

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Transport Committee of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Cholsey

Present were Cllr J. Collins (Chair), T. Bedeman, R. Ford, Cllr J. Hope Smith (until 8.45pm), R. Schmucki, D. Whelan

Officers present were C. Bird (Clerk), V. Beardall Richards (Environment Coordinator; from 7.40pm)

Start time: 7.30pm

End time: 9.15pm

T8. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr S. Schäfer.

T9. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2025 and they were signed by Cllr Collins.

T10. To receive Declarations of Personal and Pecuniary Interest for any agenda items *(note, this does not preclude later declarations)*

There were none.

T11. To hear questions or comments from members of the public concerning topics on the agenda (limited to 10 mins)

There were none.

T12. 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

Building condition: Cllr Collins reported that GWR/Network Rail are undertaking refurbishment of all areas of Cholsey Station over the next 3 months. This will include tanking and replastering of the stairwells, and repainting in heritage colours. Plaster work in stairwells will be carried out overnight. Cllr Collins has requested a non-slip walkway be added to the length of the under-platform walkway as this is a slip hazard when wet. Cllr Collins has also asked for a meeting with the overseeing GWR manager and District Councillor C. Topping to review the condition of the building when the plaster has been removed.

Accessibility: The campaign to improve accessibility is more complex; lifts to both platforms would require significant funding. Tom Law at GWR is our new contact, as Eleanor Wills has moved into a different role. D. Whelan noted that an access assessment is needed, with costings, in order for co-funding to be explored. She will next see T. Law at a meeting on 30th October.

Cycle parking: Cllr Collins has contact Nick Reid at GWR to explore options. The current provision is well used and at capacity. However available space is likely to be a constraint, just as it is for car parking.

Station Gardening team: this initiative is going well, with new volunteers continuing to join. The team meets once a month and has been able to achieve a lot in that time.

T13. To agree next steps for A329 Puffin crossing proposal, in particular plans for informal consultation

Cllr Collins and Cllr Schäfer met with representatives of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) at the proposed site on 29th August. Following this meeting, OCC officers have sent a proposed plan for the location of a controlled pedestrian crossing, slightly North of the A329/Ferry Lane/Papist Way junction. The location takes into consideration the best sight

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lines and will require the construction of additional footpath and a retaining wall. Funding has been allocated by OCC.

The next step is to undertake informal consultation led by the Parish Council. Depending on the outcome, OCC's formal consultation would then follow. Cllr Collins and the Clerk will prepare a survey and contact key stakeholders including Thames Travel, CCDT, and local businesses.

T14. To agree next steps for proposal to restore an ancient pathway between Cholsey and Moulsoford

It was agreed that as a next step, Cllr Collins, the Environment Coordinator and Clerk will meet with the landowner to better understand their concerns about this proposal. Cllr Hope Smith also noted that Countryside Access OCC Officers may be able to provide useful advice here. The Committee thanked R. Ford for bringing this proposal to the Council and his research efforts so far.

T15. To discuss and receive updates on the following topics:

a. Bus services

Cllr Hope Smith raised the problems reported by residents since the no. 33 bus timetable has changed. Young adults using the service to access Henley College are now needing to catch much earlier and later buses at either end of the day to attend lectures. It was agreed that Cllr Collins will write to Thames Travel on behalf of the Parish Council to highlight how this is affecting families and request a timetable revision. Cllr Hope Smith will also be writing in his County Councillor capacity.

T. Bedeman reported that there are issues with the implementation of new bus infrastructure (stops and shelters) which would enable better access to the new Wallingford Medical Practice site. There is also ongoing discussion about the provision of adequate parking at the new Medical Practice site, which should also take into account its likely future expansion as a medical hub. The Transport Committee expressed its support for T. Bedeman's views and efforts in this area to secure adequate parking and public transport infrastructure; he will keep the Transport Committee informed.

Cllr Hope Smith left the meeting due to another commitment.

b. Community Speedwatch

Eleven monitoring sites in the village have currently been approved by Thames Valley Police. The Community Speedwatch volunteer group has now been provided with the equipment needed and a meeting is scheduled for 21st October to plan next steps. Online training is provided. Volunteers work in pairs as often as they would like to participate.

c. Street parking review

OCC made changes to street parking restrictions in Cholsey earlier in 2025 and it had been agreed to conduct a post-implementation review. Commuter parking continues to be a growing problem in streets near the station, e.g. West End and on Station Road.

Cllr Collins, Cllr Hope Smith and the Clerk therefore met online recently with the OCC Officer responsible for street parking. A discussion document outlining possible future steps will be prepared by the OCC Officer, to provide information ahead of arranging a public meeting for residents to share their views.

d. Local cycling and walking infrastructure

Transport Committee members continue to engage actively with OCC's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) work. The OCC team have been encouraged by the amount of community engagement so far.

e. Village gates

It was discussed that the existing village gates are OCC assets but funds are not available to repair and replace them at this time. R. Ford had obtained quotes for replacement of the five

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existing gates. This item will need to be considered by the full Parish Council at the next suitable meeting.

f. All-weather Recreation Ground path

The next step for this project is to seek SODC pre-planning application advice to discuss viable route options, which necessitates a site visit. However, SODC Planning suspended their pre-planning service in June due to a major platform upgrade and have not yet reinstated this for non-major planning applications requiring site visits. An update from SODC is expected later this month. The alternative is to seek planning consultant input to prepare a full planning application without SODC guidance.

g. EV chargers

It is anticipated that OCC will shortly complete its Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure tender process. The Parish Council will then be contacted about its participation in the trial project.

T16. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda

Transport aspects associated with the relocation of Wallingford Medical Practice
LCWIP linking in with Living Streets

T17. To agree next meeting date

10th February 2026, 7.30pm, Cholsey Pavilion