

CHILTON TRINITY PARISH COUNCIL

A Meeting of Chilton Trinity Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 4th March 2026 in the Village Hall, Chilton Trinity at 8.20 pm.

In attendance: Parish Councillors Mr P Felton (Chairman), Mrs R Felton, Mr D Hobbs and Mrs L Hook; the **Clerk**, Graham Jarvis together with a resident.

Public Speaking Time: No topics raised.

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49. Apologies for absence, disclosures of interest and dispensations.

An apology for absence had been received from Parish Councillor Mr D Brown due to a prior commitment and was accepted. Apologies had also been sent by both Ward Somerset Councillors due a clash with a meeting of Somerset Council. Dispensations from the Code of Conduct were held by Mr Felton and Mrs Felton regarding support for facilities at Chilton Waters and by Mr Hobbs concerning the River Parrett barrier and associated flood defence works.

50. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th January 2026 were presented, approved and signed as a true and complete record.

51. Matters Arising: –

- a) **43a - Local Community Network, Dowsborough Group** – The Chairman reported that he had not attended any meetings since the previous Parish Council meeting. However, he and Mrs Felton would be attending the annual Parish Council summit arranged by Sir Ashley Fox MP on 14th March.
- b) **43b - River Parrett Barrier Project** – In light of the information given at the Annual Parish Meeting held earlier that evening, the Council wished to accept the invitation to view the site from the Express Park side. The visit would take place later in the year once the new viewing platform was in place.

The Chairman referred to a meeting arranged by the Environment Agency attended by three Parish Councillors, representative from Chilton Waters and Kier Construction. Kier wished to provide some practical assistance to the community in recognition of the disruption caused during by the works and would welcome suggestions. At that meeting it became apparent that there had been previous discussions on the topic without the Parish Council's knowledge which was considered disappointing.

After a discussion it was agreed that as the roof of the former school room at the Parish Church was in a poor condition, the Chairman would suggest to Kier that this would be a project worthy of support – any works would subject to approval by the church authorities.

- c) **45d – Chilton Waters Management Company** - The Chairman reported that the commitment given at the previous meeting by representatives of the Company to issue a retraction of the letter together with an unequivocal apology had been fulfilled.

52. Planning Matters - None.

53. Financial Matters.

a) Payment of Creditors.

The following payments were confirmed/approved:-

- i) John Andrews – Re-imburement Defib Battery - £324.00 (£270.00 + £54.00 VAT) – Bank Transfer.
- ii) Mr P Felton – Re-imburement gift to litter picker - £16.25 (£13.54 + £2.71 VAT) – Cheque No. 316.
- iii) Chris Groves Associated – Tree Survey - £492.00 (£410.00 + £82.00 VAT) – Bank Transfer.
- iv) G Jarvis – Clerk’s salary, expenses etc. £1,015.85 – Cheque No. 317.
- v) HM Revenue and Customs – Employment Related - £212.20 - Cheque No. 318.
- vi) Chilton Trinity Village Hall – Room Hire - £132.00 – Cheque No. 319.
- vii) Mr P Felton – Re-imburement fuel for mower - £6.49 (£4.41 + £1.08) – Cheque No.320.
- viii) Citizens Advice Somerset - Grant - £500.00 – Cheque No. 321.
- ix) Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - Grant - £500.00 – Cheque No. 322.
- x) St Margaret’s Hospice – Grant – £400.00 Cheque No. 323.
- xi) Victim Support – Grant - £150.00 – Cheque No. 324.
- xii) Local Authority Technology CIC (ParishOnline) – Web site services - £250.00 – Bank Transfer.
- xiii) Lloyds Bank Plc – Account Fees (January Invoice) - £4.75 (Deducted direct).
- xiv) Lloyds Bank Plc – Account Fees (February Invoice) - £6.25 (Deducted direct).

Above items ix, x and xi made under the provision of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972).

b) Appointment of Internal Auditor.

There was agreement that Mr Simon Hillier be reappointed at the Council’s Internal Auditor.

c) Statement of Internal Control 2025/26 and Risk Management Report 2025/26.

Both documents were approved as presented

54. New Parish Website.

Further to Minute 35 – 14th January 2026; the new Parish Council website had been set-up by ParishOnline with data transferred from the existing site. The Chairman and Clerk were in the process of going through the information displayed and updating the content as appropriate.

55. Roads and Footpaths.

a) Oak Trees - Survey.

Further to Minute 46a – 14th January 2026; Members considered a Tree Health & Safety Inspection Report dated 6th February 2026 prepared by Chris Groves Associates regarding the two English Oak trees. The physiological condition was assessed as “good” and their Structural Condition as “fair” - which applied to both trees. The “fair” designation meant that some minor defects identified could be remedied. The cost for such work to the tree nearest the school was quoted at £875.00 and £1,425.00 for the other. There was agreement that the quotations be accepted.

b) Pothole, Church Road.

The feature would be reported to the Highway Authority.

56. Suggested Topics for Future Meetings – None.

57. Date of next meeting – Wednesday, 6th May 2026 (Annual Parish Council Meeting) in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman