

Minutes of Charlton on Otmoor Parish Council Meeting held on 16th October 2025 in the Percy Collett room of the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Chairman - Bryn Walker. **Councillors:** Walters, Hudson, Channon, Hutchinson and Thompson. **Oxfordshire County Councillor** Laura Gordon. **Clerk:** S Hatwell.
3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr: Terry Pollard.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr B Walker and & J Hudson - section 6 item b Football club lease.
3. **Public Session:** A member of the public wanted an update on the situation regarding the blocked gully/drain outside the new cemetery. It was reported that discussions had been held regarding determining who the gully/drain belongs to before proceeding with obtaining quotes for the work to be carried out. Once this has been established, we will inform him of further developments.
4. **Cherwell District & Oxfordshire County Council updates/news.** Cllr Gordon read the report (see attached). Cllr Gordon would like any positive/negative views about applying for permits to enter Oxford City due to the congestion charge, which will go 'live' on Wednesday, 29th October 2025. Concerning the issue with blocked drains, she informed us that our village is due to have its drains cleared in the New Year. Cllr Gordon reported that she had been in talks with Highways regarding the verge that runs alongside the old cemetery and was told that Highways had not agreed to have the verge repaired. It was agreed that the clerk would forward any correspondence to Cllr Gordon that referred to the verge. SH to action. Cllr Gordon then left the meeting.

Councillors' Priority Fund - It was agreed to apply for funding to purchase a defibrillator for the playing field. SH to action.

5. **Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 11th September 2025.** It was RESOLVED by the Parish Council to accept the minutes as a true representation of the meeting, and the minutes were then signed by the chairman.
6. **Updates on progress from the meeting held on 11th September 2025.**
 - a) **Bee Squared** - Cllr Walters had spoken to the headmistress of the school, and she thought it would be a great idea to involve the children. After further discussions, it was RESOLVED by the Parish Council to purchase some wildflower seeds along with bags to put them in, including instructions on when and how to plant them. SH to action.
 - b) **Football Club lease** - A Charlton Football Club representative spoke about having the lease renewed for a further 25 years. This is something that we will look into. All comments already made by the councillors will be circulated, then formulated, which will then be taken to a solicitor for action.
Cllrs Hutchinson and Thompson left the meeting.
 - c) **Emergency Plan** - After further discussions, it was RESOLVED by the Parish Council not to implement the plan.
 - d) **Village Hall Committee** - Mrs Herbert reported that she had read the Village Hall lease, but noted that it was showing some inconsistencies and contradictions. After further discussions, Mrs Herbert thought it prudent to consult a solicitor for clarification and report back to us on the findings.
7. **Finance:**
 - a) **Payments for approval** - S Hatwell - pay for October, MJ & JS Cross - grass cutting - £516.00, CDC - dog bin emptying - £302.02. All payments were approved. SH to action.
 - b) **Payments already paid** - Viking - new filing cabinet - £191.99.
 - c) **Quarterly summary** - The summary was noted, and it will be displayed on the website.


6/11/25

8. **Burial Grounds** - Cllr Walker reported that the Cemetery Maintenance training was very informative and noted that the Parish Council are carrying out all the correct procedures.
9. **Planning - Puy du Fou** - Discussions were made regarding the proposed site near Bicester.
10. **Governance - IT policy** - It was noted that an inclusion should be added to include where we keep the backup Sandisk.
11. **Training** - (see above, Burial Grounds)
12. **Village Matters:** a) **Rospa report** - The report had been seen by all the councillors.
- b) **Thames Valley Police - Community funding** - Cllr Hutchinson had applied for funding for speed awareness signs.
- c) **Recycling/dog bins** - Prices for getting the dog/waste bins had been explored, but it was **RESOLVED** by the Parish Council to keep to our current provider.
13. **Environment/climate.**
 - a) A report from Cllr Thompson stated that the sandbank on the firing range requires repair by the MOD. This is going to take place in the near future. He also wanted to reiterate how important it is not to walk on the footpath when the danger signs/flags are showing. 22 curlews have been seen on the RSPB site, but only 6 had nested; the increase in Marsh Harriers was thought to be predateding them. Only one pair of Cranes was seen, but no fledglings this year.
 - b) **Ray Valley Forum** - Cllr Thompson had contacted Cllr Laura Gordon, who will contact Cllr Calum Miller to find out more and if the forum is to continue.
14. **Date of next meeting** - 6th November 2025.
15. **Items for further discussion** - Cllr Walters suggested we act without delay in finding a solution to the drain/gully problem.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.45 pm. The next meeting will be held on the 6th November 2025 in the Percy Collet room of the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.


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Chairman.

Date: 6.11.25.....

County Councillor Report – October 2025

Please see below recent updates. Please get in touch if you have any questions or if there are any particular issues you would like me to follow up on.

Maternity Cover: thank you for your patience while I was on maternity leave. I am now back on emails but have a backlog from the summer (and a newborn!) so please bear with me if my reply is slower than usual – I will be prioritising urgent enquiries.

Oxford City Traffic Management: the Oxford City Congestion Charge will go live on Wednesday, 29th October. Full information as well as details of how to apply for permits is available at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-charge-cars>. The scheme is a trial and will be monitored on an ongoing basis. If you face issues in registering for permits, or if you have any feedback on your experience of the process or of the effects of the scheme (positive or negative) please let me know via email.

Waste and Recycling: For the 11th year in a row, residents in Oxfordshire are the best in England for recycling, reusing and composting, according to the latest government figures. Oxfordshire County Council has again been named the top performing county council waste disposal authority. In 2023 - 24, residents recycled, reused or composted 57.6 per cent of their household waste – up from 57.2 per cent in the previous year. Let's see if we can get it even higher for next year!

Creation of Mobile Network 'Digital Twin': Oxfordshire County Council has invested £500,000 in to create a 'digital twin' of the mobile network across the country. Poor network connectivity is increasingly an issue for residents and businesses, and addressing this is a key pillar of the Council's growth strategy. This will allow more detailed study of the network and allow the Council to identify priority areas and possible solutions. Read more here on the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn82yzkm0jyo.amp>

County Hall: contracts have been exchanged on the sale of County Hall, with the move out due in Spring 2027. Funds from the sale of County Hall will be used for the refurbishment of Speedwell Street. As the Speedwell Street building is smaller, it is anticipated that additional hubs will be set up in other parts of the county – reducing commuting times for staff and enabling services to be brought closer to residents.

Councillor Priority Fund: The Councillor Priority Fund is now open for applications with a minimum value of £500. It closes in November 2026. If you are thinking of applying, please let me know via email and I can share further information.