

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Cropredy Parish Council meeting held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson, Jacqui Smith, Des Knight, Clive Dunn, Carine Varaez, Rachel Hughes, County Cllr Chris Brant and David Best (Clerk). Two members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Carl Twynham, District Cllr Phil Chapman
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 16th March were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman. The minutes of the February meeting will be signed in the May meeting.

4. **MATTERS ARISING:**

Trees on the Allotments – The cost of removal is approximate £1000 and this expenditure can't be justified as the allotment rent is £110 per annum. Allotment holders will be encouraged to manage trees as they sprout in any allotments. The allotment agreement will be reviewed and updated.

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.

Webcam to show Flooding at the bridge – no progress with this

Garage Sale – The date is to be decided. This will be held at the same time as another event (TBA) in the village so that it can be promoted jointly. Cllr Rachel Huges will check with the WI.

Metal Recycling Collection Scheme – This will probably be done at the same time as the Cropredy Fairport Convention. A possible location for dropping off the metal items will be the Sports and Social Club car park.

Community Repair Day – Middleton Cheney are launching theirs shortly and this will be observed to see how it operates. Hook Norton run a scheme and District Councillor Chris Brant will advise the details of the organisers.

Safety at the School – It was agreed that OCC Highways will be invited to observe the traffic and pedestrian issues one morning at 8.15am so that they can make recommendations. Cllr Des Knight will formally request this to District Cllr Chris Brant.

5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTC**

Loose Kerbstone at Village Hall – this has been repaired but additional gravel may be required as it is higher.

Cracks in the Tennis Court – Mr Tim Batchelor will dig exploratory trenches to determine if roots are causing the damage and if a root barrier should be installed. He has advised that cutting down the trees would cause more damage as they absorb water.

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

Upper Churchyard Mowing – The mowers have been serviced by Mr Geoff Wheeler. The rota has been issued but more volunteers are required and Cllr Des Knight will try to recruit more via a note in the Cropredy Crier.

Licence Labels for Brown Bins – These have been attached to the bins apart from the bin at Vicarage Gardens that couldn't be located.

Playground – Cllr Jacqui Smith has completed an application for a grant and will prioritise the work list and circulate it. A 10 year plan of work will be drafted

Canals and Rivers Trust – The next towpath taskforce is 29th April.

Flooding on Williamscot Rd – Mr John Taylor will submit a quote for digging out the ditch and District Councillor Chris Brant will forward an OCC Flood Prevention grant application which could contribute towards the cost.

Tennis Court Flooding – a concrete kerb has been installed to try to divert water away from the courts.

Station Rd post box repairs – This has been reported to Royal Mail and the postman will follow this up.

6. **TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**

Speedwatch – A new 3 month schedule will be put in place early May.

Street Lighting – Conversion to LED lighting has still not been completed Cllr Clive Dunn will request an update prior the May meeting.

Resurfacing of Williamscot Road – this has been completed.

Missing 20mph speed limit sign on Station Road – Someone has removed the sign from the pole, This has been reported on Fix my Street.

- 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. Cllrs Tania Johnson and Carine Varazé will go to the club to investigate what technology is required to broadcast it.
- 9. SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT:** No update
- 10. PLANNING:**
- 25/03234/OUT (74 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd)** The report from the planning consultant giving advice on this application is imminent and will be circulated to councillors as soon as received.
- New Planning Applications and Appeals:**
- 26/00518/F – Oathill Farm – Equestrian Stables – PC to decide**
- 26/00692/PIP - Brickfield House** permission in principle for up to 4 houses – The applicant attended the meeting to brief the PC who will decide the response.
- 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. District Councillor will follow this up with CDC
- New Planning Decisions:** None since last meeting.
- 26/00166/F – Thickthorn Farm – Alterations to extension of outbuilding –** CDC granted 18/03/2026
- 11. COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**
- Ability Bus –** OCC has secured funding for a further year.
- Stagecoach service to villages north of Banbury –** District Cllr Chris Brant is trying to secure funding to extend the current service out to villages.
- Cherwell Local Plan –** the decision from the government is awaited on this.
- Caravan development on road to Great Bourton –** CDC enforcement is taking legal action against this.
- 12. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB:**
- Parish Councillors representation on the Management Committee –** Cllrs Jaqui Smith and Rachel Hughes are going to become committee members.
- 13. PARISH MATTERS:**
- i. Churchyard Wall repairs –** The CARE Engineer is going to survey the wall on 28th April.
 - ii. Recruitment of new clerk –** Three people have applied and it is hoped that the interviews will take place in the week beginning 20th April.
 - iii. Insurance renewal –** It was agreed to renew the insurance of the Sports and Social Club premises and public liability insurance.
- 14. FINANCE.**
- Accounts to 31st March –** These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification. The Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was agreed and the AGAR will be submitted to the external auditor after the internal audit has been completed.
- 15. CORRESPONDENCE:** Cllr Tania Johnson recommended the OALC training to councillors
- 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 11th May 2026 at the Sports and Social Club

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 9.12pm

Chairman
11th May 2026