

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting

held at 7pm on 29th January 2026

at Chapel-en-le-Frith Town Hall

Present: Cllrs M Chantler, T Dales (Chair), Mrs M Drabble, M Drabble, A Gilfillan, P Ockenden, C Williams & S Young

In Attendance: Cllr A Gilfillan took the Minutes of the meeting

The Chair gave a brief summary of the circumstances leading to this meeting being called. There was also an explanation shared (following consultation) as to how and why future meetings minutes would adopt a new format.

There was further explanation (following consultation) as to the fact that not all future meetings would be attended by Clerks. Minutes for today's meeting would be taken by Cllr A Gilfillan.

26/386 Apologies: Councillors J Adshead, Miss M Daniels and J Perkins

26/387 To make any Declarations of Interests – None

26/388 To consider any applications for Dispensations - None

26/389 Matters to be discussed following the exclusion of press and public – None.

Proposal to exclude members of the press + public to agenda item 15. All agreed. JGD

26/390 To agree any variations of order of business – None.

26/391 Public Speaking – There were no members for the public were present at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS

JGD

26/392 To elect a Vice Chair to the Parish Council until the next Annual Meeting in May - The Chair gave a summary of the need for the position to be filled until May 2026. This position will be up for scheduled elections at the Annual Meeting.

Councillors Miss M Daniels and A Gilfillan received nominations and were seconded.

Cllr Mrs M Drabble nominated and Cllr C Williams seconded that Cllr A Gilfillan be elected as Vice-Chair.

Cllr P Ockendon proposed and Cllr M Chantler seconded that Cllr Miss M Daniels be elected as Vice-Chair.

There were no further nominations. A vote followed and it was agreed that Cllr Gilfillan be elected Vice-Chair until the Annual Meeting. Cllr A Gilfillan signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Vice-Chair.

26/393 To receive and agree the total budget for 2026 -

The Chair and Cllr S Young gave an explanation as to why the finalisation of the budget and precept were still outstanding.

There was some discussion regarding increasing the budget to include a potential project however it was agreed that savings could be found elsewhere in the budget to cover this cost should it arise. This resulted in agreement that there was no immediate need to alter the current budget. All those present **agreed** the budget for 2026/27.

It was also agreed to publish the budget on one website and Noticeboards.

26/394 To agree the Parish Council's precept demand for 2026/27 – All approved to a precept demand for 2026/27 of £432,623.

To consider motion deferred from previous meetings

26/306 Motion from Councillor Gilfillan that the Council Implements a triage system for Councillor queries - Cllr A Gilfillan provided an overview of the history of this item and placed it into the context of, helping to address issues of concern currently being expressed.

There followed a full and frank discussion inclusive of points noting potential benefits and those of potential concern. ~~These were expanded to include the concerns that have historically and are currently being aired by councillors and staff regarding communications.~~

CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS

JW

It was recognised that another intended opportunity to constructively address areas of current concern was an intended opportunity for each councillor and staff member to be invited to a face to face (confidential) session. The main aims being to;

1. Provide individuals with a safe forum to express concern.
2. Suggest ways forward. The outcome of these sessions would be aggregated and presented to a full council meeting for consideration.
 - It was noted that not all individuals may feel comfortable with a face-to-face session and subsequently a Survey/Questionnaire would also be compiled and circulated.
 - Oversight and contribution to this process would involve input from Cllrs. Mrs. M. Drabble, P. Ockenden and M. Chantler.

It was agreed that Cllr Gilfillan will liaise with the other 3 named councillors to ensure the process is inclusive, sensitive and captures as many voices as possible before reporting back to full council.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.



CHAIR

CHAIRMAN'S
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