

Chicheley Parish Meeting

Tuesday 14th October 2025, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Minutes

Present	Apologies for absence
C. Tarrant (Chair) J. Parker (Clerk) Electors of the parish: D. Blamires, B. Clarridge, P. Clarridge, R. Duncombe, T. Errington, C. Girard, P. Girard, M. Kettell, D. Robertson, F. Robertson, G. Sparshott	J. Heaton, R. Ruck-Keene, I. Townsend, P. Townsend

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- Approved

2. Matters arising

- Slow signs/road closures for Remembrance Sunday had not been pursued; costs involved
- Landscaping: we have access to the mapping system now so should be able to find out what is included in our landscaping 'package'
- Ward reviews: no changes communicated. Clerk to check with ward councillors
- The audit process was successfully completed including displaying the required notices on the noticeboard. Thanks to David Blamires for his support

3. Ward Councillors' report

- Pended, no ward councillors available
- Clerk to pursue email update

4. TVP PCSO report (off duty)

- Despite some local staffing issues in the PCSO team, Arlene emphasized that she is available and we should contact her if we need her
- Crime statistics April-October presented [see attached list]
- To note:
 - Some 'near misses' at the North Crawley Road turning

- Astwood are getting a 'turning in island' to alleviate problems there
- A reminder to call 999 if there is e.g. hare coursing in progress
- In the local area, burglary is on the increase. Marking valuables such as tools recommended, as well as installing wired cameras as opposed to wifi ones which can be 'blocked'
- Successful meeting at the recent North East Rural Community Forum which focussed on local issues to do with Thames Valley Police. All welcome at future meetings (Wednesday 25th February 2026 7pm at The Olney Centre)
- Reminder to report any crime e.g. speeding, recent thefts - or indeed anything suspicious, so that it can be tracked and followed up by the team. An easy way is via www.police.uk
- Arlene offered to support the community with a talk on avoiding scams. Clerk to liaise re: date

5. Speeding/SIDs bid

- Call for bids to the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) will come in March 2026 for submission in August
- Cost of speed indicator devices will be around 5k. CIF bids need 50% match-funding from parishes. We could apply to the Petsoe End Windfarm Fund for the remaining 50% to cover solar powered SIDs, which is in keeping with the 'green' criteria for applications
- On-costs should be minimal but the devices will need insuring
- MKC will need to support the siting of the poles; cost of the poles will need to be included in the bid
- Local residents will need to download the data and send it to TVP which should lead to an increased presence of the speeding van in the village
- Meeting agreed to pursue the application
- Thanks expressed to Ian Townsend for representing the village at the recent NE Forum. Issues raised included:
 - Speeds in excess of the 40mph limit especially at peak times
 - Dangerous overtaking especially at Hall Lane/Bedlam Lane crossroad which has worsened since the removal of the entry bollards
 - Both these factors make crossing the A422 risky, especially for those with mobility issues
 - Noise from speeding vehicles on the A509
 - Extending the 40mph limit to include the approaches to Chicheley Hill roundabout may help alleviate some of these issues
- Agreed to invite Murray Woodburn and the new road safety officer (MKC Highways) for a site visit, in keeping with other parish visits. Robert Ruck-Keene to be invited to attend in his capacity as chair of the NE Forum

6. Future expenditure

- Costs this year have been c. £714

○ insurance	296
○ playground	1
○ landscaping	210
○ Donation (Village Hall)	130
○ Email account	77

- £80 donation to SCAN for financial year 2025-2026 approved now the future of the magazine is secure
- Anticipated expenditure to the end of the financial year (SCAN donation, landscaping) takes the total to around £954
- Known costs for the next financial year total c £1120
 - insurance c 340 (possible increase)
 - playground 1
 - landscaping 370 (8x £25 for mowing, 2x £85 for hedge)
 - Donations 210 (Village hall £130, £80 SCAN)
 - Email account c 200 (increase)
- Bank balance at the time of the meeting = £1554, but with additional planned expenditure = around £1400
- We have reserves in excess of what is advisable, according to current audit guidelines
- Agreed to allocate £350 to fix the uneven turf (screed with top soil and reseed) around the war memorial [post-meeting note: we have £200 from a previous ward councillors' budget allocation which would support this work]
- Donations to SCAN and Village Hall for 2026 agreed
- Our precept request for MKC for the financial year 2025-2026 was £1220
- Agreed to set the precept request at £1000 for 2026-2027, to cover known expenditure and reduce reserves

7. Any other business

- Applied for and received from MKC £500 'warm places' funding to support winter community activities. All monies to be accounted for by April 2026 and reported back to MKC. Details passed on to the Village Hall committee for action
- The Chair had a positive meeting with the general manager of Chicheley Hall following recent issues with access to the Hall via Hall Lane on the evening of an event; there is a continued need to restrict access. All parties keen to maintain good neighbourly relations and ensure the continued prosperity of the Hall. The general manager had been in touch with Google maps already to correct satnav directions
- Fitness for purpose of the equipment in the play area questioned. Clerk to follow up
- Other issues of concern include:
 - Visibility/safe access outside A422 Little End cottages caused by parking in the layby, speeds and overgrown vegetation
 - 'Dropped' service covers on the A422 are causing noise again
 - Condition of the path and road along Bedlam Walk where the weight of e.g. bin lorries is damaging the grass-crete; ironworks are now visible
- All encouraged to report local issues via MKC 'report it' portal; some issues would be raised with Highways

8. Date of next meeting: 21st April 2026 7.30pm