

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 18th June 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 (as Parish Councillor and County Councillor), Cllr L. Nixon (Chair), Cllr K. Pomlett, Cllr S. Schäfer, Cllr M. Smith

Also present were C. Bird (Clerk); one member of public

Start time: 7.15pm

End time: 9.25pm

29. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr G. Herbert.

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

32. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2025 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2025 and they were signed by Cllr Nixon.

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

Cllr Hope-Smith's report was noted with thanks.

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

a) To receive update on the transfer of Cholsey Meadows play area to the Parish Council, further to the resolution made at the 16th October 2024 Council meeting

As minuted at the 16th October 2024 Council meeting, the play area to be transferred is a larger area than the currently fenced-in Play Space according to the approved landscape plan for the site. In correspondence received 27th May 2025, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)'s Infrastructure Implementation Officer reports that the play area cannot be transferred as it currently stands because it is smaller than the Play Space required to be provided by the developer. SODC's Legal and Planning teams have now outlined two options: for the developer to provide the larger play area as originally approved or for a new planning application to be submitted for the play area as currently implemented.

The Parish Council's position remains that it wishes to proceed with the transfer of responsibility from the developer to the Parish Council as quickly as possible, to be able to provide a functional play area for the community. As a next step, the Clerk will arrange discussions with community stakeholders including CCDT and Cholsey Meadows Management Company.

b) To share feedback from the Annual Community Meeting, 7th June

It was agreed that the meeting was well-prepared for, with lots of informative displays, and the challenge continues to be to encourage residents to come along. The Clerk has written an article for the Summer issue of the Forty magazine about the meeting.

c) To note upcoming Parish Council events

The following events were noted: Springline Project events include Solstice Walk and Draw 21st June, Springline on tour at the Cholsey School Fete 28th June, Learning to love wasps talk 22nd July; Transport Committee meeting focusing on Cholsey Station 24th June; Gravel Pit Public Inquiry 15-17th July

35. To note Estate Manager's report (Appendix B)

The Estate Manager's report was noted with thanks. Allotment inspections are underway; community allotment infrastructure and events are progressing well; a new tap has been installed on Ilges Lane allotments; the Pavilion car park renovation has been completed; new swings have been installed in the younger children's play area with a plan in place to complete the remaining groundworks.

Cllr Jenkins requested that new dog waste signs be purchased.

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

36. To review progress on the Strategic Action Plan adopted at the 16th October 2024 Council meeting

The Clerk was asked to update the Action Plan to indicate which projects have been completed. All Councillors were asked to review the Council's Action Plan and send feedback to the Clerk in the first instance, so that next steps can be agreed.

37. To receive an update on Skate Park development proposals (Cllr Finch)

Cllr Finch has recently met with the group of residents keen to take two Skate Park projects forward: a small extension to the Skate Park to provide better facilities particularly for beginners; a Skate Jam event in August.

A site visit by the company that constructed the Skate Park is being arranged.

Cllr Finch will meet with the group again in two weeks; the Clerk will ensure that a conditions of use form, risk assessments and insurance are in place for the Skate Jam event.

38. To receive update from the Transport Committee (Cllr Collins)

The Transport Committee will meet on 24th June with a focus on the poor accessibility and condition of Cholsey Station. Key stakeholders expected to attend the meeting include representatives of Great Western Railway, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway and MP Ollly Glover. Unfortunately no representative from Network Rail is available.

The Council expressed sadness for the recent passing of B. Cooke who with her husband had been active members of the Transport Committee and strong advocates for accessibility.

39. Finance

a) To discuss and agree whether to receive an anonymous donation to be used to reimburse the costs incurred by a resident group of holding a Skate Park competition in Summer 2025

It was **resolved** to receive a donation for a Skate Jam event to be held on the Recreation Ground and to use this donation solely for the benefit of the Skate Park user community, including through reimbursing receipts for this event incurred by the organisers.

b) To agree response to grant request from Cholsey Horticultural Society towards entertainment at the Cholsey Village Show in August 2025 (decision deferred from 16th April 2025 Council meeting)

It was **resolved** to make a grant of £400 towards entertainment at the Cholsey Village Show 2025. Cllr Nixon and Cllr Bamford had met with the show organisers to discuss other fundraising activities that could help support the show into the future.

c) To agree response to donation request from Home Start Southern Oxfordshire

It was agreed that the Clerk would speak with J. Tyndall on behalf of the Happy Hub and Cholsey Volunteers about the promotion of Home Start's services and how they could be of value to residents.

d) To discuss future funding of the CIC Happy Hub (Cllr Bamford)

Cllr Bamford gave an update on behalf of the Happy Hub Children's Centre, including current activities and plans for the future, e.g. offering more sessions in afternoons and in the school holidays. The Parish Council has been supporting the Happy Hub with an annual grant; Cllr Bamford noted that this will likely remain essential to the Hub's continued operation, and that this is similar to Wallingford Town Council's support of the Wigod Way Family Centre. The Council agreed in principle that it would continue to support the Happy Hub in 2026/2027. It was requested that a 3-year development plan, including financial modelling, be prepared by the Happy Hub management team.

e) To approve new payments and note payments received (Appendix C)

The payments were approved and signed by Cllrs Hope-Smith and Schäfer.

40. To consider new planning applications and planning amendments at 12th June 2025

P25/S1490/HH	Extension to integral garage to front of property. The Paddock, 45 West End It was resolved to comment: the application is within Policy CNP 7 parking requirements. From CNP para 149: All new homes and all extensions to existing homes where the extension has vehicular access should be equipped with charge points for electric vehicles.
--------------	---

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

41. To note South Oxfordshire District Council planning decisions as at 12th June 2025

P25/S1176/HH	First floor rear extension and new outbuilding to replace existing. 8 Cross Road Granted by SODC
--------------	---

42. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda

Community Development Officer (J.Wheeler)

White Cross Farm Gravel pit Public Inquiry – Cllr Pomlett reported that the Cholsey/Wallingford/Crowmarsh Rule 6 team has submitted its evidence documents to the Public Inspectorate. The Parish Council expressed many thanks to B. Guiver and W. Tobitt for their continued work on this.

Telephone box, Church Road (Cllr Jenkins)

Trees in the brook – liaising with appropriate parties on this (Cllr Jenkins)

Transport Committee meeting

Brambles overgrowing footpath on Wallingford Road (Cllr Schäfer)

43. To confirm the date of next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 16th July 2025, 7.15pm, Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey