

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury
Village Hall on Friday 29th May 2026, 7.30pm**

FULL TEXT OF MINUTES AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE – www.cherhillparish.gov.uk

Present:

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor and **Chairman**
Nick White – CPC Councillor
Charlie Oram – CPC Councillor
Jane Page – CPC Councillor
Richard Carter – CPC Councillor

Doug Price – CPC Councillor, **Vice-Chairman**
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor
Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor
Sean Hickey – CPC Councillor
Rob Pooley – CPC Councillor

Ashely O'Neill – Wilts Cllr (Calne Rural)

Peter Johnson – Clerk/Responsible Financial
Officer (RFO)

Plus 6 members of the public

4770 Apologies

Received from Cllr Rob Hislop

4771 Declarations of Interest

Received from:

- a) Cllr Carter, applicant of planning application **PL/2025/08431**
- b) Cllr Pooley in respect of planning application **PL/2026/02739** (Chair of the Residents' Association)
- c) Cllr Grafton, payee of the invoice to be considered at **4785(2)**

4772 Election of Chairman for 2026-27

There being no other nominations, it was **APPROVED** *nem.con.* that Cllr Grafton of Cherhill Ward be elected as Chairman for 2026-27.

4773 Election of Vice-Chairman for 2026-27

There being no other nominations, it was **APPROVED** *nem.con.* that Cllr Price of Calstone and Blackland Ward be elected as Vice-Chairman for 2026-27.

4774 Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on Friday 8th April 2026

Cllr Sadler-Smith proposed approval of the 8th April Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Page. Cllr Grafton signed off the Minutes.

4775 Review of Actions

- 1) **Letter to Nick Tyler requesting the cutting back of maize crop from the line of public footpath (4577).** The landowner hopefully would allow limited mowing to define the footpath to a width of 1.5m. The matter would be chased up. **Action:** Clerk
- 2) **Junction of the bridleway to Wellington Barn and the C-road up to North Wilts Golf Club, persistent flooding issues (4597).** Cllrs Grafton and Oram reported that the farmer

had resolved the issue, having now fenced the field with the bridleway running down the side of it. He had installed a gateway which had levelled out the ground, and the problem

- 3) **Candidates for co-option to the Last 2 seats on Parish Council (4630).** Following the co-option and return of Cllr Page just one vacancy remains. Possible candidates still being sought.
- 4) **To reply to residents who reported difficulties for horse riders on bridleway CHER11, Lymers Lane, caused by repositioning of gate (4706((3)).** Cllr Grafton had, in agreement with the landowner, installed a new gate with a lever system for closure. Cllr Page advised it was still difficult to close unless you are on foot. The Clerk would contact those residents who had reported the issue for their opinion on whether this was an improvement.
- 5) **To contact National Trust to suggest replacing some stiles with kissing gates (4706(4)).** Cllr Price had been in dialogue with the NT's Peter Oliver who had recently left the NT. His replacement was awaited. In the meantime Mike Wilkins offered to share his NT local contact list. See (4749).
- 6) **To request Parish Steward clears foliage from 40mph signs on A4 at Cherhill(4709(2).** As parish stewards were now returned to normal duties, following pothole repairs, Cllr Purslow would request this work.
- 7) **To request to Wiltshire Council that there be better co-ordination of road closures in Calne area (4709(3)).** AGREED that a more achievable aim would be to get the Council to deal with signage more efficiently, giving better and more timely notice of works and diversions. Becky Chivers would be contacted.
- 8) **To request confirmation from Derry Hill and Studley PC that some earmarked funds from CGR parish boundary changes be used to help develop a Cherhill neighbourhood Plan (4712).** Cllr Price had met with that PC's Chair, and the independent consultants used for CCNP2 who had advised the matter be deferred to later in the year.
- 9) **Ownership of empty house on A4 at Cherhill near Black Horse pub (4727(2)).** The Clerk had discussed this with a former PC councillor who had made some progress and he should be able to report further.
- 10) **To contact Wessex Water re poor road repairs in Middle lane, Cherhill. (4727(4)).** Still to be done but AGREED it was better to contact Wiltshire Highways to report on the reinstatement works by Wessex. They could then bring in Wessex Water if they felt them to be at fault.
- 11) **To contact Cllr O'Neill for guidance re better coordination between Wiltshire planners and the parish council. (4748)** Clerk to email Cllr O'Neill.
- 12) **To contact landowner near CHER27a about ruts and uneven surface.** The owner was Nick Tyler. Clerk would contact him at the same time as dealing with (4577) above.
- 13) **To replace stile on footpath CHER32a adjacent to Devizes road at Blackland.** Cllr Grafton had confirmed the work had been carried out that morning. Cllr Oram had send a photograph of the new stile to the Clerk.
- 14) **To liaise with landowner re replacement of stile with kissing gate on footpath CHER10, Lower Compton, next to the fishing lake.** Cllr White would speak with the owner.
- 15) **Clerk to arrange online training for himself and all councillors on data protection.** This had been done through WALC and most councillors had now undertaken the course, Data Protection Essentials.

4776 Public Participation

Chris Caswill was not present but had contacted the Clerk to raise two matters:

- 1) To congratulate the PC and the White Horse recharging team on an excellent job over the recent weekend.
- 2) To comment on Purton PC's letter to Wiltshire Council, see below at **4779**.
- 3) **Mr Paul Ricketts** of Yatesbury again updated the meeting re the state of Yatesbury Village Pond. The pond at present was completely dry, and the newts were elsewhere so he would shortly be cutting vegetation from the pond. Mr Ricketts was thanked for his continuing efforts.

4777 Cherhill Public Telephone Box

The Clerk had circulated a paper to outline the history of the telephone box, currently standing close to the Black Horse pub. This also outlined the current condition of the kiosk, it's dimensions and

estimated weight, the need for it's protection and refurbishments and an outline of how the short term costs, and those longer term, could be dealt with on a legal basis. In summary the box had been purchased in 2023 for £1 from BT under the Adopt a Kiosk scheme. It is not listed. The PC owns the box but not the ground beneath.

After discussion it was AGREED that consideration should be given to relocating the box to a safer location, for a basic refurbishment. Budgeting for any longer term commitment was not practicable at this stage. Instead the next steps should be:

- 1) Establishing ownership of the ground on which the box stands, through the Land Registry.
- 2) Discuss with Wiltshire Council Planning how best to seek permission to remove the box, and subsequently to relocate.
- 3) It is believed that the electrical supply was discontinued on adoption but confirmation must be sought from the supplier, SSEN. **Action:** Clerk.

4778 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- 1) Cllr White reported that more clearance is need along the **footpath up from Red Barn CHER27**. Cllr Grafton would visit with a mower.
- 2) **Footpath CHER14, Yatesbury**, cutting through the plantation. To remove redundant fencing and cut back undergrowth and the hedge to improve sight of the plantation. Paul Ricketts had talked with the landowner, Richard Simpson who was happy for a PC work party to do the work. This would be to remove the wire after cutting overhead vegetation, and to bring the thorn bushes down to about waist height. Cllrs Grafton and Oram would visit to assess but any work would probably not take place before the Autumn. **Action:** Cllrs Grafton, Oram.

4779 Wiltshire Council Update

Wiltshire Cllr O'Neill reported on the recent meeting in Cherhill village with Mark Stansby, of Wiltshire Highways, also attended by Cllr Hickey. This was following on from the Extraordinary PC Meeting of 8th April held to discuss parking and driving issues in the village. The site visit was to look at possible locations where structural measures, such as painted lines, bollards etc might improve parking congestion. He felt that some targeted measures, such a double yellow lines on some of the junctions, e.g. on Oliver's Hill/Middle Lane where there are dangerous visibility issues. First though he recommended further dialogue with Cherhill School to discuss updating their existing travel plan, formulated in 2008. Existing council funds, albeit not through the very limited LHFIF pot, might be made available to help with a new school travel plan and some targeted measures such as painted lines.

Otherwise Cllr O'Neill confirmed that the current lack of overall control at the Council continues to cause difficulties in getting Council business done. Council had managed to pass it's Budget for 2026-27 but it's Wiltshire Local Plan had unfortunately now been withdrawn after a close vote, following criticism of it by Central government.

4780 Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre

- 1) The **A5 leaflet** promoting the campaign had been hand distributed by councillors, together with the Spring Newsletter which also highlighted the HRC issue. One resident only is known to have written to Wiltshire Council as suggested, copying in Cherhill PC, though others may have done so..
- 2) Cllr Sadler-Smith continued to be involved with Purton PC who had written on behalf of Cherhill PC and other PCs to Cllr Paul Sample, Member for Waste at Wiltshire Council. It made clear that a **joint collaborative working party** was being set up, drawn from the affected town and parish councils. One of it's requests was for the Group to be copied in on all relevant correspondence. Cllr Sadler-Smith had just been invited to join the Working Party, to represent Cherhill PC.

- 3) **Chris Caswill**, under Public Participation, had commented that the letter sent by Purton PC would have been stronger if it had actually mentioned those other parish councils with which it was collaborating to oppose the closures.

4781 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

Cllr Price reported:

- 1) The **A4 Quemerford to Cherhill speed survey** had been approved by Wiltshire Council and the PC's commitment to funding of 30%, £975, had previously been approved. Should the speed assessment recommend the speed limit be reduced to 50mph the estimate is still £7,500, the PC's 30% contribution being £2,250. This to be approved by the PC in due course.
- 2) Calstone residents had now come together to discuss **the roads from the A4 to Calstone's Old Reading Room**. 16 residents had met on 27th April to discuss the road issues and this is now being written up. The Highways Improvement Form recently submitted but would be adjusted following the input of residents.
- 3) It had been suggested that the **Speed Indication Device (SID)**, currently on the A4 at Cherhill be moved temporarily to the main road at Calstone, not to be turned on fully to identify vehicles as that is not allowed in a 60mph zone, but to record and assess traffic data for a week or two.
- 4) The PC didn't appear to be getting all the **highway notices** it should from Wiltshire Council on road repairs and closures. Since the CGR reorganisation of May 2025 areas in Calstone and Blackland had suffered closures which hadn't been reported. The Clerk would bring this to the attention of the Wiltshire Council Unit. **Action:** Clerk.

4782 Forming a Cherhill Village Traffic and Parking Group

This arises out of the Extraordinary PC Meeting on 8th May 2026 when it was AGREED that Working Group be established comprising councillors, residents and stakeholders. The Clerk was working with those concerned to finalise a date and venue, for the inaugural meeting.

4783 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Details
PL/2025/08431	6 Mill Lane, Cherhill, SN11 8XS	Updated application re replace dwelling of 4-bed detached house with larger 2.5 storey dwelling, demolition, new roof, EV charge point associated works, landscaping. Comments submitted on the Planning Portal stand ie No objection, subject to conditions, but a new comment to be added.
PL/2026/02739	19 Trenchard Avenue, Lower Compton	Proposed dwelling and associated works adjacent to 19 Trenchard Avenue. Objection submitted.
PL/2026/01199	Land south of Tudor Cottage	Updated application re proposed erection of 4-bed detached house with 3-bay detached garage with room above. New vehicular access, landscaping. Previous comments stand ie No objection subject to conditions.
PL/2025/09029	Blackland Lakes, Knights Marsh Farm, Stockley, Calne SN11 0NQ	Change of use of paddock 1 from touring pitches (Occupied by touring caravans or motor homes) and caravan storage to padel tennis facility comprising the erection of barn structure to accommodate 4 padel courts and ancillary café, reception and seating. No additional comments to those made previously, ie No Objection subject to conditions.

PL/2026/02645	Divine Café (now Dandy Highwayman), Main Road, Cherhill Sn11 8UU	Discharge of conditions 7 (noise impact assessment) and 8 (scheme of works – odour and noise) of PL/2022/07611. AGREED to check with Planning Officer that proposed AC unit on roof is in keeping with the planning permission.
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Where comments or conditions are referenced above these are lodged on the Planning Portal of Wiltshire Council : www.wiltshire.gov.uk.planning

4784 Budget Overview

- a) **Year 2026-27.** The Clerk had circulated the Summary Account from Scribe Accounts software together with figures as follows:

Receipts £15,407.02 (comprising the first tranche of the Precept and a VAT reclaim for Q4 2025-26)
Expenditure £ 7, 668.64 gross of VAT
Balance at Lloyd's **£41,886.92 @ 22/05/26**

- b) **Year 2025-26.** The Clerk had recently received and circulated the completed **Accounting and Governance Report (AGAR)** from the Internal Auditor, together with the Internal Auditor's report. The report, overall, was satisfactory and both would be tabled for approval at the June PC meeting.

The balances and finances were AGREED to be in a satisfactory state. The Budget Group would be convened to discuss finances generally, the handling of ringfenced funds and proposals for the investment of reserve funds.

4785 Community Structure Levy (CIL) Report

The Clerk had circulated summaries as follows:

- a) **CIL monies received after May 2026 from the former Calne Without PC**, totalling £4,969.14. Of this £1,530.00 had been received in April 2021 and thus now subject to the 5-year CIL spending rule, albeit already allocated as £930.00 towards the Calstone speed limit review and £600 for the completion of the defibrillator/training project. The other CIL pot was for £3,439.14 from work at The Fisheries, Calstone, received in January 2023.
- b) **CIL monies received directly from Wiltshire Council**, totalling £1,197.57, in 2023.

AGREED and restated that the recent expenditure on the SID, Speed Indication Device, is spending from previously allocated CIL funds, outlined above. In addition, £600 remains committed for the defibrillator project. No other CIL spending was being contemplated at this stage and the Clerk will prepare a finalised CIL report for approval at the June PC meeting, before submission to Wiltshire Council by the 30th June deadline.

4786 Accounts

- 1) Clerk's Home/Office expenses for April 2026 @ £58.18.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Purslow, seconded Cllr Pooley, **APPROVED.**
- 2) DT Grafton (Forestry), supply of mini digger, fuel, transport, tools for maintenance of footpath CHER27 @ £150.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Hickey, seconded Cllr Oram, **APPROVED.**
- 3) Grist Environmental, bin emptying April 2026 @ £283.28.** Payable by Direct Debit. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Hickey, **APPROVED.**
- 4) Wiltshire Association of Local Councils (WALC), annual subscription @ £201.60.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Oram, seconded Cllr Page, **APPROVED.**
- 5) Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), Clerk's annual subscription @ £158.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Oram, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED.**
- 6) MPN Accountants, payroll administration annual charge @ £252.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Hickey, **APPROVED.**

- 7) **Corsham Print Ltd, printing of Spring Newsletter and Lower Compton HRC leaflet @ £225.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Hickey, seconded Cllr Purslow, **AGREED.**
- 8) **Community Heartbeat Trust, replacement battery for Yatesbury defibrillator @ £351.54.** Proposed to be agreed Cllr Page, seconded Cllr Sadler-Smith, **APPROVED.**

4787 Review of Data Breach Policy

Cllr Price, as **Chief Investigating Officer** for the breach, would be arranging a meeting to examine how effectively the PC had dealt with the breach. In the meantime the Clerk had redrafted the Grant Application form to remove the box dealing with applicants' bank details. Also the Clerk and most councillors had now successfully undergone the online training, Data Protection Essentials. Others were urged to complete this as soon as possible.

4788 Working Groups

There was nothing to report other than issues already covered in the Agenda.

4789 Newsletter

The Spring edition of the **Newsletter** had been hand delivered by Councillors, together with the Lower Compton HRC leaflet.

4790 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllrs Price and Sadler-Smith would be attending the next meeting on 16th June.

Facebook Page This had been updated with photographs of White Horse recharging and the Lansdowne Monument under restoration.

Clerk Admin matters –

a) The Clerk had submitted a list of locations under Wiltshire Council's **Discretionary Gully Service**, for clearance by machine. This was based on the list submitted in 2025 and it was not known yet if any of the work had been carried out. He had been informed however that ditches flanking the road down to Lower Compton HRC would be dealt with the following week.

b) Regarding **CILCA training** he had recently submitted for assessment Unit 1 out of the 5 units to be completed by March 2027.

Parish Steward – Cllr Purslow confirmed that the steward was now back in normal action after pothole repairs and he would be submitting some jobs to him, including trimming along the lane leading from the Black Horse pub to Middle Lane.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton reported there would be a meeting on 6th June which he would be attending, in person, together with Cllr Oram.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton confirmed the recharging on Saturday 23rd May 2026 had been very successful. Cllr Pooley had drawn up a risk assessment for the use of volunteers. This had worked well, no adaption was required and it would be tabled for approval at the June PC meeting.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith confirmed that the National Trust's main phase of restoration was now underway.

Defibrillators – All 6 units across the parish were again reported to be in good order. The battery for the unit at Yatesbury, The Lymers, would shortly be replaced.

WALC – Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that the meeting on road safety at County Hall, Trowbridge on 17th July 2026 would be chaired by Leader of the Council, Ian Thorn. In addition, the WALC Annual Conference would be held in Swindon on 1st October,

Website/IT. Cllr Hickey would shortly be giving some IT training with Cllrs Grafton and Oram at their request.

4791 Date of next meetings

Thursday 25th June 2026 at 7.00pm – Yatesbury Village Hall.

Thursday 28th July 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.