

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Notice of a Meeting of the Transport Committee of Cholsey Parish Council

To all members of the Transport Committee, you are hereby summoned to attend the meeting on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.30pm to be held at The Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all Council meetings.

1st October 2025

Claire Bird, Clerk to the Council

- 1. To receive apologies for absence**
- 2. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items**
- 3. To receive Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items**
(note, this does not preclude later declarations)
- 4. To hear questions or comments from members of the public concerning topics on the agenda (limited to 10 mins)**
- 5. To agree next steps for Cholsey Station accessibility, building condition and parking provision (car and cycle) following meeting with key stakeholders and the recent start of Cholsey Station refurbishment works**
- 6. To agree next steps for A329 Puffin crossing proposal, in particular plans for informal consultation**
- 7. To agree next steps for proposal to restore an ancient pathway between Cholsey and Moulsoford**
- 8. To discuss and receive updates on the following topics:**
 - a. Community Speedwatch**
 - b. Street parking review**
 - c. Local cycling and walking infrastructure**
 - d. Village gates**
 - e. All-weather Recreation Ground path**
 - f. Bus services**
 - g. EV chargers**
- 9. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda**
- 10. To agree next meeting date**

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Minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee of Cholsey Parish Council (CPC) duly convened and held on Tuesday 24th June 2025 at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Cholsey

Committee members present were Trevor Bedeman (from 7.55pm), CPC Cllr Judy Collins (Chair), CPC Cllr Jenny Finch, Robert Ford, CPC Cllr Steffi Schäfer, Reto Schmucki

Also present were

Vicky Beardall Richards (CPC Environment Coordinator), Claire Bird (CPC Clerk), Louise Dell (Transport Planner, South Oxfordshire District Council), Bryan Evans (Rail Project Manager, Oxfordshire County Council), MP Olly Glover, CPC Cllr Ginnie Herbert, CPC and County Cllr Johnny Hope-Smith, Wallingford Town Cllr Mark Hoskins, Rosie Lawrence (Transport Planner, Oxfordshire County Council), County Cllr Judy Roberts, District Cllr Crispin Topping, Deborah Whelan (for Mobility Issues Wallingford), Eleanor Wills (Great Western Railway), one member of the public

Start time: 7.30pm

End time: 9.20pm

T1. To receive apologies for absence

H. Cooke has stepped down from his role working with the Transport Committee. The Committee expressed sadness for the recent passing of B. Cooke who with her husband have been strong advocates for improving the accessibility of Cholsey Station.

Apologies were received from Network Rail and the Wallingford and Cholsey Heritage Railway.

T2. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2025 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2025 and they were signed by Cllr Collins.

T3. To receive Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items *(note, this does not preclude later declarations)*

There were none.

T4. To hear questions or comments from members of the public concerning topics on the agenda (limited to 10 mins)

There were none.

T5. To discuss the accessibility, building condition and parking provision of Cholsey Station with key stakeholders, including invited representatives of Great Western Railways, Network Rail, South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, and MP Olly Glover.

Cllr Collins, Chair of the Parish Council's Transport Committee, outlined progress so far since meeting with E. Wills (Regional Development Manager - East, Great Western Railway) in April 2024. Small works have been carried out to improve the condition of the station. The ticket office has reopened following closure for damp treatment during the winter months. Unfortunately, the station was not one of the fifty chosen for the latest round of Access for All funding.

Cholsey's is a well-used, valued station. Footfall in 2024 was approx. 240K and is on an upward trend. We are also lucky to have the Wallingford and Cholsey Heritage Railway using the Station.

Major concerns are the building's overall poor condition, lack of accessibility (there are no lifts or ramps; access is by stairs to both platforms), parking provision (commuters arriving by car regularly report the carpark being full and must park on surrounding streets causing

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problems for residents), poor bus connections and insufficient cycle parking provision. These challenges are increasingly exacerbated by housebuilding in the wider area; the proximity of the station providing a direct link to London is a major selling point for developers.

E. Wills echoed Cllr Collins' points and emphasised that GWR is keen to work with the community to develop Cholsey Station, which is an important station for the network. Her presentation is attached to these Minutes. Recent improvements have included installing parcel lockers, funding for a volunteer gardening group, and installation of a cycle maintenance station through GWR's 'Customer and Community Improvement Fund'. GWR has successfully worked with other authorities to open up funding for larger works and E. Wills believes this is key for Cholsey. She described GWR's role in relation to Network Rail. Network Rail is the owner/landlord of the station and responsible for major maintenance and improvements; GWR manages the station as lease holder and can carry out routine maintenance, provide small community grants, and support promotion of the local area. Network Rail had been asked if a representative could attend the meeting but no one had been available.

O. Glover noted that the advent of Great British Railways will bring significant change; talks have been ongoing since 2019 but the legislation will take time to move through Parliament.

Building condition:

- Damp issues are causing a significant challenge. E. Wills said that in 2025/2026, work will be undertaken to strip back plaster, repaint and replaster in GWR Heritage colours. As part of this work, GWR will arrange for Network Rail to look at the damp walls under the plaster and press for further action as necessary. Committee members raised concerns that the underlying damp issue must be addressed, otherwise replastering and repainting will not help. Cllr Finch raised a question about the building's guttering and drainage. District Cllr Topping has expertise in this area; it was agreed to arrange for him to visit the station during these works to assess the damp penetration and possible solutions.
- E. Wills will discuss with colleagues whether she is able to share the Condition Report for the station building.

Accessibility:

- It was noted that if a station is inaccessible, GWR's Passenger Assist service can provide a taxi to the nearest accessible station (Didcot). However, D. Whelan raised feedback that railway users eligible for this assistance have sometimes needed to wait for an hour or more for an accessible taxi to be available. L. Dell will seek input from the SODC Taxi Licensing Officer on this point.
- The possibility of opening ramp access to Platform 4 was discussed. However, L. Dell noted that the accessway to the upper carpark area is a narrow, steep road without a pavement and could not currently provide safe access e.g. for wheelchairs. E. Wills will contact Tom Law (GWR) regarding this.
- Cholsey Station met some of the Access for All scheme's programme criteria available at <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/communities/passengers/access-for-all-improving-accessibility-at-railway-stations-nationwide/> but was not selected for the latest round of funding (300+ stations bid for this). The next round of funding will be in 2029.
- It was agreed that a smaller group of representatives – including Olly Glover, District, Town and Parish Councillors – should discuss potential funding opportunities including the use of developer CIL funds.
- E. Wills will share case studies of successful station development projects including funding sources

Travel to the Station:

- GWR was not aware of customer complaints about parking problems and so this is important feedback

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- It was discussed that a balance needs to be found. It is important to encourage sustainable travel to the station by active travel and public transport. This is a strategic priority. However, it is acknowledged that this is complex, requiring other significant changes (safer cycling routes; improved public transport links), and some commuters will continue driving to the Station. A multi-pronged approach is needed.
- Car parking provision is limited by the land available and funding. It was confirmed that Network Rail does not own land beyond the existing carpark. It was commented that there is a need to better understand the capacity and use of the existing car park.
- Cycle parking provision is currently insufficient and further provision of covered, secure facilities is limited by space. The Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan for Wallingford and surrounding area, currently under development and led by R. Lawrence, was discussed as important in this context. Match funding for cycle parking may be available through GWR's Integrated Transport Fund. It was agreed that Cllr Collins would contact Nick Reid, GWR's Integrated Transport Manager, regarding this.
- Bus connections (timings and frequency) are also insufficient and cannot be relied on for commuter use. B. Evans noted that Oxfordshire County Council is currently reviewing bus provision. It was suggested that CPC and Wallingford Town Council remain in close contact on this matter, involving County Cllr James Barlow also. D. Whelan noted that bus services must also be accessible.

It was agreed that a Working Group is needed to maintain momentum and collaboration on what is a complex project to improve Cholsey Station. CPC's Transport Committee will continue to lead on this.

T6. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda

Village gateways (R. Ford)

Ancient pathway between Moulsoford and Cholsey (R. Ford)

LCWIP update (T. Bedeman)

A4074/A4130 speed limit reductions (T. Bedeman)

T7. To agree next meeting date

TBC

Appended: E. Wills presentation on behalf of GWR