



COPPULL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

MEETING: COPPULL PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00 PM
COPPULL VILLAGE HALL, CHAPEL LANE

Members of Coppull Parish Council are hereby **SUMMONED** to attend the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
Members of the public are invited to attend and are extremely welcome

This meeting was audio recorded

IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Ken McCrea (Chair), Marjorie Parkinson (Vice-Chair), Phil Armstrong, Michael Atherton (arrived after item 3.1), Julia Berry (planning meeting at Chorley Council, arrived at 8pm after 8.3), Neil Coggins, Janette Colecliffe, Matthew Crook, Robin Dodd, Christopher Kay, Lynne Moores, Maggie Peel-Impey, Thomas Robinson, Paul Taylor, Susan Edwards, Clerk, and members of the public

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillors Julia Berry (another meeting at Chorley Council – arrived), Sheila Makin (approved leave of absence).

RESOLVED: Apologies accepted.

Apologies were also received from Chorley Councillor Joe McCartney who was at a planning meeting at Chorley Council and County Councillor Lee Hutchinson's apologies received by email after the meeting.

- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL / PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS** (Members of the Parish Council are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provision of the Local Government Act 2000) and withdraw from the meeting whilst the item is discussed.

2.1 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM** – it is each Councillors' responsibility to ensure that this form is up to date and to declare any interests at meetings.

2.2 **DECLARATION OF GIFTS OVER £25** – None.

- 3. 3.1 AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 13 MAY 2026** (emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors)

PROPOSED: Councillor M. Peel-Impey

SECONDED: Councillor J. Colecliffe

RESOLVED: That the above minutes be approved as a correct record. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

Councillor Atherton arrived at the meeting.

3.2 AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATED 27 MAY 2026 and the recommendations contained therein and below (emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors)

- Coppull & Standish Band, official approval required to proceed with taking over the band room – the band is not folding, just looking to secure the premises for the future. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to proceed with this matter in conjunction with the band room and the Parish Council's Solicitor.
- PRS Music Licence required – a one-off event is around £30, but the Clerk to look into annual cover as more events are planned this year. There are different categories and the Parish Council would be under a community agreement. An initial application has been put in and awaiting a quote. It was unanimously agreed that this licence be obtained prior to the Picnic in the Park event.
- It was also recommended that a further three gazebos be purchased, which could also be used for other events – cost £420. It was unanimously agreed that these be ordered.
- An outdoor electrical socket also needs to be looked into in more detail. Councillor Armstrong to be asked for his advice – advice given to order three socket extension leads and a weatherproof 2 gang socket at a total cost of £196.61 plus vat. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to order these items prior to the Picnic in the Park event.
- Digital competitions – judging and prizes recommended as per last year. The dog competition is sponsored by Pinewood Vets, Coppull, who gave £175 for the prizes with the Parish Council paying a small amount for treats for the dogs. The garden competition cost £95 for prizes and judged by the Parish Council's gardener. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead as last year.
- Updating Financial Regulations to allow a preferred contractor list. This was unanimously agreed up to a value of £1,000. Anything over, three quotes are required.
- Areas of Responsibilities as amended from the last Parish Council meeting. This was unanimously agreed.
- Proposed List of Complaints from residents. To be kept for a period of 3 years but reviewed every six months. This was unanimously agreed upon.
- Tree recommendations – Allotments previously agreed and taken out of the allotment rent £1750.00, the gardener removing one from Tansley (the resident concerned is very happy this has been done and thanks the PC), waiting for quote for the removal of a Sycamore and pruning of others for the Leisure Park. The quote for the Leisure Park is £360.00. A small piece of wire fencing has been damaged and it was agreed that the PC would replace this. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the quote be accepted and the fence repaired.
- Electrical report – previously agreed to undertake the remedial work asap – scheduled 18 June 2026. A re-wiring is not required at this moment in time,

but it is an old building and may be required in the future, together with plumbing, etc. A1 Fitness to be checked asap – a date is awaited for this. Unanimously agreed.

- Consultation with residents regarding the SpID. A location has been approved by LCC but needs the approval of local residents. A letter to be sent to nearby residents asking for their agreement to the location by the end of June 2026. Once this has been done LCC will take this project further. Unanimously agreed.
- Training – two training sessions booked @ £35 each for Cllr. McCrea (Next Generation Leadership: Building inclusive parish and town councils) and Cllr. Dodd (Making Social media work for you). A training programme to be set up, to include the Clerk and members of staff if required. Cllr. Dodd has asked to attend three other courses – Internal Controls, Procurement, and Finance for Councillors. Cllr. McCrea also to attend the Chairmanship course. All of these are online and £35 each, plus vat. Unanimously agreed.
- Sponsorship of flower bed – flower bed(s) to be determined. It was unanimously agreed that the flower bed on Preston Road be used for this purpose, by a local window cleaning company who has agreed to clean some bus shelters for sponsorship. This was unanimously agreed.

PROPOSED: Councillor M. Parkinson

SECONDED: Councillor K. McCrea

RESOLVED: That the above report of the Management & Finance Committee meeting and all the recommendations contained therein and above be approved as a correct record.

At this point in the meeting, a presentation was made to Councillor Michael Atherton, who has been chairman for the previous 13 years, to thank him for his tremendous work over the years which have made a huge difference to the Parish Council and the community. Councillors and the Clerk had clubbed together to be put towards something of Cllr. Atherton's choice. A full round of applause for Cllr. Atherton was given.

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS - Standing Orders state - **Item 15 (e) – in bold : To allow members of the public to address the Council. The total time allowed for this item shall not exceed 20 minutes. Item 75** – Any or every part of the Standing Orders, **except those printed in bold type**, may be suspended by resolution in relation to any specific item of business. **No decisions can be made by the Parish Council whilst Standing Orders are suspended.**

4. ITEMS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Mr Richard Toon addressed the Parish Council regarding the following:

- Could the flags on lampposts in Coppull be removed as they are very tatty, but also because of what they are being associated with. Unfortunately, the Parish Council cannot remove these from the highways, but will request LCC to undertake this. However, after a previous request to LCC in regard to this matter, they stated that they were taking a pragmatic approach to the flags and would not be removing them.

- Could a survey be done in the village in regard to wheelchair access for shops, etc. There are not many shops which have this and maybe the Parish Council could consider giving small grants to help the shops address this. The footpaths are also not suitable for wheelchair users. Richard Toon, Jean Tickle and Lynne Moores volunteered to do this survey and discuss at the next meeting.

Mrs Jean Tickle stated that members of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group are meeting with Chorley Council and the consultant to go through the next steps now the plan has been approved by Chorley Council.

5. POLICE REPORT – <https://www.police.uk/coppull>. None.

6. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Apologies were not available at the meeting but were sent by email as seen the day after.

7. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS – Apologies received from Councillor McCartney, who had forwarded a report (emailed to Parish Councillors and distributed at the meeting) and Councillor Berry, who hoped to attend after the planning meeting at Chorley Council.

REIMPOSE STANDING ORDERS

8. GENERAL MANAGEMENT/FINANCE

8.1 Accounts – Direct debits/standing orders - Payments made and to be made (see separate sheets – will be emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors). Full accounts will be available at the next meeting (quarterly). Noted and no concerns.

8.2 Play Area updates

Springfield Park:

- Update from the official opening of the small children's new play area Saturday 23 May 2026, Springfield Leisure Park. This went well, although not as many as expected turned up. The Mayor of Chorley, Debra Platt, officially opened the site. The Mayor was accompanied by her husband/consort, Alan Platt.
- The damage to the springer/seesaw was repaired prior to the opening by the supplier of the playground, at their own cost, which was approximately £1400, including the part and labour for two people for one day (travelling included). The tarmac to the path in front of the playground was installed also prior to the meeting. The remainder of the paths around the park will be completed as soon as possible. The Bucchaneer Climbing equipment has also been damaged, the joins appear to have been hit and they have broken. The Manager from the Sports Hall has kindly fitted new ones, although more are required. There was also damage to the yellow barrier, pulling one of the rails down. This has now been fixed.

Byron Crescent:

- Update on the new play area – the final part of the web pour was finished on Monday, but the following morning 45% of this had been

ripped up. There is a 2-metre fence all the way round, but someone has managed to get in. The supplier does not believe this is teenagers. The company has been back to this today and repaired it with costs going into thousands of pounds which they have had to cover. The Police have been informed. It is hoped that the play area will be completed and handed next week. To ask the Police if they would be able to extend their CCTV to cover this area.

Tansley Play area:

- Update on the new safety surface and equipment. Two quotes have now been sought for this play area – two more will be invited to quote.

8.3 Allotments update:

- Meeting with Chair and Vice Chair of the Allotment Association. Communication needs to be improved between all parties involved. The issues in regard to who controls the funding have now been resolved – the Parish Council has the lease with the diocese and collects the rent, which is then used for repairs, etc. on the allotments as agreed by the Parish Council.
- Fitting of defibrillator – this has been ordered and Cllr. Armstrong will fit it when possible, on the side of the clubhouse at St. Oswalds. Permission has been obtained from Father Dunn and the person who is leasing the clubhouse.
- Notice Board – the allotment committee does not require this notice board, so this has been cancelled with the contractor. This could be given to the Friends of Chisnall. Cllr. McCrea has spent some time with this group.

Councillor Berry arrived at 8.00 pm.

The Friends of Chisnall talked about the work they do, controlling invasive species, putting up bird boxes, etc. They also highlighted the proposed development at Chisnall and has put it into two groups for presenting at the planning meeting this evening. 1 - Why they did not want it to go ahead and the reasons for this. 2 - Mitigation – to make things better by the type of fencing, swift bricks, etc. This matter to be discussed further under item 10 Planning.

- 8.4 Picnic in the Park Event Sunday 12 July 2026. Volunteers are always required, six people as a minimum are required to put up the gazebos at 9am and people required during the day for manning stalls, litter picking, candy floss, etc. Items are also required for the tombolo stall, bottles, jars, cans, gifts, anything at all.

- 8.5 The Circus – 22 – 28 June 2026 – unfortunately, this has been cancelled by the company for this year, for reasons beyond the Parish Council's control.

9. DECISIONS MADE UNDER THE CLERK'S DELEGATED AUTHORITY (in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair)

- Neighbourhood Plan meeting with Chorley Council, members of the NP group and consultant fee £292.00.

- Alty Grab Hire – removal of green waste from the back of the Leisure Centre £280.00.
- Two new flags for flagpoles - £7.49. A more substantial flag will be obtained prior to Remembrance Day.
- AW Fire – fire extinguisher service and fire blankets at the Village Hall and portable appliance testing - £98.44.
- Refreshments for the official opening of the new play area at Springfield Park - £40.66.

RESOLVED: That the above decisions and costs be ratified by the Parish Council.

10. PLANNING (NC) – All applications can be viewed at chorley.gov.uk/planning – type in the application number in the search box.

The following recommendations summarise Councillor Coggins' considered opinion on each of the planning applications contained therein. The recommendations have been produced following a desk study of each of the planning applications (including previous applications as required). Where appropriate, site visits have additionally been performed.

10.1 Applications:

- **App.No. 26/00408/FUL – 312 Spendmore Lane** – Proposed change of use of existing dwelling into a 7 bedroom/9 person HMO. This is an application to change the use of a house into a sui generis. As a dwellinghouse, the mandated parking standards as laid down by the Chorley Local Plan (3+ spaces for a 4+ bedroom home) are being met. By changing this to a 7 bedroom property, where the tenants are unrelated, there is no possibility of meeting the required off-street parking and approval would therefore lead to an intolerable increase in the on-street parking at the locus of a mini roundabout and separate T-junction (both of which abut the property in question). This would represent a significant risk to highway safety and amenity as well as traffic flow through the centre of Coppull. Attempting to address the parking standards issue would result in effectively having to tarmac the majority of the garden. This would itself be a breach of Policy BNE1 by materially altering the building-to-plot ratio, resulting in substantial overdevelopment and by materially harming the visual amenity of the locale. It would also increase the risk of surface water flooding at a key junction. Additionally, the internal layout is compromised to the point that one of the proposed bedrooms does not even have a window. Moving from single family (C3) to 7 independent adults (sui generis) would result in a massive spike in activity, which would be in stark contrast to the rest of the village itself. **RESOLVED:** To object to this application on the grounds stated above.
- **App.No.25/01051/FULMAJ – Land to the West side of Preston Road** – Full planning application for the erection of 39no. dwellinghouses (affordable homes) with associated parking, landscaping and vehicular access off Chisnall Lane – Application to be determined by the Planning Committee 10.06.26 – Recommendation to permit full planning permission.

Cllr. Berry reported on this application after attending the planning meeting at Chorley Council this evening. Permission has been granted. Concerns were expressed about the classification of this land and whether the affordable housing will actually go to Coppull residents. LCC sold this land for development. This development was not in the local plan. Concerns also expressed about the wildlife and road safety. There will be a controlled crossing.

Cllr. Coggins previously recommended that the Parish Council object to this application, but it was subsequently resolved to support it. For the avoidance of doubt, evidence provided by the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside, supported by Chorley & District Natural History Society, confirmed a successful breeding pair of Willow Tit in 2025 within Chisnall Community Woodland. This application was made in 2025. Under the Lancashire Biological heritage Site Guidelines for Birds (April 2023), Criterion Avi3 applies to suites supporting breeding populations of bird species classed as Scarce with Lancashire. Willow Tit is explicitly listed, with a qualifying threshold of one breeding pair. The woodland therefore meets the criteria for Biological Heritage Site consideration and the proposed development would result in unacceptable harm to biodiversity interests of county importance. This site itself can no longer be considered a brownfield site despite being the location of mining housing historically, because (as per Annex2 of the NPPF) "the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape". The bulk of civic facilities provided by the nearest population centre (that being Coppull village) are well beyond the preferred 800m walking distance, with some (Coppull Medical Practice for example) being more than double that distance. As a result of this, Cllr. Coggins' recommendation stands, that the Parish Council object on the grounds provided, and he will be writing to the Wildlife Trust to ask them to investigate and overturn the decision made by the planning authority, to try and block this legally with the Parish Council's permission.

- **App.No. 26/00398/CLPUD – Ro-Mar, Church Fold** – Application for a certificate of lawfulness for a proposed single storey side extension. This is an application for a certificate of lawfulness for a single storey extension to "fill in" a missing corner of the property. Whilst it is within 2m of a boundary, the eaves of the proposed development mean that it does indeed qualify as permitted development. Therefore, there is no expectation on the Parish Council to comment, nor would it carry any weight – the certificate will be granted (or otherwise) depending purely on the material facts of the application. **RESOLVED:** No comment to be made.
- **App.No. 26/00399/PDE – Ro-Mar, Church Fold** – Notification of a proposed single storey rear extension measuring 8m in depth, with eaves of 4m and a maximum height of 4m (flat roof) – general permitted development. This is an application for a second extension to be made under permitted development. This appears to have been put forward under the neighbour consultation scheme and no objections have been made. Unless such objections are received within the required period by neighbours, the application will be approved. There are no apparent issues with the proposal. Whilst it is a large extension, the property itself is also very large. It raises no concerns of overshadowing (being a single storey extension) and no concerns of overlooking. It represents

no loss of amenity for the neighbours. **RESOLVED:** That the Parish Council support this application.

- **App.No. 26/00356/DIS – Robinson and Douglas, Spendmore Lane** – Application to discharge condition 17 (ground contamination) attached to planning permission 25/00916/FUL (Change of use to a local convenience store with other associated development, including changes to elevation openings of the main building, removal of smaller buildings, erection of fencing and plant, changes to access and parking arrangements and landscaping works). This application has already been determined – **GRANTED**.
- **App.No. 25/00397/DIS – 300 Spendmore Lane** – Application to discharge condition nos. 5 (drainage layout), 7 (surface materials and boundary treatments), 9 (streets maintenance), 11 (construction management plan), 12 (bat access panels) and 14 (biodiversity gain plan) attached to planning permission ref: 25/00920/FUL (application for technical details consent for the erection of four bungalows (following demolition of existing bungalow) and access alterations pursuant to permission in principle ref: 25/00362/PIP). This is a technical determination and not an application that the Parish Council is expected to respond to. The Planning Authority will determine the application on the basis of the technical drawings and documents provided.
RESOLVED: No comment to be made.

10.2 **To consider** any planning applications received after publication of this agenda for which a response is required prior to the next meeting

10.3 **Decisions:**

- App.No. 26/00337/AGR – Coppull Old Hall Farm, Coppull Hall Lane – Agricultural determination for a single storey hay barn with mono-pitch roof – **prior approval not required – Agr.**
- App.No. 26/00151/FULHH – 16 Rivington Place – Two storey side extension – **GRANTED**.
- App.No. 25/00985/FUL – 238 Spendmore Lane – Change of use from dwelling (use class C3) to 4 bed HMO (use class C3) – **REFUSED**.

11. HIGHWAYS – Cllr. Coggins asked for members of the Parish Council to undertake a survey of Spendmore Lane to endeavour to comply with the request from Mr Richard Toon and consulting with the Highways Authority regarding the pavements.

12. CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS FOR DECISION - Lancashire County

Council's Children and Wellbeing Service would like to use the park again for an event. This would be on Tuesday 21 August 2026, 4.30 to 8.30pm. The Parish Council had no objections to this.

13. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE DISCUSSION

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

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Councillor Ken McCrea
Chair of Coppull Parish Council