

CHOLESBURY-CUM-ST LEONARDS PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council Meeting took place at St Leonards Parish Hall on Tuesday, 23rd June 2026 at 6.30pm

In Attendance: Cllrs Ingram, Hoare, Neighbour, Baddon and Allen.

Present: Mrs H Farrelly (Clerk), three Councillors of the public and Cllr Kneller

- 5860) To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th May 2025 and deal with any Matters Arising

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wellenreiter and Cllr Morris.

- 5861) To receive declarations of interest
None

- 5862) Reports from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Buckinghamshire Councillor Kneller provided an update on a number of matters affecting the parish.

With regard to the 7 Acre Field, Councillor Kneller advised that enforcement resources remained under significant pressure. Unless there was an immediate danger to life, enforcement cases were not treated as urgent and were required to follow the full legal process. However, progress was being made in reducing the backlog of enforcement cases.

An update was also given on Hill Farm Road and the associated Rights of Way. Councillor Kneller reported that discussions had taken place with the technical team and that work was progressing towards implementing a solution. The matter had now been entered into the system, with Councillors Kneller continuing to monitor progress.

Councillors were informed that the proposed solar panel development at the paddock had received approval in principle, although landscaping formed an important part of the planning conditions and appropriate mitigation measures would be incorporated into the scheme.

Councillor Kneller advised that Buckinghamshire Council's new committee structure was now in place.

An update was also provided on the Buckinghamshire Local Plan. A draft plan was required to be published by 29 July before submission to the Secretary of State by 31 December.

- 5863) To suspend standing orders and invite questions from Councillors of the public

Three members of the public, all of whom were allotment holders, attended the meeting.

Councillors heard that two allotment plots had now been successfully cleared using a digger. Pallets had been placed on site to help secure the weed-control membranes, although additional pallets would be required.

The provision of new allotment signage was discussed. Councillors noted that the wife of an allotment holder produced carved wooden signs. Councillors suggested that a plastic sign may prove more practical and durable. It was agreed that a quotation for comparison would be looked at.

- 5864) Reports

- (a) Chairman's Report and Questions.

One noticeboard at the cricket pitch had been reglazed.

The noticeboard at The Black Horse pub has been re-instated. It was noted that the noticeboards should only contain authorised Parish Council notices. The Clerk was asked to contact the relevant parties to ensure that no unauthorised material was displayed.

- (b) Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received the annual devolution payment of £1,718.93 from Buckinghamshire Council.

Councillors noted that the funding would be used towards grass-cutting and other maintenance responsibilities that had transferred to the Parish Council.

The Clerk further advised that part of the funding had been allocated towards improving the allotments. Weed-control membranes had been purchased and approximately £400 had been spent on employing a digger to clear two allotment plots, making them suitable for future cultivation. The membranes would be reused and relocated as additional plots were cleared.

- 5865) Finance
- (a) To note the following regular orders of payments
 - i. Clerk's net salary for June, July and August 2026 (to be paid monthly)
 - ii. HMRC – June £140.40/July £140.40/August £140.40 - noted
 - (b) To approve the following orders for payment and any other arriving after this notice
 - i. Weed Control - £365.92 – approved
 - ii. Digger Invoice -
- 5866) Planning (see planning schedule)
- (a) To note any responses to planning applications since the last meeting
None
 - (b) To deal with any planning applications, including those received after the date of this notice
 - i. PL/26/04528/FA - 13 Sandpit Hill Cottages Cholesbury Lane Cholesbury Bucks HP23 6NF – no comments
 - (c) To receive decisions from Buckinghamshire Council
 - i. PL/26/00997/HB – Black Horse Public House – Consent Approved
 - ii. PL/26/03485/AGN – Land North of Cholesbury Lane – Prior approval not required
 - (d) To receive notice of appeals
No new appeals
 - (e) To receive an update on enforcement matters
None

- 5867) To consider matters relating to Highways and Rights of Way
Councillors noted that several highways matters had already been discussed during the Buckinghamshire Councillor's report.

Councillor Allen commented that the restructuring of Buckinghamshire Council had significantly altered communication with the Highways Department. Councillors were advised that all highway issues must now be reported through the FixMyStreet system, with direct contact to Highways no longer available. Although Buckinghamshire Councillors retained the ability to escalate issues where necessary, this was not encouraged except in exceptional circumstances.

Councillor Allen expressed concern regarding road maintenance standards, observing that roads within neighbouring Hertfordshire appeared to receive more effective preventative maintenance through sealing of road joints. He considered that the absence of similar treatment in Buckinghamshire allowed water ingress, contributing to the deterioration of road surfaces.

Councillors also discussed the increasing use of jet-patching to repair potholes. It was noted that while this method provided a temporary solution, it often failed quickly, resulting in repeated repairs and poor value for money.

When asked how Buckinghamshire Council monitored recurring potholes, Councillor Kneller advised that there was currently no formal system for tracking repeat defects.

Councillor Kneller further reported that monthly meetings within the Chesham North area were helping to identify priorities and improve responsiveness to highway issues.

Councillors were reminded that any defects not addressed following a report through FixMyStreet should be referred to Councillors Kneller, who could seek escalation where appropriate.

Councillor Neighbour asked what support was being provided to vulnerable residents during the recent period of hot weather. Councillor Kneller confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council had issued communications and guidance, including information aimed at homeless and vulnerable people, together with general public health advice.

- 5868) To consider matters relating to the Green at Buckland Common, Springall Hill Allotments and other maintenance matters

Councillors considered the proposal to install a polytunnel at the allotments and agreed that the Clerk should contact allotment tenant to progress the matter.

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received from a resident regarding the condition of The Green at Buckland Common. The resident had attempted to use the Green over the weekend but advised the council that they had sustained an injury caused by the long grass, which she considered to be particularly sharp.

Councillors discussed the purpose and management of the Green. Councillors acknowledged that the Parish Council's management of the site was governed by legislation and relevant case law relating to village greens, and that these legal obligations continued to guide maintenance decisions.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that volunteers could not be permitted to undertake grass-cutting or use their own equipment on the Green due to health and safety and insurance considerations.

The Council also discussed its approach to supporting biodiversity through initiatives such as No Mow May and the encouragement of wildflowers. Councillors acknowledged that differing public expectations regarding grass cutting frequently resulted in complaints, with some residents favouring more regular mowing while others supported a more natural approach. The Council agreed that balancing these competing views would continue to be a challenge when managing public open spaces.

5869) Dates for the next meetings

- 8th September 2026
- 13th October 2026
- 24th November 2026