



Rebekah James, Parish Council Chair, can be contacted at clerk@chiltonpoldenpc.co.uk

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability) Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety and Human Rights.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and will be given time to speak during the meeting, in an open public session.

Minutes of Chilton Polden Parish Council Meeting 11th February 2026

Meeting opened: 19:00

1. **Those Present:** R James (RJ), Nick Smith (NS), Holly Perfect-Porter (HPP), Mike Aylmer (MA) (19:30) and Clerk L Chilcott (LC), there were also 3 members of the public
2. **Apologies for Absence Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:** Apologies received from Alan Clatworthy (AC)
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14.02.26 & 26.01.26:** approved as a true copy, all in agreement
4. **Financial Report**
 - a) **Bank Reconciliation** Bank Recs completed for April 25 – Jan 26, signed RJ & LC
 - b) **Forecast** Forecast given and discussed, confirmed some reserves have been used this financial year
 - c) **Invoices for payment**
 - I. Payroll
 - II. Shapwick Parish Council – invoices 3&4 Clerk Training £80.00
 - III. Parish Online –40UC018-0008 - Mapping software £45.00
 - IV. Parish Online – 40UC018-0009 – New website - £300.00
 - V. Somerset Council – overpayment carried forwards from 2024/25 and missing invoice Balance owed £92.70
 - VI. Fleximedia – 0045B – Old website for 2026, renewals have already been paid by fleximedia - £727.19
 - VII. LC reimbursement – HMRC paid to prevent further fees being applied - £25.10All approved for payment, RJ proposed, NS 2nd, all in favour
 - d) **Reserve account** Councillors discussed best options for reserve account to earn interest. It was decided to open 32 day notice account with current bank unit – all in favour
 - e) **Signatories** Councillors agreed all councillors need to be signatories on the bank account.
5. **Open Session** Resident would like the safety of Church Lane discussed as you have to step into the road coming out of the church. NS will research using Parish Online Mapping and report back at next meeting.



6. **Planning 19/25/00010 – Horn Farm.** Anonymous letter from resident read to meeting outlining concerns. Councillors advised this is retrospective planning application, concerns raised,
- a) Concerned about future development of site
 - b) Flooding, application states that tank is to be added for disposal but this is not shown on the plans
 - c) B8 usage storage/distribution, concerns about highways access not being suitable, as not currently in a useable condition
 - d) SSSI next to site impact reference not made in plans.
- Councillors agreed to support with comments as per above concerns. RJ proposed and NS 2nd, all agreed
7. **Councillor Vacancy 1** application received, agreed to co-opt. MA Proposed, NS 2nd, all in favour
8. **Dog Control Consultation** Cannot locate map on document, RJ will review and suggest amendments to areas, Chilton Polden Playing Fields and White Meadows Playing area to be included
9. **Flooding** Goose Lane better, culvert not bubbling, but it was last week. There has been no drain nor sludge cleaning. Coombe Lane/ Smallways Lane, ditches are full and the excess water starting to strip tarmac. Continue to encourage reporting of issues Councillors agreed to get quotes and bring to next meeting for Coombe Lane pipe. RJ x1, NS x1 & HPP x1
10. **Playing Fields**
- a) Insurance Quotes
 - b) Report on Future Plans
- No Response has been received from Clerks email, HPP to send WhatsApp
11. **Noticeboard**
- a) Leaking
 - b) Key from Geraldine
- NS will look at noticeboard if we have drier day
Clerk to email GB for key
12. **Benches and Bin**
- a) MA email on costs
 - b) Fitting Costs
 - c) Size bin
- MA raise concerns on costs of benches and feel we can find alternatives at the same quality for lower cost. Councillors will look at composite benches. NS will get a quote for fitting so that we have comparison to the one RJ received.
13. **Annual Litter Pick** Date set for annual litter pick of 14th March 2026, agreed to advertise on Poldens today and PC website. AC will run. Clerk to book village hall and RJ to advertise.
14. **Standing Orders/Policies** Clerk advised unable to locate up to date standing orders/policies and felt it would be a good idea to set up working parties to draft up to date versions. Clerk to email NS the current ones and the newer versions from NALC. NS & MA Working parting.
15. **Future Agenda's** Items to be raise on next agenda
- a) Clerks hours
 - b) Litter Pick
 - c) Governance around council
 - d) Lack of response from local councillors

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 11th March 2026 STARTING AT 7:00PM