

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026
IN EPWELL VILLAGE HALL AT 8PM

Councillors Present

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

Christine Coles (Parish Clerk) and one villager

26/49. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Gibson (personal)

26/50. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda

No interests were declared.

26/51. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 13th July 2026

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

26/52. Update on progress from the previous Minutes – The Chair/Clerk will report on progress of outstanding items which do not require further decision

There were no updates to report on.

26/53. Public participation session

A member of the public reported the stile to Rectory Farm which is wobbly.

Action: The Chair to email the landowner.

26/54. To receive an update on the work at the recreational area

New swings were ordered and delivered for the park. Councillors were unsure if they have been cemented in. A lot of money has been raised to date. There is £4.5K in the account and a villager has donated £500.00. The group are hoping to get more external funding.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Cllr Chris Brant on the Whatsapp Group to ask about the Cllr Priority Fund.

26/55. Financial Report

To receive the cashbook and bank reconciliation

The current bank balance in the Lloyds account is £12,155.99.

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

£463.20 to Nigel Prickett (grass cutting)

£128.40 to Playsafety Ltd (play inspection)

£3720.00 to Redlynch Leisure Installations Ltd (new swing set)

£35.00 to Community First (membership)

To note the salary award for the Parish Clerk agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC)

The salary award is 3.3% and will be backdated to 1st April 2026.

Signed

Dated 16th November 2026

26/56. Village Matters

- *Update on the status of the grit bins.* The grit bins are to be checked for additional filling by Highways. It was agreed to order a new bin for Back Lane.
Action: The Parish Clerk to order a new bin via Highways.
- *Admin function for the village website.* The admin feature was carried out by Chris Hurst. It was agreed to nominate Cllr Gibson to replace Chris Hurst. A new website is being built.
- *Email address for new Councillors.* The Parish Clerk has contacted Paul Neal for new email addresses for Cllr Lejeune and Cllr Prickett.
- *Update on the placement of the new defibrillator.* It needs to be placed in the correct area of the village in addition to the one outside the village hall. A possible location is the bottom of Back Lane.
Action: Cllr Brook to make enquiries.
- *Verdant patch on the village green.* There is a leaking pipe which requires attention.
Action: Cllr Brook to report.

26/57. To receive an update on planning

- *26/01742/CLUE, Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Development for erection of a dwelling not built in accordance with planning reference B.893/65 at The Dene.* Supported by PC and application permitted by CDC.
- *26/01813/F and 26/01814/LB, Insertion of new window in south elevation and minor internal alterations to staff annexe at Epwell Mill, Sibford Road.* Supported by PC.

26/58. To receive the following correspondence

- *CDC Designation – What this means for Parish Councils.* Cherwell District Council (CDC) remains the Local Planning Authority for the district and continues to determine planning applications in the normal way. The recent designation does not remove the Council's planning powers. Applicants submitting major planning applications now have a choice. They can either continue to submit their application to CDC or submit it directly to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for determination under the Section 62A process. For applications submitted to CDC, there is no change in the planning process, consultation arrangements or the role of Town and Parish Councils. Where an applicant chooses to submit a major application directly to the Planning Inspectorate, there are some differences. For Section 62A applications, the Planning Inspectorate becomes the decision maker rather than CDC. CDC still has an important role and remains involved and Town and Parish Councils remain a critically important part of the planning process. The views of Town and Parish Councils will continue to carry significant weight as local representatives with detailed knowledge of their communities, local infrastructure, neighbourhood issues and community priorities.
- *Paid work placements for 18-25 year olds being offered by Cotswold National Landscape.* The work placement was welcomed and an advert was put on the noticeboard.

26/59. To receive Councillors Reports

Cllr Lejeune tried to progress a bus service but there is not a lot of interest.

26/60. To note next meeting date and time

Monday 16th November 2026 at 8pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed

Dated 16th November 2026

DRAFT