

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TO BE HELD AT CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 19 MAY 2025  
COMMENCING AT 18:30**

**A G E N D A   P A C K**

1. Apologies
2. Election of Chairman and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the code of conduct
3. Election of Vice-Chairman and to receive the Vice-Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office and written undertaking to observe the code of conduct
4. To receive declarations of acceptance of office and written undertakings to observe the code of conduct from remaining councillors
5. Registration of Pecuniary Interest – To confirm no changes to RoPI form or complete a new form
6. To declare any Declarations of Interest for this meeting
7. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on [7 April 2025](#)
8. To review the following policy documents: -
  - a) [Standing Orders](#)
  - b) [Code of Conduct](#)
9. [Appointment of Committees, Working Parties/Groups, their members and agree their Terms of Reference:](#) -
  - a) Planning Committee
  - b) Flood Advisory Group
  - c) Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee
  - d) War Memorial Playing Field Development Group
  - e) Chilbolton Strategy Group Working Party
  - f) Chilbolton Community Development Committee
  - g) Highway Safety Working Group
10. Appoint Lead Councillors/Representatives: -
  - a) Highways
  - b) Village Hall
  - c) Community Fundraising
11. [Annual Report Finance](#) (Gill Bulpitt, Clerk) to include: -
  - a) Approval of the [Annual Governance Statement](#) and [Accounting Statements](#) for 2024/25
  - b) [Notice of the period for the exercise of Public Rights](#) – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
  - c) [Declaration of Conflict of Interests with BDO LLP](#)
  - d) [Monthly Finance report](#) – to inc. approval of accounts for payment
12. [Annual Flood Advisory Group Report](#) – Cllr Marits
13. [Annual Highways report](#) – Cllr Cockram
14. [Annual Open Spaces Committee Report](#) – Cllr Griffiths
15. [Annual Planning report](#) – Cllr Larcombe
16. Annual Village Hall report – Cllr Ewer
17. [Annual Community Fundraising report](#) – Cllr Hall
18. Annual Strategy Work Group report – Cllr Ewer
19. [Annual Chairman report](#) – Cllr Ewer
20. To discuss and decide on any urgent matters
21. [Correspondence](#)
22. Questions from public – (3 mins. per person)
23. Any other business – For information ONLY
24. Items for the next agenda

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25. Date of the next meeting – Monday 3 June 2024; 18:30 at Chilbolton Village Hall

Gill Bulpitt (Parish Clerk)  
Published 13/5/2025

**8. To review the following policy documents: -**

**a) Standing Orders**

JH Proposed Changes to Standing Orders ([last reviewed May 2022](#))

**1 (C) “Mobile phones are not permitted at any meeting of the Council”.**

This is anachronistic; most if not all adults tend to carry mobile phones as a matter of convenience, but the force of this requirement should instead be spelled out as follows:

- i. Nobody shall make or answer phone calls during Council meetings and
- ii. Nobody shall use mobile phones to make covert recordings of Council proceedings or debates.

**44 “Every committee shall at its first meeting, before proceeding to any other business, elect a Chairman and may elect a Vice-Chairman who shall hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council, and shall settle its programme of meetings for the year.”**

It is the long-established custom and practice of CPC to appoint Committee Chairmen who are also Parish Councillors, and this is necessary in order to ensure that Committee Chairmen are both fully accountable to PC and are bound by PC rules.

It has been noted that NALC guidance suggests the Council shall appoint the Chair of a Standing Committee, and that only other types of Committees should appoint their own Chair. NALC guidance is silent on the matter of whether a Committee chair should be a Councillor or otherwise.

In the Chilbolton context, as outlined above, it is considered that a Committee OF the Parish Council should have a Chair who is accountable to PC and bound by its rules.

I therefore propose that it is confirmed that the Chair of each Committee or Subcommittee needs to be a Parish Councillor, and this is substituted in the Standing Orders accordingly.

Julian Hudson

*NB If amendment is made to Clause 44 then adjustment will also be made to other Council Policy documents such as the Constitution, Scheme of Delegation and all TOR's.*

**b) Code of Conduct**

TE and DG Proposed code of conduct ([Code of Conduct 2025](#))

Test Valley BC Code of Conduct was updated in 2022 and provides greater definition in part 5 of Personal Interest. It is proposed to adopt this Code of Conduct with amendments in red to reflect CPC.

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**9 Appointment of Committees, Working Parties/Groups, their members and agree their Terms of Reference: -**

- a) [Planning Committee](#)
- b) [Flood Advisory Group](#)
- c) [Chilbolton Open Spaces Committee](#)
- d) [War Memorial Playing Field Development Group](#)
- e) [Chilbolton Strategy Group Working Party](#)
- f) [Chilbolton Community Development Committee – Version 2.1](#)

As previously circulated to Councillors by email

- g) [Highway Safety Working Group](#)

JH proposes that the Highway Safety Working Group ToR should be amended to refer to compliance with the adopted Standing Orders and Code of Conduct of CPC

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**11 Annual Finance report:**

**Opening Balance** of all accounts was £33031.80. Of which the following was ringfenced:  
£10011.73 Common, £8903.95 West Down (WD), £3280.33 Batty (Common Capital), £3683.23 War Memorial Playing Field (WMPF) Capital, £8248.44 Community Projects.

**Receipts:-**

The precept was £29800, an increase of £12995 compared to 2023/24. This was in part due to additional works that needed to be carried out by professionals instead of volunteers and increase in purchase prices/professional fees.

Other receipts totalled £31050.52, of which

Bank Interest: £44.19.

£88.94 less than previous year due to moving funds to Metro annual savings account in August '24.

Interest earned from new savings account will be paid in August '25. (£69.81 less than budgeted).

Wayleaves: £69.68.

£25 less than previous year as there were no wayleaves due from properties within this financial year. The wayleave received was the annual wayleave paid by SSE.

Allotments: £267.12

£2.43 less than previous year due to some pro rata payments of allotment fees.

Village Greens: £560

These funds were received from Southern Water as a one-off good will gesture for the damage done to Rectory Green whilst tinkering from the pump house.

Common:

RPA grants: £4947.50 – increase of £1109.25 compared to 2023/24 due to £909.25 increase in stewardship grant and £200 more in educational visits. (£396.50 more than budgeted).

Other receipts: £2282.47 – increase of £2282.47 compared to 2023/24 due to £292.24 less in track repair contributions and £691.36 grant received towards the new bridleway gate and £1000 contribution towards the repair of the sleeper bridge.

West Down:

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RPA Grants - £4969.43 – increase of £1770.51 due to higher stewardship grant. (£1818.43 more than budgeted).

Other receipts - £250.37 – received from Southern Water as a one-off gesture of goodwill for the replacement of the WD barrier that was removed without consent.

VAT: £8756.96

WMPF running costs: £300

£25 increase compared to 23/24 due to £75 less in football usage fees and £100 grant received towards repair of basketball system. (£150 less than budgeted, however more funds are due but will be received in 25/26 accounts).

WMPF Capital: £2031.90

A £13140.10 decrease compared to 23/24 due to Adventure tower grant being received in 23/24. (£2968.10 less than budgeted due to no fundraiser being held).

Community Events: £200

Chilbolton Village Hall gave a contribution towards the expenses incurred in holding the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event.

Community Projects: £1749

A decrease of £14632.65 due to £14225.96 Fenstanton CiL funds being received in 23/24 and a reduction of £406.69 raised by Open Gardens event in 24/25. (£749 more than budgeted).

Part-funded Grants: £4621.90

An increase of £1852.70 compared to 23/24 for supporting Chilbolton Village Hall.

**Expenditure:**

Total expenditure was £46735.61, of which

Grants: £2200

An increase of £335 compared to 23/24 due to £565 grant award to Wherwell Primary school in 23/24 and addition of £1000 grant to Chilbolton Store this financial year.

Part- Funded Grants: £4621.90

An increase of £1852.70 compared to 23/24 for supporting Chilbolton Village Hall.

S137: £30

An increase of £5 compared to 23/24 due to increase in contribution to Danebury School presentation evening. (£20 less than budget as no memorial wreath was purchased by CPC).

Staff Costs: £8412.02

£1556.03 increase compared to 23/24 due to employing of temporary Clerk whilst Clerk on long term sick leave.

(£1229.94 more than budgeted).

Village Hall Hire: £254.25

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Accounts show a £75 decrease compared to 23/24 due to the final 24/25 quarter hire charge to be paid in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 25/26. (£72 less than budgeted).

However, the final 24/25 quarter hire charge was £282 therefore Village hall hire was actually a total of £536.25, an increase of £207 compared to 23/24 and £270.25 over budget.

Insurance: £924.63

An increase of £176.68 compared to 23/24 due to increase in premium. (£138.63 over budget). CPC have entered into another 3 year term with insurers.

Stationery: £124.48

£76.24 decrease compared to 23/24. (£104.51 less than budgeted).

Admin: £966.33, comprising of

Audit fees - £315 for external audit. Budgeted internal audit fee was reallocated to WMPF Capital on auditor request. (£25 less than budgeted).

Mobile Phone top-up - £8.33. (£11.67 less than budgeted).

Postage - £2.70 (£7.30 less than budgeted).

Norton Computer security - £41.66 (£18.34 less than budgeted).

Microsoft subscription (for Clerk email account) - £21.89.

Website Costs - £0. (£100 less than budgeted).

Computer repair - £123.75 (not budgeted for).

ICO Data Protection - £35.

Staff expenses - £418 (home as office, broadband contribution etc).

Overall a £20.88 decrease compared to 23/24.

Subscriptions (HALC): £424

£41.92 increase compared to 23/24. (£10 more than budgeted).

Defibrillator costs: £282.95

£59.95 increase due to purchase of new defib pad for WMPF unit as well as battery for Village Hall unit. (£246.05 less than budgeted).

WMPF Running Costs: £5370.48

Accounts show that there was a decrease of £1010.67 spent on general maintenance compared to 23/24. However the purchase of dog waste bags and bin emptying fee were paid in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 24/25, therefore the actual decrease in expenditure for 24/25 was £712.75)

There was an increase in expenditure compared to 23/24 on grass cutting (£247), annual inspection (£5.50), mole catching (£175), electric (£238.88) and misc. (£40.41). Professional tree works were carried out on the boundary (£1847) and purchase of 2 new baby swing seats (£490.60).

(Overall £3465.01 less than budgeted).

WMPF Capital: £0

£15344 less than 23/24 due to the purchase of the Adventure Tower in 23/24.

Allotments: £125

£125 increase due to no expenditure in 23/24 and vegetation management around plots in this financial year (£75 more than budgeted). £50 budget for fence repairs not used.

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Village Greens/Maintenance: £1520

£620.65 decrease compared to 23/24 due to less expenditure on dragons teeth (£542.58), Misc. (£8), and ditch clearing (£592) and more expenditure on grass cutting (£110) and green repairs due to SW damages (£411.93).

Footpaths: £366.91

Accounts show £178.42 decrease compared to 23/24. However, dog waste bags were paid for in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 25/26. Therefore actual reduction in expenditure for 24/25 is £29.08. (£316.91 more than budgeted on vegetation management).

Village Events: £1075

£515.80 more was spent on village events (80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event) in 24/25 compared to Coronation celebrations in 23/24.

Machinery Costs: £17.02

£97.15 less compared to 23/24 as more professional services used and therefore fuel costs etc included in their fees. (£62.98 less than budgeted).

Community projects: £270

£25645.09 less than 23/24 due to the contribution towards the Adventure Tower from these funds. The £270 was for the Village Gateways application to HCC.

Strategy Working Group: £464.48

Incurred expenses for CLT set, printing, website registration and CLT incorporation charges. (£35.52 less than budgeted).

VAT: £2619.84

4<sup>th</sup> quarter VAT reclaim submitted in 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 25/26.

Common: £10097.41, comprising of

£1736 for sleeper bridge repair,

£591.12 for track repairs (£934.95 less than 23/24 & £108.88 less than budgeted),

£2410.86 for the temporary repair to the Test Way/Purlygig bridge path,

*£149.33 for dog waste bags paid for in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 25/26 therefore not on 24/25 accounts,*

£702.41 for dragons teeth (£105.60 more than 23/24 & £502.41 more than budgeted),

£2599.86 for installation of 2 new horse gates (£1743.66 more than 23/24 & £2399.86 more than budgeted),

£1123 for grass cutting (£714.50 less than 23/24 & £32 less than budgeted),

£270.60 for signage (£4884.92 less than 23/24 as new ladder boards and info boards installed in 23/24.

£20.60 more than budgeted),

£520 for tree works (removal of tree from river). (£80 less than 23/24 & £380 less than budgeted)

£11.91 for machinery costs (£73.75 less than 23/24 & £48.09 less than budgeted – due to more professional services used and therefore fuel costs etc included in their fees),

£120 for ditch maintenance – clearing of Joys Lane ditch (£180 less than budgeted),

£11.65 on misc. expenses (£4.10 less than 23/24 & £38.35 less than budgeted),

Overall £1697.78 less was spent in 24/25 compared to 23/24 and £647.41 more was spent than budgeted.

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West Down: £6568.91, comprising of  
£50 for tree costs for clearing of fallen tree (£1275 less than 23/24 & £575 less than budgeted),  
£362.58 for water costs (£150.41 more than 23/24 & £196.05 more than budgeted). An actual meter reading has been requested,  
*£236.65 for bin emptying and £74.66 for dog waste bags was paid for in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 25/26 therefore not shown on this year's accounts,*  
£2085 for general maintenance and enclosure vegetation management (£327 more than 23/24 & £1585 more than budgeted),  
£555.79 for path cutting (£488.79 more than 23/24 & £243.79 more than budgeted),  
£770 for top cut,  
£11.91 for machinery costs (£73.75 less than 23/24 & £48.09 less than budgeted – due to more professional services used and therefore fuel costs etc included in their fees),  
£363.13 for dragons teeth and installation of barrier (£58.13 more than 23/24 & £33.13 more than budgeted),  
£2298 for repairs and renewal of enclosure boundary fencing (£1987.13 more than 23/24),  
£7.50 for misc. expenses (£142.50 less than budgeted),  
£65 for signage repairs (£53.90 more than 23/24 & £35 less than budgeted).

Overall £2082.20 more was spent in 24/25 compared to 23/24 and expenditure was under budget by £1075.40

**Closing balance** of all accounts was £47146.71, of which the following was ringfenced: -  
£7144.29 for Common, £7554.84 for West Down, £3300.66 for Batty (Common Capital), £5958.99 for WMPF Capital, £9997.44 for Community Projects.

**Assets:**

There was an increase in assets of £527.66 due to the following:  
Addition of horse gate at £519 and new padlocks at £49.16 and the removal of old padlocks £40.50.  
Total assets as at 31/3/25 = £362593.45

**Hyperlinks to 2024/25 spreadsheets of above information:**

[Precept budget review](#)

[Ringfenced budget review](#)

[Variances](#)

[Common and West Down variances](#)

**Annual Finance report continued:**

2023/24 Final accounts:

The Receipts and Payment account and Year End Bank Reconciliation to be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**11a) Approval of the [Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2024/25](#):**

Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2024/25: -

Section 1 - The Annual Governance Statement: [List of assertions for the completion of the AGAR.](#)

Cllrs need to satisfy themselves that the assertions are correct before approval of the Section 1 of the AGAR and signing by the Clerk/RFO and Chairman.

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Section 2 – [Accounting Statements](#)

To be agreed, approved and signed by the Chairman.

**11b)** Notice of the period for the exercise of Public Rights – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**11c)** Declaration of Conflict of Interests with BDO LLP – All Cllrs need to confirm they have no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

**11d) MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT - May 2025**

**S106 Funds as at November '23** – (TVBC s106 [Explanation of categories](#)): -

Available ( <a href="#">spreadsheet</a> ) -	Outstanding (to be paid prior to occupation) ( <a href="#">Spreadsheet</a> ) -
Children's Play Space = £ 1771.90	Children's Play Space = £ 1220.10
Informal Recreation = £121.43	Informal Recreation = £ 2628.99
Formal Recreation = £ 4531.61	Formal Recreation = £ 2865.53
TOTAL available for CPC = £ 6424.94	TOTAL outstanding for CPC = £ 6714.62

NB from TVBC: The amounts shown on the outstanding list are not guaranteed payments; this is because of a variety of reasons such as the permission not being implemented or the amounts being superseded by a later application or agreement.

Unfortunately TVBC don't have the resource to investigate each contribution across the borough but if you as the Parish feel that the amounts shown on the outstanding list should have been paid please do let TVBC know and they can get it investigated.

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**Payments approved via email since 7/4/25 - NONE**

DD payments – SSE (WMPF running costs/pavilion electric) - £21.06

**May'25 payments for approval –**

Business Stream (WD/water) - £121.61  
HALC (Admin/subscription) - £461.00  
Orchard Services (Stock Fencing) - £1,931.62  
D Hall reimbursement (Admin/website fees) - £23.88  
A Denyer (Salary and Exps) - £532.39  
G Bulpitt (wages and exps) – £623.22  
Hurstbourne Forge (backboards) - £276.00

**Current Account Receipts** – Receipts since 7/4/25 –

TVBC 1<sup>st</sup> instalment Precept £20758.00  
Allotment agreements £103.60  
TVBC grant (basketball repair/WMPF Running costs) £180.00  
SSE wayleave £73.19  
HMRC VAT reclaim 24/25 4<sup>th</sup> quarter £776.51  
Evangelical (WMPF running costs) £50.00

**2025/26 Accounts to date –**

Current acc Receipts, Batty and WMPF acc's spreadsheet attached [here](#)  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarters Payments spreadsheet attached [here](#)  
Bank Reconciliation as at 02.05.25 attached [here](#)

**Ongoing Variable Direct Debit approvals required:**

ICO (Data protection registration/Admin) and  
SSE (Pavilion electric/WMPF running costs)



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**Rolling monthly approval required:**

D Hall reimbursement for CPC website fees £11.94/month

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## **12 Flood Advisory Committee Annual report for 2024/25: Cllr Marits**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FLOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR 2024/25**

The principal role of the Flood Advisory Group (FAG) is to ensure that the surface water dispersal system is fit for purpose. We do this by advising Hampshire County Council (HCC), Southern Water (SW) and the Parish Council (CPC) when work needs doing. Complementing this, the Group also monitors adverse weather conditions to advise when flooding is likely.

The Group have continued with the work of advising HCC, CPC, SW and TVBC when work is required, to ensure that verges, ditches and drains are clear. The group has struggled to maintain good relations with all the major groups, who provide assistance to the village. This is due to the movement of staff within both Southern Water and Hampshire highways.

Members of the FAG have attended a number of events, to raise our profile with these groups, so that we can liaise more effectively with them in times of need.

We are still waiting for Hampshire Highways to address the problem at Frog Lane, where we suspect that the main weir drain is partially blocked and needs work done to it. This means that water remains on the road for longer than is needed.

Southern Water (SW) has undertaken TUBOGELLING of a section of pipe from the Manor house to just past the church. Further areas are hoped to be done once various monetary situations have been resolved. Most Private laterals have been done but SW suspect that this is where the main infiltration of their system is happening.

Pump house. There were problems with the pumps not doing the job they were designed to do so outside pumps were brought in. New monitoring equipment has been installed both in the sewers and the pump house well, so that more accurate information can be used to make tankering decisions. Also, a new externally accessed stand pipe has been installed. This will allow the pumps in the pump house to continue to pump the sewage to the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) whilst getting any tankers needed to only remove excess water from the system. This will still need treating and will be taken to a WWTP.

SW was made aware of the spring behind the pump house that in 2014 was running into the pumphouse. SW to carry out some dam work or trench work to divert this spring water away from their equipment. No timescales yet advised.

Infiltration Reduction Plans (IRP) Over pumping will be a last resort. However, a new containerised version of filters which now include Ultra Violet treatment has been developed and built by a UK company in association with water companies and the Environment Agency. It is now available and will be used where ever this last resort is required.

Ground Water levels remained high right through to July of 2024 as indicated by the drain near Abbotts Orchard still producing ground water until this month. Ground water states remained above the height that was recoded in

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October 2013 before the 2014 floods. Thankfully whilst they remained high no further flooding in Village Street was seen that affected any properties.

The river remains high and the amount of water still on the common is evident. However the last stretch of dry weather has finally seen a lower river level, the ditch in front of Abbots Orchard is virtually dry, and the ditch along the old cottage has dropped also.

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### **13 Highways Annual report for 2024/25: Cllr Hudson**

Chilbolton Parish Council – Highways

I have assumed responsibility for Highways matters since Cllr Cockram moved on from the village, so since December 2024.

Former Cllr Cockram presented at the 2024 Annual Parish Assembly a number of potential highway safety improvements, and was supported by that public meeting in bringing forward the principle of installing Village Gateways. An application to Hampshire County Council was started in October 2024, which has taken longer than hoped for to be processed.

However, as a result of this application, I was finally able to present a quotation to the 2025 Annual Parish Assembly in April 2025. This quote is £5,471.79 for supply of three Village Gateways via HCC's supplier. The proposed gateways were considered attractive but expensive. It is also uncertain whether they would be an effective tool for speed management through the village.

My next task is to discuss with HCC whether a quote for just two gateways (Coley Lane and Martins Lane) can be provided, and also whether any alternatives are available. I am mindful that precept money should be spent as efficiently as possible, on works which will have real benefits for the community.

Related to the above is the discussion regarding Speed Indicator Device (SID) signage within the village. These have upfront costs of circa £2,000 per sign, and would require management and maintenance, which also has annual costs unless volunteers can be found to do that work.

I have had a look on the TVBC and HCC websites for information regarding any possible grants that CPC could apply for towards the costs of the Village Gateways and/or SID signage, but have not found anything of use so far. If anyone has information on possible funding opportunities I would encourage them to contact me.

In addition to the above matters, a recent increase in interest in Highway Safety in the village has led to my proposing a Highway Safety Working Group, the principles and ToR for which were approved by CPC in April 2025. This group will hopefully enable CPC to achieve more with regard to Highway Safety projects, and in particular seeks to revive the project to improve pedestrian access to the Mayfly Public House, without the current risks associated with walking across the road bridge on the A3057. There are a couple of options identified by community members, and which I am actively looking into pursuing with their assistance. Whichever option we end up pursuing, there will be a need to discuss and agree proposals through CPC with relevant landowners and stakeholders, and statutory authorities.

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## **15 Planning Committee Annual Report – Cllr Larcombe**

Planning Annual Report 2024-25.

Three significant applications from last year have now been settled.

### **Test Valley Farm**

Permission granted for Alfred homes to build 5 houses, albeit with 35 conditions attached. Most importantly the changes to Little Drove Road and a new bat survey. The latter due in May 2025. I have requested information from TV on this as there has been obvious attempts to disturb the bat colony ahead of the survey.

### **Fenstanton**

Comments still continue to be made regarding the entrance to the site. This obviously does not comply with regulations as shown in our plans. However I was informed by TV that as the landscaping and entrance plan was shown as a part of the appeal document for the removal of condition 15, and that appeal was upheld then the entrance is deemed to have passed through planning.

### **Land adjacent to Lynton Meadow**

The enforcement officer recently made a 'split decision' on this appeal. The 2 smaller 'garden sheds' can remain but the larger blue summerhouse has to be removed. The appellant asked for 9 months for removal but the officer has only granted 5 months.

### **Cyma (opposite Broxton House)**

A substantial and 'grand' house refused on the basis on unsuitability both in design and size. This was the main thrust of CPC's objection.

It may be worth noting that there are now 3, one million pound plus houses for sale in Village Street/Coley Lane (with another probably coming on stream) with no sign of any of them being sold at the present time.

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## **17 Community Fundraising Annual Report – Cllr Hall**

### **Annual Report 2024/5**

The Community Benefit Fund currently stands at £9997.44 – an increase of £1749 over 2024. Primary contributors to this have been the Open Gardens event and the CIL payment from Fenstanton. No new projects were proposed during the year and the Council agreed that this fund could be used to cover any set-up costs of Chilbolton Community Land Trust and as seed funding for specific Community Development projects.

Significant developments in 2024/5 were:

### **Wherwell Solar Farm**

Permission for this development, which will be visible from Chilbolton, was given by NAPC in January 2025. Following some amendments and additional protections proposed by CPC, an agreement covering community

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benefit payments was approved and signed on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2025. Under this agreement, the Community Benefit Fund will receive £5k per annum (indexed linked) from Wherwell Solar Farm Limited for the operational lifetime of the facility (typically 25-30 years). The first payment will be triggered when power from the site is supplied to the national grid.

**Rural Payments Agency Grants**

Annual payments are made from DEFRA under Environmental Stewardship Agreements with the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). These flow into ring-fenced accounts for the upkeep of Cow Common and West Down. In 2024 we received £4772.50 for the Common and £3878 for West Down.

In March the Clerk submitted our application for the annual Higher Level Stewardship Agreement (HLSA) for Chilbolton Cow Common through the Rural Payments Agency portal. This was well in advance of the deadline (15/5/2025). West Down is covered by a Higher Tier Stewardship Agreement (HTSA) and we have initiated a separate process to request that the Common is also included in this. CPC has written to Natural England to help us lobby the RPA in advance of HTSA invitations being issued in the summer.

The support provided from James Waddington at Savills under a free consultancy scheme funded by DEFRA as part of EU transition arrangements, has now ceased. There is currently little benefit to CPC of continuing at our own cost but an agreement can be reinstated should the need arise in the future.

**Open Gardens Events**

The final sum raised from the 2024 Open Gardens event was £1749 which was received into CPC's account in July. Following disappointing support from Hampshire Air Ambulance in 2023, we did not partner with a charity in 2024 and all funds flowed to the Community Benefit Fund.

The 2025 event is planned for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June. 10 gardens will be included together with a display at the Church by Wherwell and Chilbolton Garden Club. The tea tent will be at Abbot's Mead (the Larcombes) with tickets and maps available from the gazebo in front of the Abbot's Mitre. We will also have volunteer support from Winchester Samaritans who will share in the proceeds this year.

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## **19. Annual Chairman's report**

The past year has been a busy one and the Parish faced problems with flooding from wastewater mains and the necessity to pump excess by tankers. Flooding also damaged the access to the Purlygig bridge and temporary works were necessary.

The 80<sup>th</sup> memorial service for the paratroops based at Chilbolton, mainly the United States 110<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne but also the British Paratroops engaged in Operation Market Garden was arranged by the Parochial Church council on 8<sup>th</sup> September. About 150 persons attended this moving service on the airfield site.

The Parish Council adopted a Vision for Chilbolton that will guide us over the next 50 years or more and be updated as necessary. The Vision seeks to plan in broad terms the growth, infrastructure and amenities for the benefit of all residents.

A housing need survey was conducted in April 2024 to confirm the need for additional houses proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan and after much discussion and some objections the parish council submitted a planning pre application on 31<sup>st</sup> January for 10 affordable, 10 downsize and 5 self-build houses on the land adjacent to Eastman's Field and the Village Hall. When Test Valley have considered our request they will advise the best way to proceed and the Parish Council will be able to consider options for discussion with the community.

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CHILBOLTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
TO BE HELD AT CHILBOLTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 19 MAY 2025  
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The project for new homes in the village is moving steadily ahead and there have been two important structural developments.

The Parish Council has set up a new committee to handle the planning and development work for the new open market houses, to be known as The Community Development Committee (CDC) and sponsored an independent community land trust, The Chilbolton Community Land Trust (CCLT), to bring forward the affordable houses on land to be secured by the CDC.

This new Community Development Committee (CDC) will undertake the planning and development work necessary to bring forward the 25 new houses in the Pre Application including roads, pathways and utility services and provide the land necessary for affordable houses to the CCLT. The 10 proposed downsized houses are for open market sale to long term residents who wish to move into a smaller home with a smaller garden. They will be of generous size, typically two en-suite bedrooms, with a study / third bedroom and a garage, so that there will be room for residents to keep prized furniture without being squeezed into a small space. The 5 self-build houses will be open market land sales with outline planning.

The Chilbolton Community Land Trust will decide its own policies but it is hoped that CCLT will own the proposed affordable homes and, unlike the existing allocation procedure, will itself allocate these homes, with priority to Chilbolton residents registered on the register for affordable housing. The CCLT will bring forward the 10 affordable houses to be built in Chilbolton and decide the tenancy and size of these houses that will be for Chilbolton people. There are currently some 13 people on the register held by Test Valley for affordable houses for either social rent or affordable rent but there is no list for applicants to put their name down for affordable shared ownership dwellings. There was a government approved site "Help to Buy" but Help to Buy ceased in March 2023. There is no replacement for Help to Buy but many of residents responding to the housing need survey indicated a preference for shared ownership dwellings.

The government policy to significantly increase the number of houses has resulted in a change to the draft Local Plan increasing the number of new homes in Test valley Borough to some 950 per annum and triggered the presumption in favour of sustainable development in the borough. The Chilbolton neighbourhood plan proposals supported by the planning pre app will hopefully protect the Chilbolton parish from unwanted development.

This will be my last report as Chairman of Chilbolton PC and I would like to express my grateful thanks to our Parish Clerk, Mandy Denyer, and acting Clerk Gill Bulpitt and to my councillor colleagues for their help and guidance.

Tony Ewer, May 2025

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## **20 Correspondence:**

- 28.04.25 – Letter to TVBC Planning re Settlement boundary ([190525 1](#))
- 28.04.25 – Email response from TVBC Planning re Settlement boundary ([190525 2](#))
- 28.04.25 – Copy of original response from TVBC Planning re Settlement boundary ([190525 3](#))
- 10.04.25 – Email received re unauthorised use of Pavilion (dealt with at COSC) ([190525 4](#))
- 10.04.25 – HALC newsletter – April ([190525 5](#))
- 17.04.25 - Email including information on Martyn's Law ([190525 6](#))

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