

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 23rd July 2026, 7.00pm

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

Present:

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor and **Chairman**
Rob Pooley – CPC Councillor

Charlie Oram – CPC Councillor
Ashley O'Neill – Wiltshire Cllr (Calne Rural)

Doug Price – CPC Councillor and Vice
Chairman

Jane Page – CPC Councillor

Peter Johnson – Clerk/Responsible Financial
Officer (RFO)

Plus 1 member of the public

4817 Apologies

Received from Cllr Andrew Sadler-Smith, Cllr Sean Hickey, Cllr Martin Purslow, Cllr Nick White, Cllr Rob Hislop, Cllr Richard Carter.

Due to the delayed arrival of Cllr Grafton Cllr Price took the Chair.

4818 Declarations of Interest

- a) Cllr Page, as a stable tenant of the applicant of PL/2026/03392
- b) Cllr Oram, as on friendly terms with the applicants of PL/2026/01903

4819 Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Friday 29th May 2026

Cllr Price proposed approval of the 25th June Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Page. Cllr Price signed off the Minutes.

4820 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. No response but the matter would be chased up. **Action:** Cllr Oram
- 2) **Candidates for co-option to the Last 2 seats on Parish Council (4630).** The one remaining vacancy was still to be highlighted on the website and Facebook page. **Action:** Cllr Hickey.
- 3) **4704(6) To respond to Wilts. Cllr Paul Sample re Lower Compton HRC.** The Clerk would be contacting the new Member for Waste and the Environment, Cllr Gordon King.
- 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 to provide their opinion on how the gate now works.

Cllr Grafton then joined the meeting and took the Chair.

He confirmed he would in any event make some more adjustments to the gate mechanism.

- 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. The Clerk would ascertain his replacement before this was taken further.

- 6) **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. This would however be deferred for now.
- 7) **Ownership of empty house on A4 at Cherhill near Black Horse pub (4727(2)).** The Clerk would chase this up with a local resident, a former CPC councillor, who had helped previously.
- 8) **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. No response received so Wessex Water would now be contacted.
- 9) **To contact Cllr O'Neill for guidance re better coordination between Wiltshire planners and the parish council. (4748)** Clerk had emailed Cllr O'Neill who had advised that planning officers were now being more flexible re deadlines for comments on applications. There was no need to provide them with a schedule of Cherhill PC meetings.
- 10) **To contact landowner near CHER27a about ruts and uneven surface.** The Clerk had contacted him at the same time as dealing with (4577) above. Cllr Oram would now make contact.
- 11) **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 have spoken with the owner but this would be deferred until winter.
- 12) **To seek confirmation from SSE that the disused telephone box in Cherhill was disconnected from the electrical supply. (4776)** No response so the Clerk had chased this up.
- 13) **To assess fencing and undergrowth on Footpath CHER 14 Yatesbury with intention of improving sightline to the plantation (4777).** Still to be done.
- 14) **To obtain from WC another copy of the Parish PROW map for display at Yatesbury Village Hall (4799(1)).** A copy would be arriving within the week, without charge.
- 15) **To replace damaged gate on CHER27 route up from Red Barn (4799(2)).** Cllr Grafton now had the gate and this would be installed when time allows.
- 16) **To write to the Calne Mayor re co-operation with Calne TC to oppose Lower Compton HRC closure.** The Mayor had responded to the Clerk's email and a meeting was now arranged on 3rd August.

4821 Public Participation

A Cherhill resident raised a number of issues:

- 1) He queried the current location of the **Speed Indication Device (SID)**, in Calstone. Cllr Price advised that this was being moved to different locations every 2 months to gain maximum information on road use. The next location would be near the Dandy Highwayman where a pole has been erected. A second SID was being contemplated by the Road Safety Group (see below) and this would afford even more coverage and flexibility.
- 2) He had read the draft consultation response on **PL/2026/03392** and was concerned about the proposed car park which might overflow into water courses. It was incorrect to state that Rivers Brook was simply a drainage channel. More correctly it is a chalk stream that feeds into the River Marden and this should be corrected. Also all efforts must be made to protect the Brook from overflow. This was noted by the meeting.
- 3) He urged that contact be made with **Wilts Cllr Gordon King, the new Member for Waste and Environment**, regarding the planned closure of Lower Compton HRC.

4822 Defibrillator Training

Cllr Pooley had arranged another course for 20 residents through the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance charity. This was to be on 11th August and again at Cherhill Village Hall.

4823 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

No matters were raised other to those considered in Review of Actions **(4820)**.

4824 Wiltshire Council Update

Wiltshire Cllr O'Neill reported as follows:

- 1) The Council had cut £5m from its **road maintenance budget** and the effects were already being felt with the cancellation of some work involving heavy machinery.
- 2) The appeal process for **planning applications** now has to follow new national procedures, introduced on 1st April 2026. There are now strict limits on the submission of new data, so applications are now being assessed solely on the original application. Indeed most smaller applications will be decided by Council Officers rather than planning committees. After some discussion on this it was AGREED there was now even greater need for rigorous scrutiny and comment on applications when first received.

4825 Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre

A meeting to discuss the issues with Calne Town Council was now arranged for Monday 3rd August. This would be attended by the Calne Mayor (Cllr Tim Havenith), Town Clerk, Mark Edwards (Business Manager), Cllr Sadler-Smith, Cllr Pooley, and the Clerk.

Cllr Price suggested that when contact is made with the new Member for waste and Environment, mention be made of the declaration by Wilts Council Leader, Ian Thorn, made at the public meeting in Calne, that a booking system would not be required.

In the meantime Wiltshire Council was expected to announce that they had identified a new site for an HRC near Royal Wotton Bassett.

4826 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

- 1) Cllr Price reported that the **Speed Indication Device (SID)**, had been moved to the main road through Calstone in order to record and assess traffic data, with interesting results. Consideration was being given to a **second SID device**, as originally planned. The Road Safety/LHFIG group would be drawing up recommendations with proposed costs for the next PC meeting.
- 2) Cllr Page reported that the **road surface from The Lymers in Yatesbury, running through to Town's End corner then south down to Back Lane**, was disintegrating, Tar under the chippings had melted in the hot weather and horses' hooves have been sinking into it. This would be reported to Wiltshire Council through the MyWilts app. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Page.

4827 Cherhill Village Traffic and Parking Group

Cllr Page reported on the Group's inaugural meeting at Cherhill Primary School, on 9th July. This was hosted by Andrew Ind, Head Teacher. Also attending were Kirsty Pearce of Cherhill Pre-School, Cllr Grafton and Wilts Cllr O'Neill. Mr Ian Cook of Middle Lane also attended, as a resident and parent. Wilts Councillor O'Neill gave an account of his recent meeting in the village with Mark Stansby of Wiltshire Highways who had recommended targeted yellow line areas e.g. at corners and junctions. The costs are very high but funding is available if the school develops a travel plan in conjunction with Wiltshire Council's School Travel Plan. There is no prospect at all for the return of a school bus service due to the costs.

Actions agreed:

- 1) The School to send to Wiltshire Council its current travel plan, from 2008.
- 2) The School to remove its 'No parking bus stop' sign.
- 3) Andrew Ind to consult with the Vicar of St James's Church about its parking area.
- 4) The Dandy Highwayman would also be approached about use of their parking.

- 5) Cllr Grafton to approach the owner of land off Marsh Lane as a possible parking area.
- 6) Andrew Ind to produce a survey for parents
- 7) Ian Cook and Cllr Page to produce a survey for residents.
- 8) The PC to investigate houses on Middle Lane where lay-bys have been 'adopted', reducing roadside parking. Some householders have erected no parking signs.
- 9) The next meeting would be on 17th September when questionnaire results would be assessed.

4828 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Details
PL/2025/03392	Land south of Atcherley Road, Lower Compton, SN11 8QJ	Proposed erection of new farm shop and café, with associated access, car parking, service yard, drainage pond and landscaping. No objection subject to conditions.
PL/2026/01599	Sands Farm Quarry, Low Lane, Calne, SN11 8TE	Updates to proposed erection of ground mounted photovoltaic panels and associated works. Objection reaffirmed.
PL/2026/01903	57 Whittle Avenue, Lower Compton SN11 8QN	Amended plans/additional information for proposed single storey extension to rear and two-storey extension to side of existing dwelling. No objection, subject to condition, to be reaffirmed.

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

4829 Budget Overview

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

Receipts	£16,331.26 (comprising the first tranche of the Precept and a VAT reclaim for Q4 2025-26)
Expenditure	£13,613.24 gross of VAT (£3,179.39 since the 29 th May meeting).
Balance at Lloyd's	£36,448.47 @ 17/07/26

The general reserve fund of £12,000 and several ringfenced funds had now all been set up on Scribe Accounts. These were as follows:

CIL Fund Old Police House £1,197.57
CIL Fund Low Lane £1,530.00
CIL Fund The Fisheries, Calstone £329.21
Tommy Croker Playground ringfenced fund £3,814.01
White Horse Restoration Group ringfenced fund £266.15

The External Auditor for the Annual Governance and Accounting Report (AGAR), PKF Littlejohn, had acknowledged receipt of all the necessary items and had until 20th September 2026 to provide it's auditing report.

Spending for the year was just under 27% pf the budget and therefore in line with the First Quarter. The balances and finances were AGREED to be in a satisfactory state.

4830 Budget Group 6th July 2026 Meeting and Proposals

The Group had met to discuss current and planned expenditure and financial procedures. The Internal Auditor had recommended annual review of financial procedures and this would be implemented.

Otherwise, all funds remained deposited with Lloyd's and the Group had made the following recommendations:

- 1) A **35-day access Savings Account** be opened with **Redwood Bank**, primarily for the General Reserve Fund of £12,000. This would pay 3.55% AER. Proposed Cllr Oram, seconded Cllr Pooley, **APPROVED. Action:** Clerk.
- 2) A **second layer of authorisation** would be appropriate for the issuing of online payments from Lloyd's. AGREED that authorised 'signatories' to be drawn from Cllrs Price, Hickey and Pooley. **Action:** Clerk.

4831 Accounts for Payment

- 1) **Clerk's Home/Office expenses for June 2026 @ £36.00.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Oram, seconded Cllr Pooley, **APPROVED.**
- 2) **Grist Environmental, bin emptying June 2026 @ £298.58.** Payable by Direct Debit. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Price, **APPROVED.**

4832 Working Groups

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

4833 Newsletter

Following agreement that consideration would be given to producing 3-4 issues each years instead of the current 2 edition, the next edition was planned for the Autumn of 2026. Agreed that future discussion of the newsletter would come under a new agenda item, 'Public Engagement'.

4834 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Nothing further to report following the meeting on 16th June attended by Cllr Price.
Facebook Page This continues to be updated.

Clerk Admin matters –

- a) The Clerk would respond to Wiltshire Council's review of the local bus service and bus shelters to confirm that the glass and steel bus shelter in Yatesbury would benefit from refurbishment.
- b) A grant request had been received from Yatesbury Village Hall Committee. AGREED that this be tabled at the next PC meeting, with a review of Grant Criteria.

Parish Steward – The Clerk had queried with Wiltshire Council why only 1 day per month of the steward's services had been allotted to Cherhill PC following it's expansion in May 2025.

Calne Area Parishes Forum - Cllr Grafton would be attending the meeting on 3rd August.

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

White Horse Restoration Group – Nothing further to report following the rechalking on 23rd May.

Lansdowne Monument – Scaffolding was now much further up the length of the monument to facilitate the major phase of the restoration programme.

Defibrillators – Units across the parish were again reported to be in good order but the battery purchased for the unit at Yatesbury, was still to be delivered but had again been chased.

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

Website/IT. Nothing to report.

4835 Date of next meetings

Thursday 27th August 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall

Thursday 24th September 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.11 pm.