

**Minutes of Chesterton Parish Council Meeting
at Chesterton Community Centre
Tuesday, 13th January 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Councillors Present: Andrew Thomas (Chair), Paul Andrews, Mel Cantwell, Johnathan Chavda, Chris Hawes, Jenny Hodges (joined at 7:15pm) and Gary Warland (joined at 7:15pm).
In Attendance: Brian Inglis (Clerk), Mike White (RFO), Stephen Webster (Planning, Co-opted) and Cllr Will Boucher-Giles (Oxfordshire County Council)
Public Attendance: There was ONE member of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest, Gifts and Hospitality

To receive any requests for dispensations or declarations of interest from Councillors relating to items on the agenda, in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct and to note any gifts or hospitality. None recorded

3. To Approve and Sign the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 9th December 2025

The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chair.

4. Update on Progress from Previous Minutes (items requiring no further decision).

Nothing to report.

5. Public Participation – The member of the public who was present spoke regarding the ongoing Bellway Homes application, with specific interest in parking and access plans in relation to the recreation and open space provision to be made by the developer. A positive conversation followed, with the member of public being thanked for attendance and contribution to the meeting.

6. To Receive a Report from the District / County Councillors

Cllr Boucher-Giles gave a verbal update on County Council matters, including new regulations at council recycling centres, details of a re-consultation on the Movement & Place plans and the official OCC response to the OxSRFI application at Ardley. Cllr Boucher-Giles was thanked for his attendance and support.

7. Vacancies on the Parish Council

The Clerk reported that there had been no applications for Co-option to the Parish Council.

8. Allotments

Cllr Hodges gave an update on recent activity on the allotments, including vacant plots and resident enquiries which have been received.

9. Highways

Cllr Chavda gave an update on recent work carried out to repair some potholes and some drain clearing work which has taken place, also noting that some tree work has been carried out near the pumping station. The VAS speed sign near the Top Green will be replaced by an updated version shortly by OCC. Cllr Chavda is in contact with OCC about the possibility of another speed sign along Green Lane and will report back.

10. Community Matters

Cllr Thomas commented on an update from the Keep Chesterton Tidy group for December. Cllr Hodges noted that she would be handing a welcome pack to a new resident in the village. Cllr Thomas asked for input from Councillors towards a suitable date and possible tasks to be undertaken during the Akeman Lent Labour Project being run by the Akeman Benefice. There was a discussion around possible refurbishment options around the Bottom (Red Cow) Green area, including the bus shelter, planter and bollards and the possible positioning of a new bench/planter.

11. Burnehyll Woodland

There was no report.

12. Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Areas

Cllr Chavda gave an update on repairs to various items of play equipment which have now been carried out. With ongoing reports of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of the pavilion, Cllr Chavda has been looking into the cost of installing motion sensor lighting. Cllr Thomas has contacted a pest control company following a report on mole activity on the playing field.

13. To Receive a Report from the Finance Committee

- 13.1 The Monthly RFO Report for December (circulated prior to meeting) was accepted.
 - 13.2 The Receipts & Payment Report for December (circulated prior to meeting) was accepted.
- Councillors agreed to continue with a small amount of financial support of the Banbury Ornithological Society.

14. Chesterton Late Summer Fair 2026

Cllr Hawes gave an update on positive contacts made with suppliers of Staging, Food/Drink Stalls, Children's Fairground Rides, Portaloos, Portable Generators, Crowd Control, Lighting and Communication Systems. The Red Cow have confirmed their involvement, including a marquee and bar service.

16. Training

The Clerk expanded on a previously circulated link to current and future training opportunities which are available to councillors, encouraging councillor uptake and offering to make bookings where needed.

18. Chesterton Neighbourhood Plan

A suitable date and venue is to be found for a village meeting to agree on the way forward for this project.

19. General Planning Matters

Stephen Webster gave a brief update on wider planning matters and major planning applications in the surrounding areas, with a conversation among councillors and further input from Cllr Boucher-Giles. Councillors have arranged to meet with the Project Team from Puy du Fou on 15th January. There had been no response to a letter of complaint which had been sent in December to Cherwell DC regarding lighting at the Siemens development. Clerk to follow up and forward any response to Councillors. There were concerns over some tree planting near the entrance to the BSA complex, and it was agreed to contact the association to ask for clarification on these tree works.

20. **To Receive a Report on Planning Applications Received**

Cllr Hodges gave an update on Council’s response to applications received, and updated Councillors on progress of applications which had been previously considered by Councillors but are yet to be decided by Cherwell DC. All comments submitted by the Parish Council can be read on the Cherwell DC Planning Portal.

21. **Important Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting**

A letter from a local resident action group asking for a donation of £3,000 was discussed, although this had been received after the publication of the agenda. The Clerk would reply, stating that the budget and precept request amount has been approved and submitted, with no scope for a donation of this size to be considered. Cllr Thomas reported on an email he had received, which gave details of dates of public consultation events to be held by East/West Rail on the London Road, Bicester level crossing plans.

22. **Councillors to Consider Content for the Next Edition of ABC Magazine.**

Cllr Thomas reminded Councillors of the deadline of 15th January.

23. **The date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7pm**

The meeting finished at 8:32 pm

Signed: Date:
(Chair)

**The Parish Council normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
Meetings commence at 7pm at Chesterton Community Centre and residents are welcome to attend.
Remaining Chesterton Parish Council Meeting Dates 2025 – 2026 are set as follows -**

Tuesday 10th March Tuesday 14th April

The Annual Parish Meeting (Village Assembly) will be held on Tuesday 28th April 2026