



COPPULL PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

**MEETING: COPPULL PARISH COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025 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 Michael Atherton, Marjorie Parkinson, Phil Armstrong, Julia Berry, Neil Coggins, Janette Colecliffe, Matthew Crook, Robin Dodd, Christopher Kay, Sheila Makin, Ken McCrea, Maggie Peel-Impey, Paul Taylor and Susan Edwards, Clerk

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Councillors Lynne Moores (another commitment) and Thomas Robinson (holiday).

Apologies also received from County Councillor Lee Hutchinson (stuck in traffic).

- 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.

- Councillor Dodd declared an interest under item 3.2 – Review of cleaner's contract

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

DECLARATION OF GIFTS – None.

- 3. 3.1 AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 13 AUGUST 2025** (emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors)

PROPOSED: Councillor N. Coggins

SECONDED: Councillor P. Armstrong

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meeting be approved as a correct record.

- 3.2 AMENDMENT/APPROVAL OF THE REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT & FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING DATED 27 AUGUST 2025, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS** (emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors)

- Revised Terms of Reference common to all committees;

- Review of cleaner's contract and increase in hourly rate;
- Remembrance Day – 20 poppies/soldiers in total required;
- Christmas lights switch-on – proposal to obtain a singer, who could also undertake the switch-on – agreed not to pursue this;
- Christmas tree lights on shops – to compare the cost of real and fake trees, contact local shops and businesses and contact Chorley Council to ascertain if the trees could be obtained when they obtain theirs – may be a grant to help under Public Realm

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

SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS (20 minutes in total allowed for the following 4 items or 4 minutes per person)

4. POLICE REPORT – No official report. Statistics for the most reported crimes during June 2025:

- 22 Anti-social behaviour – up from 16
- 13 Violence and sexual offences – down from 15
- 03 Other theft
- 02 Public order
- Crime level overview percentage for June 9%, down from 9.2% in May

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Councillor Hutchinson sent in his report as follows:

Lancashire County Council is overhauling its pothole repair strategy, moving from a reactive, resident-led reporting system to a proactive, AI-driven approach. With an estimated 100,000 potholes needing £450m in repairs, the council discovered its old system only recorded about 3,000 issues. Now, AI-powered defect detection, a digital control hub, upgraded repair contracts, and improved accountability are being introduced. The goal is to fully automate pothole detection, tracking, and repair by the end of 2025, delivering faster fixes, better quality, and improved value for taxpayers.

Lancashire County Council is continuing to overhaul of its SEND services following the Improvement Notice, led by a new SEND Improvement Board. Key actions include cutting EHCP wait times, boosting school support through a SEND Academy, and improving parent engagement with a new helpline and inclusion summits. SEND transport has been upgraded with 50 new minibuses and advanced routing software, while data science is being introduced to tackle a £3.1m transport overspend through predictive modelling and efficiency analysis. Though funding pressures remain, the council is pursuing innovation and efficiency to drive long-term improvement.

A great turnout at my surgery at Coppull Library on Saturday morning. Lots of resident's issues, enquiries and concerns discussed. From overhanging trees to problems with bin collections, EV charging stations, Anti-social behaviour and of course the dreaded HMO's. Residents will be updated as and when I am updated from the relevant departments".

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS – Councillor Julia Berry reported on the following:

- Anti-social behaviour by young children. The Police have been round to all the parents of the children involved. The library had to call the police out on two occasions; the children were seen on the Health Centre roof and have previously been on the container roof at the Leisure Centre. A detached youth team is out every Tuesday night and is going to work more closely with the children to try and get better behaviour. They have also been on a resident's garage which backs on to the Leisure Centre. An assault also took place on the leisure park, committed by a child who is no longer residing in Coppull.
- HMO's in the Chorley area will no longer be used by SERCO. They will have to be licenced in the future. Some will be used for children in care and some for adults who are vulnerable. There are no illegal immigrants in our area, but there are asylum seekers. There are 1600 people on the waiting list for housing, some have greater needs than others. More transparency is needed regarding the whole process.

7. ITEMS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- A member of the public raised concerns regarding emergency situations. The government had issued a test of the emergency call to all mobiles recently and a school in Adlington is teaching children what to do in case of an emergency and he asked if the Parish Council knew anything about any emergency situations that may be imminent and what is being done to look after our children.

There is no knowledge of any imminent danger, although the country could be on high alert, but the national alarm is to be used for all sorts of situations, i.e. bad weather, etc. In schools, it's all about safeguarding and just preparing in case of an emergency.

- Two other members of the public raised concerns about parking on Chapel Street, at the junction with Spendmore Lane, even though there are double yellow lines. Particularly at lunchtime, drivers are parking up to get lunch from Tailor Maid and eating it where they have parked. Large vans and wagons park on both sides of the road, making it impossible for traffic to flow through. This has been reported and LCC are sending officers down to do enforcement. This also occurs when there is something on at the Methodist Church. You can go online to "Operation Snap" and send in photos, registrations numbers, etc., of any illegally parked cars.

REIMPOSE STANDING ORDERS

8. GENERAL MANAGEMENT/FINANCE

- 8.1 Direct debits/standing orders - Payments made and to be made.
RESOLVED – that these payments be approved as a correct record.
- 8.2 Areas of Responsibility for Parish Councillors to include Cllr. Dodd and remove Pauline Cobham. An amended list will be forwarded to all Parish Councillors.
- 8.3 Drainage quote for Leisure Centre car park £2,142.00. At a previous discussion the incorrect price for the quote was given.

PROPOSED: Councillor N. Coggins

SECONDED: Councillor M. Crook

That the work to still go ahead for the price of £2,142, to be undertaken as soon as possible. This was unanimously agreed.

- 8.4 CIL Funding – request from St. John’s School. **RESOLVED** - An application form and copy of the policy to be forwarded, with a note to inform that they can also apply to Chorley Council for CIL funding.
- 8.5 Snowman Festival – request for grant. **RESOLVED** – to award a grant of £100 again this year and the request that they let the PC know if they need any other help.
- 8.6 Chorley Council - Green Grants/Community Grants/Net Zero – to agree a project. The following was **RESOLVED**:
- i. To apply for a green grant for funding towards the paths at the Leisure Centre.
 - ii. To apply for a community grant for setting up a recycling service at the Leisure Centre.
 - iii. The Net Zero grant is only open to businesses.

There is a grant from Chorley Council for businesses which could be used to combat anti-social behaviour. The details to be forwarded to A1 Fitness.

- 8.7 Further quotes for Speed Indicator Devices (emailed/distributed to Parish Councillors). Additional information had been received regarding another company who has been used in Whittle-le-Woods. Although a decision had previously been made, it was felt that this company’s products were of a better quality and held a warranty of 6 years instead of 2. The cost is £2,395.00 for the one, compared with £4,679.00 for two.

PROPOSED: Councillor M. Crook

SECONDED: Councillor J. Colecliffe

That just one of the spid with the 6 year warranty be ordered, with an additional bracket so that it can be moved elsewhere, instead of purchasing the cheaper two.

- 8.8 Neighbourhood Plan update (KMc). The next stage of the plan is consultation. Copies of the plan will be put in the Library, various public houses, the PC office, on the website and social media. After the consultation period it will go to referendum through Chorley Council. More than half of those who vote need to vote yes for it to proceed.
- 8.9 Play Areas – Inspections from Chorley Council August 2025. Nothing new has been added, repairs/new equipment will be sorted when quotes have been received.
- 8.10 New Village Hall update (KMc):
- To reconsider the contract with the playschool as further information could affect the previous decision made; **RESOLVED**: After further discussion and new information it was agreed that the contract would commence at the beginning of October 2025.

- purchase of step ladders and watering can; **RESOLVED:** That these be purchased together with a set of loft ladders.
- update on tabletops; **RESOLVED:** After further discussion and new information it was agreed that new tabletops be purchased, at half the cost of having them made or making the current tabletops to fit.
- Christmas trees for Village Hall (outside and inside); **RESOLVED:** That both trees be obtained.
- Date for official opening: **RESOLVED:** That the date be Friday 31 October at 1.00 pm. A list of people to be invited was discussed and a buffet to be put on.

8.11 Leisure Centre update (MA). Fire doors have now been fitted and a girder secured. The main urgent repairs have now been done, and the others will be done as soon as possible. The outside needs power washing, but a platform is needed to undertake the top areas. It was mentioned that Chorley Council may be able to help with this.

8.12 A1 Fitness update (MA). The downstairs toilet had damp, and this is being rectified, and two other toilets also need sorting out (not been used for some time).

8.13 Allotments – request for a concrete base to aid mobility on a plot.
RESOLVED: That permission be given for flags to be put down, but not concrete, as flags are much easier to remove when/if the plot is given to someone else.

8.14 Contact person for out of hours or when the Clerk is on leave (JB). Cllr. McCrea offered to be the contact person and the Clerk will put his details on the main phone, with the mobile given to him when the Clerk is away.

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

- Teapot for the Village Hall £8.81

RATIFIED by members present.

10 **PLANNING** (NC)

All applications can be viewed at planning.chorley.gov.uk – type in the application number in the search box.

10.1 **Applications** (Report from Councillor Coggins):

25/00756/PIP

Permission in principle application for the erection of up to four dwellinghouses Land Between 23 To 25 Wigan Lane Coppull

Having reviewed the application, it is clear that this is an attempt to circumvent current legislation and national guidance, as well as the enacted Chorley Local Plan. The "Design and Access Statement" supplied as part of the application makes multiple statements in Section 6 ("Planning Assessment"), many of which contradict or misquote both the National

Planning and Policy Framework and the Chorley Local Plan. I shall address each of these in turn:

1. Point 6.1 acknowledges that the proposed development is outside of the boundaries of the settlement of Coppull, in an area washed over by Green Belt. I concur that the site is indeed outside of the boundaries of Coppull insofar as the village is concerned. This, of course, automatically disqualifies the site from claiming the Green Belt exception for "limited infilling in villages", since it is not in the village.
2. Point 6.2 states that it "clearly conforms to the definition of infill". Policy HS7 of the Chorley Local Plan is only applicable for infill within villages. However, the Local Plan does separately state in p5.37 that infilling is envisaged by the Plan as at most 1 or possibly 2 houses. Given that the proposal is for 4 dwellinghouses, and that the houses on either side of the proposed development cannot even see each other, the proposal does not meet the definition of "infill".
3. Point 6.5 states that the applicable Policy from the Local Plan is Policy HS7. Except that Policy HS7 itself states:

Infill is the filling of a small gap in an otherwise built-up street frontage, e.g. typically a gap which could be filled by one or possibly two houses of a type in keeping with the character of the street frontage.

- a. The gap is demonstrably large enough to require at least 4 houses to fill
- b. The area is not an "otherwise built-up street frontage" (there are less than 20 houses on that side of the road in a 1-mile stretch, centred on the proposed site)

4. Point 6.8 states:

Paragraph 12 of the NPPF clearly states that NPPF is a material consideration in determining Planning Applications.

This is factually incorrect - Paragraph 12 (nor any other paragraph of the NPPF) makes that statement.

5. Point 6.12 states that there is "no definition of a village" (in the NPPF). However, other Government documents, including recent Census records, make it clear that a "village" is typically defined as having less than 7,500 residents. I have no idea what the point of mentioning this was by the applicant's agent - it seems an entirely moot point - but it doesn't support their position in any way.
6. Point 6.13 draws attention to the fact that the NPPF Paragraph 154(g) references the valid exceptions for development in Green Belt. It further references that: "redevelopment of previously developed sites in the Green Belt is appropriate development provided the proposal does not result in substantial harm to the openness of the Green Belt"

Which would be fine, except that the site does not constitute "a previously developed site", because temporary structures (such as sheds) are specifically excluded from being counted as development. There is no history of previous development of permanent structures, let alone dwellings, on the site in question.

Recommendation that the Council raise objections to this blatant attempt to circumvent established planning procedures by making false and misleading statements regarding the nature of the site. The site is Green Belt, there is no history of permanent structures existing on the site, it does not meet the criteria of limited infilling due to the sparsity of

properties on the road in question, and finally it represents an excessive development even were it to be considered as infilling.

25/00680/FULHH

**Single storey rear extension and replacement doors to existing garage.
14 Clayton Gate Coppull Chorley PR7 4PS**

This is an application for a proportionally large extension on a bungalow, as well as effectively converting a garage to a separate habitable room. The bungalow extension represents a nearly 60% increase in floor area for the dwelling (going from 9m to 14m in length, with the extension being full width). The "garage" is having a garage door replaced with French doors and side glazing panels, thereby removing any realistic possibility of it being used as a garage to store a motor vehicle.

That being said, the proposal does not represent overdevelopment (there is still ample curtilage available). There is no measurable loss of privacy or amenity for neighbours, or loss of light. Despite losing the garage, there is still sufficient off-street parking available at the front of the house. **I therefore recommend that the Council support the application.**

25/00768/FULHH

**Single storey side extension (to infill an existing carport)
222 Preston Road Coppull Chorley PR7 5EB**

This is an application to replace a carport with an extension. There is no impact on neighbouring properties. There is, however, a loss of parking for what is a 4-bedroom house. As the proposal stands, there is only parking for 1 or possibly 2 cars. This means that the proposal fails to meet the minimum standards laid down by Appendix A and Policy ST4 of the Chorley Local Plan. I therefore recommend that the Council raise an objection with the Planning Authority in respect of this reduction in parking spaces below the minimum threshold required by the dwelling.

25/00457/FULMAJ

**Erection of 57 no. affordable dwellings, access, parking, landscaping and all other associated works
Land 120M East of 27 Charter Lane Charnock Richard**

We have previously remained neutral to this application. Whilst it represents a large-scale development in a neighbouring village, the primary impacts on Coppull will be:

1. The increased number of patients potentially being seen at Coppull Medical Practice
2. The increased number of vehicles on the A49

Ultimately, we lack standing to object on most grounds, but I am open to the Council objecting on the basis that the infrastructure in Coppull would be stretched excessively due to the lack of healthcare facilities in Charnock Richard and nothing provided for in the Local Plan.

Other than that, and in the absence of a traffic survey having been performed that could give representative numbers for increased traffic on the A49 southbound from Charnock Richard, I would suggest that we remain neutral.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council agree to all the recommendations 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 – None.

10.3 Decisions:

- App.No. 25/00623/CLPUD – 43 Pear Tree Avenue – Application for a certificate of lawfulness for the use of the property as a young person’s home, for a maximum of two young persons with carers and home manager on site as required, but no more than two carers resident overnight working on a rota basis – **REFUSED.**

11 HIGHWAYS - None.

12 CORRESPONDENCE / ITEMS FOR DECISION – None.

13 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION / FUTURE DISCUSSION – None.

The Chairman asked members of the public to leave, as there was a confidential matter to discuss. The confidential matter is in connection to hiring out the Village Hall. Information will be published as soon as possible.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.

.....
Councillor Michael Atherton
Chair of Coppull Parish Council