



**Minutes of the Cheriton Bishop Parish Council meeting held at 7.00 pm on  
Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2026 at The Spalding Hall, Cheriton Bishop.**

Present: Chair Peter O'Neil, Cllr A. Fry and Cllr C. Royle. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) Cllr M. Binks (part) and Devon County Council (DCC) Cllr J. Cairney (part) and 3 members of the public present.

Attending. Parish Clerk – J Clark

1. To receive Declarations of Interest. None

2. Public Discussion

The Chair suspended Standing Orders in order to bring Item 9 forward, as members of the public attending were there to discuss this issue. Following a discussion the parish council resolved unanimously by a show of hands to nominate John Whitehead as a Trustee for the Village Hall Management Committee. Proposed P O'Neill and seconded by S. Fry. Unanimous vote.

Suspension of Standing Orders continued in order to bring forward Item 8 to take input from members of the Spalding Hall Committee attending. The Spalding Hall is struggling financially due to diminished use. The committee is organising a fund raising event because outgoings are increasing whilst income is dropping. The committee is asking for regular and ongoing financial support from the parish council. It is hoped that people moving into the new houses in Church Lane may increase the use and consequently increase income but financial pressure is still anticipated, particularly for the rising cost of electricity.

Cllr Binks commented that the Spalding Hall is a community asset and said the Cheriton Bishop precept increase is low in comparison to other parish councils and that the precept could be used to support the hall when considering the precept next financial year.

Cllrs Fry and Royle commented that they wish to record their support for the work of the Spalding Hall Committee and for their fund raising projects. However, they did not consider ongoing support of an underused building to be an appropriate cost for the parish council as the precept is better spent on activities that support the wider community.

The Chair reinstated Standing Orders in order to vote.

The council thanked the Spalding Hall Committee for the work they do in keeping the hall going and is sympathetic to the issues raised and advised the committee to develop a business plan to increase use or consider other uses of the building going forward. Following the discussion the Chair proposed that for the financial year 2026-2027, the council match fund proceeds raised by the committee to a maximum of £250. The council resolved to support match funding to a maximum of £250 during the next financial year and the vote was unanimous.

Another issue was raised by a member of the public that the gully in Crocky Dip is flooding and the clerk is to report on the Report a Problem Page on the DCC website. **CLERK TO ACTION.**



It was also raised that the footpath and bridleway in Crocky Dip needs attention. The clerk has previously reported this to Dartmoor National Park and the Chair commented that he has had a response saying that the complaint has been received and noted but is a low priority.

A member of the public requested that the vehicle activated speed signs be moved to the site at Church Lane. Clerk to write to Cllr R. Marshall. **CLERK TO ACTION**

3. **To receive and accept apologies.** Cllr R. Marshall. Approved.

#### 4. Planning

##### 4.1

<b>25/01438/FULL Erection of dwelling to replace existing static caravan and change of use of land to domestic garden</b>
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<b>Caravan Oakfields Cheriton Bishop Exeter</b>
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Approved by MDDC

##### 4.2.

<b>25/01772/FULL Crossways Farm Cheriton Bishop</b>
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<b>Removal of condition (b) of planning permission 88/03049/FULL relating to an agricultural occupancy tie</b>
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The council felt no need to comment and are happy to leave the decision to Mid Devon District Council.

##### 4.3

<b>26/00286/FULL Erection of agricultural buildings for sheep/lambing and straw/machinery storage</b>
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<b>Land and Buildings at NGR 277413 94061 (Wellfield Farm) Cheriton Bishop</b>
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The council felt no need to comment and are happy to leave the decision to Mid Devon District Council.

#### 5. Planning Decisions

##### 5.1

<b>25/01379/FULL Horselake Farm Cheriton Bishop</b>
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<b>Change of use of 7 holiday lets to residential dwellings</b>
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Granted by MDDC

##### 5.2

<b>25/01772/FULL Crossways Farm Cheriton Bishop</b>
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<b>Removal of condition (b) of planning permission 88/03049/FULL relating to an agricultural occupancy tie</b>
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Granted by MDDC



5. To consider the draft minutes of the February Parish Council meeting as a correct record. The council resolved unanimously by a show of hands to approve the February minutes.
6. To receive reports from MDDC Councillors - for information only. Cllr Binks reported there was a full council budget meeting and MDDC has agreed to put up council tax by 2.99% for Mid Devon and DCC by 4.99%.
7. To receive a report from Devon County Council (DCC) - for information only. Cllr Cairney reported DCC have had their budget reduced by 13% over 5 years. DCC are seeking to spend more on roads in the coming year due to the impact of the wet weather in the winter of 2025-2026. Some of the infrastructure on the roads is below acceptable standards due to lack of investment since 2010 during austerity. He also reported that DCC is seeking to find a way to keep libraries open, perhaps by reducing the number of days open. DCC is raising awareness of the need for foster parents in the Devon. Cllr Cairney reported that he is looking into the lack of communications between the parish council with Highways representation in the area, with particular regard to the Village Gateway signs and is hopeful that action will be taken soon and if nothing happens then he will monitor the situation and report back to the parish council. **CLLR CAIRNEY TO ACTION**
8. To consider a request from the Spalding Hall Committee for regular financial support. Council suspended Standing Orders earlier in the meeting and the resolution was recorded as shown above.
9. Agree a nomination for a Trustee for the Village Hall Management Committee. Council suspended Standing Orders and the resolution was recorded as shown above.
10. Request for donation towards new mail box for village newsletter. The council resolved to make a donation of £50 unanimously by a show of hands.
11. To consider and agree feedback from the parish council to forward to MDDC regarding the pending Local Government Review. The Chair said he had not received any comments but expressed his concern that the current council processes and structure need to be improved. The council resolved to wait until the picture become clearer before commenting on the Local Government Review.
12. Repairs & Maintenance – to consider any repairs and maintenance needed for PC assets. None currently.
13. To receive and approve monthly income and expenditure report and bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> February, 2026. The clerk reported that the council's expenditure for February 2026 was £973.67 and Income was £723.20 comprising the annual VAT return. The council resolved unanimously by a show of hands to approve the monthly income and expenditure and the bank reconciliation unanimously by a show of hands and the Chair signed off the bank reconciliation.
14. Accounts - to approve the following payments. The council resolved unanimously by a show of hands to approve the payments.

Supplier	Service	AMOUNT	VAT	TOTAL
Mrs Jane Clark	Clerk's salary	£410.79	No	£404.56
HMRC	Clerk's PAYE	£105.80	No	£103.25
Clarity Copiers	Newsletter pages	£51.44	£10.29	£61.73
Spalding Hall	Hall hire	£15.00	No	£15.00
Spalding Hall	Newsletter storage and collation	£53.00	No	£53.00



Men in Sheds	Donation towards new newsletter box (subject to resolution at this meeting)	£50.00	No	£50.00
Mrs Jane Clark	Office and travel expenses Oct25-Mar26	£23.49	No	£23.49

15. To receive reports from Councillors: for information only.

Cllr Royle suggested that the village hall may be a venue for the Annual Parish Meeting. This to be place on the agenda for April discussion. **CLERK TO ACTION**

The Chair reported that the footpath by the new housing development is now open as well as the link from the road crossing to the playground at Glebelands and the village hall. The Chair is still in discussion with the developers regarding the road warning signs.

Cllr Cairney suggested that asking a representative from the school to attend the parish council meetings.

The Chair reported that the report on the Community Infrastructure Levy on small businesses should be announced in May and that could positively impact on the planning application for a farm show near Woodleigh Junction.

Chair gave his apologies for the June meeting.

16. To receive report from clerk: for information only.

Clerk reported that the end of year audit is pending.

Meeting closed at 2005

Dates of next three meetings (second Monday of the month) at Spalding Hall, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026,  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 and 8<sup>th</sup> June, 2026.