Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 24th September 2026, 7.00pm

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

Present:

Dave Grafton – CPC Councillor and **Chairman**
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor
Rob Pooley – CPC Councillor
Rob Hislop – CPC Councillor
Martin Purslow – CPC Councillor

Doug Price – CPC Councillor and Vice Chairman
Jane Page – CPC Councillor
Charlie Oram – CPC Councillor

Ashley O'Neill - Wilts Councillor

Peter Johnson – Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

1 member of the public present

4856 Apologies

Received from Cllr Nick White, Cllr Sadler-Smith, Cllr Sean Hickey.

4857 Declarations of Interest

None received nor required.

4858 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2026

Cllr Page proposed approval of the 27th August Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Purslow. Cllr Grafton signed off the Minutes.

4859 Review of Actions

1) **Candidates for co-option to the Last 2 seats on Parish Council (4630).** The Notice of Vacancy following Cllr Carter's resignation had been received from Wiltshire Council with the requirement that it be posted and published on 25th September. **Action**: Clerk/Cllr Hickey.
2) **Difficulties for horse riders on bridleway CHER11, Lymers Lane, caused by repositioning of gate (4706((3).** Cllr Grafton had arranged to meet with the landowner to adjust the position of the gate . **Action**: Cllr Grafton.
3) **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 who would have started in September.
4) **To request to Wiltshire Council that there be better co-ordination of road closures in Calne area (4709(3))**. Deferred for now.
5) **Ownership of empty house on A4 at Cherhill near Black Horse pub (4727(2))**. The Clerk would again chase this up with a local resident. In the meantime Cllr Price confirmed that the property was not registered.
6) **To contact Wessex Water re poor road repairs in Middle Lane, Cherhill**. **(4727(4)).** Wessex Water would be contacted shortly.
7) **To contact landowner near CHER27a about ruts and uneven surface**. The Clerk had attempted to contact him. Cllr Oram confirmed he would also attempt contact.
8) **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.
9) **To seek confirmation from SSE that the disused telephone box in Cherhill was disconnected from the electrical supply. (4776)** The Clerk continued to chase this up despite having been passed from office to office.

10) **To assess fencing and undergrowth on Footpath CHER 14 Yatesbury with intention of improving sightline to the plantation (4777).** Still to be done.
11) **To replace damaged gate on CHER27 route up from Red Barn (4799(2)).** Cllr Grafton had sourced a new gate which would be installed when time allows.
12) **To contact Purton PC re a possible FOI request to Wiltshire Council re use of HRCs (4843).** The Clerk had heard from Purton PC that they had not contemplated the making of such a request, not were they planning to do so.
13) **To arrange an Extraordinary PC Meeting to invite the Leader of Wiltshire Council for discussions (4844(1).** This had now been arranged at Cherhill Village Hall on 12th November, 7pm.
14) **To reduce Calstone traffic metrics date report for publication on website (4844(2).** Done, by Cllr Hickey**.**
15) **To contact Broad Hinton PC re the successful speed limit reduction in that parish (4844(4).** To be done.
16) **To contact Yatesbury Village Hall Committee re their grant application (4848).** Done, and dealt with further under **4861**.
17) **To arrange with Lloyd's Bank 2 further authorisations for payments (4852).** Done. Bank mandate to be approved under **4870** below.

4860 Public Participation

A Cherhill resident asked whether the speed limit in Marsh Lane would ever be reduced. This would be dealt with under **4865** below.

4861 Community Grant Applications

1) The application for a **Book Exchange in Cherhill** had already been approved. The applicant had submitted 2 options for the positioning of the unit on the grounds of Cherhill School. It was AGREED that the option close to the staff parking area, was possibly the better of the 2.
2) The application by **Yatesbury Village Hall Committee**, considered at the previous meeting, had now been withdrawn as another body had now made an award of the full funds required. Councillors were pleased to note this and AGREED that the Committee would be eligible to formulate another application to the PC for a grant in due course.

4862 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

Nothing further had been heard regarding a local work party that had offered to carry out clearance work on the chalk footpath, leading up to the Downs from opposite Park Lane. Otherwise there was little to report.

4863 Wiltshire Council Update

Wiltshire Cllr O'Neill reported on the following:

1) The withdrawal of **Wiltshire's Local Plan**. He was concerned about the impact of this. Presently there were many planning applications to be considered and he would be monitoring how the process unfolds for these applications and for others.
2) Changes affecting the **remit of the Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)**. No longer would the Group be able to recommend highway speed reductions as Wiltshire Council has updated it's Speed Limit Policy. Requests for 20mph speed limit reduction requests are now to be evaluated directly by the Council's traffic engineering team.
3) **National changes to planning procedure** take effect from 31st October 2026. The new National Scheme of Delegation means most decisions will be made by officers rather than councillors. Under a two-tier system Wiltshire Councillors would have less opportunity for calling in planning applications. Tier A deals with mandatory approval, for routine and minor applications. Tier B deals with Presumed Officer Approval, for larger or more complex

applications. A planning committee can only deal if both the Chief Planning Officer and the Planning Committee Chair agree to a referral to councillors. Understandably, unitary councils oppose these changes. The government's aim, evidently, is to speed up the planning process for new homes. There is no shortage of plots and sites in Wiltshire, just a shortage of approvals.

4864 Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre

1) The letter raising questions sent by the Clerk to the new Cabinet Member for Waste and the Environment, Cllr Gordon King had received a full reply and had already been circulated to all Cherhill PC councillors. It was being passed to the Calne Mayor, to others attending the group, and to neighbouring local councils as required.
2) Purton PC had confirmed that they had not been contemplating a FOI request to Wiltshire Council for metrics data on the use of the HRCs owned and managed by Hills Waste. The Clerk would draft such a request but it was AGREED this should be held back to allow a reasonable period for the use of HRCs now trialling the booking system. This would enable a proper comparison to be made, before and after.
3) Cherhill PC still maintains it's strong opposition to the closure of Lower Compton HRC and this subject will feature when the Leader of Wiltshire Council, Cllr Ian Thorn, attends the Extraordinary PC Meeting on 12th November. A subgroup of Councillors would be formed to agree topics and questions and the structure on how the meeting should be set up. This would be drawn from Cllrs Grafton, Pooley, Purslow, Price and Page.
4) Letters were still to be sent to local MPs, Sarah Gibson and Brian Matthew, suggesting collaboration on opposition to Wiltshire Council's plans.

4865 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

1) Cllr Price had drafted an LHFIG **Highways Improvement request Form, on behalf of Calstone Villagers.** This was to request the following:
   a) a reduction in the speed limit, to 20 mph on the road from the A4, through to Theobald's Green and up to the top of Spray's Hill.
   b) Improved signage and road markings, to indicate the wide variety of road users, including walkers, cyclists, farm machinery and children at play.

After discussion it was felt that Cherhill Parish Council should support the application for the next Calne LHFIG meeting, 21st October 2026. Proposed Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED.** It was expected that, if successful, the PC would be required to part-fund the work.

2) Cllr Hickey had published on the website a reduced **metrics data report for traffic use on the Calstone road,** using the Speed Indication Device (SID) currently stationed there. This had included a heat map to aid analysis.
3) There had been no further news on the **A4 speed review** that had been previously agreed by Wiltshire Council through LHFIG. This would be chased up at the meeting on 21st October. **Action:** Cllr Purslow.
4) The **speed limit at Marsh Lane** was discussed. It was previously agreed by the PC that this should be dropped from 60 mph down to 20 mph. Such speed reduction requests, as outlined above, are now to go direct to Wiltshire Council rather than through LHFIG. AGREED that this should be considered further by the PC's Road Safety Group. The Group would be reconvened shortly to consider all of the above issues as well as a **second SID.** The latter would need to considered by the Budget Group.

4866 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Details
PL/2026/05549	Tudor Cottage, 4 Park Lane, Cherhill SN11 8XN	Proposed felling of Leylandii, horse chestnut and yew trees and reduction of English oak and Bullace fruit trees. Removal of ivy. **No objection.**

PL/2026/05521 **Householder Planning Permission** and PL2026/05848 **Listed Building Consent**	Quemerford Gate Cottage, Quemerford gate, Calne SN11 8UL	Proposed removal of 20th-century extensions and subsequent replacement with sensitively designed extensions. Necessary structural repairs to roof structure. **No objection subject to condition that there are no objections from the Conservation Officer.**

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

4867 Cherhill Village Traffic and Parking Group

- Before the meeting at Cherhill School on 17th September Cllr Page had circulated to the School and councillors a survey summary of the 27 village residents who had responded.
- It was understood that the School would be carrying out it's own survey on parents.
- Cherhill School was now working with Wiltshire Council on a new travel plan. The previous traffic plan which had been drawn up on behalf of the Diocese. Liaison would take place with Wiltshire Council on the plan and the survey, **Action:** Cllr Page. It is hoped that the new plan will help secure funding for parking restrictions.
- The survey results would be published on the PC's website, Facebook page and mentioned in the Newsletter.

4868 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 of £418.09)
Expenditure £16,103.61 gross of VAT (£1,521.63 since the 27th August meeting).
Balance at Lloyd's £21,958.10 @ 18/09/26

The general reserve fund of £12,000 had now been set up on Scribe Accounts. The 35-day Saver Account with Redwood Bank had now been set up and the £12,000 deposited.

Thus, total funds at 18/09/2026:
£21,958.10 Lloyd's Bank
£12,000.00 Redwood Bank
£33,958.10 TOTAL

Spending for the year to date was just over 41.7% of the budget (£38,589.00). The balances and finances were AGREED to be in a satisfactory state.

4869 Quarter 1, 2026-27 Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Hickey, not present, had met with the Clerk to examine the bank statements and receipts for the First Quarter, thus up to 30th June 2026. This was satisfactory and the closing balance matched with the figure on the Scribe Accounts reconciliation to 30th June, being £37,559.97.
Proposed to be approved Cllr Pooley, seconded Cllr page, **APPROVED.**

4870 Resolution for Lloyd's bank

The Clerk had prepared a resolution for the bank to remove some existing signatories on the community account. These included the previous Clerk and a former Councillor. To replace them the following Councillors were to be added with full access: Doug Price, Sean Hickey, Rob Pooley

All payments to be authorised by the Clerk plus one of the 3 nominated signatories. Proposed to be agreed Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Oram, **APPROVED**. The resolution was then signed by Cllr Purslow as a retiring signatory, and by the Clerk.

4871 Accounts for Payment

1) **Clerk's Home/Office expenses for August 2026 @ £150.90.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Oram, seconded Cllr Purslow, **APPROVED.**
2) **Grist Environmental, bin emptying August 2026 @ £279.68.** Payable by Direct Debit. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Grafton, seconded by Cllr Oram, **APPROVED.**

4872 Working Groups

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

4873 Cherhill PC Data Breach Policy

As a result of a data breach involving emailing on 29th August, and in line with the Data Breach Policy, a data breach form had been completed by the Clerk, as Data Protection Officer. This was signed off by Cllr Price as Lead Investigation Officer with recommendations to avoid a repeat. There followed discussion during which it was AGREED :

1) More attention to be paid when material is sent or shared by email, by the Clerk or any Councillor, also when published on the website.
2) The question should be asked, is it necessary to publish or share this?
3) If sharing/circulation is deemed necessary then sensitive areas, with personal details, to first be fully redacted. The Clerk must ensure that this is carried out.
4) It must be confirmed that every Councillor has undergone and passed the recent WALC Data Protection training course.

4874 Public Engagement

1) The autumn edition of the **Newsletter** was planned for the end of October. The Clerk was preparing pieces on Lower Compton HRC, Community Grants, Cherhill Village Traffic/Parking Group and the Extraordinary PC meeting arranged for 12th November with the leader of Wiltshire Council. Mention would also be made of the recent CPR training event for residents at Cherhill Village Hall.
2) **Noticeboards keys** had now been copied by the Clerk for a master set, to ensure that notices are correctly posted in time. The new Cherhill PC heading page, with website QR code, had now been posted on boards throughout the parish.

4875 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Next meeting to be held in November.
Facebook Page This continues to be updated.
Clerk Admin matters –

1) The Clerk had the annual **PEAS request (Provision of Emergency Assistance Scheme)** to Wiltshire Council, for various items. Cllr Grafton would collect from the Monkton Park depot on 13th October and advised that this would be the last year of the scheme.
2) The **Notice of Vacancy** for the Council, following Cllr Carter's resignation, had to be posted on noticeboards on 25th September and on the website. Paper copes were given to councillors to post.

Parish Steward – Cllr Purslow reported that a couple of jobs remained outstanding so he would be contacting the steward.
Calne Area Parishes Forum – Nothing further to report since the meeting on 5th August.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton and Cllr Oram would be attending the meeting on 7th October. AGREED that Cllr Oram be added as a Deputy for this particular Interest,
White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that, following recent rain, the left rear leg had become more green.
Lansdowne Monument – Scaffolding was fully up the length of the monument as the restoration continues.
Defibrillators – Units across the parish were reported to be in good order and batteries replaced where needed.
WALC – The AGM would be held on 30th September in Devizes and the Annual Conference to take place in Swindon on 6th October, as highlighted in the recent WALC Newsletter.
Website/IT. Nothing to report.

4876 Date of next meetings

Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall. Monthly PC Meeting
Thursday 12th November 2026 at 7.00pm Cherhill Village Hall. Extraordinary PC Meeting
Thursday 26th November 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village Hall. Monthly PC Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.