Oldbury on Severn
Parish Council

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Minutes of the Oldbury-on-Severn Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 1st December, 2025 at 7pm at The Pavilion, Westmarsh Lane, Oldbury-on-Severn, South Gloucestershire

Present Chairman Cllr Bedford (SRB), Cllr I Knapp (IK), Cllr L Day (LD), Cllr KEvans (KE), Cllr Kayliegh Griffiths, Cllr M Riddle (MR), Cllr C Jennings (CJ),Cllr Richard Hayden.

It was agreed that MR would, in the absence of The Clerk, carryout the duties of The Clerk during the meeting and take the minutes.

7 pm. Presentation regarding the Oldbury Pumping Station. Mr Geoff Sims (GS) from the Lower Severn Drainage Board gave a presentation, Jim Nichols and Matthew Riddle two other Board Members, were in attendance. The presentation included the rationale for the need for the pumps replacement: they are over 50 years, not fish, elver or eel friendly and the trash screens are outdated and potentially dangerous to clean manually. New technology can also be employed. The £10 million funding for the four remaining pumps is from government grants, investments, an increase in the drainage rate and a public works loan. Two other pumps at Saul and Elmore have already been completed. Oldbury is one of the last to be completed, but no decision yet on the final phasing of the end of the programme. Oldbury is the only one of the three stations with three pumps, all the others except Saul which has one, have two pumps. There is a 50% extra capacity in the new pumps to allow for climate changes eg more intense rainfall. Some of the parts required for the Oldbury Station eg the actual pumps have already been purchased to try and reduce the risk of future price increases.

Questions where then taken and Mr Simms reponded:

What is the volume of water pumped over the last five years. GS to investigate and respond. (Action MR to contact GS with the question).

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Will Oldbury get completed even though it is last on the list? Answer: Yes, there are various funding schemes, the programme is due to finish Feb 2027

Will there be any disruption when it is been rebuilt? Answer: No

Will the 'over pumping' with mobile pumps when the pumps are being changed during construction be enough? Yes, there a new generator and a portable pump been purchased, in addition other mobile pumps can be brought in.

What happens in a power cut? A generator has now been purchased as part of the scheme.

Can a visit be organised once the pumping station has been completed? Yes.

7.30 pm Full Council Meeting began.

1.To receive apologies for absence were received from The Clerk and Cllr D Heape (DH)

2. Declarations of interest. MR declared his nephew owns The Hermitage, CJ and MR both receive a honorarium from the Oldbury Site Stakeholder Group and IK declared an interest as he and his sister own land off Featherbed Lane.

3. Minutes of the previous Council meeting held on 4 November 2025. CJ raised the fact that the minutes for the October meeting were very late. Cllrs agreed this needs to be improved. CJ proposed, KG seconded that the previous minutes be agreed. It was resolved that the minutes be agreed.

4. Correspondence

4a. It was reported that an email and letter had been received from a local resident regarding flooding at Featherbed Lane.

Anne Strong addressed the meeting following her letter to the Parish Council and Linda Jennings also read out a statement from the resident in Kingfisher, Featherbed. Both statements are attached to these minutes.

IK having declared an interest left the meeting.

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CJ discussed several potential improvements. RH spoke about the importance of getting a professional opinion. KE asked about the history and what has changed. KG asked about the treatment of the existing ditches over the years. Only the ditch between Severn Arches has been piped although there might have been an open ditch running the full length of the lane at some point. MR reported that he had organised a site meeting with IK, Mrs Wiliams and Scott Jones from SGC on 21st November to move the issue forward. The landowners stated that they would do improvements to try and stop the run off and Mr Jones would ask SGC Streetcare to visit and recommend improvements to the highway and verge to get more water off the highway and into the piped ditch.

It was proposed by RH and seconded by CJ and the Council resolved to:

1. Write to the owners of the field IK and Mrs Williams (and cc in Scott James at SGC) and ask them what action they are going to take above and beyond the surface aeration.

2. Write to Mr Jones at SGC and ask him to investigate the current drainage system to get more water into the existing gulley and piped ditch, and to investigate the installation of a small drain in the verge and thirdly to use his powers to resolve the situation. (Action SB to coordinate the above actions)

4b. An email from a local resident regarding flooding in Kington had been received. (see 14 below)

4c. An email from Stephen Bray from Great British Nuclear had been received stating that the Oldbury site was not selected this time and that three new SMRS will be built at Wylfa in North Wales. Ground and ecology surveys of the site will still be undertaken at Oldbury.

4d An email was received from a parishioner regarding a complaint made by Oldbury Parish Council to Bromford Housing Association regarding parking on Council land. This will be addressed under Council property.

5. There were no matters arising from the previous Minutes that are not included in this agenda

5a. MR gave an update on the caravan and vehicle located in the lay-by in Foss Lane SGC. The occupant is receiving support from SGC to find accommodation.

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5b. MR gave an update on Wessex Water. A meeting was planned early in the New Year but that no date had been fixed yet.

6. Public Forum. In addition to the drainage item above, one other member of the public spoke about their planning application at West End Villa, West End Lane.

7. There was no urgent business

8.0 Finance and Procedures

8a. The bank reconciliation and budget analysis for the period ending 25 November 2025 was presented by KE.

8b. The November 2025 payments were presented by KE and approved.

8c. The November 2025 receipts were presented by KE and approved

8d. The bank reconciliation for the period 26th October 2025 to 25th November 2025 was presented by KE and approved.

8e. The NALC approved Data Protection policy. This was deferred.

8f. The letter of engagement with the payroll provider had been sent by KE

8g. First Aid/CPR/Defib training was discussed and CJ to suggest some dates to be advertised. (Action CJ to identify dates)

8h. ANPR. MR had taken this up with the Cabinet Member at SGC. SGC would be open to discuss this as long as it was cost neutral. (Action: MR to ask SGC if free electricity from SGC could be used)

8i. The Financial Regulations has been sent out to all Cllrs for review.

8j. The AGAR recommendations to revisit the financial risk assessment was discussed. KE explained the under the existing arrangements the financial risk is low, but there is a need for a Financial Risk Assessment. Also, there is a need to look at the Risk Assessment for the whole parish council activities. (Action: Clerk to circulate the Risk Assessment. Action: KE and CJ to produce a Finance Risk Assessment.)

8k. An update was given by KE on the process for claiming cricket club charges for water and electricity usage. KE will meet with The Clerk to discuss a way

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forward by the Spring. CJ asked about any outstanding invoices from the playing fields. (Action KE to meet with the Clerk)

9.0. Planning

9a. A list of planning applications, approvals and rejections has been circulated. Th application for West End Villa was discussed, and it was decided not to send in any comments.

9b. MR gave an update on the planning enforcement on the land off Oldbury Lane. The owner has been given a deadline of 24th December to submit a planning application.

9.c MR gave an update on the Cowhill Cottage application. Officers are recommending refusal and MR stated he has this week whether to call it in to a SGC Planning Committee Meeting for further consideration.

10.0. Playing Fields Report

10.a The report would be deferred to next meeting. LD still gets notification from the pest control contractor; SB stated that the Pest Control firm have been instructed to only visit the building on a Friday, and Busy Bees have been informed of this and advised that they are within their rights to refuse entry when the hall is hired by them.

10.b The safety checklist received from Glynn Poole was noted and will be discussed at next meeting.

10.c An update on adding the new baby change facility was given. (Action: The Clerk to ask Busy Bees what type they would like)

10.d The work required at the tennis courts would be given at the next meeting.

10.e An update on the Fire Safety assessment carried out on 24th October was given and the report presented. The fire extinguisher should be hung on the wall. The emergence light over the front door is now in working order.

10.f An update on the quotation for a survey to make the football field re-useable was deferred.

10.g An update on Pavilion hire requests was deferred.

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10h. An update on the servicing of the Pavilion alarm system/adding a smoke detector was deferred, but the emergency door light is now working.

It was reported that The Berkely Hunt will need to fill out a booking form before parking there on 10th Dec. (Action SB to contact the Berkeley Hunt)

11.0. Road Safety Report

11a. MR gave an update on the overhanging shrub on the corner of Westend and Camp Road restricting visibility on the corner. The hedge had again been cut back, and it was agreed to take this off the agenda in future meetings.

11b. An update on parking concerns at the junction of Westend, Camp Road and Ham Lane were received. A letter to a local resident has been sent by Bromford but SRB believes it was sent to the wrong resident. (Action: SRB to contact Bomford)

11c. An update on concerns about speeding on the Naite. KG reported that there was no new update form SGC.

11d. An update was given by MR on a proposed path up Church Hill to the school. A meeting had been held with a highway officer from SGC. SGC currently would not support a new gateway at the bottom of the hill from The Laggar. (Action MR to contact the landowner's agent)

11e. Road Safety speeding measures and limits across the parish was deferred to the next meeting.

11f. Correspondence from a local resident on traffic in Kington had been received. CJ has put the VAS up in Kington recently. An email was circulated on the costs to instigate speeding restrictions CJ. The details were circulated in agenda pack. A discussion took place, but the scheme would be very high for the council to fund. (Action: Clerk to write to SGC stating that the speed limits need to come down and to promote the three existing proposed schemes in the parish. CJ to reply to the Kington resident)

12.0. LD update on parish communications was received. It was asked if the booking forms for The Hall and Pavillion had yet been changed over in to Word Docs from PDFs? (Action SB to contact the Webmaster)

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13.0. CJ is requesting the setting up of a new local forum of wider parish councils and other groups as a new 'New Build Committee'. Cllrs are still planning to visit the parish councils near Hinkley C.

14.0 Drainage Report

14a. MR reported that the report on the condition of the riverbank would be published early in the New Year.

14b. Surface drainage issues. It was reported that at West End water was coming off a field. (Action SB to write to the owner of the field and cc in Scott Jones)

At Kington cars were stranded in the floods. Contact would be made to SGC to ask them to write to landowners. CJ will work with MR to investigate the problem further.

15.0 Emergency Planning was deferred to the next meeting.

16.0 CJ reported that a meeting on affordable / smaller houses was taking place the next day in Oldbury, lead by the West of England Rural Network's Village Agent.

17.0. Memorial Hall. A report CJ presented a report. The Hall Committee wish to install solar panels next year, PC voted for their installation, CJ proposed, LD second. The Council resolved that solar panels be fitted to the hall roof. LD and KG to seek possible specialists to inspect the condition of the roof. Memorial Hall constitution update has been completed. (Action: LD and KG to seek roof specialists)

18.0 Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) CJ presented a written report.

19.0 Parish Property Report

19.a MR reported that the tree survey would be completed soon.

19.b An update was given on the Parish Council Asset. (Action SRB/KE to review it)

20.0 Any minor matters not requiring a decision or items for the next

Agenda. The matter was raised how the council deals with interests once a Cllr has declared an interest. Cllrs agreed to look at the standing orders. (Action MR to circulate the Standing Orders)

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Confirm date of next meeting – Full Council Meeting Monday 2 February 2026 at 7 pm. As previously agreed no meeting will be held in January

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm