



Chipperfield Parish Council,
The Village Hall
The Common, Chipperfield
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**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
6 MAY 2025 7 PM THE PARISH ROOMS
THE COMMON CHIPPERFIELD WD4 9BS**

Present: Cllr Kevan Cassidy (Chair), Cllr Eamonn Flynn (Deputy Chair), Cllr Geoff Bryant (Chair of Planning Committee), Cllr Wendy Bathurst, Cllr Carly-Anne Heaphy, Cllr Luke Hinton, Cllr Paul Foxall and Cllr Malcolm Paton.

Usha Kilich Proper Officer (Parish Clerk/RFO) and Vasos Panayi (Parish Warden)

Members of the public: There were fifteen members of the public present.

1. Chairman's Introduction Cllr Cassidy

Cllr Cassidy announced details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building to be evacuated.

2. County Councillor Richard Roberts Guest Speaker updated Chipperfield on the following:

- For the last four years, Cllr Roberts was the leader of Hertfordshire County Council
- The Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) election held on 1st May 2025 resulted in a significant shift in the county's political landscape. For the first time in history, the council moved to no overall control, ending 26 years of Conservative majority rule. Seats won by Liberal Democrats 31, Conservatives 22, Reform UK 14, Green Party 5, and Labour 5.
- Herts population is 1.2 million, and the council tax for County Council is £1.2 billion. Of this, approximately £1 billion is dedicated to education, supporting around 600 schools across the county.
- Hertfordshire hosts a diverse and thriving economy, with several key industries driving growth employment and innovation. Key industries in Herts are bioscience and creative and digital industries.
- HCC provides children's services, adult services, special education needs and social care.
- Local Government Reform (Devolution) The future role of Parish and Town Councils under the reform framework remains undetermined. A decision is expected to be made in November 2025, with a resident-focused consultation process planned to ensure that the needs and voices of local communities are fully represented.

Q&A for County Councillor Roberts

- The turnout for the local election was 32%, higher than expected

- Local Government Reform for Parish and Town Councils has not been determined, this will be decided in November 2025, the level of engagement will be carried out with the residents' needs in the local area.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2024.

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2024.

RESOLVED, proposed by Cllr Flynn, seconded by Cllr Bryant. Unanimously agreed.

4. **Presentation of unaudited accounts for the year 2024/25**

- CPC has operated to a budget for the year to 31 March 25. The full accounts will be published on the Parish website once externally audited. The Responsible Financial Officer has prepared the accounts for the internal audit (April 2025), and this will be followed by the external audit in the summer in compliance with our legal requirements.
- Due to rising costs, wages and NI, it has been necessary to raise the precept for the coming year to ensure we have sufficient funds to function for the year April 2025/26.

Current Year 2024/25			
	Income	Expenditure	Variance
Precept	£62,623.00	£49,778.00	£12,845.00
Concurrent	£8,393.00	£7,457.00	£936.00
Warden	£8,175.00	£13,758.00	-£5,583.00
CIL	£2,177.00	£2,131.00	£46.00
Other	£6,522.00	£4,642.00	£1,880.00
Operating Total	£87,890.00	£77,766.00	10,124.00
Plus transfer from EMR			£2,131.00
Less transfer from EMR			£2,477.00
Balance			£9,778.00

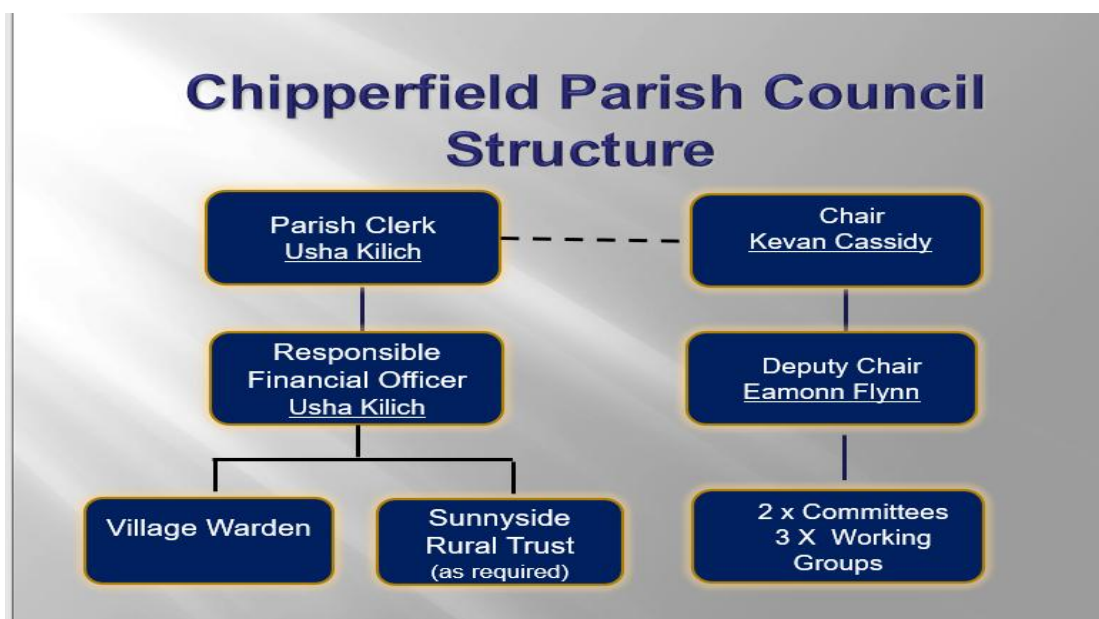
5. **Grants Awarded**

We continued to maintain our policy of awarding grants aimed at the development of youth and amenities in the village and this year we have awarded the following grants.

Grants to support initiatives and encourage the youth of our village:

• Friends of St Pauls School (new IT)	£1500
• Youth Football Club	£350
• Chipperfield Horticultural Society	£150
• Chipperfield Village Hall	£1500
• Chipperfield Clarendon Cricket Club	£500
• St Pauls Church	£1000
• <u>British Legion</u>	<u>£150</u>
Total amount awarded	£5150

5. Chairs Report Council Structure and Areas of Responsibility



Your Councillors

Kevan Cassidy
Eamonn Flynn
Geoff Bryant
Carly-Anne Heaphy
Wendy Bathurst
Luke Hinton
Paul Foxall
Malcolm Paton

Chair
Deputy Chair
Chair Planning Committee

Council Timetable

Full Council meet on approximately a 6-week cycle

Agenda are published in the week prior to the meeting.

Finance and General Purposes working group (F&GP) usually meet one week prior to each full council meeting to review and prepare suggestions or action for the following Council meeting to discuss.

The Planning Committee meet every 3 weeks

This is to coincide with DBC's planning timetable.

Agendas are published in the week prior to each meeting.

Both Full Council and Planning Committee meetings are open to the public.

Other Working Groups

Other Working Groups meet on an *ad hoc* basis depending upon their workload.

A full timetable of CPC meetings is available on the parish web page.

Chairman's Report

A special thanks to Usha (the Parish Clerk).

Usha holds legally responsible position covering the activities of the council and being the responsible financial officer. She continues to keep the council on track and serve as a conduit for the villagers to raise issue with CPC or DBC

A big thankyou to Vas our Parish Warden.

Vas continues to keep the village clean and tidy clearing the bins, checking for litter and maintaining the allotments.

Thank you to all who support the various activities that aid the community

Thank you to my fellow councillors

Councillors give their time voluntarily to help in the function of CPC.,

As Chair, Cllr Cassidy thanked Councillors for their ongoing support in running the council and its activities. Eamonn Flynn (Deputy Chair), Geoff Bryant (Chair of Planning), Luke Hinton (Planning and Social Media), Wendy Bathurst (Open Spaces and the Common), Carly-Anne Heaphy (School and Allotments).

The Council has enjoyed the support and advice we have had from our Borough and County Councillors who take time to attend our council meetings whenever possible.

Cllr R Roberts, Cllr S Riddick, Cllr G Adeleke, and Cllr P Walker

CPC would like to thank all the villagers who attend and comment at these meetings and those who so selflessly give up their time to support others within the village whether it is sport, education, general volunteering or social care.

Council Activities are divided up across council.

- Council has 2 committees which are bodies that can make binding council decisions when quorate:
 - Main Council and Planning
- Other activities are carried out by working groups who cannot make council decisions but refer their activities to council for deliberation:
 - Finance and General Purposes (F&GP)
 - Allotments
 - Outdoor spaces
 - Highways
 - Youth and Education
 - Social Media
 - HR/Personnel

Committees

Planning Committees and Planning Update 2024/25

Geoff Bryant - Chair

Eamonn Flynn - Deputy Chair

Kevan Cassidy

Paul Foxall

Malcolm Paton

Luke Hinton

Planning Applications are determined by the local planning authority which in our case is Dacorum Borough Council (DBC). CPC are a statutory consultee, but the final decision is made by DBC

Your Parish Council continues to seek improved outcomes for the benefit of the community wherever possible by encouraging modification to proposed schemes and

engagement prior to submission of plans (a pre-app meeting). Most developers respond positively to such engagement, and it allows CPC to reinforce the Village Design Statement (Also posted on our web page).

The number of planning applications in Chipperfield has been at lower level than average. We endeavour to keep residents aware of incoming applications and the subsequent decisions through our regular report in Chipperfield News.

We actively encourage residents/applicants to engage early with CPC's planning committee, ideally prior to an application, which often helps achieve good outcomes for all parties

There may be 'clouds on the horizon' in respect of forthcoming Government changes

- firstly, to the Planning system (e.g. removing/limiting the right for communities to raise objections to schemes) and
- secondly to the structure of local government (unitary structure) whereby district councils will cease to exist (in our case Dacorum to be possibly replaced by a larger authority, possibly West-Herts).

We are fortunate in having a current system which generally seems to work well and is also accessible. We have seen a poor outcome for planning when Bucks County went unitary (unitary = one Council for whole of the county).

Highways Working Group

- Eamonn Flynn
- Kevan Cassidy

Over the past few years, there has been a programme of resurfacing throughout the parish. There have been some significant improvements to road surfaces at the crossroads adjacent to Osteria and recent resurfacing of Kings Lane. However, the surfaces continue to show signs of wear and lack of longevity in the repairs.

It is important to report any potholes to Herts Highways Fault reporting on their website, as soon as seen, and taking photos on your phone and accurate positioning helps expedite some form of repair. Sufficient and multiple reporting will raise the issue up the priority list which will we hope to ensure they are dealt with as soon as possible.

We continue to experience parking on the pavements and verges, which is dangerous for both pedestrians and buggy users and destroys the grass in wet weather. This is particularly prevalent on The Street and Langley Rd. We continue to monitor the situation. Leafleting cars reduces the problem for periods, but inevitably, the problem returns. We are installing more posts on the verges to reduce this nuisance of parking.

With a thought for the infirm and pushchair owners we urge residents to keep the footpaths to the frontage of their homes clear of overgrowth and obstructions to help maintain a working width of 1.5 meters wherever possible.

Open Spaces Working Group

- Wendy Bathurst - Lead
- Malcolm Paton

Friends of Chipperfield Common (FoCC) have again had a busy year cutting back laurel and holly, but this year we have also done a few sessions in the main glade, cutting back invasive silver birch trees to keep the area open and maintain a different type of habitat to increase biodiversity.

FoCC have also done some work on the burial mounds to remove some of the brambles.

Steven Werrell, the DBC SANG officer is now leading the group, but we could still do with more volunteers. We are a friendly, jolly group, why not come and join us?

Details of our meeting are in Chipperfield News or contact the Clerk.

DBC has now appointed a SANG officer and he is working with the village through a recently established Chipperfield Common Working Group (CCWG). As previously reported in Chip News the pond has received some attention, but this is a work in progress. Already we have seen clearing of the logs and detritus from the Apostles Pond, the removal of the Parrot Weed (although this has not been eradicated) and the reduction in mass of the reed/iris bed.

It was decided at the most recent CCWG meeting the next activity was to improve or replace the signage around the common pathways to mark out the various routes around the Common with way markers. The project would also include new benches and picnic tables as well as re-creating the old "Heritage trail" which winds its way around the Common passing several points of interest, such as the burial mounds, the pond and the Spanish Chestnut. We are also interested in revitalising the old leaflets, which describe the common and the pathways. In this update it would be nice to have some updated art illustrating various scenes. If there is a local artist who would be willing to create such illustrations for the updated walks please contact the village clerk with your details.

We are pleased activity has commenced but look forward to the next stage in the pond revitalization, the works on the green spaces and hopefully more enthusiasts to join our volunteer crew. We will keep you updated via the CPC web site and our ChipNews articles.

Green Flag Status. We have now had the green flag continuously since 2008



Youth & Education

The **St Pauls School** Headteacher, now in his second year, Mr Luke Varney has had a positive impact on all school related activities and with a view to promoting books and reading has taken on the task of turning our disused phone box on the common into a library for children's books which should be opening soon.

We are grateful to the **Friends of St Pauls** who have continued to support the school with great fund-raising events.

We would just like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the hard work of the **staff** at the school.

Chipperfield Pre School - continues to do a fabulous job, we are so lucky to have wrap-around care for our children, with such strong links to the school.

Chipperfield continues to be deemed a low-crime village by the police. We now have 3 police representatives covering Kings Langley and the villages.

- Police Sergeant PS 2717 Akhtar
- Police Constable PC1245 Robinson
- PCSO 6067 Humphreys

All are keen to hear from residents on local issues.

Residents can use Herts Connected on the internet to raise comments and issues. Our PCSO is keen to interact more with the village, and he is trying to make regular visits to meet the people to discuss issues and has offered to run regular 'clinics' at The Blackwells.

The new neighbourhood sergeant responsible for Hemel Hempstead south and Kings Langley is also keen to address any issues you may have. There is a survey on your police service and your views, and this can be found on the Herts Connected web site.

Allotments

We are pleased to report that the allotments are all allocated bar one which is probably too shaded to be a viable plot, and currently we have no waiting list. Hopefully, there is some brighter weather on the way, as the allotments are always more enjoyable in the sunshine! So, everyone can get back to growing their produce, and maybe even another BBQ for the allotment group to enjoy in the summer!

As our Parish Warden is now performing the majority of the general maintenance tasks in the common areas and whilst we contract out the larger scale work. We continue to attempt to run the allotments on a cost-neutral basis. Any issues should be reported directly to the Parish Clerk or the Parish Warden. There is an active allotment WhatsApp group to aid good communication.

Social Media

Social media has become an important tool for Chipperfield Parish Council to connect with residents, share information, and promote community engagement. The Council is committed to using social media effectively and responsibly to enhance its communication with the community.

The use of Facebook as a platform adds to our ability to share information quickly

whilst maintaining the “old school” noticeboards. If you’ve not already, please give the page (www.facebook.com/ChipperfieldParishCouncil) a follow.

The Parish Council Web site (<https://www.chipperfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk>) also continues to share news of forthcoming Parish Council Meeting, meeting agendas and minutes and other essential CPC news.

The 2025 Chipperfield Outstanding Service Award

This year’s Outstanding Service Award went to:

- Sue Walker
- Mark Jarrad

Q&A

- A member reported sewage issues on Croft Lane which has been an issue for over 30 years, new dwellings in the area will on make the issue worse. Cllr Roberts acknowledged this is a serious issue and will intervene and aim to resolve the ongoing issue. A letter to Chair of water authority is necessary.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm