CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on
Wednesday, 9th September 2026 at 7.30pm
at Culham Pre-School

Attendees – Councillors:	**Apologies noted:**
Robin Jones (RJ) County Councillor	Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR) Parish Councillor and District Councillor
Nacho Gimenez (NG)	Siobhan Sergeant (SS)
Chris Pritchard (CP) CHAIR	
Caroline Baird (CB)	Denise Corney – Clerk
Mike Richmond-Cooper (MRC)	
Members of the public: 6	**In Attendance:**

The meeting opened at 7:30 pm
Notes taken by Cllr Gimenez in Clerk's absence.

1.	**Welcome, Apologies and Quorate** The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. The meeting was Quorate. Apologies were noted.
2.	**Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest** None for this meeting.
3.	**Presentation from GARD – White Horse Reservoir** Deborah Bennett (DB), Secretary of GARD, presented the projects and touched on the points that were relevant to Culham. The impact of a potential emergency drawdown of the reservoir and the traffic and environmental impact during construction On 9th September, a targeted consultation was announced regarding the impact of the reservoir on traffic and construction traffic. Members of the public are able, and encouraged, to register with the Planning Inspectorate to receive updates on the project. At a later stage, following submission and acceptance of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application, members of the public will have the opportunity to register as Interested Parties and submit relevant representations on the project. DB explained that members of the public can participate in the process regardless of whether they hold public office. Representations will be considered as part of the examination of the project. Interested Parties will also be able to participate in hearings where these are held as part of the examination process. The application will then be examined by the Examining Authority, which will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will make the final

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	decision on whether development consent should be granted. The timescale for the final decision was not confirmed. More information on GARD's website. Group Against Reservoir Development | GARD
4.	**Public Participation** There were 6 members of the public in attendance. The following items were brought to the attention of the Parish Council: - A member of the public, who has maintained a website Culhamvillage.org.uk for a couple of decades, asked if someone else was able to take it forward. Other members of the public volunteered as this was seen a valuable resource with the history of the village. - Another member of the public reported delays in planning response for a house refurbishment, with a second extension to the timeline requested. He was referred to talk to SCR who would talk to planning as a District Councillor. - The same member of the public reported overgrown vegetation along Tollgate Rd and parts of the A415. There was agreement to plan another clearing day for volunteers to do some parts of this clearing and litterpick. This will be organised through The Mouthpiece and the Village Chat. - A request was made to the Council to share a report showing that dividing lanes road markings may result in an increase of driving speed in some cases. The Parish Council will try to get this report. - A resident of Thame Lane raised concerns about a planning application for a dog walking field in High Lodge farm. 2 residents of Thame Lane who raised concerns about the High Lodge dog park application - The same member of the public asked if the road speed surveys done in the village could be made public. The Parish Council agreed to this in principle. The consultation announced is not a 'public' one, but a 'targeted' one. Several members of the public expressed concern at the HGV traffic through Sutton Courtenay Bridge that is used frequently by Culham residents. The HGVs were causing issues to houses with incidents reported of speeding and convoys of 3 HGVs crossing this bridge at the same time. The Parish Council is taking this matter to Highways and trying to close the bridge to HGV traffic given the damage to the structure this can create.
5.	**Report from SODC Councillor – Sam Casey-Rerhaye.** No report available.
6.	**Report from County Councillor – Cllr Robin Jones** Cllr Jones gave a brief update from his report which can be found at, in particular, changes to the reorganisation of local government. The report can be found at: https://culham-pc.gov.uk/meetings/9th-september-2026/
7.	**Clerk's Report and Financial Update:** **Finance:** Bank Reconciliation 31st August 2026 **Current Account:** £3664.01 **£: Instant Access:** £22012.02

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Note; £13,000 second part of precept received on 1st September 2026.
NALC pay update: increase of 3.3% was agreed and will be backdated to 1st April in the September Clerk pay.

Councillor Updates:

a. Community Orchard: The Parish council agreed to proceed with the purchase of trees and the planting plan for this autumn.

b. Village Pavilion: There is support in Culham for this project although its final location and details remain to be defined by the Parish Council

c. Highways: No discussion

d. Grounds Maintenance: It was agreed to prioritise the tree maintenance actions highlighted in the Tree Survey. Lease for the Recreation Ground needs to be reviewed by Councillors.

8. **To approve: Minutes 8th July 2026**
The minutes from 8th July 2026 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting and would be signed by the Chair.

9. **Finance:**
a) **Bank Reconciliation – Clerk's Report**
b) **Budget Variation – Clerk's Report**

10. **To agree: Accounts for Payment**
Councillors approved the following payments:

Clerk's salary August and September	£477.10 includes HMRC payment x 2
Scribe	£37.20
Clerk Expenses August	£35.90
Drewe Landscaping	£857.75
PetWaste	15.84/7.92/7.92
Moore (external audit)	£315.00
Muddy Spades	£300.00
LAPD Architects	£240.00
HMRC	£214.60

11. **To review: Planning Applications:**
No planning applications to review.

NOTE:

Councillors RESOLVED to object to the planning application submitted for a dog walking field in High Lodge Farm. The reasons discussed will be explained in the Parish Council comment to the application. The Clerk to submit the objection.

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12.	**Items for inclusion on the next agenda:** Budget 2026-27; Graham Contrators - Attendance – to confirm to attend at November meeting with HIF1 updates; Updates from Clerk and Councillors – White Horse Reservoir; HIF1; Community Orchard; Village Pavilion, Lease for Glebe; The Green
13.	**To confirm date of next meeting:** **Wednesday, 14th October 2026 at 7.30pm – Culham Pre-school.**

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