

MINUTES OF CHILCOMPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2026 AT THE VILLAGE HALL, CHILCOMPTON

1. **Present:** Seven Parish Councillors and six members of the public. With the absence of chair and vice-chair, Cllr Sinclair was chosen as chair for the meeting.

Apologies: Cllrs Pike, Morgan, Holme, Manley & Simmons. Last year's minutes were agreed as a true record and duly signed.

2. **Annual Accounts:** The clerk presented the Balance of Accounts. The balance at 5.3.2026 was shown as £48660.74 but this includes monies held for the T J Coles Trust Fund; leaving a spending balance of £43155.32.

3. **Chairman's Report:** Written report Cllr Pike said: In the 12 months since the last APM report there has been a change of membership of the Parish Council. Martin Bown has stood down; I should like to thank him for his service. Carmel Moore has been appointed to council to serve then remainder of this term.

The coming 12 months will be the final year of this current iteration of the council with elections scheduled for May 2027

The Parish Council made the decision to keep the precept at the same level at last year. The council were aware of financial pressures faced by everyone and believe that we have sufficient resource within the current precepted amount to carry out the number of projects that we wish to pursue over the coming year.

The issue of traffic remains a concern for many parishioners and will be covered in a separate report of the traffic subcommittee.

The last 12 months saw the opening of the new play equipment and path at the old recreation field at the bottom of then village; I should like to record my thanks to the subcommittee who have led on this and done so much work in securing funding and bringing this to fruition.

The Remembrance Day service took place in November, once again preceded the day before by dressing of the war graves. Once again turn out at the ceremony as excellent with a number of parishioners joining us at the village hall afterwards.

As ever my final thanks go to my colleagues on the Parish Council for their service over the past 12 months and to our Parish Clerk, Malcolm Rigby

4. **Report of the Village Hall:** Cllr Newman said: The Village Hall is an important part of the village and many different activities are held there. The Hall is run by a committee of volunteers who readily give up their time and expertise to ensure it is run effectively and can respond to the different needs of those who wish to use it. Recently the hall floor has been completely replaced. It looks amazing. The upstairs room has also been upgraded by volunteers and now is a warm and welcoming space for quieter activities such as Yoga and Well Being. A new online Booking system will be in place soon which will make accessing a booking easier and also make paying for hiring the different rooms easier too. The Parish Council has a representative on the Village Hall Committee and this helps to ensure both groups work together and are able to keep each other informed of key information.

5. **Report on Footpaths:** Cllr Newman said: Chilcompton has very many different footpaths and these are well used both by residents in the village and those who visit Chilcompton to enjoy our beautiful scenery. The Parish Council regularly receive emails and messages regarding the footpaths. Many of these are to report issues that walkers have found with the footpath and the different access gates. The role of the Parish Council is to report these issues to the Somerset Council Footpath Officer who in time will perhaps visit the footpath in question or ask for more

Signed..... Date.....Witnessed.....

information and if it is considered necessary take action to rectify the issue and report back to the Parish Council. Sadly due to restricted funding the role of the Footpath Officer has been extended to cover more of the Somerset footpaths which has in turn meant that it may take longer for them to respond to our issues.

A resident asked about the path alongside the school. The PC has recently had this redone through the village's own funds.

- 6. Report on Traffic com:** Jon Pike wrote: The traffic subcommittee as formed by the parish council to explore solutions to the issues of traffic in the vision, predominantly that of speeding, which continues to be one of the areas of greatest concerns to parishioners in the village. The committee consists of both Parish Council and villagers.

The committee met on a number of occasions throughout the year, discussing issue caused by traffic and possible solutions; one of the main topics of discussion are the results from the two speed cameras positioned at either end of the B3139, one on Broadway at the West end of the village and at Bennell in the East. The results show that there are a huge number of vehicle movements daily in the village and sadly, a number of them are in excess of the speed limit. This led to a meeting with members of both the Parish Council And the Traffic subcommittee and the local MP, Anna Sabine. This proved to be a useful meeting, the MP stated that if we are to get traffic improvements within the village would need to be backed b evidence, this would need to be from a traffic survey of the village. The Parish Council are currently quotes for ths piece of work. Once this information is obtained any subsequent planning consents can have requests for 106 funding attached which are linked to this survey work.

The traffic subcommittee are also seeking a meeting with Dan Cox of the Avon & Somerset Police who leads on traffic issued for the force.

A resident asked about the budget of a traffic feasibility report. This is as yet unknown but could be about £5,000. There was a discussion about how much, and what sort of, data was needed. A resident expressed concern about traffic calming measures.

- 7. Report on Parish Events Group (PEG):** Cllr Newman said: The Chilcompton Parish Events Group, known for short as PEG was formed from the group of villagers, Village Hall representatives and members of the Parish Council that worked to provide the successful events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 111 in 2023.

The aim of this group is to provide a range of events and activities for the villagers of all ages and we love to hear from people with their ideas and also if they would like to join the group.

Activities organised by PEG are supported financially by the Parish Council and funds that we have raised through events.

This year we are busy considering the possibility and preparing for the following events:

a Pop Up Breakfast café on 11th April in the Village Hall, Table Top sales, A village treasure hunt, Children's Talent show, A Tea Dance, Christmas Carols with Mendip Brass Band with the school choir, Working with the school to organise planting tubs.

We are trying to involve as many age groups as possible and also join up with other groups in the village to maximise our capacity. It would be great to have more people on board so please contact us if you would like to find out more.

- 8. Report on the Old Recreation Ground:** After successful fund raising from a grant from Somerset Council and the precept, significant improvements and enhancements were made to the Old Rec. These included the procurement and installation of major play equipment to cover a range of ages and abilities, a partial all weather path and a boules court. All of these have proved to be popular and a seasonal increase in the use of previously installed picnic benches is noted. We anticipate further developments in the near future. On the maintenance side, various repairs and cleaning were undertaken. An unauthorised tent that was erected in the children's play area was removed after consultation with police and local authorities. Trees that may have interfered with a high voltage electric supply were removed or pruned. Inquiries, costings and work allocations are under way to reinstate an electricity supply to the Rec.

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Completion of this could greatly increase and enhance the range of activities that are being considered for the future. The Rec remains a very valuable and much loved village asset and continued investment should help maintain it for future generations.

A resident asked about parking. This is an issue the PC has been looking at, but the owner of land alongside the RC is not obtainable.

- 9. Report on IT:** The 2 main IT platforms which the Parish Council operate are the website and the Facebook page. Both continue to be very useful assets, both for disseminating news of events and issues, and for seeking the views of village residents.

10. Youth Club Com: Cllr Manley wrote: The Youthclub provided by Youth Connect Southwest continues to provide a safe place for village children ages 11-16. It continues to be a valuable session for village young people, carrying out a range of activities and issue based discussions. Numbers of attendees still increasing gradually.

- 12. Any Other Business:** A resident asked where the coal truck was. It was explained that it was being repaired. A resident commented on blocked drains throughout the village. It was answered that they are reported but SC is short of money and it is difficult to get a response. Resident suggested the PC could clear the one at the bottom of Rock Road. But cost. Resident said hedges are overgrown over pavements. People need to report specifics. A resident stated his opinion that chairs were taken away too soon at the tea after remembrance commemorations. Removal of the chairs only commenced after most people had left the remembrance tea and no-one appeared to want anything else.

- 13. Close:** The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Date.....Witnessed.....