

BODICOTE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14th JANUARY 2026
AT 7.15PM AT CHURCH HOUSE, CHURCH STREET

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and District Cllr G. Blakeway

26/01. To receive apologies

Cllr Corrigan (personal) and Cllr Watts (personal)

26/02. 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*)
No members of the public were present.

26/03. 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*)
No interests were declared.

26/04. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting held on 10th December 2025
The minutes were accepted and signed as a true record of the meeting.

26/05. Update on progress from the previous minutes (for information only)

- *Planned landscape management work at Keyser Road.* Most of the initial work has been done. The bench will be sanded when the weather improves. Cllr J. Sacha will produce a planting plan and it will be shared with the residents.
- *Sale of the Spice Room.* A property management company have purchased the building and will try to find tenants.

26/06. County Council and District Council matters

- *To receive reports from County and District Councillors*

Cllr D. Hingley gave the following report. The subject of the sale of Bodicote House will be going to the CDC February Executive meeting. Cllr Hingley asked Councillors to think about naming the road as mistakes were made by Cherwell District Council at Arbor Park and this could be included in the contract. One suggested name was Bodicote House Drive. The budget consultation has concluded. It has been tweaked and changes made. There was huge interest and over 1000 responses. Glass recycling has started from households. There is no news on the LGR. A new household recycling booking system has started.

- *To receive an update on work on the Neighbourhood Plan.* The Green Space forms and key views have been completed and forwarded to Troy Planning.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Troy Planning and arrange an online meeting to discuss next steps.

- *To receive an update on the Part Night Lighting scheme.* Guidance packs will be issued to parishes at the end of January. One Councillor felt that Bodicote is not overlit and safety is important. A note is going in the next newsletter to ask for feedback to introduce part night lighting.

26/07. To receive an update on the transfer of land south of Blackwood Place and Molyneux Drive and north west of Cotefield Farm

Cala Homes have asked Cherwell District Council for an update.

Action: The Parish Clerk to forward the email to Cllr D. Hingley and District Cllr G. Blakeway.

26/08a. Planning matters; New applications

- 25/03207/F, *Erection of one residential dwelling and garage within residential garden of existing dwelling including formation of openings within stone boundary wall to form highway access (self-build) at the Manor House, 10 High Street.* Comments made by PC.
- 25/03294/F, *RETROSPECTIVE - Boundary treatments constructed along the southern boundary wall at 17 Wykham Lane.* It was agreed to support.

26/08b. Planning matters; determined

- 25/03244/TCA, *apple (T1) - Reduction of the apple at the south end of the lawn in the rear garden by approximately 2 metres in height, reducing the sides to suit. mixed group (G1) - Crown lifting of the trees above the drive to approximately 3.5 metres above ground level. Pruning to clear the OHPL by approximately 1 metre. mixed fruit trees (G2) - Re-reduction of the various fruit trees back to previous along the west boundary. mixed fruit trees (G3) - Re-reduction of the various fruit trees back to previous along the west and north boundary walls at South Cross, Weeping Cross.* No comments or objections by CDC.

26/09. Financial report

a) *To note up to date bank balances*

Total	£111,990.79 (excluding Bodfest a/c)
Business Premium Account	£28,503.23
Community Account	£173.00
<u>Business Premium Account</u>	<u>£83,314.56</u>
Business Premium Account (Bodfest)	£9,887.67

b) *To agree the three quarterly bank reconciliation.* The three quarterly bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statements and was signed by the Chair and Cllr Slade.

c) *To approve a funding application of £300.00 to Looney Loops from the Bodfest account.* This initiative provides an opportunity for everyone to keep fit and the application was approved.

Action: The Parish Clerk to process the payment.

d) *To consider renewal of the grass cutting contract for 1 year or 3 years.* Thomas Fox Landscaping have been the grass contractor for a number of years and there is a good working relationship. A quote for either a one or three contract has been received. Prices do increase with inflation each year and by accepting the three year contract will fix the price with certainty. The quote includes three flails at the flyover. This will be queried as only two may be needed. It was agreed to accept the three year contract.

Action: The Parish Clerk to confirm this with Thomas Fox Landscaping.

e) *To consider S137 applications received from Salt Way Activity Group, Assisted Reading for Children (ARCh), Volunteer Driver Service and Citizens Advice West Northants and Cherwell.* The four applications were considered and awarded £500.00 each.

Action: The Parish Clerk to process the payments.

f) *To set the precept for 2026/27.* The budget sheet was updated to show estimated spend to 31st March 2026. Some costs in the next financial year will naturally increase with inflation such as grass cutting, maintenance costs, clerks salary and insurance. Reserves are healthy and it was agreed to increase the precept by 2.5%. Six Councillors voted for this proposal and one against. It will be set at £40,139.00.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.

26/10. Passing of invoices for payment

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

- £97.50 to Mrs P Evett (Litter picking December)
- £90.00 to Vision ICT (Website January)
- £101.28 to Microshade Business Consultants (Emails February)
- £846.20 To Parish Clerk (Hours) and £82.00 to HMRC (Tax)
- £57.55 To Parish Clerk (Expenses)
- £108.00 to Thomas Fox Landscaping (Removal of rotten bench from cemetery)
- £2184.00 to Thomas Fox Landscaping (Landscape work at Keyser Road)
- £1273.37 to Thomas Fox Landscaping (Hedge cutting at cemetery, shrubbery maintenance at Keyser Road, maintenance of paths)
- £2244.00 to Cotefield Treecare (Tree work on Town Furlong)
- £118.00 to Cherwell District Council (Renewal of 2 x brown bins in the cemetery)

26/11. Village matters

- *To approve the content of the next newsletter.* The newsletter content was circulated. Defibrillator training has been included and is being offered on 25th March from 7-9pm at Church House. 20 people can attend. The content was approved and will be sent for copying.

Action: The newsletter will be distributed towards the end of January.

- *To discuss the planting of a tree outside the shop.* Ownership of the land outside the shop is being investigated. It might be possible to plant a permanent tree once ownership is established.

26/12. To receive the following correspondence

- *OCC, New booking system at Household Waste Recycling Centres.* A new booking system is being introduced from 14th January. Residents can book 30 minutes before their time (subject to availability) or up to two weeks in advance and will need to show ID when they arrive. The detail is on the website.

26/13. Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Checking air quality on Oxford Road

Update on village gates

Moss on pavements

26/14. To note next meeting date and time

Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7.15pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.