



## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

21<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2026

Cheriton Parish Council are pleased to share our Annual Report for 2026. This meeting gives residents an overview of the Council's work over the past year and provides an opportunity to raise any Parish Council related matters with us.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

**Maintenance of the Green** – regular grass cutting, replacement of boundary posts, and installation of a new signpost and bench.

**Play area** – Thanks to Nicholas Scallan and his team for monthly inspections, which have highlighted maintenance issues and identified worn or damaged items of equipment requiring replacement.

**Community Grants** – Citizens Advice Bureau and The Cheriton Bellingers both received grants in 2025. An additional £2,500 has recently been received from Boomtown and will be distributed shortly.

**Traffic calming** – New “Beware Pedestrians in Road” signs have been purchased and the Speed Indicator Devices are rotated regularly - thanks go to Jamie Herdman for his help. Negotiations by Cllr Herdman and her Traffic Group have been successful and have secured new gateways and signage to deter large lorries from going through the village. Work is due to begin shortly.

**Defibrillators** – Ongoing inspections and maintenance, with thanks to Simon Murfitt for his regular inspections of both village defibrillators.

**Transfer of Open Space Land at the top of Freemans Yard** – The Transfer of the Open Space Land at the top of Freemans Yard has been agreed and is now progressing between solicitors.

**Conservation Group** – Over 1,000 trees have been planted in and around Cheriton including the new Community Orchard. River weed has been cleared, banks planted with wildflowers, and new equipment purchased to support maintenance of the river and local footpaths.

**Village Shop** – Cheriton Parish Council have worked hard to ensure that when the shop closed it did not stay closed. Thanks go to the community for supporting the new shop and the new shop owner Mr Adarsh and his team for their positive engagement with locals.

## **PRECEPT**

The precept is the Parish Council's share of Council Tax, used to fund local services.

- **2025/26 precept: £30,700** (3.69% increase – second lowest in the county)
- **2026/27 precept: 2.94%** increase, giving an agreed budget of **£31,602.70**

Expenditure is divided between project funding and staffing costs for our Clerk.

## **ANNUAL AUDIT**

The Parish Council finances undergo both an internal and external audit each year. Details of previous accounts can be found on the Parish Council website [cheritonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://cheritonparishcouncil.gov.uk).

Audited accounts for the Year 2025/26 will be available by the end of May 2026. Accounts are in surplus for the year with money being earmarked specifically for traffic calming measures and improvements to the play area.