

Minutes of Charlton on Otmoor Annual Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th May 2025, in the Percy Collett room of the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Dr. S Hutchinson, R Walters, D Channon, B Walker.

Cherwell District Councillor Alica Russell, and Oxfordshire County Council Laura Gordon.

Clerk - S Hatwell

1 Member of the public.

1. **Election of the chairman** - Cllr Hutchinson nominated Bryn Walker, seconded by Cllr Walters. No other nominations, Cllr Walker signed his acceptance of office for Chairman of the Parish Council.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Thompson, Hudson and Pollard.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None raised
4. **Public Session:** Cllr Russell asked if we had any questions that she could take to Cherwell District Council - the parish council raised the issue of the road closure in Islip (that has since been postponed), that we had not received any communication of the works, we had to learn of them second hand. Closing Islip to through traffic at any point not only poses serious problems to hundreds of people in the Otmoor villages but also poses a real risk to health and life. People must have direct access to the Islip surgery and the JR. Emergency vehicles must be able to get through. We want assurance that whatever is planned in the future will always ensure vehicular passage through Islip towards Kidlington.

If the proposed closure had gone ahead, residents of the surrounding villages would have had to make a detour to Bicester to get to the doctor's surgery or a major detour to Stanton St. John to get to the hospitals in Headington. Cllr Russell said she would look into the matter and reply.

A member of the public asked how the prevention of the past flooding on the road near his property had progressed. The chairman confirmed that the parish council are looking into clearing the ditch and the pipe that runs under the entrance to the new cemetery, and sandbags had been purchased.

Cllr Russell left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

Cllr Laura Gordon arrived (7.50 pm) and introduced herself to the meeting as the replacement for Calum Miller. Cllr Gordon spoke about the road closure through Islip, and she will look at a better solution to the lack of communication regarding the plans and the length of time the road will be closed in the future. Cllr Walker also raised the issue of the proposed repair of the verge that runs alongside the old cemetery and the white painted safety lines. She asked the clerk to send any emails that had been previously sent to the Highways team for her to investigate further. She also spoke about the proposed devolution of the councils, which are being driven by Central Government. There are three proposals on the table, and the next step will be feedback from Central Government, and it will be them that make the final decision. Cllr Walker thanked Cllr Gordon for attending and we look forward to hearing from her. Cllr Gordon left the meeting 8.20pm.

5. **Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 24th April 2025.** - It was RESOLVED by the Parish Council to accept the minutes as a true representation of the meeting. The chairman signed the minutes.
6. **Matters arising from the meeting held on 24th April 2025**
 - a) **Proposed road closure at Islip** - This has been postponed for the foreseeable future.
 - b) **Licensing fee by Age UK** - Cllr Walker reported that no further film nights will take place.

B Walker

12 June 2025

Minutes of 15/5/25 continued...

7. Finance: -

- a) Payments for approval - Kallkwik - £87.00 - work carried out for the change of domain name. M J Cross - grass cutting - £258.00. Zurich - Insurance £650.06. Otmoor Electrical - new tap for the allotment - £96.00 - this invoice arrived after the agenda had been published. All payments were approved.
- b) Payments already paid - Banbury Memorials - returned money which was sent in error to us £172.00. S Hatwell pay - May 2025.
- c) Acknowledgement from Moore & Co - Our external audit exemption certificate has been received.
- 8. Speed Watch - Cllr Hutchinson reported that we were unsuccessful for part of the £200,000 fund from the Police and Crime Commissioners for Thames Valley for the solar speed warning signs. Cllr Walters volunteered to be another member of the speed watch team.
- 9. Planning - Emergency Planning - It was decided to defer this to our next meeting.
- 10. Burial Grounds - Nothing to report.
- 11. Environmental/climate change - Cllr Thompson was not present to report any news.
- 12. Items for further discussion:
 - a) Cllr email addresses.
 - b) Vice-chair
 - c) Land adjacent to the new burial ground.
 - d) Finance training - clerk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 pm. The next meeting will be held on the 12th June 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Percy Collett room of the Community Hall. All are welcome.

Date:

12th June 2025