

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Mr D Roberts (Chair)

Mrs K Adamson

Mrs M Castle (Vice-Chair)

Mrs T Burge

Mr T Brown (Clerk)

Mr N Adamson (Finance Officer – for item 7)

Five members of the public were in attendance.

25/67 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were made by Mrs Campbell. There were no Declarations of Interest.

25/68 Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 9th July 2025

The draft minutes (circulated) were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

25/69 Matters Arising from the previous meeting Minutes

25/51: Dave Nellist. Mrs Adamson proposed a framed display of historic village postcards to mark Dave Nellist's period of service on the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed.

25/51: Footbridge on path 4. OCC has replaced the decaying footbridge over Charney Wick Ditch. Thanks to Mrs Adamson and Lee Evans for persisting in raising the issue and to Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor for his cooperation in allowing access to the site to get the work done.

25/51: Volunteers. No interest has been shown in Neighbourhood Watch, a Pothole Superuser or Faringdon East Neighbourhood Action Group. A further item will be placed in Charney Chatter. Mrs Burge will replace Mrs Campbell on the Personnel Sub-Committee.

25/61: Bus Shelter. The Chairman will thank those involved, including Joe Ody who obtained materials from Brewers (Abingdon) at no cost and Steve Champion who paid for various paints. Mr Eld will arrange for the Parish Notice Board to be re-treated to provide a finishing touch.

25/62: Charlie Maynard MP has asked to be kept informed of progress in the re-opening of the Chequers PH. He is also arranging a meeting with Olly Glover (MP for Wantage) to discuss whether more could be done about the state of local roads (potholes etc) and ever increasing traffic levels.

25/70 Information Exchange

Councillors were pleased to hear of Charlie Maynard's continuing interest in the future of the Chequers PH. The owner's letter, posted on the pub in June, was welcome but no plans have been submitted or renovation work done and residents are raising concerns about whether the pub will ever re-open. The Chairman will write to Pusey Pubs Ltd to ask if more can be said about their plans for the future of this important village asset.

Mrs Castle had been asked if further training in the use of the Defibrillator could be arranged. The previous training session (Nov 2023) had been well attended and there may also be interest from adjoining Parishes. The Chairman will see if a further session can be arranged in the New Year.

Charles Eld reported that he was in discussion with a local resident on the upkeep of bridleway 5. OCC's operation this year appears to have involved little more than trimming grass along the Charney Field section. Overhanging growth on upper sections of the path can be difficult to deal with

but Mr Eld was happy to arrange a Charney Army working party if desired. Lee Evans offered to ask OCC's Footpath Team to return to do more work and it was agreed to await a response before any plans are put in place by Charney Army.

Charles Eld enquired on progress in obtaining traffic cones for use by Charney Army on/near public roads. The Clerk had found these could no longer be obtained from Drayton Depot and would arrange for the purchase of 4-6 cones with Mr Eld.

Steve Champion was concerned that extra traffic would be using Lyford Road during the planned seven-week closure of Main Street, West Hanney. This led to discussion on the state of the three bridges over the Ock (Lyford Bridge, Ock Bridge and Mill Stream Bridge), all of which were likely to see increased use during the closure. Lyford Bridge (a listed building) had been the subject of a Fix My Street (FMS) complaint which was now closed but remedial work to the damaged ramparts was still outstanding. Ock Bridge was the subject of an on-going FMS complaint. Lee Evans would take up these issues with the relevant Highways Team.

25/71 County Councillor report

Mr Evans reported as follows:

- **Longworth Road junction with A420** – High Friction Surfacing has been applied to aid emergency breaking. A redesign plan of the junction should be available for consultation in the New Year.
- **Orchard Close/Main Street-Lyford Road Pavement** – he is continuing to try to get this badly damaged stretch of pavement fixed.
- **Councillor Priority Fund**. The Councillor Priority Fund (£5k per annum) is now open.
- **Consultation on Oxford Congestion Charge** – despite a majority who opposed the consultation the County Council is likely to approve the charge.
- **Stanford-in-the-Vale Recycling Centre**. OCC is consulting on a booking system and reduced opening hours. Mr Evans is opposed to this and is highlighting the potential for increased fly-tipping.
- **Gully Cleaning**. OCC is continuing its programme. The Chairman confirmed that the team had undertaken clearance work in Charney recently.
- **Drayton Depot**. The Parish Council is encouraged to attend the Open Day on 27th September.
- **Buckland Road White Gates**. The Clerk has received a phone call from OCC Highways following Mr Evans' enquiring as to the status of our unanswered correspondence. We now have verbal confirmation that installation and purchase costs will be covered by OCC but written confirmation of when this will be done has yet to be received. Mr Evans will pursue this (and the replacement barrier at the Main St/Lyford Rd junction) further.
- **Salt Bins** are available from OCC if required.
- **Denchworth Road Drainage**. A resident has raised concerns over maintenance of roadside ditches and Mr Evans is seeking to clarify the extent to which OCC has responsibility for these ditches.

25/72 District Councillor Report

Jill Raynor is provided with meeting papers but has not been in touch.

25/73 Clerk's Financial Report

Mr Adamson ran through transactions from 1st July to 31st August. The balance currently stands at £14,484. Councillors noted that Mrs Campbell is now a signatory to the Unity Bank account.

Councillors also agreed:

- To add Mrs Burge as a further signatory to the account;
- A payment of £697.00 plus VAT to Jonathan Terry for work to Charney Mill;
- To set a budget for a move to a .gov.uk domain at the November meeting;
- To await further information on the amount owing for the supply of water to the allotment site. This will initially need to be paid by the Parish Council and recovered in rental payments from the plot holders.

25/74 Planning Matters

Mrs Adamson reported as follows:

- P24/V1152/FUL (New dwelling, Eastfield Farm, Gainfield): permission has been granted.
- P23/V0798/FUL (Commercial buildings/parking etc, Lyford Business Park): Permission is subject to a S.106 Agreement to ensure HGVs do not access the site through the village.

25/75 Charney Mill: Fire Risk

It was agreed to purchase two fire extinguishers from Safelincs as set out in the Clerk's report. A full Risk Assessment would be brought forward for consideration as soon as possible.

25/76 Moving to a .gov.uk domain

Further discussion with service providers has narrowed down some of the choices that have to be made. A company has been found that would host the current site on a .gov.uk platform. Costs could be comparable to our arrangement but we would have to manage the move ourselves and the site would not be fully compliant with WACG 2.2 (accessibility standards). Other companies provide a ready-made site with a modern/interactive appearance and fully meet WACG 2.2 standards. In some cases, annual hosting costs compare favourably with current costs but the transfer of data to a new platform will be costly unless we can reduce this significantly. Amanda Graham is working on ways we might do this and a further discussion with the Project Group is being arranged. The Clerk will provide Councillors with links to Parish Council sites hosted by the companies we are talking to and is aiming to bring a final report to the November meeting.

25/77 Standing Orders

The amendments to Standing Orders, as circulated, were agreed.

25/78 Ock Green/Jubilee Orchard

The recommendations were agreed subject to the inclusion of a break clause in any agreement.

25/79 Charney to Pusey Footpath

The Lost Paths Group is proposing that application now be made to OCC (footpaths authority) to add this path to the Definitive Map. The Oxfordshire Ramblers are supportive of the proposal but we have yet to receive views from Pusey Parish Meeting. BHS has provided some advice on ownership and it appears there are at least two landowners involved. Councillors felt that affected landowners should be consulted before an application is submitted so their views can be taken into account.

25/80 CHAFT matters

The CHAFT minutes of 13th August were noted.

Councillors were pleased to see that the outside clock on the Village Hall had been replaced.

Mrs Burge agreed to replace Mrs Castle as a Parish Council representative on CHAFT.

Further wording changes to the MoU had been received and these will be considered by the Parish Council's representatives on the Joint Liaison Group.

25/81 Clerk's Correspondence

Nothing to report.

25/82 The next meeting is on Wednesday 12th November 2025 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 09.10 pm.

Signed Chairman.....Date.....