



**Minutes of the Chisworth Annual Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.30 pm 14th May 2026 at Chisworth Methodist Church**

PRESENT

Councillor M.Bell; Councillor N. Jones; Councillor J. Sargent; Councillor D. Brereton; T. Lewis (Clerk). One member of the public was present.

44/26 ELECTION OF CHAIR

The clerk invited nominations for the position of Council Chair for 2026/27. Councillor M Bell expressed an interest in the position. **Resolution:** Councillor Bell was unanimously approved as Council Chair for 2026/27 after a motion was proposed by Cllr Brereton and seconded by Cllr Jones. He duly signed an Acceptance of Office form for the position.

45/26 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The chair invited nominations for the position of Council Vice-Chair for 2026/27. Councillor N Jones expressed an interest in the position. **Resolution:** Councillor Jones was unanimously approved as Council Vice-Chair for 2026/27 after a motion was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Brereton.

46/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr P Bell (HPBC) and Cllr D Greenhalgh (DCC).

47/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

48/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

49/26 MINUTES OF THE CHISWORTH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2026

It was resolved to approve the circulated minutes which were duly signed by Councillor Jones.

50/26 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION INTERVIEW

One applicant for the vacant councillor post, Diane Deakins, attended the meeting for interview.

Resolution: Diane Deakins' application to join the council as a co-opted member was unanimously approved after a motion was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Sargent. After signing an Acceptance of Office form for the position, Cllr Deakins joined the council for the remainder of the meeting.

51/26 REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN

A number of actions arising from earlier council meetings were reviewed. In particular:

- Flooding – Cllr Bell advised that following meetings with Cllr Greenhalgh (DCC), Cllr Greenhalgh had escalated concerns regarding blocked drains and localised flooding issues to DCC's Flood Management and Highways teams with whom he was seeking a meeting to secure a more coordinated response from DCC.

- The use of gov.uk email addresses by councillors – Following continuing problems with accessing allocated gov.uk email addresses, councillors agreed to allow the use of personal email addresses for council business, as long as no other persons could access the email accounts. The clerk will continue to use a gov.uk email address in line with national policy.
- The Hunters Inn 'Asset of Community Value' appeal outcome – Cllr Bell advised that the appeal against the decision to list the Hunters Inn as an Asset of Community Value had not been successful. The council agreed to continue to monitor the case as it could still be taken to a tribunal.

52/26 SPEED DATA REPORT

A report prepared by the clerk was discussed. It provided data taken from the parish's speed indication device, sited at the Chisworth/Charlesworth border and capturing the speed of vehicles travelling towards Marple. The data, which covered two separate periods, showed:

- 10th – 23rd June 2025 – 3118 vehicles each day, 1019 (33%) at 30-34mph and 367 (12%) at 35mph+
- 23rd Feb – 8th March 2026 – 3179 vehicles each day, 1036 (33%) at 30-34mph and 362 (11%) at 35mph+

The council agreed that speeding was still an issue in the village but acknowledged the need to build up more data over time. **Resolution:** The council agreed to include the monitoring and collection of speed data and the annual re-positioning of the device in its annual plan.

53/26 ANNUAL PLAN 2026/27

The council discussed its objectives for 2026/27. **Resolution:** A plan was agreed, to be published on the council's website, which included litter-picks and work to tackle the spread of 'Himalayan Balsam' across the parish.

54/26 ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE

None.

55/26 COUNCIL POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRING AMENDMENT

The clerk proposed amendments to the council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct, to ensure they remain in line with current legislation and national guidance. **Resolution:** The council agreed to adopt the updated documents, subject to any final amendments being submitted to the clerk within the next week.

56/26 COUNCIL STAFF-RELATED POLICIES

The council noted that in the advent of any staffing issue, the staff-related policies published by NALC (The National Association of Local Councils) will be adhered to.

57/26 DATA PROTECTION COMPLIANCE – ANNUAL REVIEW

With the council's Data Protection policy in mind, all councillors confirmed that they comply with their data protection obligations. The clerk gave all councillors a Data Protection Compliance Checklist for signing.

58/26 ARRANGEMENTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES

The council considered its arrangements with other local authorities, not-for-profit organisations and businesses and confirmed that no formal or legal arrangements are in place that require review.

59/26 WORK WITH EXTERNAL BODIES

The council considered its relationships with other external bodies and confirmed that no formal or legal arrangements are in place that require review.

60/26 COUNCIL INSURANCE REVIEW

The council considered the renewal schedule and premium proposed by Zurich Insurance for 2026/27.

Resolution: To renew the council's insurance with Zurich at a cost of £241 for a further year.

61/26 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The council reviewed the subscriptions paid to other bodies and noted that it only currently subscribes to DALC (The Derbyshire Association of Local Councils). The payment to DALC for 2026/27 has already been paid.

62/26 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

The following items of income and expenditure were noted and approved by **resolution**:

BUDGETED EXPENDITURE - £30.16 to Amazon for printer ink, £24 to T Lewis for a spare church key, £124 x 2 to MAD Industries (for April), £124 x 2 to MAD Industries (for May), £241 to Zurich for council insurance and £100 donation to Chisworth Methodist Church for room use.

NON-BUDGETED EXPENDITURE – None.

INCOME – Payment of £3327 from HPBC made up of £2766 precept payment and £561 Parish Support Grant.

63/26 S137 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 EXPENDITURE 2025/26

The council noted the payments it had made during 2025/26 using powers provided by S137 Local Government Act 1972. The payments totalled £540 which was within the legal limit of £2808.30 based on the parish's electorate size. Full details of the payments are to be made available on the council's website.

64/26 BANK ACCOUNT SIGNATORIES

The council reviewed its bank account signatories and agreed they remain suitable for the coming year.

Resolution: Councillor Bell, Councillor Jones and T Lewis to remain as bank account signatories.

65/26 BACS AND DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

In line with the council's Financial Regulations, it reviewed its current use of BACS and Direct Debit.

Resolution: The council agreed to continue to allow the clerk to use BACS for all budgeted payments for the next 12 months, with unbudgeted payments being referred to the council before payment. The council also approved the use of direct debit for payments to the Information Commissioner's Office and direct debit card payments each month to Asda for the clerk's phone.

66/26 QUARTER 4 2025/26 ACCOUNTS AND BANK RECONCILIATION

The clerk had circulated details of the fourth quarter's accounts to the end of March 2026 prior to the meeting. Expenditure to 31/3/26 was £6603.25 against an annual budget for 2025/26 of £6138. Councillor Jones confirmed that he had already conducted a bank reconciliation exercise as part of the annual internal audit process and confirmed that the council's cashbook balances matched those shown on the respective bank statements. The current and deposit account balances as at 31/3/26 were £7122.77 and £10051.91 respectively.

67/26 INTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT 2025/26

Cllr Jones confirmed that an internal audit for 2025/26 had been carried out by auditor P Gallagher.

Resolution: The council reviewed and accepted the Internal Audit report, noting that no issues had been raised requiring attention. The clerk will publish the report on the council's website.

68/26 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26

The council considered each of the ten assertions contained within the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26. **Resolution:** The council approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26 and agreed that it meets the required proper practices. The return was signed by the chair and clerk.

69/26 ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2025/26

The clerk presented the Accounting Statements for 2025/26 which she had already signed in her capacity as Responsible Finance Officer. **Resolution:** The council reviewed and approved the Accounting Statements for 2025/26. The statement was signed by the chair.

70/26 EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE 2025/26

The clerk presented the Certificate of Exemption for 2025/26. **Resolution:** The council reviewed and approved the Certificate of Exemption for 2025/26 which was then signed by the chair and Responsible Finance Officer.

71/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm Wednesday 24th June 2026, Chisworth Methodist Church

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 21.04hrs.

Signed

Date