

Minutes of the Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at Cherhill Village Hall on Thursday 27th August 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

Andy Sadler-Smith – CPC Councillor

No members of the public present

Doug Price – CPC Councillor and Vice
Chairman

Jane Page – CPC Councillor
Sean Hickey – CPC Councillor

Peter Johnson – Clerk/Responsible Financial
Officer (RFO)

4836 Apologies

Received from Cllr Nick White, Cllr Rob Pooley, Cllr Charlie Oram, Cllr Richard Carter.
The Chairman confirmed that he had received from Cllr Richard Carter his letter of resignation from the Council. Councillors expressed their regret at this news. Cllr Grafton would be sending a formal letter of thanks to Cllr Carter for his much valued service over more than 4 years.

4837 Declarations of Interest

None received nor required.

4838 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 23rd July 2026

Cllr Purslow proposed approval of the 23rd July Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Page.
Cllr Grafton signed off the Minutes.

4839 Review of Actions

- 1) **Letter to Nick Tyler requesting the cutting back of maize crop from the line of public footpath (4577).** The landowner has now cut his crop. The footpath is not defined but nor is it obstructed now. **COMPLETED.**
- 2) **Candidates for co-option to the Last 2 seats on Parish Council (4630).** The one remaining vacancy (Lower Compton Ward) had been highlighted on the website and Facebook page but following the resignation of Cllr Carter the Clerk would be notifying Wiltshire Council, after which the additional vacancy (Cherhill Ward) would be highlighted on the website, Cherhill PC Facebook and Cherhill Villagers Facebook. It is already made clear on the website that a candidate need not be a parish resident but could own a business operating in the parish. There is a lot of detail there. **Action:** Clerk/Cllr Hickey.
- 3) **4704(6) To respond to Wilts. Cllr Paul Sample re Lower Compton HRC.** The Clerk had received a response from the new Member for Waste and the Environment, Cllr Gordon King. **COMPLETED.**
- 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. Unfortunately Cllr Page had now received very negative feedback from local riders about the positioning of the gate (owned by the Landowner) as it does not comply with British Horse Society recommendations. Cllr Grafton would contact the landowner. **Action:** Cllr Grafton.
- 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 who is due to start 1st September.
- 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 had again chased 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. Wessex Water would now be contacted.
- 9) **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 be making contact but was not present to report.
- 10) **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.
- 11) **To seek confirmation from SSE that the disused telephone box in Cherhill was disconnected from the electrical supply. (4776)** The Clerk had again chased this up.
- 12) **To assess fencing and undergrowth on Footpath CHER 14 Yatesbury with intention of improving sightline to the plantation (4777).** Still to be done.
- 13) **To obtain from WC another copy of the Parish PROW map for display at Yatesbury Village Hall (4799(1))** . A copy had been obtained, without charge. **COMPLETED.**
- 14) **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.

4840 Public Participation

No public present but Cllr Sadler-Smith reported that a Cherhill village resident had suggested that the redundant red telephone box could be moved to a corner at the village Hall. This would be looked at if presented by them at a subsequent meeting or if a letter or email was received.

4841 Bridleway and Footpath Maintenance (Standing Item)

- 1) Cllr Purslow reported a local work party has offered to carry out clearance work on the chalk footpath, leading up from opposite Park Lane, to the Downs.
- 2) The Clerk had received from Wiltshire Council another copy of the Parish PROW map which would now be displayed in Yatesbury Village Hall, as requested.

4842 Wiltshire Council Update

Wiltshire Cllr O'Neill was not present to report but remained in contact.

4843 Lower Compton Household Recycling Centre

- 1) A meeting to discuss the issues with Calne Town Council was held on Monday 10th August. This was attended by the Calne Mayor (Cllr Tim Havenith), Mark Edwards (Business Manager), Cllr Nathan Errington of Derry Hill & Studley PC and Cherhill PC Cllrs Grafton, Sadler-Smith, Pooley, and the Clerk.
- 2) A letter raising questions agreed at the above meeting had been sent by the Clerk to the new Cabinet Member for Waste and the Environment, Cllr Gordon King and a full reply had already been received and circulated to all Cherhill PC councillors. It would also be passed to the Calne Mayor, to others attending the group, and to neighbouring local councils as required.
- 3) Updating letters had also been sent to the clerks at Purton PC and Royal Wootton Bassett TC, all of which were committed to close liaison with Cherhill PC.
- 4) Royal Wootton Bassett TC had that day forward on a reply to a FOI Request by a local group sent to Wiltshire Council on the evaluation of potential HRC replacement sites at Royal Wootton Bassett, now reduced to the one site being considered near the salt depot on Marlborough Road.

- 5) Letters would also be sent to local MPs, Sarah Gibson and Brian Matthew, suggesting collaboration on opposition to Wiltshire Council's plans.
- 6) A Freedom of Information Request would be formulated by the Clerk to Hills Waste and to Wiltshire Council for traffic metrics data on the use of all of the Wiltshire HRC's. The Clerk would liaise with Purton PC to establish whether they had already considered or sent such a request. **Action:** Clerk.

4844 Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG)

- 1) Cllr Price again raised the matter of the A4 speed survey (Cherhill-Quemerford), previously agreed in principle by Wiltshire Council. At the Recent Calne Area Board meeting Wiltshire Council Leader Ian Thorn had offered to attend a meeting of Cherhill PC to discuss this and other issues, such as the Wiltshire Local Plan. AGREED that an Extraordinary PC Meeting should be convened for this, with an advance list of questions, from the PC and residents, for Cllr Thorn. Possible dates would be obtained from Cllr Thorn's office. **Action:** Clerk.
- 2) Cllr Hickey had distributed a metrics data report for traffic use on the Calstone road, using the Speed Indication Device (SID) currently stationed there. He would reduce this to a 2-page version, including a heat map to aid analysis, for publication on the website. **Action:** Cllr Hickey.
- 3) Cllr Hickey had been approached by a resident suggesting that the speed limit at Marsh Lane should be dropped from 60 mph down to 20 mph. Wiltshire Council had indicated that the process would now be easier for making such a change. Cllr Grafton said there had previously been a suggestion that it be dropped to 30 mph. AGREED that this should be considered by the Road Safety Group.
- 4) Cllr Hickey reported that the stretch of road from Hackpen Hill to Swindon has recently been converted from a 60mph zone to 50mph. AGREED it would be worth asking Broad Hinton PC how this reduction was brought about? **Action:** Clerk.
- 5) Otherwise another meeting of the Road Safety Group would be convened shortly to consider, *inter alia*, a second SID. Calne LHFIG itself next meets on 16th September.

4845 Planning Applications

Application No	Address	Details
PL/2026/01199	Land south of Tudor Cottage, Park Lane, Cherhill.	Amended plans/additional information re proposed erection of 4 bedroom detached house with a 3-bay detached garage with room above. New vehicular access and drive. Landscaping. Application withdrawn.
PL/2026/02523	Holmleigh, Middle Lane, Cherhill SN11 8XX.	Proposed erection of freestanding timber cabin/annexe and addition of French doors. Objection.

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

4846 Cherhill Village Traffic and Parking Group

Cllr Page summarised the views of the 22 village residents who had responded to the recent survey, drafted by the group. She will circulate a summary to councillors but in the meantime reported that, on traffic congestion, there was a 50:50 as to whether this was severe at an unsafe level. Most however felt that vehicles were stopping in unsafe places and roads were being blocked. Overwhelmingly, it was felt that pedestrians had reduced visibility causing and all had safety concerns. Most households had difficulty in leaving and entering their driveways and most felt they were suffering the effects of increased pollution. All participants had experienced delays when trying to leave or return home.

A poster designed by the group would encourage more residents to complete the survey and would be distributed in Oliver's Close and other nearby properties, the area worst affected by these issues. The posters would also be made available at meetings of the WI and the Gardening Club.

Cherhill School was currently revising it's traffic plan. The next meeting of the group is at the School on 17th September.

4847 Review of Community Grant Criteria

The Criteria had been adjusted and a draft circulated to councillors.

- 1) This had been adapted to indicate that grants could be considered for roof repair or replacement projects, to distinguish such work from routine maintenance which is not eligible for a grant.
- 2) One other adjustment was required. That, to be considered, the applicant or a representative, must be in attendance at the PC meeting where the application is to be considered.

Proposed to be approved Cllr Grafton, seconded Cllr Price, **APPROVED**.

4848 Community Grant Applications

One application had been received. The PC was supportive to the aims of the applicant but needed to know more about contingency plans. For example if, on commencement of the work, other structural problems are revealed. The PC also required another 2 quotations for the work and wanted the applicant or representative to be present when the application is next considered. Clerk to write to the applicant. **Action:** Clerk.

4849 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	£14,581.98 gross of VAT (£1,592.64 since the 23rd July meeting).
Balance at Lloyd's	£35,479.73 @ 21/08/26

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

Spending for the year was just under 27% of the budget (£38,589.00). The balances and finances were AGREED to be in a satisfactory state.

4850 Accounts for Payment

- 1) **Clerk's Home/Office expenses for July 2026 @ £33.98.** Proposed to be approved Cllr Hickey, seconded Cllr Grafton, **APPROVED**.
- 2) **Grist Environmental, bin emptying July 2026 @ £354.10.** Payable by Direct Debit. Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded by Cllr Sadler-Smith, **APPROVED**.
- 3) **The Garden Route, grass cutting at Tommy Croker playing fields @ £550.00.** Proposed to be approved by Cllr Purslow, seconded Cllr Sadler-Smith, **APPROVED**

4851 Working Groups

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

4852 Cherhill PC Payroll Policy

The Clerk had circulated a draft policy for consideration, published as such on the website. This was considered to be a sensible step forward in order to ensure a clear audit trail for payments. The monthly payroll will now be sent to the Clerk and 2 nominated councillors, being Cllrs Price, and Pooley.

AGREED that the policy be adopted.

Further, it was AGREED that payments from the Lloyd's account have 2 authorisers, the Clerk and one councillor, to be drawn from Cllrs Price, Pooley and Sadler Smith. **Action:** Clerk.

4853 Public Engagement

- 1) The next edition of the Newsletter was planned for the Autumn of 2026 and the Clerk would have a draft ready for the next PC meeting.
- 2) A discussion was had on noticeboards. Keys for these were given to the Clerk to make copies for a master set. Notices would still be posted by councillors most local to individual boards but the Clerk would do so if councillors were unavailable.
- 3) Cllr Hickey had printed off a new Cherhill PC heading page for each notice board, to replace versions now faded. This now has a QR code for the website.
- 4) The Clerk was collecting up from councillors the noticeboard keys in order to copy and make a master set to allow him access to those boards. This would not only assist public engagement by the display of news and notices, but also help the PC fulfil its legal obligations.

4854 Councillor Responsibilities

Area Board – Nothing further to report following the meeting on 16th June attended by Cllr Price. Next meeting in November.

Facebook Page This continues to be updated and the Clerk would also be added as an administrator. Cllr Hickey would be replacing Cllr White as Deputy.

Clerk Admin matters – The Clerk would shortly make the annual PEAS request (Provision of Emergency Assistance Scheme) to Wiltshire Council, for the following agreed items: 10 bags of salt, 1 flood warden tabard and 2 flood signs. Cllr Grafton would collect from the Monkton Park depot.

Parish Steward – The Clerk would chase Wiltshire Council as to why only 1 day per month of the steward's services had been allotted to Cherhill PC following its expansion in May 2025. The road sign pointing to the Calstone road was somewhat overgrown. Cllr Purslow would notify the Steward.

Calne Area Parishes Forum - Cllr Grafton had attended a useful meeting on 5th August.

Hills Waste Solutions Group – Cllr Grafton advised there had been no further meeting since 6th June. The biggest development had been that Ubico, a company owned by local authorities, now had the contract for kerbside waste and recycling collection for Wiltshire Council, replacing Hills Waste. Otherwise, Cllr Page would replace Cllr White as Deputy.

White Horse Restoration Group – Cllr Grafton reported that the horse was still very white but the left rear leg now needed a bit of weeding. Cllr Purslow might be able to assist.

Lansdowne Monument – Scaffolding was now fully up the length of the monument to facilitate the restoration. Unwelcome news was that there had been some vandalism, scratching of the stone surface, and it was also understood that individuals had attempted to scale the monument.

Defibrillators – Units across the parish were in good order but the battery purchased for the unit at Yatesbury, had only just been delivered after considerable chasing. The recent defibrillator and CPR training session arranged by Cllr Pooley at Cherhill Village Hall had again been well attended.

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. The AGM would be held on 30th September in Devizes..

Website/IT. Nothing to report. Otherwise Cllr Page would be replacing Cllr White as Deputy.

4855 Date of next meetings

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

Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 7.00pm – Cherhill Village hall

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm.