

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7pm.
at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Cllr Trinder

Present: Cllrs Beioley, Funnell, Golding, Humberstone, Morris-Wyatt, Oakley, Pearson, Roberts, Samaroo, L Taylor, Woodfine, District Cllr Boyle, County Cllr Luff

In attendance: The Clerk

Cllr Trinder welcomed everyone back following the summer break. She reminded members to ensure that mobile phones are set to silent and placed face down on the table during meetings.

1.09.25 APOLOGIES Cllrs Gardiner, Lee, D Taylor, District Cllrs Fenton and Watson, County Cllr Turner

2.09.25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

3.09.25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

4.09.25 MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING - Cllr Samaroo proposed “**acceptance of the 4th June 2025 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Beioley and unanimously agreed.

5.09.25 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

A copy of the County report was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Luff provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation and the recent clarification that Parish Councils will not be taking on any additional responsibilities.

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT –

A copy of the district report was circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Cllr Boyle drew attention to the recently passed Planning and Infrastructure Bill. He said that a letter had been sent expressing concerns that it could potentially weaken existing environmental law. In response, the Secretary of State has confirmed that a significant number of similar concerns have been received and that the matter will be reviewed. Cllr Boyle also drew attention to a new Green Skills Park being developed in Berkeley and a new Vocational College in Dursley.

Climate and Nature Strategy - Cllr Boyle mentioned the upcoming training session. The Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Morris-Wyatt, Oakley and Woodfine are attending the session which is scheduled for 16th September 2025.

Frith Youth Centre – Cllr Boyle informed the meeting that he is in the process of establishing a multi-agency Youth Forum Panel. The Panel will work to develop a vision for the Youth Centre and create a business plan, which will support efforts to secure future funding. He noted that Minchinhampton has a similar panel in place, which identifies young people who may require additional support. Cllr Trinder thanked Cllr Boyle for his involvement in setting up the initiative and noted that this had been discussed earlier in the year. Cllr Boyle invited any interested councillors to join the Panel. Following a brief discussion, Cllrs Humberstone, Samaroo, and Roberts volunteered. Cllr Woodfine also expressed an interest in participating in any strategic discussions relating to the Panel. **ACTION: Cllr Boyle**

Cllr Oakley raised concerns regarding the financial situation at Frith Youth Centre, stating that additional funding is needed to ensure its continued operation. He warned that, without securing this funding, there is a real risk the centre could be forced to close within the next few years.

It is the County Council that traditionally provide youth services. County Cllr Luff confirmed that there may be some funding available from himself and County Cllr Turner. **ACTION: Cllr Luff**
Cllr Trinder spoke about the Stroud Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), noting that councillors had been invited to consider becoming a rotating member. Cllr Luff confirmed that Cllr Turner is on the panel. Following a short discussion Cllrs Pearson and Morris-Wyatt volunteered to join. **ACTION: Clerk**

6.09.25 CLERK'S REPORT –

Chalfest – The Chalfest working group have met to discuss this year's event and have requested to meet with the organiser in November/December to discuss the feedback from residents and agree any necessary changes for next year's event.

Fly- tipping – The Clerk advised members that asbestos roof sheeting had been fly-tipped within the France Lynch allotment site. She has arranged for its safe collection and disposal by Sanctus Ltd.

Valley Playing Field – The Clerk confirmed that site sampling was carried out by Sanctus Ltd during the week commencing 4th August 2025, and that the report is expected during September. Once received, the Clerk will arrange for the working group to meet with SDC Officers, who will have reviewed the report and will discuss the findings with us.

St Marys Flooding – Members expressed concern about the significant amount of time that has passed since the issue was first raised. The Clerk confirmed that she is in communication with the Public Rights of Way Officer, who is liaising with Network Rail. Cllr Woodfine reported that pallets have been placed in the area, making it even more dangerous. The Clerk will advise the Public Rights of Way Officer of this. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Roberts reported that the work which was carried out to potholes on the high Street on 1st and 2nd September had gone well with advance notice being given to residents. However, there was some concern about the condition that the road had been left in. The Clerk will contact Highways about this. **ACTION: Clerk**

7.09.25 COMMUNITY 20S AND SAFER ROADS INITIATIVE

The Clerk circulated the above papers and asked members for their feedback which she collated and shared with members in readiness for the discussion. At this stage GCC are not asking for detailed feedback, simply a yes or no answer to the two questions below.

- 1) Whether we would like to be considered for Community 20s on some roads within our area, and**
- 2) Whether there are other (higher speed) roads that we feel would benefit from a reduction in speed limit where we currently have safety concerns.**

Following a brief discussion Cllr Pearson proposed “**we answer yes to both questions**” This was seconded by Cllr Beioley and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Morris-Wyatt asked Cllr Luff why TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) applications relating to the Four Ways crossing had been put on hold because of this initiative. Cllr Luff explained that County Cllrs will express their dissatisfaction with this. Cllr Luff agreed with Cllr Trinder's comment that there may be some benefit to the Parish Council in terms of the wider TRO potentially removing the need for the Parish to fund the Four Ways TRO, albeit this would mean additional delay.

8.09.25 FLAG FLYING REVIEW

The flag flying schedule was last reviewed in September 2023.

At that time, it was agreed that the Union Flag would be flown on key dates throughout the year, and the Ukrainian flag would be flown during the first week of each month.

Since then, several concerns and comments have been received regarding the Ukrainian flag being flown more frequently than the Union Flag.

To support discussion, the Clerk had circulated the relevant Government guidance alongside the meeting papers. Following consideration, there was a consensus that the Union Flag should continue to be flown on the key dates as outlined in the Government guidance, and that the Clerk should identify similarly significant dates on which the Ukrainian flag could be flown.

Following a brief discussion Cllr Beioley proposed “**we fly the Union flag on the agreed key dates throughout the year and fly the Ukrainian flag on key dates as identified by the Clerk**” This was seconded by Cllr Morris-Wyatt. A vote realised seven in favour, one objection and two abstentions.

It was agreed that the Groundsman would take on responsibility for flying the flag going forward. The Clerk will write to the resident who has kindly carried out this role on the Council’s behalf to express sincere thanks for his time, dedication, and support over the years. **ACTION: Clerk**

9.09.25 TO CONSIDER & APPROVE F&M RECOMMENDATIONS

The Clerk circulated the relevant documents with meeting papers.

Cllr Pearson raised concern that the colour-coded boxes could present difficulties for individuals with colour blindness. Cllr Morris-Wyatt explained that each box also contains a numerical score, which should help ensure the information remains accessible and easy to interpret.

- a) **Risk Management Strategy** – Cllr Morris-Wyatt proposed “**we accept the Risk Management Strategy**” This was seconded by Cllr Humberstone and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Woodfine asked if there is a standing item on the agenda for reporting any health and safety concerns. After some discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to add this into her report on a quarterly basis. **ACTION: Clerk**

- b) **Health and Safety Statement** - Cllr Samaroo proposed “**we accept the Health and Safety Statement**” This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed.

- c) **Investment Policy** - Cllr Oakley proposed “**we accept the Investment Policy**” This was seconded by Cllr Humberstone and unanimously agreed.

ACTION: Clerk/RFO

10.09.25 CYBER SECURITY AND RESILIENCE BILL

This item will now be included as a standing agenda item. Cllr Woodfine explained that he will receive a monthly cybersecurity report from the Council’s IT provider, Softlink, and he will provide an update to members at each meeting. He reported that there were no concerns identified during July or August. He also noted that Softlink had changed the firewall software during August, and therefore the report for that month covered only part of the period.

Cllr Trinder requested that Softlink provide a brief guidance document for Councillors and staff to follow, outlining key points to help identify potential online threats and promote online safety.

ACTION: Clerk

11.09.25

LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN

Cllr Oakley has led the group to date, with Cllr Woodfine recently taking over the role. Cllr Woodfine expressed his thanks to Cllr Oakley for his significant contribution to the LNAP and recognised the progress made on the nature agenda under his enthusiastic leadership.

Cllr Woodfine reported that the group met on 1st September with some changes to its membership. Cllr Morris-Wyatt has joined the group, while Sophie Carabine has stepped down. Cllr Woodfine extended his thanks to Sophie for her valuable input and contributions. Cllr Woodfine's report will be sent to the Clerk for circulation.

Cllr Trinder gave her thanks to Cllrs Oakley and Woodfine.

12.09.25

REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES - None

13.09.25

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Cllr Beioley attended a consultation meeting at SDC to discuss a remuneration review for Parish and Town Councils which is being carried out by a panel convened by SDC. Cllr Beioley's meeting note was circulated to members in advance. Cllr Beioley highlighted the huge disparity between parishes. The panel is due to report in September and will make recommendations as to whether town and parish councillors might be eligible to receive allowances.

Finance and Management Committee – Cllr Morris-Wyatt explained that preliminary precept discussions will start next week at the next F&M meeting on 9th September. There is additional unanticipated expenditure due to the site investigations which have been necessary at the Valley playing field.

Plans Assessment Committee – Nothing to report that isn't covered by minutes.

Works Committee – Cllr Samaroo explained that the Works Committee are due to meet earlier than usual this month, on Tuesday 9th September.

14.09.25

CORRESPONDENCE –

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Resilience – The Adverse Weather and Emergency Plan working group will be reviewing the Council's Emergency Plan. Once this has been drafted it will be referred to the Finance and Management Committee and once the draft has been agreed it will be brought to Full Council for approval.

A resident has written to the Council expressing concern about a Lime tree in the France Lynch Pleasure Ground. The Clerk arranged for the Lime tree to be inspected by our tree surgeon; however, the resident is not reassured by the recommendations provided. The Clerk has therefore arranged to meet on site with the resident, Cllrs Gardiner, Oakley, Woodfine, the Groundsman and the SDC Tree Officer will attend. The Works Committee will be reviewing this matter.

15.09.25

ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR REFERRAL

Cllr Pearson informed members that the noise disturbance from the annual championships at the Gliding Club at Aston Down was significantly less this year. It was noted that our communication in the lead up to the championships had been worthwhile and there was no need to follow up on this with the club.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.42pm.