

**Minutes of Chesterton Parish Council Meeting
at Chesterton Community Centre
Tuesday, 14th April 2026 at 7.00 pm.**

Councillors Present: Andrew Thomas (Chair), Paul Andrews, Mel Cantwell, Johnathan Chavda, Chris Hawes (joined at 7:24pm), Jenny Hodges and Gary Warland.
In Attendance: Brian Inglis (Clerk) and Mike White (RFO).
Public Attendance: There were 5 members of the public present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Stephen Webster

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 3rd March 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 Thomas referred to a previous action to invite trustees of the Chesterton Community Partnership to a meeting to discuss the current agreement which exists relating to the management of the Community Centre and reported that a cordial initial meeting had taken place on 7th April. No decisions were reached at the meeting, and a date has been set for a follow-up meeting. The Chair allowed members of the public to contribute to a short discussion which followed.

5. Public Participation – One member of the public spoke on a non-agenda item concerning anti-social behaviour. A short discussion followed with various suggestions being made which Councillors will follow up. One member of the public referred to agenda item 17, specifically asking about progress on the proposed plans submitted by Bellway Homes for the provision of open leisure/amenity space in the village. Councillors noted that Bellway Homes have agreed to meet with Councillors to discuss plans for this area further.

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

No District or County Councillors in attendance.

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 tenancy renewals, the water supply, vacant plots and enquiries. Steps are being taken to address issues with the gate on to The Hale.

8.1 There are no plans to make any changes to the open area within the allotment garden.

9. Highways

Cllr Chavda reported that the work to fit the proposed new VAS at the top green has been scheduled. Councillors agreed that due to traffic congestion problems brought on by the various areas of road works and closures surrounding the village, that a message of complaint would be sent to the head of OCC Highways. (Action – Councillors to supply wording, Clerk to submit)

9.1 Councillors considered a request from a resident regarding cycle safety on part of Vendee Drive and agreed to send a comment to OCC Highways asking for these concerns to be taken into account, with a request for options to aid the safety of cyclist on the stretch in question. (Action – Clerk to progress and submit)

10. Community Matters

10.1 There was no report from the Keep Chesterton Tidy team.

10.2 Councillors discussed the contents of a message from a resident regarding the upkeep of some items of village furniture and agreed to proceed with some renovations.

10.3 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

Cllr Chavda reported that a new CCTV camera and floodlighting will be installed later in April at the pavilion in the hope of discouraging anti-social behaviour in and around the pavilion/car park area.

13. To Receive a Report from the Finance Committee

13.1 The Monthly RFO Report for March and the Year End of 2025-26 (circulated prior to meeting) was expanded upon by the RFO and after clarification of some key points, was approved.

13.2 The Receipts & Payment Report for March (circulated prior to meeting) was approved.

14. Chesterton Late Summer Fair 2026

For a combination of reasons, it was agreed to postpone this event until a suitable date in 2027.

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.

(Action – Clerk to make a booking for Cllr Hodges to attend an upcoming online course)

16. Annual Parish Meeting

Cllr Thomas has plans in hand for this event to be held on Tuesday 28th April at 6.30pm (Action – Clerk to invite representatives of village organisations to attend and to submit a report on activities)

17. General Planning Matters

Cllr Chavda gave a brief update on recent correspondence with Bellway Homes, regarding plans for open amenity space attached to the major development underway at Green Lane, noting that a further meeting to discuss possible options will be arranged in due course. An independent Traffic Consultant has been engaged to evaluate options for alternative vehicle access and egress from the proposed new open area and car park, with an initial report expected soon. Councillors will report on next steps at a future meeting.

18. To Receive a Report on Planning Applications Received

Cllr Hodges gave an update to Councillors on a new appeal against the refusal of a planning application in the village, and one application which has been granted. Cllr Hodges also commented 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.

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

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

20. The date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday 12th May 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 -**

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