

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Cherhill Parish Council held at  
Cherhill Village Hall on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026, 7.00pm**

**FULL TEXT OF MINUTES AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE – [www.cherhillparish.gov.uk](http://www.cherhillparish.gov.uk)**

**Present:**

**Dave Grafton** – CPC Councillor and **Chairman**  
**Nick White** – **CPC Councillor**  
**Jane Page** – CPC Councillor  
**Richard Carter** – CPC Councillor  
**Andrew Sadler-Smith** – CPC Councillor

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

**Ashley O'Neill** – Wilts Cllr (Calne Rural)  
**PCSO Mark Cook**

**Peter Johnson** – Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Plus 15 members of the public, including **Mr Andrew Ind**, Head Teacher of Cherhill C of E Primary School, and a representative from Cherhill Pre-School

**4765** Apologies

Received from Cllr Martin Purslow, Cllr Rob Hislop and Cllr Charlie Oram.

**4766** Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23rd April 2026

Cllr Page proposed approval of the 23<sup>rd</sup> April Minutes as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Pooley. Cllr Grafton signed off the Minutes.

**4767** Public Participation

This Extraordinary PC meeting had been called in order to discuss longstanding parking issues in Cherhill village, principally in Middle Lane, during school drop-off and pickup times. The narrow village roads and lanes were regularly congested at these peak times.

Many residents spoke about their own experiences of inconsiderate parking and driving of others involved in the school run. It is not practical to list all contributions but, in summary:

- 1) This longstanding problem has got worse since the pandemic and noticeably so over the last couple of years.
- 2) It affects mainly Middle Lane but the effects are felt in other streets, such as Oliver's Hill.
- 3) The sheer amount of traffic had increased.. Cars build up and queue to drop off as early as 8.30 am each school day.
- 4) Drivers are determined to get as close to the school gates as they can.
- 5) Drivers waiting in their vehicles with their engines idling, polluting the immediate area.
- 6) Several residents reported that vehicles sometimes block their driveways and they are unable to leave, or return to their driveways for several hours. This is intolerable.
- 7) One resident has had vehicles smashing into rocks protecting their lawn, the rock debris then being scattered into the road. One driver actually parked on a resident's lawn.
- 8) Una Cavanagh's late husband had actually been clipped by a moving car and she was seriously worried about the safety of children and other pedestrians.
- 9) Those dropping off and picking up, usually parents or grandparents, are often dismissive or even rude when asked to park more considerately. At best they say they have nowhere else to park in the village.

- 10) Cherhill residents are largely sympathetic to the problems parents face in parking, many have close links with the school, but there is a limit.

**Andrew Ind** was asked whether the school had a travel plan for pupils and parents. He confirmed a plan had been formulated around 2008 but since then the school bus service had been cancelled and the school had built its own car park on-site. He was happy for a review to take place of the plan.

**PCSO Mark Cook** said that in his experience Cherhill School had been exemplary in the way it had continued to deal with some of these issues, such as their voluntary one-way traffic system. He wished other schools, such as those in Calne, would do as well. Some schools are not engaging at all, saying it is all a police matter. This was a national problem in those villages which have schools. The police are reluctant to hand out fines to offending drivers, preferring to advise and educate where they can, but persistent driving and parking offenders do get fined. Traffic cones sometimes help but too many drivers ignore them. A big yellow school bus such as those used widely in the USA would be ideal but the costs are huge.

**Andrew Ind** confirmed that each September the school's induction process begins for the new cohort of parents and pupils, promoted through their social media. Staggered drop-offs had been used previously but not since the pandemic.

**Cllr Sadler-Smith** had looked into what other local councils were doing. In particular Bishops Canning PC which had developed a working group in collaboration with the local school, police and Wiltshire Highways. This forum has led to some interesting measures being formulated. Such a working group could be set up to deal with Cherhill's issues. He also referenced the work of WALC, Wiltshire Association of Local Councils, which was formulating a policy document on parking issues and was holding a **Road Safety event at County Hall, Trowbridge on 17th July**.

**Cllr Page** had also looked at how the police, elsewhere, had developed policies. She cited West Midlands Police who some years ago had produced a useful document on School Traffic Solutions with constructive ideas including:

Parking charter. Parents sign up to a charter pledging to park in a defined way, as a result receiving a car sticker confirming their involvement and therefore encouraging others.

Car sharing schemes

Banner competition. The banner, designed by pupils, urging more considerate behaviour to be displayed at the school gates.

Publicity, newsletters etc.

Induction. Encouraging the involvement of new cohort of parents at annual induction events

Walking bus. Escorted walking groups of pupils using parent volunteers to supervise.

**Wilts Councillor O'Neill** had young children of his own but, like many parents, he would be nervous of them joining something like a walking bus. By saying this he wanted residents to understand the thinking and concerns of many parents.

He then went on to explain why it was such an expensive and lengthy process to get projects done through Wiltshire's LHFIG, Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group (a sub-group of Calne Area Board), such as the painting of white or yellow lines on roads. It was not just the cost of the paint, there was a long and thorough legal process, and subject to appeal. A typical cost for a white line is around £300 for its painting but around £7500 over 18 months for the whole process. Currently Cllr O'Neill is Chair of our local LHFIG. He is shortly to meet with Wiltshire's Senior Highways Engineer to look at locations in the village where some physical measures could help. PCSO Mark Cook agreed to join them, together with Mr Ind and a parish councillor.

**Cllr Price** had also looked at possible solutions in place elsewhere:  
Permissive use of residents' driveways, for waiting rather than parking.  
Staggered drop-off and pick-up times.

The school also needs to ask pertinent questions of parents and then review its travel plan with input and assistance from Cherhill PC, Cherhill PTA and Wiltshire Council. Parking behaviours need to be better understood. As a PC we can facilitate but the school owns its travel plan. If a big bold solution is considered to be the answer this could be put to Wiltshire Council but data is needed. Photos should be taken of offending vehicles especially those blocking driveways. His own children had attended the school and regularly used the school bus which they always loved for the social aspect. If a bus service to the school could be re-introduced, taking in Blackland/Calstone and Lower

Compton, this would go a long way to solving these problems. Thought should be given to how funding could be found for this.

#### **4768**    Further Steps

After a break for refreshments and further discussion a general consensus was reached and the following steps were AGREED :

- a) Working together is key. Parents need to be involved as well as residents.
- b) Further research needs to be carried out with evidence of poor and inconsiderate parking. A **Working Group on Cherhill Village Parking** is an obvious and necessary step. The Parish Council has no particular powers in this field but would act as a facilitator in the process. The group would be under the auspices of the Parish Council but independent of it. The Group would be set up to gather evidence and make recommendations and would include parish councillors (principally drawn from it's existing LHFIG/Road Safety Group), residents, parents and school staff. Mr Ind confirmed that school premises could host such meetings, which could be during the day but due to parking issues more likely to be on an evening. Residents interested in joining the group would be asked to provide contact details, **Action:** Cllr Page.
- c) The onsite meeting between Wilts Cllr O'Neill and the Wiltshire Highways Engineer and others mentioned above would take place on 18<sup>th</sup> May.
- d) A survey be formulated by the school for parents to be asked questions which might give insights into why there were certain parking practices among many parents and family members during drop-off and pick-up. The PTA needs to be involved.
- e) A survey should also be taken of residents and the problems they face. The PC to be involved in this.
- f) The school's traffic plan, from 2008, would be revised once these further steps had been taken and survey results assessed.
- g) A short video would be produced to illustrate instances of inconsiderate parking in the village. This would be made available to parents at the annual school induction and on the school website. It would be also be made available through the PC's website and Facebook page. Cllr Carter could look into how this could be produced. **Action:** Cllr Carter
- h) Contact to be made with the Black Horse pub to explore whether the previous permission for some vehicles to use it's car park at certain times could be revived. The car park however is now much reduced in size.
- i) Residents would be encouraged to contact the PC to report parking incidents, either by emailing the Clerk directly or using the contact form on the website. Photos to be taken of vehicles but excluding faces and number plates.

#### **4769**    Date of next meetings

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026** at 7.00pm – **Annual Parish Meeting**, Cherhill Village Hall

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May** at 7.30pm – **Annual Parish Council Meeting**, Cherhill Village Hall.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026** at 7.00pm, **Parish Council Meeting**, Yatesbury Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.