

# CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Cropredy Parish Council meeting held in the Sports & Social Club on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm

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

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Tania Johnson, District Cllr Phil Chapman, County Cllr Chris Brant
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
- 3. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN AND WORKING GROUP LEADERS**  
Cllr Carine Varaez was elected chairman  
Cllr Jacqui Smith was elected vice chairman  
Cllr Des Knight was elected to lead Village Maintenance and Improvement  
Cllr Clive Dunn was elected to lead Transport, Traffic and Street Lighting  
Cllr Rachel Hughes was elected to lead Village Emergency Plan  
Cllr Carine Varaez was elected to lead Internet & Social Media  
Cllr Rachel Hughes was elected to lead Social & Entertainment  
Cllr Jacqui Smith was elected to lead Planning
- 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> April were approved as a correct record and were signed by the chairman.
- 5. MATTERS ARISING:**  
**Mr Tim Batchelor report on cracks in tennis courts** – Mr Batchelor had investigated causes by taking soil samples and digging trenches. He concluded that the Oak tree near the courts should be taken down or moved (this was also identified as a hazard by Sports Courts who resurfaced the courts in 2022), a root should be severed between the car park and the tennis courts and that the root barrier installed by the new cricket club was ineffective and requires replacing. The Tennis Club will agree the implementation of these recommendations at the next Sports and Social Club committee meeting.  
**Works required to other trees around the village** – Mr Tim Batchelor identified other works to trees around the village. It was agreed that an estimate would be submitted for this work.  
**Safety at the School** – Cllr Des Knight has asked County Councillor Chris Brant to arrange for OCC Highways to observe the traffic and pedestrian issues one morning at 8.15am so that they can make recommendations.  
**Defibrillator cabinet at the school** – An email has been sent to the school asking for details of the cabinet required to enable the defibrillator to be used by members of the public.  
**Playground 10 year plan & repair grants**– Cllr Jacqui Smith has prioritised the maintenance work and has secured a £1,000 grant from OCC. It was agreed to prioritise the cleaning of the skate park and an updated quote will be obtained.  
**Quote for clearing the Williamscot Rd ditch** – The quote is £3000 and a flood prevention grant application has been submitted to OCC for this work.  
**Local Heritage Assets** – A number of building have been registered with CDC as Local Heritage Assets

## VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT

**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). There is no further update.

**Upper Churchyard Mowing** – No volunteers have come forward in response to the note in the Cropredy Crier but some existing volunteers have agreed to do more. An additional request for volunteers will be put on facebook.

**Canals and Rivers Trust** – The next towpath taskforce is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. There are usually 12-15 volunteers with a couple from Cropredy.

**Playground Inspections** – Cllr Des Knight has agreed to assist with the weekly inspections in place of Tania Johnson.

**Station Rd post box repairs** – This has been reported to Royal Mail and the postman has followed this up but there is no update from Royal Mail.

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

**Speedwatch** – A new 3 month schedule is in place.

**Street Lighting** – Conversion to LED lighting has been completed except for the light along the Hell Hole. A survey on partial night lighting will be issued when this has been converted.

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

**7. VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT : No update**

**8. PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA: No update**

**9. SOCIAL & ENTERTAINMENT: No update**

**10. PLANNING:**

**25/03234/OUT (74 houses on Land East of Claydon Rd)** The report from the planning consultant objecting to the application has been received. This will be submitted to CDC as soon as one amendment has been made.

**New Planning Applications and Appeals:**

**26/00862/F** – 9 Vicarage Gardens – single storey extension – PC supports

**26/00893/F** – The Green – 3 bay timber framed garage – PC to decide.

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

**25/01304/Q56 Appeal** – Oxhay Farm – conversion of agricultural building to 2 dwellings – Appeal allowed

**11. COUNTY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:**

Cllr Chris Brant submitted an annual report. It was agreed to ask the Cropredy Crier to publish it.

**12. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB: No update**

**13. PARISH MATTERS:**

i. **Churchyard Wall repairs** – The CARE Engineer surveyed the wall on 28<sup>th</sup> April and it is hoped that the report will be available to the PC and the Church Architect by the end of May.

ii. **Recruitment of new clerk** – Kirsty Buttle, who is a very experienced clerk, was interviewed, glowing references were received, has accepted the job and is expected to start on 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**14. FINANCE.**

**Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> April** – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no requests for clarification.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE: None**

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE: None**

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

**18. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at the Sports and Social Club

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

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Chairman  
8<sup>th</sup> June 2026