

CHOLSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cholsey Parish Council duly convened and held on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.15pm at The Pavilion, Cholsey

Present were Cllr J. August, Cllr J. Collins, Cllr C. Fox, Cllr G. Herbert, Cllr J. Hope-Smith (as Parish Councillor and County Councillor) until 8.50pm, and Cllr L. Nixon (Chair)

Also present were C. Bird (Clerk), District Cllr C. Topping (District Councillor) until 7.50pm; three members of the public until 7.35pm

Start: 7.20pm

End: 9.20pm

149. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Bamford, Cllr P. Jenkins, Cllr S. Schäfer and Cllr M. Smith.

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

Three members of the public spoke in support of planning application P26/S0262/FUL.

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

There were none.

152. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2026 (Appendix A) and receive update on any Minute items

It was **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2026 and they were signed by Councillor Nixon. The Clerk reported that:

- A response to the NPPF consultation was approved by Cllr Nixon and submitted on 9th March;
- The A329 crossing formal consultation undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has been promoted and is now closed;
- The consultant appointed to project manage the potential recreation ground path and skatepark extension projects will be visiting to meet stakeholders on 23rd March.

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

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

County Cllr Hope Smith has contacted the School Organisation & Planning department regarding concerns about Cholsey children not getting spaces at Wallingford School, our catchment secondary.

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

a) To review Data Audit Report, March 2026 (Appendix B)

The Data Audit Report was approved and actions noted. The Clerk will arrange GDPR refresher training for Council members as well as employees.

b) To approve and adopt revised Privacy Notice (Appendix C)

The revised Privacy Notice was approved for adoption.

c) To discuss correspondence received regarding appropriate use of the Skate Park facility

The Clerk had sent Councillors anonymised correspondence received from a parent following an incident on 10th March at the skate park on the Recreation Ground. The parent and their young child (wearing a helmet to use a balance bike on the skatepark) had been approached by a member of public who was angry that the park was being used in this way, stating that the skatepark is only for skateboarders and not children. The confrontation caused considerable distress for the parent and child. The way in which the member of public presented herself also gave the parent the impression that she represented the parish council or a committee formally responsible for the skatepark.

The Parish Council's position is and always has been that the skatepark is an inclusive facility for all ages, abilities and wheels (excluding motorised vehicles); Cllr Hope Smith who was part of the original Skatepark working group confirmed that the facility was designed to be used by and welcome all. The signage for the skatepark states that children under 8 should be supervised by an adult, which was clearly the case on this occasion.

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The Council is very concerned about the behaviour of the member of public who argued with the parent and the misinformed opinion being spread. It is also concerning that they portrayed themselves as speaking from a position of authority.

The description of the individual is informative and representatives of the Council will seek to be in touch with them, as well as publicly clarifying Skatepark policy.

d) To discuss three separate requests received from a refreshment truck, circus, and fun fair to visit the Recreation Ground in 2026

The Council agreed that officers could take these requests forward to see if they are workable. At present, the Circus has not responded to the Assistant Clerk's initial questions. The fun fair has responded and the Council agreed that this could go ahead, as long as the dates do not clash with the Bluebirds Tournament and that the fun fair provides toilet facilities. The Assistant Clerk will arrange to meet with the refreshment truck operator, to discuss potential locations and timings. It was agreed that this should not be on a Saturday morning.

155. To discuss and agree how to respond to the 'Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire' consultation open until 26th March 2026

After discussion it was agreed that Parish Councillors should respond to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation on an individual basis rather than submitting a collective parish council view. Many questions remain about all three options being presented, and Councillors have a variety of opinions.

156. To discuss Estate Manager's report (Appendix D)

The Estate Manager's report was noted including the difficulties being identified with telephone kiosk refurbishment.

The Councillors approved the use of an area of the Recreation Ground currently kept unmown for a labyrinth to be organised by the Church community for the Village Show in August.

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

a) Street parking: to receive update following site visit with OCC officer on 10th March 2026 and to receive a resident's petition regarding street parking near Cholsey Station

On 10th March, Cllr Collins and the Clerk met for a walkabout with an OCC parking officer to highlight continuing issues following last year's parking restriction changes. OCC are looking to carry out an informal consultation of a significant area of Cholsey to understand the issues in detail.

A residents petition of 126 signatures has been received and forwarded to OCC in support of a residents' parking scheme. It was noted that no potential solution is straightforward, likely bringing downsides as well as benefits, and costs. There is a question over where the increasing number of commuters using the Station would park if, for example, a residents' parking scheme was introduced. Cllr Collins is in touch with Great Western Railway about the possibility of extending the carpark, but active travel and use of public transport also needs to be encouraged. The existing bus timetable is a limiting factor but Cllr Hope Smith noted that this is already a subsidised rather than commercial route.

b) Potholes/road resurfacing

Following the February Parish Council meeting the Clerk sent a formal email, from Cllr Nixon as Parish Council Chair, to OCC Highways, copying Cllr Hope Smith and MP Olly Glover regarding the condition of Cholsey's key roads.

c) EV chargers in Pavilion car park

The Clerk recently attended an online meeting with OCC, the selected electric vehicle charger provider and other potential Microhub sites about this pilot programme, and will continue to keep the Council updated.

Cllr Collins reported that she recently attended a GWR stakeholder group meeting, and an Active Transport workshop in Wallingford, in her role as Transport Committee Chair. The latter event looked at issues with the safety of walking and cycling in Wallingford.

Cllr Hope Smith left the meeting due to another commitment.

158. To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Nixon), in particular:

a) To appoint members to a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr August, Cllr Fox, Jim Collins, Beryl Guiver and John Neville to join a new Neighbourhood Plan Working Group. A first meeting will be arranged and the District Council's Neighbourhood Planning team will be contacted for support.

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159. To appoint a Parish Council representative to the Pavilion Trust (*previously J. Finch*)

It was **resolved** to appoint Cllr Bamford as the Parish Council's representative to the Pavilion Trust. Cllr Bamford had written to the Clerk and Councillors before the meeting to put himself forward for this role.

160. Finance

a) To agree response to 2026/2027 grant request for the Cholsey Community Library

It was **resolved** to make a grant of £3400 to the Cholsey Community Library in 2026/2027 to support its continued running.

b) To agree response to 2026/2027 grant request for the Cholsey Village CIC (contribution to employment of Children's Centre staff)

It was **resolved** to make a grant of £23,000 to the Cholsey Village CIC in 2026/2027 to support the continued operation of the Happy Hub Children's Centre.

c) To agree response to 2026/2027 grant request for the Cholsey Village CIC (contribution to Fun in the Park Summer 2026)

It was **resolved** to make a grant of £1500 to the Cholsey Village CIC in 2026/2027 towards Fun in the Park.

d) To agree whether to renew the Council's internal audit contract with Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd from audit year 2026/2027

It was **resolved**, based on the recommendation of the Clerk, to renew the Council's internal audit contract with Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd for a further three-year term.

e) To agree whether to continue with Council membership of OALC in 2026/2027 at a cost of £1056 inc. VAT

It was **resolved** to continue with Council membership of OALC in 2026/2027 at a cost of £1056 inc. VAT.

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

The payments were approved and signed by Cllrs Fox and Herbert.

161. To consider new planning applications and planning amendments at 12th March 2026

P26/S0402/S73	Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of P23/S3015/RM for minor external elevational changes and internal amendments Application for approval of Reserved Matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) following outline planning permission P21/S0267/O for subdivision of plot to form a new detached two storey open market dwelling, with some matters reserved and associated infrastructure. Summerhouse 75a Honey Lane It was resolved to comment: CPC has continued to object to this application and the lack of due diligence throughout the build. A lack of planning application notification has been highlighted by the resident at 53 Papist Way.
P26/S0262/FUL	Construction of a self-build single detached dwelling. 8 Papist Way It was resolved to object to the application as follows: CPC agrees with the pre-application advice. The application does not meet the Neighbourhood Plan policy CNP H2 (for infil), would impact neighbours, and the adjacent AONB.
P26/S0592/AG	Erection of traditional portal frame agricultural building. Land at Waterloo Farm to south west of Waterloo Close It was resolved to comment: CPC supports this application as the portal frame building is required for the proper management and running of the farm
P26/S0640/HH	Single storey rear extension. 91 Papist Way It was resolved to comment: CPC notes a requirement for the extension to be in accordance with CNP H7

162. To note South Oxfordshire District Council planning decisions as at 12th March 2026

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 Granted by SODC.
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163. Items for report or inclusion on next agenda

There were no items for report.

164. To confirm the date of next Full Council meeting – Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 7.15pm, Pavilion, Station Road, Cholsey