

# CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Cropredy Parish Council meeting held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm

**Present:** Councillors Tania Johnson, Jacqui Smith, Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Carine Varaez and David Best (Clerk). Four members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Carl Twynham, Rachel Hughes, District Cllr Phil Chapman & County Cllr Chris Brant
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> February were approved as a correct record and will be signed by the vice Chairman at the next meeting.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:**
  - Oak Tree In the Allotments** – Cllr Tania Johnson will contact Mr Tim Batchelor to obtain his recommendation.
  - Dog Poo Bin for Upper Prestcote** – This has been installed and CDC notified to empty it.
  - Cabinet for the defibrillator at the school** – The school asked if the PC would fund an external cabinet but has not advised the cost. The clerk will follow up on this.
5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**
  - Loose Kerbstone at the Village Hall** – This was reported on Fix my Street. Mr Laurie Wilson has followed this up and OCC Highways has confirmed that it will investigate it urgently.
  - Cracks in the Tennis Court** – Mr Tim Batchelor has provided the soil analysis report and recommends digging exploratory trenches to determine if roots are causing the damage and if a root barrier should be installed. The quote for the trenches was agreed.
  - Surface water in Red Lion Street opposite the bungalows** – This was reported on Fix my street. OCC Highways has advised that this may take some time to fix and for more information visit [www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com](http://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com)
  - Upper Churchyard Mowing** – The mowers are currently being serviced by Mr Geoff Wheeler.
  - Licence Labels for Brown Bins** – These have been obtained from CDC and will be attached to the bins.
  - Mowing in Creampot Close** – Mr Steve Watts has agreed to mow the grass.
  - Playground** – The grant application to fund repairs has been turned down. Other smaller grants will be investigated including the OCC Councillors Priority Fund for which the application form will be competed. Repairs will be prioritised. A resident who attended the meeting will ask if there are any volunteers who could carry out any of the work via the Cropredy School WhatsApp group.
  - Wreaths being put into the brown bin at the Cemetery** – The wreaths have wire and oasis so must be put into the green bin as they cannot be recycled. A notice will be displayed by the bins
6. **TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**
  - Speedwatch** – This continues.
  - Street Lighting** – The light at Kyetts corner has been fixed. Conversion to LED lighting has been delayed as adaptors are required.
  - Blocked gulleys on Williamscot Road** – These have been cleared but debris in the ditch is impeding water flow and needs to be cleared. OCC Highways has advised that this is CDC responsibility and Mr Laurie Wilson has asked them to clear the ditch. A quote will be obtained by the PC if CDC does not do the work.
  - Pot Holes** – Resurfacing of Williamscot Road is scheduled for April.
7. **VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT** : No update
8. **PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA:** The May and June PC meetings will be held in the Sports and Social Club. It is hoped that the meetings can be broadcast over the internet. The technology for this will be investigated.
9. **SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT:** No update
10. **PLANNING:**

**23/0977/OUT (60 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd)** – There were rumours that Obsidian were giving different information to Cropredy Surgery than to the PC. This has been checked and it is confirmed that the information given to both is the same. An archaeological investigation has commenced on the site.

**25/03234/OUT (74 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd)** The planning consultant giving advice on this application will complete his report when CDC Planning has determined whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required.

**New Planning Applications and Appeals:**

**26/00166/F** – Thickthorn Farm – Alterations to extension of outbuilding – PC supports.

**23/00976/F** – Land between Railway track and School Lane – 71 Houses & public car park – It is believed that the notification of this planning application was sent to the PC in error by CDC (the original application was withdrawn). Two emails have been sent CD requesting confirmation and the PC is awaiting a response.

**New Planning Decisions:** None since last meeting.

**26/00040/MA56** – The Straw Barn – Change from workshop to single dwelling – CDC granted 3/03/2026

11. **COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:** None

12. **SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB:**

**Parish Councillors representation on the Management Committee** – The constitution provides for 2 councillors to be represented on the committee but there are currently none. Representation on the committee will be decided before the S&SC AGM in May.

13. **PARISH MATTERS:**

i. **Churchyard Wall repairs** – The structural engineer has contacted 3 local builders to ask if they are prepared to quote for the wall rebuilding however, the Diocese of Oxford has advised that it considers that the specification for rebuilding the wall is very invasive and has advised that an engineer who is registered with the Conservation Accreditation of Engineers (CARE) must be consulted to determine if a less invasive and less future proofed solution can be specified. The current structural engineer is not a CARE accredited and has advised that he will not obtain CARE accreditation as he is close to retirement. A quote of £3,305.70 has been received from a CARE engineer. It was agreed to accept this and proceed. The Diocese of Oxford has also stipulated that Mr Bryan Martin, the Church Architect, must also be consulted. Mr Martin has advised that he will provide a quote when he has seen the report from the CARE engineer. Cllr Tania Johnson has written to the Bishop of Dorchester to complain at the time it has taken to reach this stage. This is being investigated by the Archdeacon. The Archdeacon has been advised that the PC is disappointed that the Diocese of Oxford did not specify at the beginning that a CARE Engineer would be required and the Church Architect would have to be consulted. He was also advised that the PC is concerned that a less future proofed repair is being advocated as the cost will be met by Cropredy residents via Council Tax and a permanent solution would be preferred.

ii. **Lack of Primary School and Secondary School places for children in Cropredy** – A resident attended the meeting to make the PC aware of the concerns with Cropredy School being at capacity even before any new houses are built. The other concern is the lack of capacity at Secondary Schools and pupils are being allocated places in Bicester and out of the area. The matter has been raised with County Councillor Chris Brant who has raised the issue with the Cabinet Member responsible. The PC has no powers over education but pledged to support in any way that it could. Additional information will be gathered from the school and the issue will be raised with CDC Planning.

iii. **Fairport Cropredy Convention ticket sales** – The tickets will be sold in the Village Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. The price is held at £48 for adults and £24 for children.

14. **FINANCE.**

**Accounts to 28<sup>th</sup> February** – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification. The year end accounts will be completed in April and submitted for the Internal Audit. The fourth quarter VAT Return will be submitted to HMRC.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None outstanding

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE:**

- i. **Local Heritage Assets** – It was agreed to investigate registering The Red Lion, The Brasenose, and the village shop with CDC after the owners have been contacted. Previous attempts to contact the owners of the village shop have failed.
- ii. **Post box at Springfield House** – This is leaning over and it was agreed to contact the owners to see if it has been reported to Royal Mail.
- iii. **Resignation of Cllr Tania Johnson** – Cllr Tania Johnson has advised that she is stepping down as a councillor after the May meeting.

17. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** None

18. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 9.02pm

---

Chairman  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2026