

MINUTES of a Chalford Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th June 2026 at 7pm.
at the Parish Centre in accordance with notice given.

In the Chair: Cllr Morris-Wyatt

Present: Cllrs Golding, Humberstone, Pearson, Roberts, Samaroo,
Shepherd, L Taylor, Wilson, Woodfine,

In attendance: The Clerk, District Cllr Fenton, County Cllrs Luff and Turner

1.06.26 APOLOGIES Cllrs Oakley, D Taylor **ABSENT:** Cllr Gardiner

2.06.26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

3.06.26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

4.06.26 MINUTES OF APRIL MEETING - Cllr Pearson proposed “**acceptance of the 2nd April 2026 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and unanimously agreed.

5.06.26 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Golding proposed “**acceptance of the Annual Meeting of the Council 20th May 2026 minutes**” This was seconded by Cllr Shepherd. There were two abstentions.

Cllr Pearson congratulated Cllr Morris-Wyatt on a well-run and successful meeting.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt expressed his disappointment that, despite numerous invitations being issued, attendance was largely limited to those already involved with the Youth Centre and recipients of grant awards. He noted that a great deal of work had gone into organising the event and that it was a shame more members of the community had not attended to hear about the work being undertaken at the Centre.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt gave special thanks to Cllr L Taylor for his contribution, particularly his presentation on the history of the Youth Centre and thanked everyone who had been involved in making the event a success.

6.06.26 a) COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

A copy of the County Report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Cowcombe Hill Closure - Members expressed concern regarding the proposed six-month closure of Cowcombe Hill, noting that the Parish Council have received concerns from residents, particularly in relation trees.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt asked when the Parish Council would have the opportunity to make formal representations.

Cllr Turner advised that she had been assured that a public meeting will be held and she continued to press for this. She will keep the Clerk informed.

Cllr Pearson enquired about the unclassified highway near to Trillis, noting that it had been closed for a considerable period and asking when it was expected to re-open as pedestrians and cyclists were currently unable to use the route. Cllr Luff advised that it has been closed to vehicles, and he confirmed that there was currently no scheduled date for the highway to re-open.

b) DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT –

A copy of the District Report was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Stroud Local Plan – Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised that the Plans Assessment Committee will start conversations at their next meeting and this will be brought to Full Council when appropriate.

Local Government Reorganisation - Cllr Roberts asked about the next steps for Local Government Reorganisation and enquired how staff at Stroud District Council were feeling about the proposed changes.

Cllr Turner advised that a further update was expected in July, when it would be announced whether the area would be served by one or two unitary authorities. She added that staff at Stroud District Council were feeling sad and anxious about the uncertainty surrounding the reorganisation and its potential impact on their future.

7.06.26 CLERK'S REPORT –

Valley Playing Field – Cllr Morris-Wyatt advised that a significant amount of work was continuing behind the scenes and that it was hoped a further public meeting could be held in July. This was dependent upon the Parish Council receiving the report from LQM and officers at Stroud District Council reviewing its findings before the outcome of the investigations could be communicated. Cllr Morris-Wyatt added that he had been encouraged by the number of residents who had thanked him following the first public meeting.

Cllr Samaroo reported that she had visited the playing field following the May Bank Holiday, during which residents had held a picnic in the park. She noted that the padlock had been cut to gain access, the grass had been cut in certain areas and rubbish had been left behind. She expressed her disappointment at this behaviour.

Chalfest – The Clerk drew members attention to the arrangements for Chalfest. Cllr Humberstone further explained the arrangements for the day noting that the chosen charity for this year was The James Hopkins Trust, members agreed. Cllr Humberstone asked for volunteers on the day to assist with the running of the games and asked members to contact her directly so that she could organise this. **ACTION: All**

8.06.26 2025/2026 ACCOUNTS

The Finance and Management Committee considered the accounts for 2025/26 at their May meeting and recommended acceptance by Full Council.

Cllr Morris-Wyatt thanked the Deputy Clerk for preparing a good, clear report.

a) To consider and approve Internal Auditor's Report for End of Year Financial Accounts 2025-2026 - Councillors were furnished with a copy of the Internal Audit Report prior to the meeting. Cllr Humberstone proposed, **"acceptance of the Internal Auditor's Report for Year End Financial Accounts"** This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed.

b) To consider the Annual Governance Statement and, if approved, to authorise Chair to sign on behalf of Council (Section 1) - Councillors were furnished with a copy of the Statement prior to the meeting. The Chair read out each assertion in turn, referencing the relevant section of the Internal Audit Report, Councillors responded 'yes' to all. Cllr Samaroo proposed **"acceptance of Annual Governance Statement Section 1"**. This was seconded by Cllr Shepherd and unanimously agreed. The Chair signed and clerk signed section 1.

c) **To consider Accounting Statements and, if approved, to authorise Chair and RFO to sign on behalf of Council (Section 2)** - Councillors were furnished with a copy of the Accounting Statements 25/26 prior to the meeting. Cllr Humberstone proposed, “**acceptance of the Accounting Statements Section 2**”. This was seconded by Cllr Samaroo and unanimously agreed. The RFO had signed this document in advance; the Chair signed section 2.

d) **To confirm the dates for publication of the Notice Period for the Exercise of Public Rights** – Cllr Morris-Wyatt confirmed that the Notice Period for the exercise of Public Rights will be publicised from 8th June until 17th July 2026. This will be displayed on Parish noticeboards and the PC’s website. Cllr Shepherd proposed “**we acknowledge and accept the Notice Period for Exercise of Public Rights**” This was seconded by Cllr Golding and unanimously agreed.

The RFO will submit the 2025/26 accounts to our External Auditor. **ACTION: RFO**

9.06.26 TO CONSIDER & APPROVE F&M RECOMMENDATIONS

a) **Emergency Plan**

b) **Internal Controls and Governance Policy**

a) The Clerk noted that she had made a minor correction to the Emergency Plan, noting that the land rover had been updated to the new parish vehicle. Cllr Woodfine proposed “**we accept the Emergency Plan**” This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and unanimously agreed.

b) Cllr Samaroo proposed “**we approve the Internal Controls and Governance Policy**” This was seconded by Cllr Pearson and unanimously agreed.

10.06.26 REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES - None

11.06.26 COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Finance and Management Committee – No further update; covered by the minutes

Plans Assessment Committee – Cllr Pearson highlighted that the PAC required additional members. He also raised the number of applications relating to trees within the Conservation Area that had been reviewed by the PAC over the last year.

The Clerk confirmed that the PAC had considered 53 TCA (trees in a conservation area) notifications over the previous year. She explained that TCAs aren’t planning applications as such they are notifications to the Council. If no decision is issued within six weeks, the applicant is entitled to carry out the proposed works. The Clerk also advised that the Parish Council issues letters in response to all tree work and that this process was due to be reviewed by the Planning Advisory Committee at its next meeting.

Works Committee – Cllr Samaroo noted the great work that is happening with regard to improving and enhancing biodiversity around the Parish and she thanked Cllr Woodfine who leads on this.

12.06.26 CORRESPONDENCE - Cllr Morris-Wyatt noted that there are still two Cllr vacancies.

The Clerk advised that the Safer Roads and Community 20s consultation was ongoing. Chalford was not included within the first cohort of areas being considered; however, the programme would continue to be rolled out in phases across the county.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the data from the mobile speed van if possible. **ACTION: Clerk**

13.06.26 ANY ITEMS FOR INFORMATION OR REFERRAL –

Cllr Samaroo noted that Reverend Sue Murray would be leaving after eight years and highlighted her dedication and commitment to her role and to the residents of Chalford Parish and beyond. Cllr Samaroo suggested that the Parish Council revive the Chalford Champion award in recognition of Reverend Murray's hard work and service. Members agreed, and the Clerk will prepare a certificate for Cllr Samaroo to present to Reverend Murray. **ACTION: Cllr Samaroo, Clerk**

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.18pm.