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CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Chipperfield Parish Council held on 12th May 2026 at 7.45 at the Blackwell The Common Chipperfield WD4 9BS. The meeting started at 19.48

Councillors Present: P Foxall (Chair), G Bryant, W Bathurst, M Paton, CA Heaphy, and K Cassidy.

In attendance: Mrs U Kilich (Proper Officer) and County Councillor Richard Roberts.

01/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR

To elect a Chair for the ensuing Council year
In the absence of the Deputy Chair Cllr Flynn, Cllr Paton opened the meeting as the Proper Officer's nominated councillor.
Cllr Paton nominated Cllr Foxall as Chair for the year 2026/27, this motion was seconded by Cllr Heaphy-Jones. Unanimously agreed.

02/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIR

The Chair to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair
Cllr Foxall signed the declaration of acceptance of office as did the Clerk.

03/26 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

To elect a Vice Chair
Cllr Foxall nominated Cllr M Paton as Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Bathurst. It was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Paton as Vice Chair for the year 2026/27.

04/26 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF VICE CHAIR

The Vice Chair to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Vice Chair
Cllr Paton signed the declaration of acceptance of office as did the Clerk.

05/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidy, seconded by Cllr Paton to accept the apologies for absence from Cllr Hinton and Cllr Flynn. Unanimously agreed. Apologies for absence also received from Borough Councillor P Walker and Borough Councillor S Riddick.

06/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To declare an interest linked to any item on the agenda.
There were no declarations of interest to record.

07/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 15 minutes time allowed.

There were no members of public attending the meeting.

08/26 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2026.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidy seconded by Cllr Bathurst to approve the Minutes from 21 April 2026 as a true and accurate representation from the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

09/26 REPORT FROM BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

To receive a report from Borough/County Councillors

Cllr R Roberts apologised for missing the Annual Parish Meeting on 5th May 2026. Cllr Roberts provided the following update on Local Government Reorganisation.

- Local Government Reorganisation decision will be made towards the end of June or early July 2026.
- The devolution minister has resigned
- Angela Rayner first set out the clearest version of "mayor-led councils" (i.e. replacing or consolidating two-tier local government into mayoral strategic authorities with stronger powers over councils).
- The 2024 devolution white paper set out a clear direction for both local government reorganisation (LGR) and devolution.
- The costs are predicted to be between £100m to £150m taking some councils into deficit
- Since the Greens took control of Ware Town Council, the changes have been more about local priorities and style of governance than big structural service changes

10/26 Cllr Foxall proposes the following for COMMITTEE's & WORKING PARTY MEMBERS

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidy, seconded by Cllr Bryant to approve the Committees and Working Party members at listed below. Unanimously agreed.

It was suggested that Cllr Hinton and Flynn in their absence agree to their involvement on various committees.

Members	**Kevan Cassidy**	**Eamonn Flynn**	**Malcolm Paton**	**Geoff Bryant**	**Wendy Bathurst**	**Carly-Anne Heaphy**	**Luke Hinton**	**Paul Foxall**
Committees								
Planning	x	X	x	Chair			x	x
Human Resources		X			x			x
Allotment		X	Chair				x	x
Working Parties								
Open Space		x	x		Chair			x
Highways	x	X						x
Youth & Education						x	x	
Police Report								x
Finance & General Purpose	x	X	x				x	Chair
Social Media						x	x	
Represent								
Village Hall				x				
Chip News				x				
Chip Care	x							

11/26 Finance and General Purposes

a. Cllr Foxall proposes to approve the Year-to-Date Summary April 2026
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidy, seconded by Cllr Bathurst to approve the YTD Summary for April 2026. Unanimously approved.

b. Cllr Foxall proposes to approve the Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments Summary for April 2026
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidyl, seconded by Cllr Bathurst to approve the Bank Reconciliation and Receipts and Payments Summary for April 2026. Unanimously agreed.

c. Cllr Foxall proposes to approve the CIL expenditure schedule for 2025/26
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidy, seconded by Cllr Bathurst to approve the CIL expenditure schedule for 2025/26. Unanimously agreed.

d. **PRECEPT**: Notification of parish funding was confirmed as received on 17 April 2026 The total being £83,130.37

Precept Demand	£70,650.00
Concurrent Services	£ 8,393.00
Wardens Grant	£ 4,087.37
Total for 2026/27	£83,130.37

12/26 Chair's Report

- Cllr Foxall to advice member of FOI received for allotments
- Cllr Foxall informed members that another email has been received regarding the additional Tennis Court.
- An update on SANG and Apostles Pond – work on Welcome Area will commence once the path has been resurfaced. Pond and glade work completed for the season.
- Scottish Power electricity charges will increase from 1 April 2026.

13/26 General Power of Competence

To agree by resolution that the Parish Council is entitled to use the above power as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012
The Parish Council is entitled as it has a. A two thirds electoral mandate; A qualified Clerk CiLCA and Level 6 Community Governance.
Resolved, Chipperfield Parish Council confirms that it meets the eligibility criteria to exercise the General Power of Competence as set out in the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

The Council confirms that:

- at least two thirds of its members have been elected; and
- the Clerk to the Council holds the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), and Level 6 of Community Governance including the sector-specific training required for the General Power of Competence.

Accordingly, Chipperfield Parish Council adopts the General Power of Competence with immediate effect.

14/26 To approve the following Policies and Procedures. There are no changes to any of the Polices listed below from 2025.
Resolved, proposed by Cllr Cassidy, seconded by Cllr Bryant to approve the Policies and Procedures for 2026. Unanimously agreed.

i. Allotment Cultivation, Disputes, Rules and Regulations
ii. Asset Management
iii. Budget Virement
iv. Code of Conduct
v. Communications
vi. Complaints Procedure
vii. Dignity at Work
viii. Equality & Diversity
ix. Financial Regulations
x. Freedom of Information
xi. GDPR
xii. General Reserves Policy
xiii. Grants and Donations
xiv. Grievance
xv. Habitual or Vexatious Complaints Policy
xvi. Investment Policy
xvii. IT Policy
xviii. Press & Media
xix. Publication Scheme
xx. Recruitment
xxi. Risk Assessment
xxii. Standing Order
xxiii. Terms of Reference
xxiv. Working Party Standing Orders

12/26 1. Open Space Nothing to report

2. **Youth and Education -** Nothing to report

3. **Police Report -** PCSO is coming to Tea's Café

4. **Highways –** The Speed Indicator Devices will be installed between July and October.

5. **Planning –** Subject of planning appeal at the Three Rivers Bucks Hill. Appeal hearing starts on 13th May 2026. A Planning Consultant has been appointed.

6. **Allotments –** Cllr Foxall, for the benefit of Cllr Richard Roberts, provided an update on recent developments concerning the allotment site. He advised that a planning application is currently pending which seeks permission to convert three and a half allotment plots for the development of a third tennis court.

   It was noted that this proposal arises in response to a sustained lack of demand for allotment provision within the parish. In addition, it was highlighted that a significant proportion of current allotment holders reside outside Chipperfield. Cllr Foxall further advised that the allotment facility has operated at a deficit over several years.

   Should planning permission be granted, the next stage of the process would involve the submission of an application to the Secretary of State.

13/26 The next Council Meeting will be held on the 16th of June 2025 at 7.45 pm at the Blackwells The Common Chipperfield WD4 9BS.

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm.