

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.15pm at The Pavilion, Cholsey

Present were Cllr D. Bamford, Cllr J. Collins, Cllr J. Finch, Cllr P. Jenkins, Cllr J. Hope-Smith, Cllr L. Nixon (Chair), Cllr K. Ofield, Cllr K. Pomlett, and Cllr S. Schäfer

Also present were C. Bird (Clerk); District Cllr A. M. Simpson until 7.25pm

Start time: 7.15pm

End time: 9pm

186. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr V. Bolt, Cllr G. Herbert and Cllr M. Smith.

Cllr Val Bolt has decided to step down from her role as Parish Councillor. The Parish Council extended its grateful thanks for Cllr Bolt's many years of service to the Council and community.

The Clerk will arrange a notice of casual vacancy.

The Parish Council currently has 11 of 13 Councillor seats filled and therefore two Councillor vacancies.

187. Public participation session: to hear questions or comments from members of the public (max. 15 mins)

There were none

188. To receive Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items (note, this does not preclude later declarations)

Cllr Bamford declared an interest in item 11 due to the site's close proximity to his property.

189. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2025 and they were signed by Cllr Nixon.

The Clerk reported that the National Allotment Society have indicated their support for deregistration of Wallingford Road allotment land.

The Estate Manager is arranging the installation of an additional water tap at the Ilges Lane allotment site.

190. To receive any reports from County and/or District Councillors

The District Councillors' report was noted.

191. To note Clerk's report (verbal), in particular:

a) To discuss next steps for Annual Community Meeting, 7th June 2025

A structure and key topics for the meeting were agreed. The Clerk will advertise the meeting via noticeboards and online.

b) To agree whether to amend the Burial Ground Regulations to allow photographs on memorials (Appendix B, Reg. 12.9)

It was unanimously **resolved** to amend the Burial Ground Regulations to allow photographs on memorials.

The amended Regulation will read:

'Black and white photos of the person/s interred can be printed on ceramic plaques within memorials by an accredited stone mason, subject to permission from the Parish Council. The maximum permitted size for such plaques is 100mm x 100mm.'

192. To note Estate Manager's report (Appendix C), in particular:

a) To agree whether to submit an application to Wallingford Green Gym to construct a dead hedge on the Recreation Ground

It was **resolved** to submit an application to Wallingford Green Gym to construct a dead hedge on the Recreation Ground. The Estate Manager will take this forward.

b) To discuss and approve costs of decontaminating allotment plot SR002A

It was agreed to undertake further analysis to inform next steps. The Clerk and Estate Manager will liaise with Cllr Schäfer on this.

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The plot will not be offered for cultivation until this investigation has been completed.

The Estate Manager will also contact all allotment plot holders to give them notice of a change to the tenancy agreement, to require that only appropriate materials are used for weed suppression.

c) To discuss cases of persistent misuse of the Pavilion/Recreation Ground car park

Steps were agreed to continue to address this.

193. To approve Councillor members to serve on a Skate Park Working Group

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Finch to Chair and Cllr Ofield to the Working Group. Cllr Finch has been in touch with interested residents and will invite them to join the Working Group. Cllr Hope Smith can also provide input due to his historical involvement with the skate park project.

194. To agree Parish Council representative for the Pavilion Trust going forward *Previously VB, JF*

It was agreed that Cllr Nixon and the Clerk will meet with the Pavilion Trust Chair on a quarterly basis going forward. Pavilion Trust reports will also be circulated to the Parish Councillors by the Clerk.

195. To receive update from the Transport Committee (Cllr Collins), in particular:

a) To agree a response to an Oxfordshire County Council consultation on bus services (email received 3rd April 2025)

It was agreed that Cllr Collins will submit comments on behalf of the Parish Council based on feedback from Councillors and the Transport Committee, with a strong preference for the option that provides a greater frequency of buses.

Cllr Collins noted that the re-lining and parking restriction changes have now been completed by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).

The station ticket office has reopened. The much-needed improvements to accessibility and building condition are being pursued, finances being the main barrier.

OCC aim to plan and implement a puffin crossing on Reading Road in 2025/2026 which is very positive news.

The Mend The Gap Access Improvements Report was noted, including a recommendation to have a crossing on the A329 at Papist Way/Ferry Lane, and proposal for improving Ferry Lane access for all. The report can be found at https://mendthegap.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2025/03/MTG-access-improvements-Final-report-compressed_1.pdf

Transport Committee member R.Ford will be taking forward a proposal seeking to restore the ancient path between Moulsoford and Cholsey.

The next step for the Recreation Ground path project is to seek planning advice on the potential route(s).

196. To discuss planning appeal APP/U3100/W/25/3361505, in particular:

a) To agree whether to apply for Rule 6 Status

The planning application by London Rock Supplies Ltd to extract gravel at White Cross Farm next to the Thames at Cholsey/Wallingford was refused in September 2024 by OCC. London Rock have now appealed to the Secretary of State and the outcome will be decided through an Inquiry in July 2025.

The Council continues to object to this application.

Individuals are encouraged to submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate by 23rd April.

Cllr Pomlett, the Environment Coordinator and Clerk had met with local experts to identify key areas of concern.

It was **resolved** (Cllr Bamford abstained due to personal interests) to apply for Rule 6 Status to participate in the Inquiry process on behalf of Cholsey Parish Council (as lead), Crowmarsh Parish Council and Wallingford Town Council. Cllr Pomlett will lead this on behalf of Cholsey Parish Council.

b) To discuss how to inform and involve interested residents in the appeal process

It was noted that a group of residents has set up a website, petition and crowdfunding to raise awareness of the Inquiry.

197. Finance

a) To agree response to grant request from Cholsey 1000 Plus towards Cholsey's May Day/VE Day Celebrations in May 2025

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It was **resolved** to make the requested grant of £204.25 to Cholsey 1000 Plus towards Cholsey's May Day/VE Day Celebrations.

b) To agree response to grant request from Cholsey Horticultural Society towards entertainment at the Cholsey Village Show in August 2025

It was agreed that Cllr Nixon and Cllr Bamford would meet with the Village Show organisers to discuss further.

c) To agree response to donation request from Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue

It was **resolved** not to make a donation to Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue at this time. It was discussed that OWR could potentially have a presence at local events to fundraise.

d) To approve new payments and note payments received (Appendix D)

The payments were approved and signed by Cllrs Ofield and Hope Smith.

198. To consider new planning applications and planning amendments at 10th April 2025

P25/S0689/RM	Submission of reserved matters re. outline planning permission P16/S4275/O (P22/S2257/FUL) relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale submitted for approval for Phase 3 (209 dwellings), Phase 3 Land North of A4130 Wallingford Bypass It was resolved to make the following comment: The outline plan should be in accordance with the overall planning requirements and approval. Residents' have raised concerns and should be addressed to reduce the overall impact of the proposed plans.
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199. To note South Oxfordshire District Council planning decisions as at 10th April 2025

P25/S0250/LB	Retrospective listed building consent for rear sunroom (granted planning permission under P20/S1221/HH), 1 Ratcliffe Court Granted by SODC
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200. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda

Tennis club lease

201. To confirm the date of next Full Council meeting – Annual meeting of Cholsey Parish Council, Wednesday 21st May 2025, 7.15pm, Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey