CHILDSWICKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Meeting of Childswickham Parish Council at 7:15PM on Thursday 8th January 2026 at Childswickham Memorial Hall, WR12 7HF (///stray.procures.magnetic)

Minutes 01/2026

Present: Anthony Halling (Chair), Kerry Smith, Kate Parker, Peter Grimshaw, Jon Wade
In attendance: David Hunter-Miller (Clerk), Emma Sims (District Councillor)

1. Chairman's welcome and announcements

Anthony Halling opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Tim Ramsbottom resigned from the parish council and councillors extended their thanks for his work on the council over many years.

2. Apologies for absence: To receive apologies and to approve reasons for absence

All members present.

3. Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest

3.1. Register of Interests: With reference to items on the agenda councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare interests and to update their register of interests as required.

Noted.

3.2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Nil declared.

3.3. Other Interests: To declare any Other Registerable Interests or Non-Registerable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

Nil declared.

3.4. Dispensations: To consider any written dispensations from councillors who have declared an interest but wish to stay in the meeting during that time to aid discussion / speak / vote.

Nil received.

***4.* Open Session**

The meeting was adjourned for the open session.

4.1. Public participation

No questions were received.

4.2. District Councillors

Emma Sims provided a report, including an update on Wychavon District Council's Climate Change Adaptation Plan, a recent Economic Impact of Tourism report and a response to proposals to cut Police Community Support Officer hours of work.

4.3. County Councillor

No matters were reported.

The meeting resumed following the open session.

5. To consider and adopt the minutes from the parish council meeting on the 13th November 2025

It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

6. Progress reports

6.1. Councillor vacancies

It was noted that there were two vacancies on the parish council and enquiries from parishioners were welcomed.

6.2. Traffic/speeding issues

No updates were available.

6.3. Solar conversion for Speed Indicating Devices

It was noted that the solar panel kit had been successfully installed on the Elan City Speed Indicating Device; grant funding would be applied for in due course.

6.4. New Street trees

A quote was awaited for replacement trees.

6.5. Footpath CW-516 (Brook Street) bank erosion

It was RESOLVED to discuss with Worcestershire County Council's Rights of Way team.

6.6. Community levy on future solar farm developments

No further update.

7. Planning

7.1. To further consider a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Childswickham

It was RESOLVED to prepare a 'Childswickham Vision Statement' to be submitted in response to future housing planning applications. Such a document would not have any legal/planning authority but would provide a standardised, robust and evidenced based response to planning matters in support of the village's Category 4 status. The statement could also cover other matters that the parish would like to see addressed, such as:

- Flooding/drainage/sewerage
- Wildlife/ecology
- Access/highway safety
- Agricultural land loss

The parish council would take the lead on preparing a vision statement, supported by volunteers that had come forward to assist with the NDP.

7.2. To consider the following applications to be determined by Wychavon District Council:

7.2.1. Nil.

No new planning applications.

7.3. To consider the following applications to be determined by the Planning Inspectorate:

7.3.1. Ref. 6002233 (W/25/00494/FUL): Land At (Os 0727 3869) Farmers Lane Childswickham. 8 No. proposed new dwellings and associated works.

It was RESOLVED that the parish council would submit updated drainage and sewerage reports.

7.4. To note responses made under delegated authority for the following applications:

7.4.1. W/25/02596/PIP: Orchard Farm, Evesham Road, Broadway, WR12 7HU. Permission in principle for up to 2 dwellings.

It was noted that the following objection had been submitted under delegated authority:

Childswickham Parish Council considered this application under their delegated authority arrangements. While the Parish Council recognises that the proposal is for only two dwellings, is visually discreet and benefits from an existing access, we do raise the following objections to the proposals.

The proposal fails to adequately demonstrate that it would not exacerbate existing foul drainage and wastewater infrastructure issues, contrary to SWDP Policy 29. Evidence from recent monitoring (supplied) shows that the local sewerage network and receiving watercourses (including Badsey Brook) are already overwhelmed, with frequent discharges of untreated sewage. The view that two extra houses would make little difference does not fully take into account the cumulative impact of repeated small-scale development. Until clear improvements to sewerage capacity and wastewater management are delivered, the parish council considers further residential development unsustainable.

Although the site benefits from an existing access, the A44 at this location is a fast-moving and busy road. The adjacent barn accommodates two active businesses, generating regular vehicular movements and parking

activity and there is a well-used lay-by nearby. The proposal does not adequately address the cumulative impact on traffic and access, including construction traffic, nor the safety implications of additional turning movements across the A44, contrary to SWDP Policy 4.

The proposed site is on agricultural land and the proposal does not clearly justify the loss of such land in sustainability terms, contrary to SWDP Policy 13.

7.4.2. W/25/00107/FUL: Milestone Ground Childswickham Road Broadway WR12 7HA. Demolition of existing clubhouse and redevelopment of 113 residential dwellings (Use Class C3), and replacement sports pitches (including 3G sports pitch) and clubhouse, including new vehicular access, public open space, landscaping and other associated infrastructure.

It was noted that the following objection had been submitted under delegated authority:

The Parish Council objects to the proposed drainage strategy for Milestone Ground.

This site held significant floodwater in 2007 and runoff from the development will enter nearby brooks far faster than the natural soakaways, risking overwhelming both the nature reserve and the brook. The STW manhole by the nature reserve already lifts and surcharges during heavy rain, clear indication that the system is already over capacity.

We note that the LLFA has maintained its objection to discharging into the wildlife area and gravel pits. The alternative proposal to discharge across Childswickham Road into Bunches Brook will still increase the overall volume entering the system and could worsen downstream flooding in Childswickham village, even if released at greenfield rates.

We therefore request that full modelling be carried out to assess the impact on Bunches Brook, Badsey Brook, and downstream flood risk. Without clear evidence that the scheme will work successfully and not increase local flood risk, the Parish Council cannot support the proposal.

8. Highways and Lengthsman Scheme

8.1. To receive an update on the lengthsman scheme and to consider any items for the work schedule

It was noted that the Lengthsman had passed the traffic management training course and could now start work in the parish.

It was RESOLVED to ask the Lengthsman to apply anti-slip material to a pedestrian footbridge.

9. Parish matters for discussion/decision

9.1. To consider a new bus stop and provision of a bus shelter

It was RESOLVED to ask Worcestershire County Council for permission to relocate the school bus stop from the current site on Broadway Road to a safer location on New Street (just west of the junction with Green Close).

9.2. To consider a report on sewerage issues and lack of system capacity

It was RESOLVED to include the report on future relevant planning application comments/objections.

9.3. To consider vibration and noise concerns relating to recent construction/piling works

It was noted that the works had now concluded.

9.4. To consider and adopt the following policies/procedures:

9.4.1. Balances and Reserves Policy

It was RESOLVED to adopt the above policy.

9.4.2. Biodiversity Policy

It was RESOLVED to amend the above policy so that it was bespoke to Childswickham.

9.4.3. Complaints Procedure

9.4.4. Equal Opportunities Policy

9.4.5. Freedom of Information Act Guide

9.4.6. Health and Safety Policy

9.4.7. Publication Scheme

9.4.8. Retention Policy

It was RESOLVED to adopt the above policies.

10. Correspondence for response or action

10.1. Cheltenham Borough Council, Gloucester City Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council: Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) consultation

The above consultation was noted.

10.2. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: National Planning Policy Framework - proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system

The above consultation was noted.

11. Finance

11.1. To consider and appoint an internal auditor for the 2025-26 financial year

It was RESOLVED to appoint Iain Selkirk to undertake the 2025-26 internal audit.

11.2. To consider and approve the latest budget expenditure

It was RESOLVED to approve the budget expenditure.

11.3. To consider and approve the latest bank reconciliation

It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliation.

11.4. To approve the following invoices for payment:

11.4.1. David Hunter-Miller (Clerk's salary and expenses January)

11.4.2. HMRC (PAYE January)

It was RESOLVED to settle the above invoices.

11.5. To note the following payments approved between meetings under delegated authority:

11.5.1. 14/11/25 M Newbury (grass cutting): £1,080.00

11.5.2. 08/12/25 David Hunter-Miller (Clerk's salary and expenses December)

11.5.3. 08/12/25 HMRC (PAYE December)

11.5.4. 08/12/25 Elan City Ltd (SID): £509.08

The above payments were noted.

11.6. To note the following direct debit payments between meetings:

11.6.1. 11/11/25 Information Commissioner (registration): £47.00

11.6.2. 18/11/25 Lloyds Bank (service charge): £4.25

The above payments were noted.

12. Councillors' reports and items for the next agenda

It was RESOLVED that Kerry Smith would keep a spare set of keys for the parish post box and noticeboard.

It was RESOLVED that The Circuit (defibrillator) registration would be transferred to the Clerk and that Jon Wade would undertake the regular inspections and battery replacements.

It was RESOLVED to add the following item to the next agenda:

- Pension auto-enrolment

13. Date of the next meeting

The next scheduled meeting is at 7:15PM Thursday 12th March 2026.

The meeting closed at 8:15PM.

D Hunter-Miller

David Hunter-Miller
Clerk and RFO