

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 13th JULY 2026
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

Matthew Platt (Chairman), Toby Brook, Peter Gibson, Christian Lejeune and Nigel Prickett

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

26/39. To receive apologies for absence

None.

26/40. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

26/41. To approve the minutes of the meetings of 15th May and 18th May 2026

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meetings.

26/42. Update on progress from the previous Minutes – The Chair/Clerk will report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision

Work on the barn in the Square and tidying the area – The Parish Clerk contacted Tony Brummell at CDC for an update. As long as the structure is safe they cannot do any more. Conversations will be held with the owner.

26/43. Public participation session

The dog poo bin is overflowing by the pub. The Chair will report to CDC.

26/44. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £16,681.26.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

£200.00 to Cherwell District Council (uncontested election charge)

£300.00 to M Platt (music for Summer Solstice fete on 20th June 2026)

£25.00 to Parish Clerk (SLCC membership)

£815.17 to M Platt (refreshments and food for APM and Summer Solstice event)

To discuss and agree additional funding for the play area to match other funds raised

£1020.00 was raised at the recent Solstice event. Bibby and Epwell Trust have both agreed to match fund. Councillors agreed to match fund and a donation of £2040.00 will be given. Match funding will demonstrate good effort and willingness within the community. A new play park will cost about £40-50K.

Action: The Parish Clerk to apply for a donation from Cllr Chris Brant's Councillor Priority Fund.

26/45. Village Matters

- *To receive an update on the defibrillator placement.* Several locations have been suggested in the past but were not suitable.

Signed

Dated 14th September 2026

The pub will be investigated again. Defibrillator training was discussed and last took place in January 2025. Another session will be arranged.

Action: Nicola Rudge to forward contact details to the Parish Clerk.

- *To discuss footpaths blocked with nettles.* One landowner has been contacted and will cut back overgrown vegetation. Cllr Prickett has cleared his footpaths.
- *To discuss the new gulley on the corner of Church Lane.* Highways visited again as incorrect work had been done. This has been tidied up now.
- *To investigate possibilities for Epwell to be included on a bus route.* Some villagers do not have cars now or drive. This idea was investigated a few years ago but went no further. Cllr Lejeune has contacted Cllr Brant and Cllr Borkmann to progress the idea again.
- *To note the effort from many volunteers in the play park.* On several occasions working groups have done a lot of work in the park. Thanks was given to them.

26/46. To receive the following correspondence

- *Highways, Temporary Road Closure at Sherington, The Quarry, Rattlecombe Road OX15 6LZ from 1st to 5th September.* This closure is for new water connection works.

Action: The Parish Clerk to put details on the website and noticeboard nearer the time.

- *CDC, Designation – What this means for Parish Councils.* Noted.
- *OCC, General Review of speed limits on Oxfordshire's A and B class road network – Stakeholder consultation – Cherwell district.* This review is being carried out as part of the Council's Vision Zero road safety programme. The main focus of the review is to reduce the risks to all road users, other benefits may include an improved environment including reduced emissions and noise. The last general review was completed in 2011 and they are applying the current Department for Transport (DfT) guidance on setting local speed limits. The current speed limit on the B4035 between Swalcliffe and the County Boundary is 60mph. The consideration of a 40mph speed limit is to improve safety including for pedal cyclists is recommended noting that current average speeds are already around 40mph. The speed limit is 50mph on the adjacent route section in Warwickshire. It was agreed to keep to the current speed limit.

Action: The Parish Clerk to respond to OCC.

- *CDC Neighbourhood Planning, Bloxham Modified Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 18 decision notice.* Noted.
- *Highways, Winter Preparedness 26/27.* Bulk salt bags are available to order. Delivery is late October. New salt bins can also be purchased. Existing salt bins will be topped up if reported. The village have a salt spreader which does not work very well. A new storage place will be needed.

Action: Councillors to check existing salt bins. The Chair to get the cost of a new salt spreader and bags of finer salt.

26/47. To receive Councillors Reports

No reports were received.

26/48. To note next meeting date and time

Monday 14th September 2026 at 8pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed

Dated 14th September 2026