

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.15pm at The Pavilion, Cholsey

Present were Cllr J. August, Cllr D. Bamford, Cllr J. Collins, Cllr C. Fox, Cllr P. Jenkins, Cllr G. Herbert, Cllr J. Hope-Smith (as Parish Councillor and County Councillor) until 9pm, Cllr L. Nixon (Chair), Cllr K. Pomlett, Cllr S. Schäfer and Cllr M. Smith

Also present were C. Bird (Clerk), V. Beardall Richards (Environment Coordinator) until 8.50pm, District Cllr A.-M. Simpson (District Councillor) until 7.30pm

Start: 7.20pm

End: 9.25pm

119. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr N. Malha has resigned from her role as Parish Councillor due to other commitments. 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.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

122. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2025 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2025 and they were signed by Cllr Nixon.

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

Reports from the County and District Councillors were noted with thanks.

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

a) To approve and adopt an IT policy (Appendix B)

It was **resolved** to approve and adopt the draft IT policy.

b) To agree attendance at the SODC Neighbourhood Planning event 28th January 2026

It was agreed that Cllr Pomlett will attend the in-person event on 28th January. The Clerk can also attend. Cllr August is interested in attending a subsequent virtual event.

c) To agree response to Wallingford School admission consultation (correspondence received 15th December 2025)

It was agreed to make no comment on the admission consultation.

125. To receive a report on results of the Forty Management Community Survey and agree a management plan for the Forty going forward (Appendix C)

The results of the survey were discussed. Cllr Nixon noted that the outcome was in favour of the summer meadow management plan (74% in support). The response (157 residents) is low compared to the population of the village but considered typical for a voluntary parish-level consultation. It was resolved to continue with summer meadow management of the Forty rather than mowing. Borders around the edge, a central avenue to the memorial and other pathways will continue to be mown throughout the summer. Suggestions made by residents in the survey were considered and it was agreed to revisit educational signage about the project and to provide a bench on the Forty. It was noted that over time more wildflowers will hopefully become established.

126. To receive report (verbal) from the Environment Coordinator on the Springline Project

The Environment Coordinator thanked Councillors who had attended the Springline artwork reveal event in November. The artwork will soon be displayed in the Pavilion foyer, now that redecoration work has been completed. The final report produced by the project team will shortly be submitted to Mend the Gap, who

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funded Springline, and shared with Councillors. Legacy activities are also being discussed, with consideration to the resources available.

127. To note Estate Manager's report (Appendix D)

The Estate Manager's report was noted with thanks.

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

a) To receive updates on the following:

i. Station accessibility, condition and parking provision (Cllr Collins)

Cllr Collins reported that she, Cllr August and Cllr Hope-Smith are meeting with GWR representatives and the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Rail Development Lead at the station on 22nd January. They will discuss progress of the refurbishment works, parking issues, public transport links and accessibility. The OCC Lead has said that Cholsey Station saw a 14% increase in patronage from 2023-2024 to 2024-2025.

Cllr Collins also noted that we should shortly hear from the OCC officer responsible for reviewing the recent street parking changes in Cholsey, including the potential advantages and disadvantages of a residents' parking scheme near the Station.

ii. A329 pedestrian crossing (Cllr Collins)

Cllr Collins has been informed that OCC will start their formal consultation by the end of January, following the Parish Council's informal survey last year.

Cllr Collins noted that the next Parish Council Transport Committee meeting is on 10th February.

iii. Community Speedwatch (Environment Coordinator)

The Environment Coordinator reported that the Community Speedwatch project is up and running, with eleven monitoring sites approved by Thames Valley Police. Volunteers have conducted three sessions so far.

iv. Recreation Ground all-weather path (Clerk)

The Clerk reported that she is in touch with the SODC Planning Officer and hopes to receive their pre-planning advice shortly (tree officer and drainage expert comments are currently outstanding).

v. Village gateways (Clerk and Cllr L. Nixon)

Cllr Nixon and the Clerk met with two representatives of OCC's Traffic and Safety Management team on 21st January to discuss replacing the existing village gateway signs which are showing signs of age. The hope is to bring quotes to the February meeting for Councillors to consider.

It was discussed that Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) on the Reading Road and Wallingford Road are OCC assets. These need some attention and Cllr August will add them to the OCC Highways Asset Response Team (HART) list.

b) To agree next steps in response to the proposal to restore an ancient pathway between Cholsey and Moulsoford

It was previously resolved (Minute 178b, 19th March 2025) to support a proposal from R. Ford to apply to restore a potential historic Right of Way between Cholsey and Moulsoford. Subsequent correspondence has made clear the administrative work involved in researching, building a case and making an application, as well as the sensitivities involved. Therefore, it was agreed that the Parish Office team cannot offer administrative support or make the application, given other project priorities at this time. This does not prevent an application being made by an individual or group of residents, as anyone can apply to restore/record a public right of way.

129. To review other projects for 2026 and agree next steps, in particular:

a) Skatepark extension project (Clerk)

The Clerk is investigating local council consultants to support the delivery of this potential project. Next steps: revisit desires and specifications; public consultation; confirm planning requirements; tendering process and grant applications.

b) Community allotment: to agree whether to appoint a Community Allotment Coordinator to run weekly sessions at the allotment (Clerk and Environment Coordinator)

It was resolved to advertise for and appoint a Community Allotment Coordinator to run weekly sessions at the allotment in 2026, under a fixed-term employee contract. This is subject to grant funding for the role being obtained.

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c) Cholsey Brook (Environment Coordinator)

Cholsey Brook is classed as a river and Cholsey Parish Council has certain rights and responsibilities (outlined by the Environment Agency) as a riparian landowner, along with Cholsey Primary School and households bordering the brook.

It was agreed to devote resources (Environment Coordinator hours in the first instance) to exploring the Council's role as a riparian owner, so that we can best take care of the watercourse. This will likely involve making contact with the Environment Agency, the other riparian landowners, local hydrologists and other key stakeholders. In particular it was noted that Mend the Gap has recently provided funding to Action for the River Kennet (ARK) to scope projects along Mill Brook and Cholsey Brook. The Environment Coordinator is in contact with Mend the Gap to understand next steps here.

d) Cholsey Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr K. Pomlett)

Cllr Pomlett is forming a working group with local residents to start the next iteration of Cholsey's Neighbourhood Plan, with the aim of beginning work in April. Cllr Schäfer would like to be involved. Cllr Pomlett is currently working with local experts and representatives of the Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan to respond to the government's consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which closes in March.

e) Parish Council website (Clerk and Cllr K. Pomlett)

The Clerk and Cllr Pomlett are in active contact with Aubergine and are working on site mapping ahead of a meeting with Aubergine on 4th February.

130. Finance

a) To review a proposal from Local Council Consultancy to provide project management support for the Recreation Ground all-weather path and Skatepark extension projects

A proposal has been obtained to help the Council take forward the potential Recreation Ground all-weather path and Skatepark extension projects, including planning applications where required, tendering processes and grant applications. The Clerk will aim to obtain further quotes so that Councillors can consider options at the February meeting.

b) To approve new payments and note payments received (Appendix E)

It was **resolved** to approve the payments and they were signed by Cllrs Fox and Pomlett; payments received were noted.

131. To consider new planning applications and planning amendments at 15th January 2026

P25/S3842/HH	Two storey rear extension, detached outbuilding and alterations (part retrospective). The Dower House, Hithercroft It was resolved to comment: Cholsey Parish Council does not support retrospective applications as this is against the spirit of the planning application process. SODC should ensure this build complies with full planning regulations, and if not, take appropriate action. For local planning it should be in accordance with CNP H7
P25/S3826/HH	Single storey rear extension. 19 Papist Way It was resolved to comment: Build to be in accordance with CNP H7
P25/S3971/S73	Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) on application ref. P25/S1176/HH - revised internal layout of outbuilding. First floor rear extension and new outbuilding to replace existing. 8 Cross Road. It was resolved to comment: in addition to comments submitted by Cholsey Parish Council for the original planning application, the comments submitted by neighbours at 6 Cross Road, including the encroachment complaint 4491989, should be taken into consideration.

132. To note South Oxfordshire District Council planning decisions as at 15th January 2026

P25/S3545/HH	Remove conservatory, replace with single storey rear extension and new roof over existing and proposed, 30 Lapwing Lane. Granted by SODC.
P25/S3671/HH	Two-storey side and rear extensions, single storey porch and alterations, 8 Papist Way. Granted by SODC.

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133. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda

Annual Community Meeting (Cllr Nixon)

Free Church planning concerns (Cllr Jenkins)

Further 2026 projects including:

EV Microhub pilot scheme

Village benches

Telephone box refurbishment

Land off Wallingford Road (previously registered as allotments)

134. To confirm the date of next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 18th February 2026, 7.15pm, Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey