

CHESELBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5th JANUARY 2026, AT CHESELBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllrs D Walsh, G Waters

Chair: Cllr A Taylor

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: No members of the public

1. Period of Public Participation

25.082 No matters were raised.

2. Apologies for absence

25.083 Apologies had been received from Cllrs N Searle and R Hall, and Dorset Councillor Jill Haynes.

3. To receive Declarations of Interest and consider any Dispensations received

25.084 No interests were declared, and no dispensations had been requested.

4. Approve the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd November 2025

25.085 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members. Cllr Walsh proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Waters. The Chair signed the minutes in the presence of the meeting.

5. Matters arising from the minutes – for report only

25.086 New boxes for the book swap have been purchased and will be marked with indelible marker 'Property of Cheselbourne Parish Council' with indelible marker by Cllr Searle.

Litter picking equipment has been purchased on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllr Searle, as agreed.

6. Dorset Councillor's Report

25.087 A copy of the December 2025 report had been issued with the agenda. The contents of the report were noted.

7. To consider the PCSO's report

25.088 A copy of the report had been issued with the agenda. The contents of the report were noted.

8. Finance

25.089 To approve the payment of accounts for December 2025 and January 2026

The following payments were requested:

Hugo Fox	Email hosting November	20.99
Hugo Fox	Web hosting November	11.99

A Crocker	December salary + expenses	215.18
HMRC	December PAYE	44.40
Lloyds Bank	Account charges 10.10.25 to 09.11.25	4.25
Hugo Fox	Email hosting December	20.99
Hugo Fox	Web hosting December	11.99
A Crocker	January salary + expenses	194.05
HMRC	January PAYE	44.60
A Wallis	Village Christmas tree	60.00
Dorset Council	Grit bin refill – October 2024	226.80

The total amount requested is £855.24. Cllr Waters proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.

25.090 To approve the bank reconciliation and position against budget

A copy of the reports had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Walsh proposed they were accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Taylor and agreed unanimously.

25.091 To agree the budget and precept for 2026/2027

A copy of the proposed budget had been issued with the agenda. Cllr Taylor proposed the precept is set at £10,985. This was seconded by Cllr Waters and agreed unanimously.

9. Parish Councillors' Reports

25.093 Flooding – Cllr Waters reported that, on Thursday 18th December and Sunday 21st December, the village received consistent and at times heavy rainfall. This came on already saturated ground due to previous high rainfall levels during the early Autumn. As a consequence, the waters draining into the Cheselbourne stream from the surrounding hillsides combined to raise the water level which the existing watercourse was unable to cope with. A Met Office yellow weather warning suggesting possible low-level impact for flooding, was issued on 17th December for Dorset, but the Cheselbourne stream and the Devils Brook which directly impact our valley were not listed.

On both the 18th and 21st December, Cllr Waters noted that the Village Hall playing field was mostly underwater. The Thatched House which is slightly higher upstream also experienced some surface water flooding including the grazing paddock. There was also shallow flood water across the access lane between 1 and 2 The Willows and West Farmhouse opposite, which is a frequent occurrence in heavy rain with high water levels. These 'hot spots' are regular victims in times of either sustained excessive rainfall, or high impact heavy rainstorms, or both. Cllr Waters noted that he had checked some other low-lying areas of the village adjacent to the stream, e.g. Manor Farm entrance, Brook Green and the rear of Robins Garden. In these locations the water kept within its banks, just. Sandbags were deployed in some spots as a temporary measure.

It was agreed that an audit of the available sandbags held at Meyden Road will be made to check on quantity and condition. Cllr Waters will make the necessary preliminary arrangements for the audit to take place.

ACTION: CLLRS TAYLOR & WATERS

25.092 Asset Management Report

Fingerpost at the bottom of Cardiac Hill – John Lilley has looked at the sign and quoted £165 to replace the finger. Members agreed the amount and Cllr Taylor will confirm this with Mr Lilley.

Fingerpost at Dewlish Junction – The Cheselbourne finger has been 'removed'. Cllr Searle has offered to contact Roger Bond and get a quote for the work.

Treework around the village green – This will be carried forward to the March meeting. The Clerk will contact AG Tree Services in the meantime to obtain a quote.

25.093 Play Park Report

The December play park report was tabled. Cllr Taylor has spoken to a local contractor regarding removing the rust from the frame of the swings and repainting it. It was hoped that a quote will be submitted for consideration at the March meeting. Cllr Hall has been in touch with Copperbeech regarding the splits in the climbing frame wood and a site visit was provisionally agreed. To date, the site visit has not been confirmed.

25.094 Highways

It was noted that there was nothing to report.

25.095 Website and IT

(i) To consider the Bring Your Own Device Policy – The policy was accepted and will be put on the Parish Council website.

10. To consider planning applications

25.096 P/VOC/2025/07274 Highdon House – Erect front, side and rear extensions and install dormer windows (with variation of condition 2 of permission P/HOU/2024/004455 – to amend approved plans.

The Parish Council had no objection to the original planning application which had been considered in 2024. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would have no objection to the amended proposal.

11. Date of next meeting

25.097 The next meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.00hrs.