

Chillerton & Gatcombe Parish Council



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CHILLERTON & GATCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.30PM AT THE GALLYBAGGER, MAIN ROAD, CHILLERTON

Present: Cllrs Laursen (Chair), Newton, Smith & Thomas.

In Attendance: Virgil Philpott (Acting Parish Clerk); IW Cllr Gladwin; five members of the public.

4311 - OPENING STATEMENT

The Meeting opened with a statement from the Chair. The Parish Clerk (Debbie Faulkner) had resigned, with immediate effect, that morning. The previous Clerk had agreed to help out in a locum capacity and would be minuting the Meeting; after which discussions would be need to be held about a longer term arrangement.

4312 - PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions were received.

4313 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bellamy-James.

4314 - DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

4315 - MINUTES

Papers had not been circulated by the (previous) Clerk but an electronic draft had been circulated by the Chair and was approved by the Councillors present. **RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th January 2026, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

4316 - REPORT FROM RURAL CENTRAL WARD COUNCILLOR.

Cllr. Gladwin apologised for missing previous meetings - the previous Clerk had not been copying her into circulation papers. Most recently her focus had been on a fatal car accident in the Ward (Whitwell / Roud junction). An investigation was underway and Island Roads' initial response had been that they would consider it as part of an annual review.

Members of the public present raised their concerns about speed issues within the Parish. It was believed that, back in 2007, planning permission for the 'new barns' had been conditional on a lower new speed at the Chale Road end of the village but this had ever been implemented. The Chair noted that the Speedwatch scheme was up and running in co-ordination with the 3 other Councils in the Ward. Frustration was expressed that Island Roads and the police seemed reluctant to take on board pre-emptive feedback from Parish Councils and that fatalities were required before action was considered.

4317 - PLANNING

There were some technical issues with the IWC Planning Portal such that Councillors were currently unable to view the details of live applications.

Councillors discussed the following planning applications:

Planning Application Ref: 25/01833/HOU - Little Cridmore Farm. The applicants were in attendance and presented to the Meeting (also touching upon a further, forthcoming, application for a Off the Leash Adventure Park). No objections were made. and the proposal of dog park was broadly welcomed as a likely asset to the village. **RESOLVED: That Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council has no objections to this planning application.**

Planning Application Ref: 26/00036/LBC - Dairy Cottage. Broadly supportive comments were made from the public; bar a question as to whether stone, rather than painted render, would be more appropriate? It was noted that current Listed Building regulations require extensions to be at once 'in keeping' and 'differentiated' which likely accounts for the proposal. However, Councillors would seek to review the application when the portal was working. **ACTION: Clerk to circulate the Comments deadline.**

4318 - REPORTS / OTHER MINUTES

The C&GCA continues to work closely with the Parish Council. The Gallybagger's roof is currently leaking and is a pressing issue. 3 quotes had been received (ranging between £25-45k) and 3 quotes are outstanding. It might be possible to undertake the work in stages. Once the Parish Council's financial position was clearer (**see Finance below**) the Council would consider options for support.

4319 - HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Development Fund: No new applications had been received.

The recent Sausage & Mash Event had raised several hundred pounds for the Council??? (CGCA???). **ACTION: Clerk to arrange a card of thanks from Councillors to Harvey Browns for their generous support.**

Newsletter: the Chair has advanced this. A cheaper print supplier (Biltmore) had been identified. Cllr Smith had produced some copy which remained unpublished which she would forward for future inclusion.

4320 - ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

The Tree Wardens have mapped about half the registered trees in the Parish and will be providing a report in due course.

The Greening Campaign: pre-training is underway for the plan to assist local gardeners in making their gardeners more environmentally friendly and sustainable. A number of properties were participating in the house insulation scheme but there needed to be a 10 degree difference between internal and external temperatures to allow the thermal imaging cameras to operate optimally. Hopefully, weather conditions would allow this to take place within the next couple of weeks.

Playground Repair: the wood had arrived and repairs would be happening over the next few weeks. **ACTION: Cllrs. Thomas & Smith.**

Fly Tipping: The Countrywatch signs have arrived. An individual had been caught / prosecuted just after Christmas as a result of cameras on private property. The Council would monitor the situation before making a final decision on installing its own cameras.

Footpath Maintenance: Island Roads had attended (Garn Lane).

Hollow Lane Drainage: There is a significant camber, following recent re-surfacing of the tarmac, which has created a gully and is causing water to miss the drain. The contractors need to be contacted and asked to carry out remedial action. **ACTION: Councillors to obtain landowner's contact information.**

Shooting Noise / Disruption. A complaint had been received from a parishioner. The season had now ceased until October. It was suggested that the IWC Firearms Officer could be invited to attend a future PC Meeting to provide a briefing on relevant regulations. Shoot attenders vehicles had also been blocking bridleways. Feedback on this should be provided to the shoot organisers.

4321 - COUNCIL MATTERS - FINANCE

Financial Reports / Precept: The previous Clerk had failed to provide financial reports for 5 months. Neither had she provided budget / information to allow Councillors to have an informed discussion about the 2026-27 precept. **ACTION: Locum Clerk to review the financial situation as a matter of priority and to facilitate a Special Budget Meeting**

Additionally, it was noted that current Councillors had not been placed on the mandate and did not have access to the bank account. This, alongside outstanding questions about land ownership outside St Olavs, was holding up the purchase of the new aluminium noticeboards.

The previous Clerk had not provided background information about the cost of the 'Enhanced Public Realm Officer Service'. Councillors were unable to progress this item until they knew what it was. **ACTION: Locum Clerk to clarify.**

4322 - COUNCIL MATTERS - REGULATORY

There is a need to ensure to ensure co-option declarations / register of interest forms have been properly completed and provided to the IWC's Returning Officer along with any other outstanding regulatory matters. **ACTION: Locum Clerk to review / undertake once financial matters have been resolved.**

4323 - VILLAGE ANNUAL PLAN

Again, the Previous Clerk had not progressed this. Ideally, this should form part of the agenda for future meetings.

4324 - FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(s)

- Village Annual Plan

4325 - NEXT MEETING(s)

- The next normal meeting of Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council will be at **6.30pm on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at The Gallybagger Main Road, Chillerton.**
- A Special Meeting to discuss finances and approve the 2026-27 precept is being scheduled for **7:30pm Thursday 19th February at The Gallybagger Main Road, Chillerton.**

The proceedings terminated at 8.25pm.

