

OLD WESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Mr D Costura

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OLD WESTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Tuesday 11th November 2025

Present Councillors: Mr D Costura (Chairman), Ms E McKenzie, Mr P Patrick
Ms E Penniall and Mr A Harding.

Clerk: Mrs S Fussell (Temporary clerk)

County/Disc: Councillors unable to attend.

Public: 1 member of the public was in attendance.

1. Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were noted and approved from Tim Fussell.

3. Councillors Declaration of interests in any item on the agenda.

Mr P Patrick re Village Hall.

4. Public and press participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Fred Wing to give an update to the PC

5. Communication from District and County Councillors.

Jonathan Grey will discuss planning applications with the Chair as unable to attend this evening.

6. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2025.

Minutes signed by the Chair.

7. To consider matters arising from the previous minutes.

Fred Wing addressed the council.

Short Term Plan

Agree funding for minor works to bring the Village Hall up to a safe and habitable standard.

Agree a date for tidying up the hall and grounds asking for volunteers.

Seek professional advice, on structural issues and then review feedback from those reports.

To continue to seek commercial opportunities to support the hall financially, including the Amazon lockers, possible EV charging points and also a permanent letting e.g. a shop.

Medium Term Plan

Agree ongoing maintenance, upkeep schedule and funding.

Seek ongoing financial support for the running costs of the Hall and Playground (PC?)

Develop a funding plan to support a business plan to include grant funding etc.

Seek recognition as a community hub with relevant funding support.

Will the PC support funding of the playground maintenance at the cost of approx. £1300 PA (there is a precedent for this both locally and nationally) for the next 3 years and then review.

Will the PC work with the Village Hall Committee to develop and fund the Medium Term Business plan for the Village Hall site.

We have contacted the Diocese and are actively seeking to work with them to provide for the community by maximising the working together opportunities.

Long Term Plan

To develop a business plan for rebuilding or redeveloping the village hall site with all stakeholders including the PC.

We will be writing to the Chairs of the 2 Charities in the village to explore merging the Poor's Land with the Village Hall charity and would like the PC's support with these discussions.

PC was informed that the inspection of the village playground has changed from yearly to weekly through ROSPA.

Any decision to close it will be agreed on by the VH Chair Mr F Wing, the treasurer Mr P Patrick, Mr P Mallace and Mr C Hallam.

A new fence line is proposed to go in the playground.

The event calendar for 2026 will come in advance too.

Opportunity for governance of the village hall joined with the PC would make getting grants easier.

Chair asked if the Deeds for the hall said that it needed a playground.

The answer to this question has not been found as yet.

Other works to note are that the rendering needs doing and the carpark needs retarmacking.

8. Policies

An IT policy is now required, paperwork will be distributed to the councillors by the Chair and Mr P Patrick.

9. Planning

Re Planning Application 25/01208/PIP the council agreed to support.

A letter to the applicant will follow.

To look at the planning in High Street re an agricultural Barn, Mrs E McKenzie to investigate.

10. Finance and Administration

- a. Paperwork handed to the Chair and the Current Account balance is £33,610.11
- b. Payments made to:
 - Liza, the Clerk,
 - Village matters,
 - Eyelid Productions
 - Pending payment to Mr P Patrick for the village clean u day.
- c. ICO signed and to be set up.
- d. Mrs E McKenzie to organise and Mr T Fussell to second.
- e. The Chair has reached out to a clerk who is interested in taking up the role.
- f. Council discussed the budget and have underspent due to losing the Clerk, though hopefully a new clerk can start in January.
 - Some costs have gone up: internet costs and bank fees.
 - There are reserves in the budget for cutting the church grass.
 - MVAS data, Mr P Patrick to collate. Will access Eyelid to look at speeding incidents to then share with the village.
 - Christmas tree will come in slightly under budget this year.
 - If the PC has more than 8 people coming forward now in a PC Election it would cost £1,500. It was agreed that no donations will be made until the next budget meeting is held.
- g. Mrs E Pennial amd Mrs E McKenzie are free to attend the MP Local Roundtable on 16th January 2025.

11. Any other business for information only.

Local Plan engagement leaflets handed out to the PC.
Neighbourhood Plan is in hand with the Chair and informed the PC that once fully in place would receive 25% of any CIL payment but at present would only be 10%.
Agreed that road markings need repainting to help with speeding issues.
Some areas could be 20mph as cost of improving the pavement would cost £1,000/metre.

12. Date of next meeting 13th January 2026

2026 meetings: 10th March, 12th May, 14th July, 15th September, 10th November.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

