



Chipperfield Parish Council,
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CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ALLOTMENT MINUTES

The Minutes of the Allotment Meeting. The meeting was held on the 7th of January 2026 at 7.30 pm in The Small Hall the Common, Chipperfield WD4 9BS

Councillors present: Cllr Foxall, Cllr Paton, and Cllr Hinton

Also present: Mrs U Kilich Parish Clerk to the Council and 18 members of the public.

1. Welcome & Fire announcement.

The Chair, Cllr Foxall addressed the safety and fire arrangements should the building need to be evacuated.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Flynn.

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Hinton, seconded by Cllr Paton to accept apologies of absence from Cllr Flynn. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Foxall chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Flynn. There were also apologies of absence from allotment holders.

3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the 8th of July 2025

The minutes were approved by the Council on 16th September 2025.

Cllr Foxall updated members from the meeting held on 8th July 2025.

- A follow-up is ongoing regarding the grant from the Blackwells Trust. A member will share the relevant details for the Blackwells Trust in due course.
- A dedicated working group is not currently required, as the Warden is overseeing the allotments. Should the need for a working group arise, this will be reviewed at a later stage.
- The Warden has maintained the empty allotments.
- Plot 7ab has now been taken. No rubbish should be left on any vacant allotment site.
- Plot 12ab has been maintained to a good standard; however, there is currently no waiting list.
- The overgrown hedge outside the allotment falls under the responsibility of Dacorum Borough Council. The Clerk will inform Green Safe and Green accordingly.

4. Chairman's report

a. Future Hedge Cutting Policy

On the recommendation of allotment holders, CPC propose to have the hedge cutting done on a bi-annually basis, this will be cost effective. The National Wildlife Trust also recommends a bi-annual cut. This suggestion was supported by allotment holders. It will be suggested to Andrew Whitewood to have a “hard” cut and to check why the area near the Blackwells was not done.

b. Update on the Allotment Maintenance

Clearance of rubbish from plot 7ab had costs attached as did tidying of the other vacant plots, these were one off costs, which will see the allotment account in deficit. CPC welcome allotment holders to help to keep the costs down in future.

5. Tennis Club Proposal Q&A

- The Tennis Club (TC) has volunteered to undertake all preparatory work associated with the proposal.
- If approved, the allotment plots to be incorporated into the scheme would be:
 - 23a and 23b
 - 24b
 - 11a and 11b
 - 12a and 12b
- CPC has been willing to engage with the Tennis Club due to the limited current demand for allotments.
- The Tennis Club is thriving, financially stable, and keen to expand.
- As part of the proposal, the Tennis Club is offering school access to the tennis courts, presenting a potential benefit to the school.
- The proposal would remove the ongoing maintenance burden and costs of under-used and poor-quality allotments.
- Rental income received from both allotments and the Tennis Club is offset against allotment expenditure.
- CPC has reviewed a draft version of the planning application. An updated version will need to be developed to include latest feedback notably revised court arrangements.
- The affected allotment plots will need to be vacant; and, CPC has confirmed that no current allotment holders will be evicted.
- At this stage, the project timeline is unknown. Key steps include planning and secretary of state approval and raising of the necessary funds.
- The allotment land will be leased to the Tennis Club.

- CPC has held early discussions with a long-standing allotment holder (with 50 years' tenure) to seek initial feedback.
- The proposal was originally a separate third tennis court. Following feedback, this has been reduced to a combined second and new third court. This will ensure sufficient track access around the allotments (with now 3m between the revised court boundary and the remaining allotments).
- The existing water tap can be relocated as necessary to ensure continued access for allotment holders.
- All costs associated with the proposal, including infrastructure changes, will be met by the Tennis Club.
- Consideration has been raised regarding whether tennis facilities could be available to non-members on an ad-hoc basis.
- The Tennis Club anticipates an increase in membership and associated traffic.
- If the proposal proceeds, further meetings can be arranged as required with allotment holders.
- The Council currently supports the application.

The meeting concluded at 20.33