

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th OCTOBER 2025**

13/078 Co-option of new Councillors

Tom Mooney and Sarah Munro were unanimously voted to join the PC.

13/079 Apologies for absence

Peter Butcher (PB), Crispin Topping SODC (CT), Johnny Hope-Smith OCC (JHS),

13/080 Present

Jane Imbush Chair (JI), Simon Young Vice-Chair (SY), Mary Severin (MS), Jane Knight (JBK), Joanna Hart (JH), Neil Carter (NC), Anne-Marie Simpson SODC (AMS), Charlotte Ray- Clerk (CR),

Members of the public - 2

13/081 Declaration of any relevant interests

None

13/082 Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held on 17th September 2025 were then agreed by all and signed by the Chair.

13/083 Public questions, comments, or representations

The PC received a letter from a resident with some concerns are witnessing a JCB clearing land with established shrubs and trees to the rear of the gardens along the croft on Tuesday 14th October. The resident is very concerned as a number of the neighbours have wildlife areas and ponds that are rich in a variety of species. The concerns have been reported to the local Environment Agency via SODC along with submitting an Enforcement Form. The resident would like the PC to formally log the above concerns.

13/084 SODC and OCC Reports to the Parish Council

SODC Report:

- **Councils to take positive steps to represent communities despite concerns with Inspectors' Local Plan decision** - The open letter is in reply to a Planning Inspectors' letter published last week, which recommended the councils withdraw their Joint Local Plan from the examination process based on a single issue – the 'duty to co-operate' with Oxford city.
- **Food and Warmth Grant Scheme launched to support residents this winter** – The scheme will distribute grants to local not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that improve access to food and help people keep their homes warm.
- **Brown bin permit holders can have extra garden waste collected this Autumn** - Residents who have purchased a permit for the district council brown bin garden waste collection service in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal scheduled collection day only, between 27 October and 7 November.

OCC Report:

- **Councillor Priority Fund** - The Councillor Priority Fund has reopened, offering each Oxfordshire County Councillor £10,000 to support community projects within their division. This funding is designed to help deliver local priorities and strengthen community initiatives. Applications must be submitted by 30 November 2026.
- **Free Park and Ride Bus Travel & Temporary Congestion Charge Scheme** - Oxfordshire County Council is introducing free park and ride bus travel in Oxford for an initial three-month period starting 29 October 2025, coinciding with the launch of the city's temporary congestion charge.
- **Common Ground Award – Capital Funding for Community Cohesion Projects** - Grants of up to £10,000 are available to support projects that bring people together from different backgrounds, including funding for new builds, refurbishments, or essential equipment. Deadline is the 21st November 2025.
- **National Recognition for Oxfordshire's Supported Employment Service** - Oxfordshire County Council's Oxfordshire Employment service has received national recognition for its work helping people with disabilities, long-term health conditions, and other barriers to employment secure and sustain meaningful work.
- **Improving Mobile Signal – Oxfordshire's Digital Twin Investment** - Oxfordshire County Council has committed £500,000 to develop a "digital twin" of the county's mobile phone network — a pioneering project aimed at improving mobile signal for residents and businesses.

See link for SODC report

[Aston Tirrold Aston Upthorpe Parish Council DC Report 151025.docx](#)

See link for OCC report

[County Councillor Parish Report Oct 2025.docx](#)

13/085 Update on the Spring line Project

Anna Dillon attended the Parish Council meeting to provide an update on the ongoing Spring line Project, which has been active throughout the year and is funded by the *Mend the Gap* programme.

The project comprises three core elements:

- Science and Community Engagement
- Art and Nature
- Scientific Exploration

Throughout the year, the communities of The Astons and Cholsey have hosted a series of events aligned with these themes. Attendance has been consistently strong, reflecting a high level of local interest and participation. Extensive surveys have been conducted to gather insights into community perspectives and environmental features. A key outcome has been the development of a 4-mile landscape walk connecting Cholsey and The Astons, showcasing the area's rich biodiversity and natural heritage. The culmination of this year's activities will be marked by the Spring line Reveal, scheduled to take place on 21st November at Cholsey Pavilion. Members of the Parish Council are cordially invited to attend this celebratory event. Looking ahead, the project will continue into the following year with a programme of guided walks and community events, further strengthening the connection between local residents and their surrounding landscape.

A replica of the reveal is proposed and will be located at the back of the stage in the Astons Village Hall. The PC would be happy to offer financial support to its installation should it be required.

13/086 Planning

To consider the following planning permissions:

- a) [P25/S3071/FUL](#) – For development work at the following location: Hall Farm, Mill Lane, South Moreton, OX11 9FD

The application is for: Erection of a single storey detached workshop building.

The Clerk has spoken with SODC and they have confirmed this application was sent to the Astons PC in error and they do not require any comments.

13/087 ARC

- a) Approve Minute's from October's meeting. – **Approved**
b) Appropriate insurance coverage for the bonfire event has been secured and is currently in place. A Temporary Event Notice has been duly submitted and approved, ensuring the event complies with relevant regulatory requirements.

13/088 Finance

- a) Payments below approved

Simplicity Payroll Service (August & September)	£52.80
Charlotte Ray Clerk Fees	£310.00
Information Commissioners Office Renewal Payment	£52.00
External Audit Invoice (Moore)	£409.50
ARC VAT reclaim	£3,299.85
Village Hall Invoice (Hall hire for July & Sept)	£50.00

- b) Approve September's Financial Statement- **Approved**

13/089 CLP Groups

- a) **Roads and traffic** – The drain outside Stockwell's has now been successfully cleared. A blockage has been reported on Fullers Road, this matter is pending investigation and resolution. Repairs have been completed on Thorpe Street at the junction with Spring Lane, restoring the affected area, but pot holes remain unfixed despite being reported.
b) **Housing and Development** – Nothing to report
c) **Environment group** – The Parish Council is currently awaiting further information regarding the proposed projects that were discussed during the recent site walk with the Biodiversity Officer. An update is expected in due course, outlining next steps and potential actions arising from the visit.

13/090 Review the comments made from the External Auditors.

The Parish Council acknowledges the feedback received from the external auditors and is committed to addressing the points raised. Efforts will be made to ensure improved compliance and performance in the forthcoming year.

13/091 Items for next agenda

Date of the next meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 19th November 2025 which will be held in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at: 20:28

13/092 Review Monthly Calendar tasks

Following meetings will be on the third Wednesday of the month except for December when it will be the second Wednesday due to the closeness to Christmas:

19th November 2025

10th December 2025

21st January 2026

18th February 2026

18th March 2026

15th April 2026

20th May 2026

17th June 2026

15th July 2026

16th September 2026

21st October 2026

18th November 2026

9th December 2026