

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 2nd April 2026 at 7pm.
at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Cllr Andrew Morris-Wyatt

Present: Cllrs Beioley, Golding, Humberstone, Oakley, Pearson, Roberts, Samaroo, D Taylor, L Taylor, Woodfine

In attendance: The Clerk,

Cllr Morris-Wyatt welcomed Cllrs and two members of public to the meeting. He politely reminded members to switch their phones to silent during the meeting and to raise their hand and wait to be acknowledged before entering the discussion.

1.04.26 APOLOGIES - Apologies were received from Cllr Gardiner, District Cllrs Boyle and Watson, and County Cllrs Luff and Turner. District Cllr Fenton was expected but did not attend.

2.04.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

3.04.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Two candidates, one for the Bussage Ward and one for the Hill Ward vacancies attended to present/answer any questions on their applications.

4.04.26 COUNCILLOR VACANCIES – Both candidates submitted written statements outlining their reasons for applying, which were circulated to Members prior to the meeting. They each addressed the Council, elaborated on their applications, and answered questions. Both candidates left the room while their applications were considered. Following a brief discussion, Members agreed to co-opt both candidates.

Cllr Samaroo proposed “**we co-opt Cath Wilson into the Bussage Ward**” This was seconded by Cllr Pearson and unanimously agreed.

Cllr Pearson proposed “**we co-opt Neil Shepherd into the Hill Ward**” This was seconded by Cllr Beioley and unanimously agreed.

The candidates were congratulated and invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting although they could not vote until the relevant paperwork has been signed. The Clerk confirmed that she would be in touch to arrange a meeting with them to do this.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt made special mention of Cllr Beioley, who has decided to resign from the Council after 13 years. Cllr Beioley confirmed he has enjoyed his time on the Parish Council, working collaboratively with Members and staff, and being part of its achievements. Cllr Morris-Wyatt thanked Cllr Beioley for his dedication, noting that he will be greatly missed. This was echoed by Members.

5.04.26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - Cllr Beioley proposed “**acceptance of 5th February 2026 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Humberstone. There was one abstention.

6.04.26 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – A copy of the County report was circulated to members prior to the meeting; a copy is attached.

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT – A copy of the district report was circulated to members prior to the meeting; a copy is attached.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt invited questions for District and County Councillors to be passed to the Clerk. Cllr Pearson raised concerns regarding the lack of highways funding allocated to Stroud District and queried whether any roads in Chalford were included in the most recent plan. Cllr Morris-Wyatt confirmed that none were and that this had been raised at the latest Highways meeting attended by

the Local Highways Manager and both County Cllr Luff and Turner. A wider discussion followed regarding the poor condition of roads within the Parish, particularly the danger posed by Old Neighbourhood. Cllrs Morris-Wyatt and Samaroo, as members of the Highways Working Group, outlined discussions from the recent Highways meeting and advised that County Cllrs had agreed to lobby for improvements to roads in Chalford, including Old Neighbourhood and Coppice Hill. The Clerk noted that concerns raised at the recent meeting included repair methods, inefficiencies, and the reporting system. She explained that County Cllr Turner had raised a question at the most recent GCC Full Council meeting following a meeting with Cllr Morris-Wyatt and the Clerk. The Clerk will share the Q&As from that meeting and the Highways meeting minutes. The Clerk was asked to identify the next opportunity to submit questions to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Joe Harris. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Morris-Wyatt confirmed that the Clerks are developing a dedicated Highways webpage on the Parish Council website in response to the volume of enquiries.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt explained that he contacted Cllr Joe Harris three weeks ago to invite him to visit the parish so that he can be shown the poor condition of the roads, particularly Old Neighbourhood first hand. He has not received a reply yet other than the automated response.

7.04.26 CLERK'S REPORT – There were no questions and no updates.

8.04.26 VALLEY PLAYING FIELD UPDATE – Cllr Morris-Wyatt provided an update, reporting that significant work is ongoing behind the scenes.

He reported that following the Valley News article published in April, to which the Parish Council cannot respond until the July edition, a meeting was held with a resident from the Valley Ward at their request, attended by Cllr Morris-Wyatt, Cllr Samaroo and the Clerk. Stephen Bartlett (Environmental Protection Officer, SDC) joined via Teams during his annual leave. The meeting was constructive and included discussion of a public meeting.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt confirmed that Stroud District Council (SDC) commissioned a review of the Sanctus Ltd report by LQM, led by Paul Nathanail, a leading UK expert in contaminated land and environmental risk assessment. The review is near completion and a draft report received by SDC. However, SDC have advised that Paul Nathanail would like to undertake a site visit, with the possibility that he may wish to take further sampling of the mole hills. Cllr Morris-Wyatt noted that further testing of the mole hills, if necessary, is likely to be funded by SDC.

Katie Lerner (Senior Contaminated Land Officer, SDC) will review the report and provide feedback. Cllr Roberts raised concerns regarding timescales; Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised that due diligence is being undertaken by the Senior Contaminated Land Officer who is an expert in her field. Cllr Samaroo noted the length of the process was not anticipated but that a full public health risk assessment is essential.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt emphasised the importance of holding a public meeting in the Valley Ward to update residents. It was suggested that it may be possible to arrange a public meeting when Paul Nathanail undertakes his inspection. The Clerk will keep Members updated. **ACTION: Clerk**

9.04.26 GRANT AWARDS – The Finance and Management Committee considered grant applications at their February meeting. A chart showing the applications received and proposed awards was circulated to Members. Cllr L Taylor raised concern regarding the award to Chalford Band, suggesting it be increased from £250 to £500. Members were supportive. Cllr L Taylor proposed **“the grant award for Chalford Band be increased from £250 to £500. Subject to this amendment, the 2026/27 grant awards be approved”** This was seconded by Cllr D Taylor and unanimously agreed. **ACTION: Clerk/RFO**

10.04.26 PARISH COUNCIL STAND AT CHALFEST – Members agreed they would like a presence at Chalfest 2026. Several ideas were discussed. It was agreed to set up a working

group to discuss potential ideas further and to feedback to members at a future meeting. Cllrs Golding, Humberstone, and Samaroo agreed to form the working group. **ACTION: Cllrs Golding, Humberstone, Samaroo and the Clerk**

11.04.26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (APM) – Cllr Morris-Wyatt reported that he, Cllr Humberstone and the Clerk met earlier in the week with representatives from the Frith Youth Centre (FYC). The meeting was positive and a number of matters were discussed.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt suggested that this year's Annual Parish Meeting (APM) should focus on the Youth Centre, as it is an opportunity to help raise its profile, encourage volunteers, and invite local businesses and relevant parties to learn more about its work, benefits, and financial position, including the need for support. He noted that the Parish Council has increased its funding to FYC from £18,000 to £25,000 in the 26/27 financial year, funded from unexpected savings made in 25/26 and therefore not affecting the precept. However, if further financial support should be necessary, it is important that residents are made aware of this as it would result in a material percentage increase in precept, albeit a small increase in council tax per household. He stressed the importance of FYC seeking grant funding. Governance was also raised.

Cllr Oakley wholeheartedly supported Cllr Morris-Wyatt's suggestion and expressed concern about the Centre's long-term financial security. Cllr Humberstone confirmed she has joined the FYC Management Committee and highlighted the need to promote daytime hire of the Centre to generate income for the centre.

Members agreed the APM theme should be the Frith Youth Centre. Cllr Samaroo proposed **“this year's Annual Parish Meeting will be focused on the Frith Youth Centre”** This was seconded by Cllr Oakley and unanimously agreed. A provisional date of 20th May was agreed, subject to confirmation that this date doesn't clash with FYC's or the local schools' calendars. The meeting will be held at the Youth Centre. The Clerk confirmed a further meeting will be arranged with FYC to discuss arrangements. **ACTION: Clerk**

12.04.26 LOCAL NATURE ACTION PLAN UPDATE – Cllr Woodfine provided a verbal update, noting that the Local Nature Action Plan Group met on 12 March.

The group discussed the need to merge nature and climate ambitions as the two subjects are inextricably linked and require a more holistic view. To support this, the idea of a Parish Nature & Climate Framework was discussed to bring together existing policies and actions, build on previous achievements in a more integrated way. The plan is to circulate a draft Nature & Climate Framework to the Group for further consideration before sharing with Council for adoption.

The group also explored the importance of establishing measurable outcomes, in particular, how the Parish might bring ambitions for '30x30' to life (referring to the Government's commitment to conserve 30% of land and sea by the year 3030 in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). Meetings will be convened to identify existing potential new areas of land within the Parish that can be managed for nature and the benefits provided to residents, and to define '30x30' in our context. The group also agreed to invite the ChalCAN Energy group to discuss their progress in the Parish and understand goals going forward.

13.04.26 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND EXTERNAL MEETINGS

WE have received contact from Simon There were no updates from the Chairs of the Works, Finance and Management or Plans Assessment Committees that hadn't been covered in the minutes.

14.04.26 CORRESPONDENCE – The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Dr Simon Opher MP's office regarding the closure of the Valley Playing Field following contact from a resident. A response is being drafted by the Clerk.

15.04.26 ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Cllr Samaroo advised members that sadly Christchurch had suffered a burst pipe, and the church had flooded. The insurance company are involved but at this stage it is unclear how extensive the damage is.

Cllr Roberts reported that a large lorry had attempted to access the High Street via Coppice Hill and became stuck, completely blocking the road. Recovery of the vehicle took some time to arrange. Unfortunately, there was an emergency closure at the opposite end of the High Street meaning that residents were unable to access or leave the area for a period.

Given that the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held in May (date TBC but likely w/c 18th May) it is unlikely that a Council meeting will be held on 7th May.

ACTION: Clerk

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.41pm.