CHELMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Gillian Bailey
Email: clerk@chelmarshparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of Chelmarsh Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at Chelmarsh Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present:
Cllrs R Bebb, A Cadwallader, T Cole, D Garrett, D Strong and R Woods

Also Present:
G Bailey, Clerk, Cllr G Hollyhead, Shropshire Councillor

Public Open Session
There were no members of the public present.

26/27 044 Apologies for absence
It was agreed unanimously to accept apologies from Cllr Thomas.

26/27 045 Declaration of Interests
There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda.

26/27 046 Minutes
It was proposed by Cllr Strong, seconded by Cllr Cole and **agreed** unanimously that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th July 2026 were a true record. The Chair signed the minutes.

26/27 047 Reports

a) Unitary Councillor: Cllr Hollyhead.

- Shropshire Council has received its external audit report Shropshire_External_Assurance_Review_2026.pdf

Cllr Hollyhead reported that the authority is likely to be in deficit by £180m by 2030. General reserves are at just £4.8m (recommended £46.8m). The authority has received a £219m government loan which will cost £17.6m per year to service. Council tax increases without service improvements are likely.

- Members have been asked highlight areas where internet service is poor as part of a wider project to improve rural connectivity.

Councillors reported that networks in Chelmarsh were poor with patchy connectivity. Hampton Loade receives it's service via wires across the river. The infrastructure is very vulnerable
Cllr Hollyhead will update Shropshire Council.

b) Local Policing Team. No report.

c) Parish Hall
The Parish Hall committee has not been able, despite many attempts to engage with user groups and residents, to recruit new volunteers to the roles of Chair or Treasurer which are required by the charity commission. The committee also needs volunteers to manage

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bookings for the hall and organise the village fete. If these positions cannot be filled the charity will need to be wound up and the parish hall will close. There is a specific process to be followed.
A meeting is to be called for all residents over 18, if three quarters of those present vote in favour, the lease (held by the Parish Council) will be surrendered and the property returned to the diocese of Hereford. A provisional date of Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 7.30 was agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr Woods, seconded by Cllr Cadwallader and **agreed** unanimously that the Parish Council send a letter to all households in the Parish by mail service at a cost of £350 plus VAT.

26/27 048 Planning Applications

Members considered planning application 26/03297/FUL, Hillside Cottage, Chelmarsh.
It was **agreed** unanimously that there were no objections to the proposal.

26/27 049 Payments

a) It was **agreed** unanimously to approve the payment schedule for September 2026.
b) The payment schedule for July was noted.

26/27 050 Police and Crime Commissioner

It was agreed that the Parish Council would not complete the annual survey.

26/27 051 NCNR 45 Working Group

Councillors received the minutes of the NCNR45 working group. Cllr Cole gave a verbal update on progress of the project.

26/27 052 Pay Settlement

It was agreed unanimously to **approve** the pay settlement for the clerk in line with the national agreement effective 1st April 2026.

26/27 053 Car Park Fencing

It was agreed to defer this item until October for the clerk to determine if the quotes were for tanalised or creosoted timber.

26/27 054 Environmental Maintenance Contract

Councillors reviewed the draft document and made a number of recommendations.

26/27 055 Clerks Report

- The stile from the playing field has now been replaced.
- Streetlights maintenance: It was agreed to undertake electrical testing at a cost of £25 per lantern.
- Parish council review – waiting for more quotes.
- Local Transport plan consultation will commence in the Autumn.
- Fix my street reports made: Overhanging trees: awaiting programming
  Pavement to St Peters: awaiting update

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26/27 056 Parish Matters

Cllr Cadwallader reported an incident involving the overhanging trees where a large branch was knocked into the road. The clerk to follow up.
Overhanging trees around the double walled bend (possibly Eardington Parish|) are obstructing visibility. Possibly the responsibility of SVR. Clerk to follow up.

26/27 057 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed ..... Dated .....

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