

Minutes of Charlton on Otmoor Parish Council Meeting held on 6th November 2025 in the Percy Collett room of the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Vice Chairman: Ray Walters. Councillors: Channon, Hutchinson and Thompson.
Cherwell District Councillor G Coton. Clerk: S Hatwell.

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs: T Pollard, B Walker, J Hudson.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
3. **Public Session:** None Present.
4. **Cherwell District & Oxfordshire County Council updates/news:-**
Kerbside Glass Collection

We are delighted that the Executive at Cherwell have introduced kerbside glass collection from the 1st January 2026. From this date, you will be able to put glass into your blue bin for collection. This move should make it easier for residents to recycle as well as reduce the amount of recyclable waste that goes into the general waste. Alongside this, the glass bring banks located around the district will be removed gradually as part of ongoing improvements. You can find more information about the changes on the Cherwell website here: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/glass-recycling>. Unfortunately this will mean that the PC will no longer receive the adopt a site remuneration.

Local Government Reorganisation

In November 2024, the Government asked all two tier authorities (those that have a District and County Council) to come up with proposition for making their area into Unitary Councils. They made it clear that it was not possible to stay as we currently are. In Oxfordshire, three options have been proposed:

- One Unitary Council which would cover all of Oxfordshire
- Two Unitary Councils. One covering the existing boundaries of Cherwell District Council, West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City Council, called Oxford and the Shires. The second would cover the existing boundaries of South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Berkshire, called Rideway Council.
- Three Unitary Councils. One would be the current boundaries of Oxford City Council plus Oxford's Green Belt. This would include much of Otmoor, as well as Kidlington. The second would be the remaining parts of Cherwell and West Oxfordshire and the third would be the remaining parts of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.

Cllr Coton left the meeting to attend another.

5. **Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on 16th October 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 vice chairman.
6. **Updates on progress from the meeting held on 16th October 2025.**
 - a) **Bee Squared** - The clerk reported that the seeds and bags had been purchased with a view to starting the project in the spring.
 - b) **Football Club lease** - It was RESOLVED by the members present for the clerk to contact a solicitor for advice on any proposed changes that would be needed or added to the lease. Clerk to action

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- c) **Drain/Gully** - A report had been received from Cllrs Walker and Hudson that the manhole to the right hand side had a small amount of soil in the bottom; this has now been removed. The drainage pipe under the entrance is not blocked. They managed to put a drain rod through the pipe with ease. The Parish Council also received a report from County Councillor Laura Gordon:- *'While the cemetery is owned by the parish, and they are responsible for maintaining the ditch as the landowner, it may be more practical for our team to undertake the clearance. This is currently being considered as part of our response to this issue'*. This was very much appreciated by the Parish Council, and our thanks go to Councillor Gordon. We await the County Council's decision.
7. **Finance:**
- a) **Payments for approval** - S Hatwell - pay for November, MJ & JS Cross - grass cutting - £516.00. Payments were approved. Clerk to action payments.
- b) **Payments already paid** - Boston Seeds - £82.99, Quality Confetti Co. (bags for the seeds) - £11.25
8. **Burial Grounds** - Old- Advice received from Cllr Coton suggested we contact Cherwell Conservation's historical buildings team, regarding the cemetery wall. In the interim, the cracks that have appeared will be repaired. Clerk to action.
9. **Planning** -
10. **Governance** - IT policy - Cllr Hutchinson had amended the report as requested, and it was then **RESOLVED** by the Parish Council to adopt the policy.
11. **Training** - None raised.
12. **Village Matters:** a) **Community Speed Watch** - Cllr Hutchinson reported that another member of the public has shown an interest in becoming a member of the CSW. In the meantime, funding for the Speed Identifying Displays (SID) will be considered in the budget, which would mean an increase in the precept for 2026.
13. **Environment/climate.**
- a) A report from Cllr Thompson stated that the RSPB are increasing their holding banks and scrapes for more wildlife.
14. **Date of next meeting** - 4th December 2025.
15. **Items for further discussion** - None raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm. The next meeting will be held on the 4th December 2025 in the Percy Collet room of the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.



Chairman.

Date: 4-12-2025