

(DRAFT) MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2026

Present: Mr D Roberts (Chair)
Mrs M Castle (Vice-Chair)
Mr M Redmond
Mr T Brown (Clerk)

Eleven members of the public were in attendance.

26/63 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Mrs Adamson and Mrs Burge sent apologies for absence. There were no Declarations of Interest.

26/64 Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 8th July 2026

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

26/65 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the previous meetings

26/47: Speedwatch. The Chairman has spoken with Mrs McClintock who will carry on as organiser for a little while, but a replacement must still be found.

26/47: MVAS. There has been a delay in moving the units to alternative locations, but this should be done by the end of the month.

26/48: Main Street/New Road planting bed. No one has stepped forward to look after this area. Mr Ody will be asked if he might look after it for a little longer.

26/52: Long Meadow Barn: the Clerk has not yet reported the scaffold business to Vale Planners.

26/55: Local Government Re-Organisation: the government has announced that Oxfordshire plans are being placed in abeyance as a result of legal advice.

26/66 Information Exchange

Mr Whiteside drew attention to proposals by Cearn Solar Farm Ltd for a new solar farm on various areas of land between Stanford-in-the-Vale, Goosey and Hanney – including land immediately west of Charney Manor. All of the fields surrounding Lyford would be part of the project. Charney residents have been notified through a leaflet distributed by Cearn: details had been received too late to be included on the meeting agenda.

The Clerk reported that the affected Parish Councils would be meeting shortly in Hanney Village Hall to discuss the proposals and that each had also been invited to a meeting hosted by Cearn on 6th October. Mr Whiteside had spoken to several members of the Botley West Action Group and explained how they were organising opposition to that scheme. Botley West is roughly the same size as Cearn and, because of their size, both are classed as national infrastructure projects. Several present expressed concerns at the proposal. It was agreed that Mr Whiteside should represent the Parish Council at the meeting with Cearn, and the Clerk attend the meeting of the Parish Councils with one Parish Councillor (Mrs Burge to be first invited). Information should also be included in the next Charney Chatter and residents invited to express early views, bearing in mind that clearly a lot more information would emerge in coming months.

Village Green Xmas Tree. Last year's donor had again been in touch. Mrs Castle would liaise further and make any necessary arrangements.

26/67 County Councillor report

Mr Evans sent apologies for being unable to attend. The Clerk highlighted various matters raised in the Councillor's written report (posted in full on the village website):

- Repairs to Main Street pavements now satisfactorily concluded:
- Repairs to Lyford Road surface and bridge - ongoing:
- A420/Longworth Rd junction – work to take place shortly:
- Longworth Road potholes/general condition:
- HGV movements through Charney.

26/68 District Councillor Report

There has been no contact from Jill Rayner.

26/69 Clerk's Financial Report

The Clerk ran through transactions from 1st April to 30th June. The balance currently stands at £18,113 and will be further bolstered by receipt of the second half of the precept (1st September) and our VAT reclaim for 2025-26 (£926.64). Ways in which this reserve should be used are to be discussed as part of the preliminary budget at the November meeting.

It was noted that Mr Redmond has now been added as a signatory to the Unity Trust Bank Account. Councillors noted the transactions for the period (paras 2-4 of the report), authorised Mrs Castle to agree arrangements for a continuing electricity supply to Charney Mill and agreed to the Treasurer attending a training course on Internal Controls.

26/70 Planning Matters

The Clerk reported from the agenda as follows:

- P23/V0798/FUL (Commercial buildings/parking etc, Lyford Business Park): Concerns about the time being taken to complete the legal agreement have now been raised with County Council lawyers but so far there has been no response (this included a personal plea to the Head of Highways - Paul Fermer). Councillors agreed that little would be gained by Vale Planners refusing this application: with no control in place, lorries would continue to come through the village. This point needs to be taken up with the Planning Officer.
- P25/V1803/HH and P25/V1804/LB (Extension to Bridle Cottage): decision awaited.
- P26/V0008/FUL (Extensions etc at Chequers PH): decision awaited.
- P25/V0111/FUL (Dog Walking Facility, Charney Manor): further changes to the fencing design have been submitted. No notification was received from the Vale. The Parish Council should continue to object to the impact of the 2m high fencing.

26/71 Publications Policy

The Clerk had consulted members of the Communication Group. Councillors agreed the amended policy as circulated.

26/72 Proposed Weight Restriction Order

Mr Evans is trying to find out when the County Council might make a decision on our proposal and has offered dates to discuss this further with us. Agreed that the Clerk and Chairman should attend, in particular concentrating on the potential for interim 'Unsuitable for HGVs' signage.

26/73 Highway barrier, Wick Cottage, Main Street

The Clerk has reported recent damage (possibly a residue of the recent pavement improvement work) on Fix My Street, noting that detailed proposals for the replacement of this barrier were previously agreed with highway officers.

26/74 Bridlepath 5

A response to questions on responsibilities for maintenance had yet to be received from the County's Footpath Officer (Arthur McEwan-James) so the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

26/75 Arrangements for next meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee

It was agreed that this should be at 06.30 pm on Wednesday 2nd December (after the Chairman's return from Australia).

26/76 CHAFT Matters

The draft minutes of the CHAFT meeting on 19th August were noted.

The Joint Liaison Group meets on 4th November. Matters to be discussed include Charney Wick Ditch maintenance and Village Hall storage space. Councillors should let the Clerk know of any items they think should be included on the agenda. Mr Adamson will attend in lieu of the Chair.

26/77 Clerk's Correspondence

Thames Water has produced a newsletter to advise of progress on the White Horse Reservoir (previously SESRO). The Clerk has forwarded this to Councillors.

The next meeting is on **Wednesday 11th November** in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 09.30 pm.

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