

# Cropredy Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting at the Methodist Chapel on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Councillors Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Jacqui Smith, Carine Varaez, Carl Twynham, and Bob Garland (acting clerk).

There were 9 members of the public present.

Cllr. Knight in the Chair

1. **Apologies for absence:** Tania Johnson

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None.

3. **Minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.**

The minutes of the meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.**

None

5. **Reports of Working Groups:**

### **Village Maintenance & Improvement**

#### **Sign posts on the junction of The Plantation and Station Road, adjacent to The Brasenose.**

Still awaiting repair by Oxford County Council (OCC). Cllr. Varaez to email Cllr Chris Brant to ask him to follow up at his meeting with OCC.

#### **Canal and River Trust Volunteer Group**

The next meeting is on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Claydon Flight to continue refurbishment of a brick building to provide a refuge for lock keepers.

#### **Tennis Courts – cracks in surface.**

There is a small area of cracking on the courts that is being investigated to establish the cause.

#### **Playground**

Quotations have been received for repairs including the zip wire. Cllr Smith to action the quotes, and also check available lottery grants.

#### **Kerbstone adjacent to Village Hall Car Park**

A member of the public reported that a kerbstone was dislodged and above the surface level constituting a significant trip hazard. Laurie Wilson would report (as a super-user) on FixMyStreet.

#### **Surface Water opposite bungalows at the top of Red Lion Street.**

Another member of public reported a problem with surface water which was particularly hazardous when frozen. Cllr. Knight would investigate with Bob Garland.

6. **Transport, Traffic & Street Lighting**

#### **Speedwatch**

Monitoring continues and a new schedule will be prepared for the next three months.

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## Streetlighting

Cllr Dunn reported that the conversion of village lights to LED was expected to be completed soon. He would then distribute a questionnaire to residents to gather views on 'Part night lighting', to inform a PC decision on whether or not to adopt this.

Cllr Knight had reported a faulty lamp at Kyetts Corner on FixMyStreet and it had been repaired within days.

## Blocked Gulleys on Williamscot Road

Cllr Dunn had submitted a report and it appeared some action had been taken, but surface water was noticed again indicating that further action was needed to deal with water flowing down the hill from Williamscot. Cllr Dunn has followed up and reported on FixMyStreet.

## 7. Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment

Cllr Twynham was updating the contact list on the Snow Clearance section.

Cllr Knight had checked all the grit/salt bins and topped them up as required. There was ample salt in the reserve.

## 8. Parish Council use of Internet & social media

Nothing to report

## 9. Planning & Climate Change

**Planning Decisions since last meeting:** None

### Planning Application 25/03234/OUT – Land east of Claydon Rd – Outline permission for 74 houses

Cllr Knight provided an update. This planning application had been submitted on 12/12/2025, with comments from the public due by 29/01/26, and a target decision date of 13/03/2026. Over 40 comments from the public had been posted on Cherwell's Planning Register. There was concern that time for consideration had been very limited, particularly as comments from neighbouring properties were asked for by 11/01, and from the PC by the 17/01. A meeting (not public) between the PC, representatives of Keep Cropredy Rural, and Obsidian (the applicant) had been arranged for 20/01, with the purpose of obtaining more information about the proposed application. The PC had arranged a separate meeting on 13/01 for all villagers to provide guidance on responding to a planning application, in particular the importance of focussing on 'material matters'.

Cllr Dunn had asked for an extension of the deadline for comments and Cherwell had confirmed responses from neighbouring properties could now be received by 29/01. Nevertheless, there was still concern about the shortness of the deadline, and Cllr Dunn would ask Cherwell for a further extension of 21 days from 29/01.

The PC had decided it would fund Stage 1 of an independent Planning Consultant's study of the application. A representative of Keep Cropredy Rural would lead and ask the consultant what could be delivered in time for the consultation deadlines.

Cllr Knight explained that, as is normal and without prejudice to the PC's response and the application's outcome, Cherwell had informed the PC of the S.106 financial contributions should the application be granted. It was agreed that the payment for Outdoor Sport appeared disproportionate, so Cllr Knight would ask Cherwell if there could any redistribution to reflect the village's needs. The PC is also working on an 'Infrastructure Plan' to prioritise capital projects.

There was a considered and informed discussion of the proposal with contributions from members of the public. The concerns included: sewage disposal capacity, the relevance of the latest updated Cherwell Plan (due for examination in public), the flood risk, road traffic, the relative size and location of the proposal, and ecology.

## 10. County Council Report – County Councillor Chris Brant

No report on this occasion

## 11. District Council Report – District Councillor Phil Chapman

No report on this occasion

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## 12. Sports and Social Club:

Cllr Knight would follow up with the Clerk the provision of insurance documents to the Sports and Social Committee.

### **Parish Councillors representation on the Management Committee-**

Representation on the committee will be decided at the February PC meeting.

## 13. Parish Matters

### **Church Wall.**

David Best (clerk) had reported that Robin Calver, Head of Structural Engineering at OCC Highways, declined to meet Andrew Baxter (structural engineer acting for the PC) due to needing to be neutral before considering AB's specification for approval. Cherwell D.C. has confirmed planning permission will be required for the works. DB is following up so we can proceed to tender as soon as possible.

### **Oak Tree in Allotments**

Tim Batchelor to prepare a report

### **Dog poo bin for Upper Prescote**

PC to check progress

### **Cabinet for Defibrillator at the School**

Cllr Varaez would follow up with the School the estimate of cost so the PC can consider payment for provision.

## 14. Finance: Clerk's Report

No update on this occasion.

## 15. Correspondence.

Nothing arising

## 16. Any other business not of a confidential nature

Nothing

## 17. Any matters raised by members of the public attending the meeting

None

## 18 Date of next meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## 19. Any other confidential item

None

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.