

Minutes of Charlton on Otmoor Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2026 in the Percy Collett Room of the Community Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Chairman - Ray Walters, Vice-chair - Bryn Walker. **Councillors:** John Hudson, Dawn Channon, Simon Hutchinson, Lynn Roberts. Clerk - Samantha Hatwell.
County Councillor Laura Gordon. District Councillor Tim Faltermeyer.
6 Members of the public.

1. **Apologies - None.**
2. **Declaration of interests - None.**
3. **Public Session -** A member of the village would like to make repairs to Otmoor Lane and would like to arrange with volunteers to help with machinery, tools, etc. He has an amount of organic hardcore which could be used and would like to know if this would be acceptable, but before commencing, wanted to know who is responsible for the Lane, as it is a bridleway as well as a footpath. Clerk to action.

A member of the village raised the issue that the ditch alongside the new cemetery still needs attention. The council will look into getting it cleared before the wet weather increases. He also raised the issue of disturbed kerb stones, which have made a stopcock visible. He has raised the problem on FixMyStreet, but received a negative reply. Clerk to action.

The chairman welcomed three members of Puy Du Fou, who gave a talk on what the proposed park would look like. Plans are in place to replicate the successful parks already in operation in France and Spain. The park will showcase the history of England and feature open spaces with new landscaping, including specimen trees and plants. Plays will take place around the park, depicting different periods in English history, some of which will be interactive. At night, a major show will present a play about the UK. Questions were raised about increased traffic and its possible impact on surrounding roads. They stated that they will encourage vehicles to travel along the M40, exit at junction 10, and enter the park via the Bayards Green roundabout. Money will be provided to OCC to update the roundabout. They will operate a shuttle bus service from the two train stations in Bicester. They aim to make entry and exit as streamlined as possible. They are looking to employ local people and are working with job centres and colleges. The chairman thanked them for attending, and they left the meeting.

4. **Cherwell District Council & Oxfordshire County Council updates/news.**

Cllr Faltermeyer reported that he had sent a letter of objection for the proposed MOD site A asylum site. The proposed changes to the local government reorganisation are on hold; elections for the shadow council next year will not go ahead.

Cllr Gordon reported that the County Council had also objected to the MOD site being used as an asylum centre and suggested we do the same. Clerk to action. We raised the issue of the white crocodile teeth still not being painted and the yellow zig-zag lines outside the school despite numerous emails to the Highway team. Cllr Gordon is going to contact them again, and if there is no satisfactory answer, she will contact the CEO. She confirmed that the Councillors' Priority fund ends in November. Cllr Walters raised the issue that had been brought to our attention regarding the bus service for school children attending secondary schools. She was not aware of the problem at Gosford School until recently, but had since found out that the bus didn't turn up as the bus company went into liquidation. Since then, a temporary service had been arranged. The spare-seat scheme needs some real changes, which they hope to sort out as soon as possible. She suggested that the children/parents who are affected make a complaint to OCC.

Minutes of the meeting held on 10.9.26 continued....

We also made Cllr Gordon aware that the drain works that were planned for the beginning of September did not take place and that we had not received any notification as to why. She will look into it. Cllr Gordon confirmed that the bridge in Islip will have improvement works from the 21st September, with it being completely closed from the 28th September 2026 for 8 weeks.

Cllr Hutchinson left at 9.05 pm.

5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2026 in the Percy Collett room.

It was RESOLVED by the Parish Council to accept the minutes as a true representation of the meeting; the minutes were then signed by the chairman.

6. Updates on progress from the meeting held on Thursday 16th July

a) Defib - Cllr Walker confirmed that it is now registered and on the website.

7. Finance

a) **Payments for approval** - Pay for clerk. (see c)

b) **Payments already paid** - S Hatwell - pay August; MR & JS Cross - grass cutting £270.00; R Lambert - maintenance of new burial ground - £355.00.

c) **Pay increase** - NALC salary award - It was agreed by the council to give the clerk the pay increase.

d) **Savings Accounts.** It was decided to put this on the next agenda.

8. Burial Grounds. Nothing to report.

9. Planning - a) Puy du Fou - see above. b) MOD asylum proposal - See above. c) Merton Lake - Cllr Faltermeyer reported that he had met with the owners of the lake outside Merton, and proposals were in for a private water park. A consultation website (mertonlake.co.uk) is available for further information.

10. Playing Field/Pavilion - Cllr Walker confirmed that the deeds have now been scanned. The clerk had sent them to the solicitor.

Cllr Gordon left the meeting at 9.25 pm

11. Governance - Division of Duties - This will be put on the next agenda.

12. Training - None requested.

13. Village Matters - a) SSE power cuts - These seem to be happening regularly and causing problems for villagers. An online meeting is planned with SSE on Wednesday, 23 September which we hope to raise our concerns and get some answers. **B) Allotments** - will be discussed further at the next meeting. **C) Dogs not on leads** - To be discussed at the next meeting. **D) School bus provision** - (see above, under section County Council updates)

14. Environment/climate - Nothing to report.

15. Date of next meeting: 15th October 2026 in the Percy Collett room.

16. Items for further discussion - Cllr Hudson raised the issue of the River Ray being blocked by overhanging trees and dead animals, stating that he, as a riparian owner, keeps the banks alongside his property clear so that the river can run freely. Clerk will look into who is responsible.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

..... Date:.....
Chairman.