

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

E-mail: clerk@cropredyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Monday 13th July 2026** at **7pm** at **The Sports & Social Club, Cropredy.**

Present: Cllrs. Carine Varaez (Chair), Des Knight, Mick Clyne, Jacqui Smith, Clive Dunn

In attendance: 2 members of the public, and Bob Garland (Acting Clerk)

34) Apologies - Cllrs Hughes and Collis, and Kirsty Buttle - Parish Clerk.

35) Declaration of interests on items on the agenda - Cllr Smith declared an interest in item 46 as she is an allotment holder.

It was agreed to discuss item 44b at this stage of the meeting.

36) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 08.06.2026 - These were approved to be signed off.

37) Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- a) Update re bank mandate changes – Cllr Varaez, Cllr Knight, and the Clerk now have online access.
- b) Feedback from Cllr Dunn re his discussion with Cllr Aramini-Brant regarding possible speed reduction options in the parish - Cllr Dunn had followed up with Cllr Aramini-Brant on 11/06, who replied on 15/06, to say he had forwarded the query to his county council email address and would respond in due course. A request to Oxfordshire Highways (OH) is proposed to investigate a speed limit reduction and/or traffic calming measures on the road between Willamscot and Cropredy. The road to Williamscoth is unclassified and currently has a 60 mph limit up to the village 20 mph limits. The road has no footpath, has several side entries from properties and businesses, blind bends and is used by pedestrians. The issue of pedestrian safety in the vicinity of Cropredy Primary School during daily drop-off and collection times was raised again and Cllr Aramini-Brant advised that he would follow this up also in discussions with OH. **Cllr Dunn would follow up with Cllr Aramini-Brant if there is no reply before the next Parish Council (PC) meeting.**
- c) Update re instruction of tree work – Cllr Knight had discussed with Tim Batchelor the recent quote and had been provided with the supporting information. The quotation includes the ash trees that had been discussed. The work is due to start at the end of July.
- d) Update regarding purchase of a defibrillator cabinet to be sited at the school subject to consideration of who will pay for the electrical installation of the cabinet - Cllr Varaez had spoken with school, but they still do not have a quote. This matter will be followed up.
- e) To confirm that all records have been removed from the Chapel, and to consider whether to dispose of the cabinets that the records were stored in - All records had been removed and it was agreed that the metal and wooden cabinets were no longer needed and could be offered for free on the Community Facebook. If there was no interest, disposal would be arranged.

38) Public Forum – None.

39) Finance

- a) To confirm bank balances as at 7th July 2026 - Current = £13,573.77, and Savings = £86,954.13

- b) To appoint an Internal Controls Councillor - This was discussed but before any appointment, Cllr Varaez would check with Kirsty Buttle about further details of the role.
- c) To note and approve the following payments and receipts:

Payments made since last meeting using delegated powers: None.

Receipts: None

Invoices to be paid: None

40) Reports from Working Groups

- a) Village Maintenance & Improvement - Cllr Knight noted that the next Canal and River Trust working group would be on 27th July, and would probably focus on repairs to towpath. Cllr Knight would ask John Taylor for an official quote for the fence posts needed between the sports field and new cricket pitch. Grass cutting in the lower church yard - Cllr Knight had followed up with Tania Johnson who had confirmed that Simon Bull would start work in the next week. Cllrs Knight and Clyne had agreed that the latter would help with village maintenance issues. Cllr Knight had agreed with Tim Batchelor that he would water any young trees on council land during the hot weather.
- b) Transport, Traffic, & Street Lighting - The Speedwatch Group will be participating in the National Speed Watch Day on Wednesday 15th July. Cllr Dunn reported that the streetlight in the Hell Hole had been repaired, and that the consultation on Part Night Lighting would take place in the Autumn.
- c) Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention, and Environment – No update.
- d) Social & Entertainment – No update.
- e) Planning & Climate Change - Cllr Smith noted the application for an orangery on The Manor, and recommended that we leave Cherwell District Council to consider any listed building issues. Cllr Knight noted that the decision date had been delayed for Planning Application 25/03234/OUT which relates to the proposed housing developments adjacent to the Claydon Road.

41) To consider whether working group reports should continue as a standing item on the agenda or whether they should only be included when there is something specific to report (*note – any proposals that the groups wish to raise that require a decision from the council should be submitted as a specific agenda item rather than being raised as part of the reports) - It was agreed to trial this approach. It would be helpful if there were an online shared document. Cllr Varaez would discuss with Kirsty Buttle options for an online drive shared between councillors.

42) Planning applications received

26/01039/F and 26/01038/LB – Dingles, Church Lane, Cropredy. RETROSPECTIVE - Replacement of an existing chimney pot and the installation of an air brick to provide combustion ventilation. **No representation made.**

26/01304/F and 26/01329/LB – The Old Manor, 9 Station Road, Cropredy. Erection of a hardwood painted double glazed orangery to the rear with low stone walls with alterations to the opening into the existing kitchen area. **No representation.**

Planning decisions received – None

43) County Councillor's Report – None.

44) District Councillor's Report – None.

45) Parish Matters

- a) Update re Church Wall - Cllr Knight had just received the report from the surveyor. Some 170 metres of wall had been visually inspected every 10 metres. An action plan would be proposed in consultation with the Church architect. The likely costs would then be

considered. The expenditure is likely to be substantial and would have to be phased according to urgency.

- b) Proposal to purchase a new mower to be used in the grounds of the Sports & Social Club at a cost of £10k + VAT – A volunteer for the Sports & Social Club explained that the current mower was leaking diesel and damaging the grass. The mower is 35 years old and a repair of the fuel system would not be viable. The volunteer had identified a second-hand replacement mower at a cost of £10,000 plus VAT, and had placed a £1000 deposit on it. The volunteer asked whether the PC would buy the mower and own, maintain, and insure it, as had been done previously. Another party had offered £1000 for the existing mower which could be offset against the cost. The volunteer would also be happy to gift the £1000 deposit.

Cllr Varaez thanked the volunteer for the information. She explained that the PC were happy in principle to provide some support for replacing the mower, but considered that the nature of the agreement regarding the mower between the PC and the Sports and Social Club would need to be reconsidered in order to protect representatives of both parties from any legal or other issues. This should lead into further work on updating the general agreement between the parties. The last such agreement dates from 1997 and needs updating.

A member of the Sports & Social Club Committee was concerned that this could delay the mower which may be needed urgently.

Cllr Varaez provided assurance that the PC would discuss the matter quickly and provide a decision on the mower within a few days.

A resident raised an additional item about Flooding of the Williamscot Road near the Sports and Social Club. He considered that any expenditure on clearing the ditches by the Sports and Social Club would not be value for money as flooding would not be alleviated. The resident would spray the ditches to curtail vegetation. He considered the most important action was clearing the drainage grids and rodding the drains. This task was currently undertaken by two volunteers in the village.

Cllr Knight thanked the resident for this information which would be considered as part of the 'Village Maintenance'.

- c) To consider request from Cropredy Tennis Club for the Parish Council to offer support in relation to the payment for repairs of the Tennis Courts – Total cost £625 + VAT - This would be considered by the PC and a response sent to the Tennis Club.
- d) Sports & Social Club – To consider request to arrange the repair of 6 fence posts and to receive quotes for the work - See item 40a.

A member of the Sports & Social Club Committee confirmed that the defibrillator at the Sports and Social Club was now working

- e) Possible Parish Council funding – Bus infrastructure improvements – Not discussed.

46) Allotments

- a) To consider the draft new Allotment Tenancy Agreement - Cllr Dunn had provided comments to the Clerk. The draft was considered to be much improved. It was agreed that the new draft should be adopted. **Clerk to send the new agreement to tenants to be signed for the new tenancy year.**

47) To review the dates for Parish Council meetings and consider whether to make any changes to the current pattern of meetings - It was agreed that the current pattern should continue including the break without meetings in September.

48) Information exchange – None.

Meeting closed @ 9pm

Date of next meeting – 10th August 2026

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT