

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Yatesbury Village Hall on Thursday 25th June 2026, 7.00pm

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

Present:

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor and **Chairman**

Sean Hickey – CPC Councillor

Andrew Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor

Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor

Peter Johnson – Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Plus 1 member of the public

4792 Apologies

Received from Cllr Rob Pooley, Cllr Charlie Oram, Cllr Jane Page, Cllr Nick White, Cllr Doug Price, Cllr Richard Carter, Wilts Cllr Ashley O'Neill.

4793 Declarations of Interest

None received nor required.

4794 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 29th May 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.

4795 Review of Actions

- 1) **Letter to Nick Tyler requesting the cutting back of maize crop from the line of public footpath (4577).** The landowner had been emailed by the Clerk, asking him to allow limited mowing to define the footpath to a width of 1.5m. No response but the matter would be chased up. **Action:** Cllr Grafton
- 2) **Junction of the bridleway to Wellington Barn and the C-road up to North Wilts Golf Club, persistent flooding issues (4597).** Cllr Grafton had confirmed that the farmer had resolved the issue.
- 3) **Candidates for co-option to the Last 2 seats on Parish Council (4630).** Just one vacancy remains. This would be highlighted on the website and Facebook. **Action:** Cllr Hickey.
- 4) **To reply to residents who reported difficulties for horse riders on bridleway CHER11, Lymers Lane, caused by repositioning of gate (4706(3)).** The Clerk had contacted those residents who had reported the issue, asking whether this was an improvement. The landowner had previously repositioned the gate and Cllr Grafton had more recently fitted new levers to it.
- 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 but Cllr Price was not present to report further.
- 6) **To request Parish Steward clears foliage from 40mph signs on A4 at Cherhill (4709(2)).** Cllr Purslow confirmed this work had been done.
- 7) **To request to Wiltshire Council that there be better co-ordination of road closures in Calne area (4709(3)).** Previously agreed that a more achievable aim would be to get the Council to deal with signage more efficiently. Wiltshire Highways would be contacted.
- 8) **Ownership of empty house on A4 at Cherhill near Black Horse pub (4727(2)).** The Clerk would chase this up with the former PC councillor who had recently made some progress.
- 9) **To contact Wessex Water re poor road repairs in Middle lane, Cherhill. (4727(4)).** The Clerk had contacted Wiltshire Highways to report on the reinstatement works by Wessex. They would be chased up.

- 10) **To contact Cllr O'Neill for guidance re better coordination between Wiltshire planners and the parish council. (4748)** Clerk had emailed Cllr O'Neill.
- 11) **To contact landowner near CHER27a about ruts and uneven surface.** The Clerk had contacted him at the same time as dealing with (4577) above.
- 12) **To liaise with landowner re replacement of stile with kissing gate on footpath CHER10, Lower Compton, next to the fishing lake.** Cllr White was to speak with the owner.
- 13) **Clerk to arrange online training for himself and all councillors on data protection.** This had been done through WALC. The Clerk and almost all councillors had now completed the course.

4796 Public Participation

- 1) A Yatesbury resident reported concerns that BT had not yet confirmed the rollout of full fibre broadband in Yatesbury. He asked, once this is available, whether Cherhill PC might consider grant aid towards Wi-Fi being installed at the Village Hall. He was informed that a community grant could be considered towards a capital project but not towards running costs.
- 2) A Cherhill resident had contacted the Clerk about the need to replace the dying box hedging in the village. She had asked whether the PC would consider a bulk purchase of suitable replacement hedge plants. Thus the lower price could be passed on to homeowners wanting to replace their hedges. This was legally possible but there was a risk the PC could face a shortfall. AGREED that the PC could provide advice to householders. Guidance would in any event be needed from the Tree Officer at Wiltshire Planning.
- 3) Another Cherhill resident had contacted the Clerk as he had identified a location on Cherhill School premises for the Book Exchange. AGREED that the location was suitable and therefore the Community Grant towards this project could be finalised.

4797 Cherhill Public Telephone Box

The Clerk had contacted Punch Pubs, owner of the Black Horse, on whose land the kiosk stands. According to Parish Online Mapping the location is entirely within the land occupied by the pub. However, the kiosk stands astride a painted white line that elsewhere separates private land from Wiltshire Council land. AGREED that no further action would take place until land ownership was fully clarified.

4798 Defibrillator Training

Cllr Pooley was known to be planning further training but was not present to report further.

4799 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- 1) A Yatesbury resident asked what plans there were for clearing the footpath on the A4 from Yatesbury to Beckhampton. Because of the considerable scale this confirmed to be a matter for Wiltshire Council. Contact would be made with Highways, **Action:** Clerk. In the meantime it was AGREED that the Clerk would obtain for display in Yatesbury Village Hall a copy of the Parish PROW routes from Wiltshire Council, **Action:** Clerk.
- 2) Cllr Grafton confirmed he had cleared overgrowth along the **footpath up from Red Barn CHER27**. Unfortunately whilst doing this a gate, already damaged, had been hit again and was now beyond repair. He would be replacing this.

4800 Wiltshire Council Update

Wiltshire Cllr O'Neill was not present to report.

4801 Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre

- 1) Cherhill PC was continuing to liaise with **Purton PC**. In the meantime the letter sent to Wiltshire Council, authored by Purton PC, on behalf of the affected local councils, had remained unanswered since the end of April. It had been addressed to Cllrs Ian Thorn, (Wiltshire Council Leader) and Cllr Paul Sample, the latter having recently been replaced by a new Member for the Environment and Waste. This needed chasing up and Cllr Sadler-Smith would be contacting Purton PC's Chair.
- 2) The known responses to the **leaflet** circulated by the PC were surprisingly low. Despite that the PC would continue to pressure Wiltshire Council as the local HRC was such a vital local resource.
- 3) There had been no response from **Calne Town Council**. The Clerk suggested contact with the new Mayor of Calne, Cllr Tim Havenith, to consider how best to muster support in Calne and surrounding areas for opposition to closure. One aim must be to correct the view, apparently held by some residents, that closure of the HRC would also mean the end of the landfill operation at Lower Compton. Both are owned and managed by Hills Waste but are separate operations. **Action:** Clerk.

4802 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

- 1) **The Speed Indication Device (SID)**, had been moved from the A4 at Cherhill, temporarily, to the main road through Calstone. This is not to identify vehicles, but to record and assess traffic data. Cllr Hickey had downloaded and circulated the traffic data but it needed analysis.
- 2) Cllr Hickey also reported that whilst the **SID had been in operation at Cherhill** the results had been remarkable, a 12% reduction in average speeds when the SID faced oncoming drivers. AGREED that further consideration be given to a second SID device, which had been part of the original planning. The Road Safety/LHFIG group would be drawing up recommendations with proposed costs.

4803 Footpath along A4 Cherhill to Lower Compton

Cllr Grafton confirmed that the vegetation was now so high as to be at eye level to a young child. He understood that Cllr White may have reported this through the MyWilts app but it would be raised directly with Wiltshire Highways if necessary.

4804 Cherhill Village Traffic and Parking Group

The Clerk reported that the meeting was now arranged to be held at Cherhill Primary School, on Thursday 9th July. This would be hosted by Andrew Ind, Head Teacher, who was being asked to give an account of the school's existing traffic plan from 2008. Several councillors would be attending, together with Wilts Cllr O'Neill, Cherhill Preschool and some residents. The draft agenda would now be finalised. The Clerk was not able to attend so someone was needed to take minutes. Also a Group Convenor needed to be agreed.

4805 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Details
PL/2025/09029	Blackland Lakes, Knights Marsh Farm, Stockley, Calne SN11 0NQ	Amended plan and additional information re 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.
PL/2026/03451 In Lower Compton Parish but close to the border with Cherhill Parish	Fairholme Farm, Lower Compton Road, Cherhill SN11 8RB	Proposed steel portal framed building to be used as a general purpose store with concrete apron and associated works. No objection.

Where comments or conditions are referenced above these are lodged on the Planning Portal of Wiltshire Council : www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning

4806 Budget Overview

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 £10,848.03 gross of VAT (£3,179.39 since the 29th May meeting).

Balance at Lloyd's £38,707.53 @ 17/06/26

Spending for the year was just under 25% of the budget and therefore in line with the First Quarter. The balances and finances were AGREED to be in a satisfactory state. The Budget Group was meeting on 6th July to discuss finances generally, the handling of ringfenced funds and proposals for the investment of reserve funds.

4807 Internal Audit Report for 2025-26

The Clerk had circulated and published on the website the Internal Auditor's report by James Sheehy of SILC Ltd. Overall the report was satisfactory but the following were highlighted:

- 1) In previous years, The 2 sections of the AGAR had been dealt with by one resolution. Instead there should be 2 separate resolutions, for Section 1 and Section 2, as at the present meeting.
- 2) The system of internal controls and financial risk assessment needed to be reviewed annually. This would be considered by the Budget Group.
- 3) A more up to date version of the Fixed Asset Register needed to be published on the website.

Otherwise the levels of general reserves, £12,000, were appropriate for the precept. Councillors expressed satisfaction with the report and the work carried out by the Internal Auditor.

4808 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) (Section1- A) for 2025-26

Section 1, the Annual Governance Statement, had previously been circulated by the Clerk. Proposed to be approved, Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**. The Chairman and Clerk then signed Section1. This would be lodged with the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, before the deadline of 30th June.

4809 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) (Section 2) for 2025-26

Section 2, the Accounting Statements, had also been circulated by the Clerk. Proposed to be approved Cllr Purslow, seconded Cllr Sadler-Smith, **APPROVED**. The Chairman and Clerk then signed Section 2. This also would be lodged with the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, before the deadline.

4810 Community Structure Levy (CIL) Report

The Clerk had circulated a revised draft report, for approval at the present meeting, before submission to Wiltshire Council by the 30th June deadline.

He confirmed that a particular CIL fund or 'pot' could fund more than one project. Similarly a project could be funded by more than one CIL pot. Be that as it may, it was AGREED that the sum of £3,109.93 spent on the Speed Indication Device (SID) before the end of the Financial Year 2025-26 should be allocated against the Calstone Fisheries fund (**19/03101FUL**) totalling £3,439.14. That would leave £329.21 in that pot for further projects.

4811 Accounts for Payment

- 1) **Clerk's Home/Office expenses for May 2026 @ £26.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Hickey, seconded Cllr Sadler-Smith, **APPROVED**.
- 2) **Grist Environmental, bin emptying May 2026 (5 weeks) @ £360.40.** Payable by Direct Debit. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Hickey, **APPROVED**.
- 3) **Specialists in Local Council (SILC) Ltd, Internal Auditing Fee @ £170.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded Cllr Hickey, **APPROVED**.
- 4) **Cllr J Page, expenses for catering for meetings on 8th and 29th May @ £57.31.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Sadler-Smith, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**.
- 5) **Yatesbury Village Hall, hall hire fees Feb 2025 to May 2026 @ £200.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED**.
- 6) **WALC, Annual subscription to WALC and NALC 2026-27 @ £664.33.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Hickey, **APPROVED**.

4812 Risk Assessment for Rechalking of White Horse

Cllr Pooley had drafted the risk assessment before the rechalking event in May. It had proven to be more than adequate and Cllr Grafton who had led the event agreed that no further changes were needed before the next rechalking event planned in 2 years' time. Proposed to be formally adopted by Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr, Hickey, **APPROVED**.

4813 Working Groups

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

4814 Newsletter

Due to the low levels of visitors to the website it was AGREED that consideration would be given to producing 3-4 issues each years instead of the current 2 editions.

4815 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Cllrs Price attended the meeting on 16th June and had circulated a detailed report.

Facebook Page This continues to be updated.

Clerk Admin matters –

- a) The Clerk had circulated a Notice from Wiltshire Council confirming a comprehensive review of the local bus service and bus shelters. Parish Councils and other stakeholders were being urged to provide input.

- b) The Annual request from the Pensions Regulator to confirm whether the Clerk would be enrolled in a work pension would be answered in the negative, as usual.

Parish Steward – Cllr Purslow confirmed that the steward was now back in normal action. The Clerk would query with Wiltshire Council why further days of the steward's services had not been allotted to Cherhill PC following its expansion in May 2025. **Action:** Clerk

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton had attended the meeting on 6th June and the minutes had been circulated.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton confirmed the recharging on Saturday 23rd May 2026 had been very successful.

Lansdowne Monument – Cllr Sadler-Smith confirmed that the National Trust's hoarding had now been removed and scaffolding was now being installed up the length of the monument to facilitate the major phase of the restoration programme.

Defibrillators – All 6 units across the parish were again reported to be in good order. The battery purchased for the unit at Yatesbury, was yet to be delivered but was being chased.

WALC – Cllr Sadler-Smith would be attending the meeting on road safety at County Hall, Trowbridge on 17th July 2026, to be chaired by Leader of the Council, Ian Thorn.

Website/IT. Nothing to report.

4816 Date of next meetings

Thursday 23 July 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall.

Thursday 28 August 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.