

**Minutes of Chesterton Parish Council Meeting
at Chesterton Community Centre
Tuesday, 3rd March 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Councillors Present: Andrew Thomas (Chair), Paul Andrews, Mel Cantwell, Johnathan Chavda, and Jenny Hodges .
In Attendance: Brian Inglis (Clerk) and Stephen Webster (Planning, Co-opted).
Cllr Nigel Simpson (Cherwell DC)
Public Attendance: There were no members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from RFO Mike White and Cllrs Chris Hawes and Gary Warland

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 10th February 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).

Nothing was noted

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

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

Cllr Simpson gave a verbal update on current council matters, including budget information, the status of the Cherwell Local Plan examination, updated recycling arrangements and local government reorganisation.

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 enquiries. Steps have been taken to protect an area of rare orchids which have been identified on the open space. Tenancy renewal notices will be sent out during March. (Action – Allotment Committee to check the tenancy agreement for any alterations)

9. Highways

CLlr Chavda reported that the gate has been installed at the Little Chesterton Road, with CLlr Andrews giving more detail on the design, locking mechanism and provision for pedestrians and cyclists.

CLlr Chavda is continuing with the marking of potholes in his capacity of Fix My Street Super User.

Councillors discussed an email from Cherwell DC, inviting suggestions to name the access road into the new Bellway site and would respond individually if so inclined.

10. Community Matters

CLlr Thomas noted that the Keep Chesterton Tidy are now producing quarterly reports, and as such there was no February report. CLlr Hodges noted that there are no new residents in the village since the last meeting.

11. Burnehyll Woodland

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

12. Pavilion, Playing Field and Play Areas

There was no update.

13. To Receive a Report from the Finance Committee

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

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

14. Chesterton Late Summer Fair 2026

There was no update.

15. 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.

16. Chesterton Neighbourhood Plan

The event planned for Tuesday 10th March has been postponed, with the matter of a Chesterton Neighbourhood Plan to be included in the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting, to be held on 28th April.

17. Annual Parish Meeting

As agreed at item 16, the Annual Parish Meeting will include a session on a Neighbourhood Plan.

18. General Planning Matters

Stephen Webster reported on a meeting which had been held with representatives of Bellway following the Reserved Matters application having been granted. The plans for open space recreation provision and options for access were discussed. Bellway agreed to an introduction to their traffic consultants to look at options. The construction traffic management plan was discussed and Councillors agreed that the proposed route was inappropriate. It was agreed to write to the head of planning at Cherwell DC to protest, suggesting that the traffic should access the site via the B430. (Action – Stephen Webster to supply wording to Clerk)

Stephen Webster then gave a brief update on wider planning matters and noted any progress of other major planning applications in the surrounding areas.

19. To Receive a Report on Planning Applications Received

Cllr Hodges gave an update on Council’s response to one application which has been received, and updated Councillors on the 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.

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

Cllr Thomas reminded Councillors of the deadline of 15th March 2026.

21. The date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm

The meeting finished at 7:58 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 14th April

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