

Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council held on Thursday 16/04/2026 following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm at the Community Centre, Kiln Lane, Risinghurst OX3 8EY.

Attending:

Councillors (Cllrs): Adams (Chairman), Fuller, Howard, Jenkinson, Johnstone, Rogers and Walton

Officers: Parish Clerk/RFO

Members of Public: 5

Ward Cllrs: Cllr Smith (Oxford City Council) and Cllr Phillips (Oxfordshire County Council)

161/0426 Apologies: Received from Cllr Taylor

162/0426 Declarations of interest: None

163/0426 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 19/03/26 were approved as an accurate record with the correction in "Councillors Attending": to replace the name Smith for Rogers

164/0426 Matters Arising: None

165/0426 Planning and Licensing Applications:

a) None at time of publishing the agenda

b) **Applications validated since the publication of the agenda**

4 Burlington Crescent, Sandhills OX3 8DY application 26/00827/FUL for change of use of dwelling house (use class C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (use class C4) with provision of bin and bike stores.

Resolved: To object due to the potential noise, effect on the neighbours, lack of parking and effect on the character of the street.

c) **65 Delbush Ave, Sandhills OX3 8EA** application 26/00693/FUL To demolish the existing conservatory and erect a single -storey rear extension.

Resolved: No objection

166/0426 Contract for Bus Services 600, H2 and 14 Consultation: This is a valuable service to the community.

Resolved: To request more frequent services at peak times with improved reliability, that should tie in with workplace start times and make provision for elderly and disabled people for whom a walk to the A40 would make the bus service physically inaccessible.

167/0426 Spring Newsletter with Chairman's Report: Delivery arrangements were agreed

168/0426 Reports from Ward Councillors:

Cllr Phillips: Reported on a recent incident that police attended in Sandhills.

The Milestone Society are concerned about a broken stone near the Sandhills subway, and options are being explored. Correspondence relating to a planning application that was refused has been ongoing. The Sandhills School Streets scheme is planning to site the ANPR cameras. The Parish Clerk confirmed with thanks the receipt of a £1,000 grant from Cllr Phillips towards the Risinghurst Summer fete.

Cllr Smith: Reported on the temporary closure of Redbridge Recycling Centre from June to August for improvement works. Details of alternatives are on the Oxfordshire County Council website. Oxford City Council planning committee will be considering the development at The Warneford Hospital (25/01859/OUTFUL) on 21/04/26, which will affect the Wood Farm area with works traffic. Risinghurst Community Centre has a new Baby and Toddler group, and a new timetable is available.

Initials:

169/0426 Events Update:

- a) **Risinghurst Playing Fields Fete:** Next meeting 20/04/26
- b) **Wood Farm Fete:** Met 13/04/26
- c) **Event Medics:** Three quotes were considered. St John's Ambulance was significantly lower than the others.

Resolved: The quote from St John's Ambulance was approved.

170/0426 Fireworks Event:

Resolved: To request Megamix music during the bonfire followed by Classics Mix during the fireworks display and an increased volume.

171/0426 Grounds Working Group Report: The grass is growing and the mowing regime has started around the Parish. The first cut at The Roundway produced 5 bags of litter and faeces, it is unpleasant work, but this shows how essential it is to keep this area clear. The small team are skilled and motivated. Mulching is regularly done on the woodland paths to improve the footfall impact. The team were thanked for their hard work.

Thank you to Cllr Jenkinson for his efforts to improve the condition of the sports pavilion.

172/0426 Reports from Members:

- **Royal Garden Party 2026:** Cllr Adams has been invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 08/05/2026 to mark his service to the community and will be accompanied by the Parish Clerk.
- **Graffiti:** Cllr Walton reported new graffiti in the Sandhills subway. The Parish Clerk will report it on <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>
- **BBOWT event "Past and Future Landscape":** was attended by Cllr Adams and Howard on 04/03/26.

173/0426 Parish Clerk Report: A report was circulated, in addition

Ward Grant: A grant of £1,000 was received today from Cllr Phillips for the Risinghurst Fete

Grass Verges: meeting with ODS team on 17/04/26 to discuss grass verge cutting

Right of Way: meeting on 16/04/26 with the Countryside Access Officer and Cllr Adams to discuss part of the new footpath (incorporating path 215/5) becoming a Right of Way and added to the Definitive Map, to help walkers identify it on their route. The details will be investigated.

Downside Dip: The garage adjacent at the top of the hill will be having works to make it safe, it has deteriorated due to subsidence. A fly tipping incident was quickly cleared up by Matt Welch Gardening Services.

Allotment Association: The committee have started initiatives to clear up the margin paths of the site, use enclosed compost bins and have debris removed.

174/0426 Finance:

- a) **Reports:** The monthly finance report shows bank balances of current account £13,468.94 and savings account £ 34,417.67 on 31/03/26. The first instalment of the precept has been received.
The Parish Clerk reported that throughout 2025/26 cashflow has been maintained using the VAT repayment scheme, while delivering big projects. The opening balance for 2026/27 shows a reduced general reserve at £28,761.86. The general reserve policy states that a minimum of 3 months operating funds should be held, which amounts to £19,000. Therefore, there is only £9,761.86 of flexibility for the year.

Resolved:

- a) **Internal Auditor Report:** To note the positive audit report from Auditing Solutions Ltd (no concerns raised). The Parish Clerk/RFO was thanked for her hard work
- b) **Annual Governance Statement 2025/26:** Approved as recommended and signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council, ready to be submitted to the external auditor.
- c) **Annual Accounting Statement for 2025/26:** Approved and signed, ready to be submitted to the external auditor. The annual return will be published with the opportunity for the public to view the accounts by request for a 30-day period between 3rd June and 14th July and will continue to be available on the website thereafter.

175/0426 Payments: The payments were authorised to be signed by Cllrs Walton and Taylor

176/0426 Items for the next agenda: Election of chairperson, approving the policies and governance documents for the coming year, appointments to committees and working groups

Date and Time of Annual Council Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21/05/2026 at 7.00pm at the Community Centre, Kiln Lane, Risinghurst OX3 8EY.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signature:

Date: