

**BODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2025
AT 7.15PM AT CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET**

PRESENT: Cllrs. J. Washburn (Chairperson), A. Conley, C. Elmitt, D. Hingley, P. Jackson, J. Sacha, and C. Watts

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public

25/127. To receive apologies

Cllr Corrigan (personal), Cllr Slade (personal) and Cllr Pattenden (personal)

25/128. Public session *(Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of ten minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes)*

A villager was at the meeting to discuss the proposed new bus stop for Church Street. A few other nearby residents had been consulted and responded. The residents are not in favour of a new bus stop being positioned opposite the church signboard. The road is wider here but very close to the East Street road junction which is a dangerous junction. Parking is already a problem with a local dancing school and church nearby. There are other nearby bus stops that residents can walk to. The Parish Council will minute all of this feedback at the next meeting in December.

The villager left the meeting at 7.22pm.

25/129. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda *(Members should disclose any interests in the business to be discussed and are reminded that the disclosure of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest will require that the member withdraws from the meeting room during the transaction of that item of business)*

The Chair declared a pecuniary interest in item 25/139, a payment for an ink cartridge.

25/130. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th October 2025

Two amendments under County Council and District Council matters. Line 3 to read Cherwell District Council (CDC) could be losing up to 40% of its revenue from Central Government. Line 4 to read Cherwell could be the third worst hit district. The minutes were then accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

25/131. Update on progress from the previous minutes (for information only)

- *Defibrillator training course.* The detail will be included in the New Year newsletter and a course arranged for February/March time.
- *Planned landscape management at Keyser Road.* The Parish Council are awaiting a work date from Thomas Fox Landscaping.

25/132. County Council and District Council matters

- *To receive reports from County and District Councillors*
Cllr Hingley gave the following report. The budget for 2026-27 is being finalised. A public consultation has been launched this week and will run until 19th December. Funding from Central Government is less. The majority of the funding gap (£7M) will be met from efficiency savings. Certain fees will have to be increased.

Signed

Dated 10th December 2025

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Garden waste is one cost that will increase but costs are less than neighbouring councils. There is a question in the consultation asking for views if council tax was increased more than £5 on a Band D property. Cllr Hingley recommended that people look at the consultation. Kerbside glass recycling will start in the New Year. Bottle banks, which are a magnet for fly tipping, will be removed once the scheme starts. Other local issues include the illegal dumping of waste off the A34 and pressure is being piled on the Environment Agency to resolve. The Local Plan is progressing. The resurfacing of local roads in the village was discussed. There are other roads in a bad state of repair such as Chapel Lane. The Parish Clerk to contact highways.

A Councillor spoke about the sale of Bodicote House and asked if this will affect the cutting of services? This will not count in the current budget as it will be a capital receipt. Negotiations are continuing and CDC are looking to progress this sale as quickly as possible. The building will deteriorate if left empty for too long. The Neighbourhood Plan housing allocation will come from this site.

Detail has been received on the Cherwell Street (Banbury) Improvement Project although there are no results from the consultation on the website. Cllr Hingley agreed to feedback from parishioners.

- *CDC, LGR - Publication of Two Unitary Proposal.* The proposal for two new unitary councils to serve Oxfordshire and West Berkshire was approved by the Full Council on 10th November. It will be submitted to Central Government and there will be a public consultation next year.
- *CDC, Street Name on former Bodicote Farm Shop and Land (Arbor Park).* An error has been made by CDC in the naming of the access road at Arbor Park. The road name is Cherwell Gate. The Chief Executive of Cherwell District Council personally rang the Chair to apologise for the error. It is too late to change this road name as some houses are now occupied.

25/133. To receive an update on the transfer of land south of Blackwood Place and Molyneux Drive and north west of Cotefield Farm

- *To acknowledge receipt of the Deed of Variation and to agree the plan of adopted areas.* The Deed of Variation was received and accepted. A plan of the adopted areas was emailed and this was accepted. The commuted sum is not mentioned in any document.

25/134a. Planning matters; New applications

- *25/02670/TCA, T 1 & T2 Yew - Remove lower branches that are stopping light from street light illuminating path at The Manor House, 10 High Street.* No objections by PC.
- *25/02774/TCA, T1 Oak - Crown lift to 2 metres, formative prune (removal of crossing branches). T2 Bird Cherry - Reduce encroaching branches by up to 1.5m to clear highway whilst retaining overall crown form. Crown lift to 3 metres. T3 European Lime - Crown lift to 3 metres. T4 Bird Cherry - Crown lift to 3 metres. Remove epicormic growth. T5 Oak - Crown raise to 5.2m over highway. Crown reduce by 3 metres. T6 Oak - Crown lift to 2 metres above ground level. T7 Broad leaved lime - Crown raise to 5.2m over highway. Crown lift to 3 metres above green space. T8 Walnut - Crown raise to 5.2m over highway. Crown lift to 3 metres. Reduce away from birch to the north by 1 metre. T9 European lime - Crown raise to 5.2m over highway. Crown lift to 3 metres above green space. Remove epicormic growth. T10 Paper bark cherry - Crown lift to 3 metres. T11 European lime - Crown lift to 3 metres on the Green, Town Furlong.* No objections by PC.

25/134b. Planning matters; determined

- *25/02769/TCA, G1 consisting of x1 Sycamore (40cmDBH) x1 self set walnut (>10cm DBH) - reduce low branches back to boundary in line with common law rights. All pruning cuts to BS3998:2010 standard removing no more than 2m from the lowest branches. Works are concealed from public viewpoint at Tregaron, 3 Lower Close. No further comments or observations by CDC.*
- *25/02417/F, Single storey rear extension with associated internal and external works at 1 White Horses Close. Granted by CDC.*

25/135. Neighbourhood Plan

- *Re-designation of the neighbourhood plan area.* Cherwell District Council have formally approved the application.
- *Discuss next steps.* There is a lot of work still to be done and it was agreed that work should continue as money has already been spent and the village will be weaker without one. It is an important undertaking. The focus will be on protecting the green spaces and the Conservation Area, valuing important features and looking at the character of the village. It was agreed to hold an extra meeting in January to look at this item of business only.

Action: The Parish Clerk to book Church House to meet in January.

25/136. Administration matters

To appoint a new representative to sit on Bodicote Welfare Fund Charity.

It was agreed that Cllr Conley would be the new representative.

25/137. Financial report

a) To note up to date bank balances

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Total | £127,562.31 (excluding Bodfest a/c) |
| Business Premium Account | £44,290.14 |
| Community Account | £200.00 |
| <u>Business Premium Account</u> | <u>£83,072.17</u> |
| Business Premium Account (Bodfest) | £9,857.64 |

b) To note the availability of S106 money from local developers. There is money available from local developments for community halls.

c) To approve a funding application of £480.00 to 1st Easington & Bodicote Rainbows from the Bodfest account. This payment will support a family and update and replace equipment. It was agreed to approve the payment.

d) To consider the purchase of a Christmas tree. It was agreed to purchase a real tree this year and look into getting electric put in place near to the shop next year.

Action: The Chair to contact Mark Rogers to purchase the tree.

25/138. To discuss the following village matters

- *Part Night lighting.* Parish Councils can decide whether to introduce part night lighting in their own village. There may be a charge of £50.00 to change each light and this will be checked. County Cllr Hingley has to approve the request. It was agreed to include this idea in the next newsletter to get feedback.
- *Disposal and replacement of an unsafe memorial bench in the cemetery.* All the benches in the cemetery are wooden. It is at the discretion of the Parish Council if the benches are replaced.

Signed

Dated 10th December 2025

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Thomas Fox have quoted £90.00 to dismantle and remove the rotting bench. This price was accepted. It was agreed to purchase a replacement recycled bench costing £672.00 (excluding VAT) which will be delivered to Thomas Fox Landscaping.

Action: The Parish Clerk to ask Thomas Fox to quote to deliver and secure the new bench to the floor.

- *Producing a Christmas newsletter* – A newsletter will be prepared in the New Year.
- *Update on sale of the Spice Room* – There was an open viewing and offers are to be submitted by Tuesday 11th November at 5pm.

The Chair had declared an interest earlier and did not take part in this discussion.

25/139. Passing of invoices for payment

Cllr Elmitt proposed that the following accounts be approved for payment, seconded by Cllr Conley and carried unanimously. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that these payments be made:

- £5661.00 to Cotefield Treecare (tree work at The Rydes and Cemetery)
- £36.00 to J Gardner (winter bedding plants)
- £2505.22 to Thomas Fox Landscaping (grass cutting)
- £1500.00 to Troy Hayes Planning Ltd (NP work)
- £90.00 to Vision ICT (website)
- £846.00 To Parish Clerk (hours) and £82.20 (tax)
- £306.25 to Bodicote Church House (hire of hall)
- £38.50 to J Washburn (ink cartridge)

25/140. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Installation of new bench in cemetery

25/141. To note next meeting date and time

Wednesday 10th December 2025 at 7.15pm (Both Cllr Conley and Cllr Elmitt gave their apologies for this meeting).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Signed

Dated 10th December 2025

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