

**Minutes of Chesterton Parish Council Meeting  
at Chesterton Community Centre  
Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

**Councillors Present:** Andrew Thomas (Chair), Paul Andrews, Mel Cantwell, Johnathan Chavda, Chris Hawes (joined at 7:30pm), Jenny Hodges and Gary Warland (joined at 7:15pm).  
**In Attendance:** Brian Inglis (Clerk), Mike White (RFO) and Stephen Webster (Planning, Co-opted).  
Cllrs Grace Conway-Murray and Jean Conway (Cherwell DC)  
**Public Attendance:** There were no members 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 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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).**

Cllr Cantwell noted that the detached gate along the allotment path has been removed to safety.

**5. Public Participation – There were no members of the public in attendance.**

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

Both District Councillors gave verbal updates on current council matters and contributed to a conversation on wider matters, including the status of the Cherwell Local Plan, the progress of the various large planning applications in the area (including the Bellway project in Chesterton) and ongoing frustrations around the release of s106 funds to help with the highways projects planned for the village.

**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. Arrangements have been made to pollard the hedge bordering The Hale. A recent allotment plot inspection was carried out, with a summary message sent to all tenants.

## 9. Highways

Cllr Chavda reported that a new VAS speed sign has been ordered to replace the existing one near the Top Green. This will be carried out by OCC in due course.

## 10. Community Matters

Cllr Thomas noted that the Keep Chesterton Tidy are now producing quarterly reports, and as such there was no report for January, although a situation with mass dumping of undelivered fast food has been resolved. Cllr Hodges noted that she would be handing a welcome pack to a new resident in the village.

## 11. Burnehyll Woodland

Cllr Cantwell reported on recent activity on the woodland and plans for future projects.

## 12. Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Areas

Cllr Chavda noted that the contract with PlaySafe Ltd has been renewed to cover the monthly inspection of the play area. All scheduled repairs to the play equipment have now been carried out.

## 13. To Receive a Report from the Finance Committee

13.1 The Monthly RFO Report for January (circulated prior to meeting) was accepted.

13.2 The Receipts & Payment Report for January (circulated prior to meeting) was accepted.

The RFO presented an updated Asset Register, which was approved by Councillors

## 14. Chesterton Late Summer Fair 2026

Cllr Hawes noted that confusion over the date of 5<sup>th</sup> September had been resolved, and the event would go ahead on that date as planned. (Action – Clerk to confirm in writing with Cricket Club).

Cllr Hawes gave an update on options for suppliers of Food/Drink Stalls, Children's Fairground Rides and Inflatables, with final bookings to be confirmed when a layout plan has been drawn up.

Cllr Chavda has looked into options for Portaloos, Portable Generators, Crowd Control, Lighting and Communication Systems. Options for staging and entertainment were put forward and will be followed up. A letter has been drawn up to be sent to selected local businesses, promoting the event and inviting support.

## 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

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March has been set as the date for a village meeting to agree on the way forward for this project. It was agreed to switch the date of the March PC Meeting to Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March to allow this date to be advertised in the March ABC.

## 19. General Planning Matters

Stephen Webster noted that the Reserved Matters application submitted by Bellway Homes for the development in the village has been granted, suggesting that the PC should request a follow-up meeting.

Stephen Webster then gave a brief update on wider planning matters and progress of other major planning applications in the surrounding areas and reported on a meeting he had attended with Cllr Hodges with the Project Team from Puy du Fou on 15<sup>th</sup> January, which had been of some interest.

**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**

None

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

Cllr Thomas reminded Councillors of the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> February.

**23. The date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 7pm**

The meeting finished at 8:24 pm

Signed: ..... Date: .....  
(Chair)

**The Parish Council meets every month (except August), usually on a Tuesday.  
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 3<sup>rd</sup> March - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**The Annual Parish Meeting (Village Assembly) will be held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026**