LA 2011 s31]

None.

26.05.3. To approve the minutes of previous committee meetings. [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para 41(1)]

26.5.3.1. 06th July 2026

It was agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting at they will be signed when they have been reprinted with the chair of this meeting's name at the bottom.

26.05.4. To receive nominations to join the Neighbourhood Plan Committee

None were present.

26.05.5. To discuss the neighbourhood plan process, to agree actions on how to proceed:

This was discussed, the importance of carrying on with this neighbourhood plan, even with the announcement today, that Local Government Reorganisation for Oxfordshire is being paused, as the Joint



Local Plan (JLP) currently going through examination will be the one this parish lives with for longer as there will be no immediately need to create an updated JLP.

Items from the last meeting: It was agreed that all of the items considered last month were all valid items after receiving confirmation from the Vale Neighbourhood Planning team none of them posed an immediate issue. **[ACTION]** All, to review the current list of approved policies Vale holds, and see which ones would fit in to the items we want to protect – to circulate list between us in 2 weeks.

Items considered to be important included:

- Protecting the green verges – to prevent antisocial parking,
- Preserving parking and safety
- Trying to preserve the planned schools / ask for a secondary school.
- Site allocation for a burial ground.

Other ideas:

- Possibly something regarding active travel?
- Preventing garages being turned into microhomes
- Protecting green spaces
- Parking if there is anything which could be done to increase it, about the OCC minimum because parking is at a premium across the development already and the approach “if you don’t build it they won’t buy as many cars” just isn’t working.
- Safety – Calor Gas use, as the whole area is “gas free”, are homeowners bringing in gas bottles etc.
- Supportive of solar panels – not objections to filling in the rest of the roof – whilst developers are installing panels, it is not over the whole roof / is more of a token effort.
- Swift Bricks / hedgehog highways / bee bricks / bat boxes and not blocking ones which already exist.
- Protecting private amenity area – not overly developing a plot, protecting a percentage, rather than allowing a percentage increase in the house size, some plots don’t meet the minimum requirement as it is.
- Location of chargers for EV’s and effect on pedestrians in the currently built area – the development being built all includes EV charging, but the original development which has been



built for over a decade does not, and some parking spaces do not have easy access to their respective homes for installing EV chargers.

- Automatically adding bollards to the edges are pavements in shopping/business areas to prevent pavement parking.

26.05.6. Decisions which may be considered:

26.5.6.1. Proposals on design codes / design guides to include

See above.

26.5.6.2. Policies to include

See above.

26.5.6.3. Defining Settlement Boundary

The idea of drawing the settlement boundary directly around the planning developments and currently built area was discussed, also protecting plots which were already defined for schools, or community centre, or allotments, or shops, are protected and confirm with the original masterplan.

26.5.6.4. When and how to consult with the electorate.

Use the October Edition of Western Valley Voice, consider a "Heat Pump and Neighbourhood Plan Information Evening" in November.

26.05.7. Confirm the date of the next meeting – 5th October 2026

Confirmed.

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chair closed the meeting **20:21**.