

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2026 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligan- Chair, Cllr Bendall. Cllr Parsons, Cllr Hetterley, Cllr Mills. Cllr Slater, Cllr King

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: - Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

VISITORS - None

200/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

201/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Blackie, Cllr Hamilton,

202/26 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Slater – Agenda Item 7.3

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

203/26 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 February 2026

The minutes of the 4 February 2026 meeting were approved as a true record.

204/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4 February 2026

None

205/26 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Playing Fields Update

The Clerk reported that the benches are scheduled to be delivered on 16 March, and Cllr Mulligan has arranged for Pete Savage to install them and also requested that one bench be placed at the top of the slope overlooking the children's area to provide improved visibility for Parents.

The tree survey has been completed, and several works require prompt attention. The Clerk was instructed to request that Piers Hansen undertake the necessary works.

The Clerk also reported that a tree has fallen into a neighbouring garden. Geoff Brookes will attend the site to assess the clearance required. Cllr Mulligan recommended clearing a 10-metre area and leaving the felled logs in place to create a wildlife habitat.

The Clerk has received notification of the imminent safety inspection.

Memorial Hall Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that, having received no response from the Athelstan Trust regarding the lease status, he contacted their solicitor directly. The solicitor advised they were awaiting answers to previous queries. Cllr Mulligan confirmed he had provided these responses to the Trust in early January and subsequently supplied the same information to the solicitor.

He also presented quotations for the new kitchen. It was agreed to proceed with Wren Kitchens, and the Parish Council approved the installation of a dishwasher. The total cost is expected to be approximately £9,000, plus decorating and flooring.

The replacement door for the Chamberlain Room has been ordered and is expected to be installed within the next few weeks.

Cllr Bendall completed a fire risk assessment on the advice of the fire service, following the recent nightclub fire in Switzerland (Appendix 1).

Cllr Hetterley reported that PAT testing has been undertaken; however, full access to the hall cabinet was not possible. The remaining testing will be completed once the key is located.

Cllr King advised that Mr Scurfield has volunteered to join the management committee and will discuss this further with him.

The Clerk confirmed that the accounts have been submitted to the auditor. A Trustee meeting will be required to approve them prior to submission to the Charity Commission.

The Clerk requested that the cleaner tidy the meeting room and cupboards. The cleaner advised that an additional £40 would be charged for this work. The Council noted that the room had been cleaned to a satisfactory standard and approved the additional charge.

The Clerk reported that one of the business energy contracts is due for renewal at the end of the month. It was agreed to review the quotation and consider moving to the standard tariff until the current oil and gas market disruptions stabilise.

The Clerk has found a reasonably priced supplier of banquet chairs and will share the website so the Council can review alternatives. The supplier also offers samples.

Defibrillator

Cllr Mulligan said the installation remains outstanding.

206/26 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk reported that she had discussed the blocked culvert on the village exit with Gill Portlock, who has added it to the jetting schedule for the new financial year. Jetting on Old Hill is scheduled to take place this month.

Regarding the draft road safety assessment, the Clerk advised that, following further discussion with Gill Portlock, any application for a Road Traffic Order must first receive her approval. The estimated cost is approximately £15,000.

Cllr Mills requested that the Council review his assessment and provide recommendations on the potential need for, and most appropriate location of, a Road Traffic Order.

The Clerk said this would be an ideal topic for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held by the end of May. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

207/26 FINANCE

Finance Report

Cllr Hetterley reported at March 10th the bank balance stands at approximately £102k. After allowing for March payments, ring fenced items and likely roll forward of existing projects, the end of year budget reserve is estimated to be approximately £53k.

The Clerk confirmed that the part-payment of the playgroup grant has been made.

Cllr Mulligan reported that Mr Jennings has agreed to audit the Parish Council accounts for 2025/26.

Cllr Mills reviewed Council practices relating to Assertion 10 and identified the use of personal email accounts as a clear non-compliance, which must be resolved. He also noted required amendments to the website, including the colour scheme, which does not currently meet standards. Cllr Slater will review the necessary changes.

Approve Bills for Payment

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

208/26 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT –

Appendix 2

209/26 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

Appendix 3

210/26 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

26/00324/FUL Minchinhampton Golf Club Demolition of existing electrical switchhouse and replacement with a new switchhouse in an adjacent location. - Approve

26/00380/TCO NR Star Lane T1 Ash - Fell to ground level. Symptomatic to ADB, recently shed a large limb that landed in the road. - Approve

26/00597/COMPLY The Old Quarries Compliance with conditions 10 (Design details - fence) and 18 (Landscaping) of permission 22/03666/FUL - Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) to form a total of 11 no. dwellings, through demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, demolition of modern institutional buildings and replacement with new dwellings, associated garaging, landscaping, construction of new wall in alignment of historic walled garden and associated works - Approve

211/26 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

26/00525/TCO NR Rodways Place Point Road

Self-seeded cherry tree. Blocking out significant light to property. I have consulted a tree surgeon who confirms that it is not a good specimen. I have already had planning approved to reduce significantly but in light of advice would like to remove altogether. – Permitted

26/00312/COMPLY 12A Star Lane

Compliance with condition 5 (sample walling panel) of permission 24/01031/FUL - Erection of a residential dwelling - Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/03751/FUL – Permitted

25/03913/FUL Vale Farm West End

Construction of an equestrian manege and ancillary residential sand games court – Refused

25/03907/FUL The Barns Star Lane Erection of front porch and x2 dormer windows to front and x1 dormer window to rear, alterations to first floor side facing window and installation of solar panels to rear - Permitted

212/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Sarah Jackson – Horsfall House Walk. The Clerk reported that the walk is the same day as the fete. Sarah Jackson enquired if there could be some kind of joint activity. She has passed the information on to Cllr Hamilton who is the chair of the fete committee.

M5 Newsletter Junction 11. Drop-in session- 12 March. Cheltenham West Fire Station 10 am to 4pm

Grant available for air quality monitor

20 is plenty campaign newsletter.

213/26 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mills reported an incident of unsocial behaviour outside the Queen Matilda involving two people. A man in a grey Volvo and a Woman in a Black 4 x 4. On hearing the detail, the Parish Council thought it was a police matter and asked Cllr Mills to advise them to ring 101.

Cllr Bendall said he was disappointed at the lack of attendance at meetings by the County Councillor. The Clerk was asked to contact him to invite him to the next meeting.

Cllr King reported a complaint about rude behaviour by scaffolding company staff working on a local property. The issue was raised with the company's head office. The lorry also damaged the grass verge. The Clerk advised him to report the damage on FixMyStreet, including the company's name. Highways can then charge the company for the repair.

Cllr King reported that the telephone box library was working well .

Cllr Mulligan said he thought the Nags Head phone box refurbishment could be deferred until 2027, as it was in better condition.

Cllr Parsons said she had a very large polly tunnel frame stolen from her field.

214/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 8 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 21.20pm

Actions

210/26	Submit Planning	Clerk
205/26	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan & Cllr King
207/26	Pay Bills	Clerk

Appendix 1

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005

The Village hall has to comply with the above act which requires a fire risk assessment covering all aspects of fire detection.

As a result of the fire in Swiss nightclub over New Year the British fire brigades are reminding premises that are used for entertaining such as night clubs, restaurants, dance halls etc to make sure they comply to the above.

A fire risk assessment has to be carried out covering all areas of responsibility.

The basic requirements are met by an automatic fire detection system meeting British Standard BS 5839 Pt 1 with all items installed and tested and approved to British Standard applicable. This covers detection devices, call points, sounders control panels and installation fire cables.

The memorial Hall not only complies but exceeds requirements.

Portable fire extinguishers to be installed in places of easy access. Type of extinguisher installed depending on the environment it is covering. Types available are water. power. CO2, foam fff, chemical (kitchens). All extinguishers must be tested to BS53306 and comply.

The Memorial Hall extinguishers fully comply and meet BS5306.

Emergency lighting for our hall is covered by High Bay lighting built into the large fluorescent lights on the ceiling and individual units where applicable around the building.

All external escape doors must have a light box with the words fire escape in green and mounted over the escape route doors and again the Memorial fully comply.

The Halls emergency lighting units are all approved to BS 5266 and our requirements installed exceeds the standards that have to be met.

With three escape routes covered by a double door with crash bar in the main hall, a side door in the Chamberlan Room and the main entrance hall doorway it is felt that this would empty the hall quickly in case of fire.

The main user of the hall being the village school between 8.00am and 6.00pm it is the responsibility of the school to keep updated in case of an emergency. They have a lease with their parent academy for the use of the hall with he Parish Council.

Private functions are of small volume and when booking the hall, numbers tend to be small and the need to leave the building can be managed quickly.

All systems in the hall are serviced on a regular basis to meet the requirements of each respective system.

The hall has inside its structure a small commercial kitchen, which is covered by all of the systems addresses and has an extra protection of intumescent paint on the separating walls, giving a 30-minute protection. This also covers the upstairs meeting room which is directly above it. The kitchen is used for school lunches and is used between 10 am and 2pm daily during school times.

Indoor pyrotechnics are not allowed in the hall.

There are no chimneys in the hall. There no drapes or curtains only roller blinds.

The only item covered by separate insurance is the use of bouncy castles which we have taken out. As the hall is used by independent groups with no Parish people present, they are responsible for the safety of their guests.

Assessment carried out by Davis Bendall 5 Feb 2026

Appendix 2

Cotswold District Council (CDC): The next full Council is 18th March. In the **Overview and Scrutiny (O&S)** meeting we had an update on the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This scheme to dissolve district and town councils into larger 'unitary' authorities has been dictated by the government and is currently open for public consultation. The preferred scheme voted by most Gloucestershire councils is for a single unitary covering the whole of the county – this will cost around £10m to set up, with CDC directly contributing around £1.5m. This equates to around 900 band D households! However, this only represents the 'visible' costs for such things as IT, redundancy, and other physical items, but doesn't include the significant amount of officer time in shaping and running complex programmes of work. CDC officers have picked up several key programmes, and I have asked how this will impact their 'day jobs', which is serving the people of the Cotswolds.

Litter: My little story on McDonalds bags still seems to be generating interest in the media – this week I'm filming a piece on litter as part of a wider segment for BBC Morning Live. I've been contacted by people from across the country about problem litter, especially that from fast food outlets, and had an interesting call from a company developing an automated system for recording people throwing litter out of their cars. While I think we have more than enough cameras monitoring our every move, we need to do something before we drown in a sea of litter. I am hoping to discuss a possible trial using the technology with the Head of Environmental Services at CDC, and also to explore the possibility of working with local food outlets to add details of drive through purchases to the bags – having such information encoded on the bags would massively reduce this particular problem.

My colleagues have previously asked formal questions to the Cabinet member for waste about the removal of bins from laybys in the CDC area, and the resulting increase in litter – this month I have asked about litter removal more generally, as our verges and lanes are the worst I've ever seen. We can all do litter picks in our villages, but the road network is more dangerous and should be looked after by CDC. I will publish their response next month.

Roads – these continue to be a disaster! I report as many as I can on my travels, but can everyone use the Fix My Street app to alert Highways of significant issues.

Further afield, I visited the A419 'Missing Link' site to catch up on progress. This major infrastructure project is progressing at pace, and at the beginning of May the new road will be partially opened. From Cirencester and via a contraflow, traffic will navigate a rather complex route at the old Air Balloon roundabout before continuing to Cheltenham or the motorway. To quote our host, this will be 5 weeks of hell! It will be particularly bad if approaching from the 7 Springs direction, and is likely to be problematic for several months, so best avoided if you can.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

email: Tony.slater@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 07793669930

Appendix 3

Gloucestershire County Council – Tetbury Division Report

Councillor: Ian Watson

Period: December – February 2026

LGR

The government consultation is now open (access here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-gloucestershire>) and closes on **26 March 2026**. For further info and links to the proposals you can visit Future Gloucestershire - <https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

Budget

We passed our landmark Budget at full council on 18 February. We are investing in the things that matter most to our communities. It hasn't been easy, but Liberal Democrats are making the tough choices needed to deliver a stronger future for Gloucestershire.

This is a budget that resets our financial foundations and invests in Gloucestershire's future. The provisional funding settlement left us £9.5 million worse off than we had expected in December and we also had to deal with the failures and lack of investment in key areas of the previous administration.

Our budget resets and invests. It deals head-on with the financial position we inherited and aligns us with the new Fair Funding landscape to put us on a strong stable footing.

However, we are also investing in the areas most important to our communities, including –

- £15 million extra for Highways, the largest cash boost for generations
- £2 million for road safety
- 3 new care homes
- 2 new special schools

We have also established £32 million in efficiency savings to make at the council.

Highways

We are working hard to improve our highways and have committed a whopping additional £15 million into roads over the next few years.

The incredibly wet weather over the last couple of months has hugely affected our roads. Teams are working as hard as they can, however, the wet weather makes it incredibly hard to fill in potholes and increases the likelihood of more evolving.

Peer Review

- The external team has completed the peer review and given very positive feedback.
- They highlighted areas to keep developing, such as member/officer relationships, work with town and parish councils, repair quality, and governance processes that can slow things down.
- An action planning day is being organised for March 2026.

Member Influence Process

- As set out in the budget papers, most maintenance work must follow a countywide, needs based approach so the network stays in good condition and investment is fairly spread.
- Officers are developing a process for members to influence local highway priorities. This may include:
 - Local surgeries or depot open days twice a year, with sessions on planned works and priorities.
 - LHMs contacting each member at least quarterly to discuss local issues.
 - Clear ways for members to suggest locations for deep cleans, impact schemes, and findandfix work.
- Feedback from the February Peer Review will also be included.
- More detail will be developed and brought to the Highways Board in March.

Resurfacing Coming Up

- See this webpage: [County Resurfacing Works | Highways](#)

District	Scheme	Operational Hours	Planned Start Date	Planned End Date
Forest	3/45 Grange Court Road Westbury-On-Severn	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	06/02/2026	02/03/2026
Cheltenham	4/90036 Harp Hill Cheltenham	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	09/02/2026	24/02/2026
Forest	3/352 Parkend Road Coalway	Restricted Days (09:30 to 15:30)	12/02/2026	26/02/2026
Cotswold	3/120 Hidcote Road Ebrington	Unrestricted Days (07:00 to 19:00)	18/02/2026	09/03/2026
Forest	3/21 Mill End Clearwell	Unrestricted Days (07:00 to 19:00)	24/02/2026	02/03/2026
Tewkesbury	3/382 Gloucester Road & Church Street Tewkesbury	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	26/02/2026	07/03/2026 (Saturday)
Tewkesbury	3/86 Gloucester Road to Stoke Road Tredington	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	04/03/2026	16/03/2026
Cotswold	A44 Bourton Road Bourton-on-the-Hill	Nights (20:00 to 07:00)	05/03/2026	13/03/2026
Stroud	3/257 Bradley Green Wotton-under-Edge	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	05/03/2026	11/03/2026
Stroud	3/268 Cirencester Road Minchinhampton	Restricted Days	10/03/2026	25/03/2026

		(09:30 to 15:30)		
Cotswold	A429 Fosseway Broadwell	Nights (20:00 to 07:00)	12/03/2026	19/03/2026
Cotswold	B4035 Paxford Road Chipping Campden	Nights (19:00 to 07:00)	13/03/2026	23/03/2026

Road Safety Needs Assessment

Gloucestershire's Road Safety Partnership published their Road Safety Needs Assessment urging every road user to take simple, life saving actions.

The assessment shows that the biggest factors behind serious collisions are speeding, distraction and impaired driving. Residents are being asked to:

- Slow down, particularly on rural and residential roads
- Watch for pedestrians and cyclists, especially at junctions and crossings
- Never drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- Stay focused and avoid in-car distractions

These small changes can significantly reduce the likelihood of devastating collisions.

Read the full assessment here - [Road Safety | Inform Gloucestershire](#)

Gully monitoring pilot project to tackle flood risks

Radar sensors have been added to gullies along Cirencester Road in Charlton Kings, St Georges Road and Pittville Circus. The system uses sound waves to monitor water levels in key gullies.

The devices, managed by Kaarbon Tech, will collate information and send automatic notifications to the Flood Risk Management Team. The aim is that it will reduce reliance on manual surveying and lead to improved operational efficiency and response times.

Coombe Hill development

Residents and local businesses are being invited to attend a public drop-in event to find out more about proposals Coombe Hill.

This is on **4 March 2026 from 3:30pm to 7:00pm at The Swan Inn, Tewkesbury Road, Coombe Hill GL19 4BA.**

The proposals would see 27 acres of Gloucestershire County Council land transformed into a modern, multi use site designed to deliver essential services and support future growth.

Current proposals include:

- A new training facility for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service
- A state-of-the-art highways depot
- A much-needed 80-bed care home
- The sale of a small parcel of land for the development of around 25 new homes

All the latest information on the Coombe Hill development can be found at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/coombe-hill, where you can also sign up to receive email updates.

We celebrated our foster carers at a special thank you event

The annual celebration, which was held at Tortworth Court near Wotton-under-Edge, was an opportunity for us to recognise the vital role foster carers play in keeping children and young people safe, by providing loving, stable homes for those in care.

The evening brought foster carers together to acknowledge their commitment, compassion and the difference they make to children's lives every day.

Anyone interested in fostering can find out more by visiting www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering.

Boosting Apprenticeships

We pay into the national Apprenticeship Levy, and any unspent funds are reclaimed by the government after two years. So to keep this money in Gloucestershire, we transfer part of our unused levy to local employers so they can take on apprentices or upskill staff at no extra training cost.

Since 2019, we've transferred over £1.5 million to local employers, mainly supporting adult social care and early years, as well as apprenticeships in health, construction, engineering, education and youth services.

Each year we publish our funding pledge on the national apprenticeship website, where Gloucestershire employers can apply online.

Our New Gloucestershire Business Board (GBB)

This replaces the previous Economic Growth Board and will take a more dynamic, business-led approach to supporting growth, investment and innovation. It will provide strategic oversight of Gloucestershire's economic development agenda, ensuring that business insight directly informs countywide policy and major investment decisions.

The GBB will be co-chaired by Cllr Julian Tooke, cabinet member for business, economic development, planning and infrastructure at Gloucestershire County Council, and Rob Stemp, an experienced cyber security leader, entrepreneur and board advisor.

Our Local Nature Recovery Strategy goes live

Nature across the UK is under extreme pressure. The country is one of the most nature depleted in the world. The interactive online LNRS map shows how we can take action anywhere in the county to help nature recover.

The LNRS provides a vital tool for planners, farmers, landowners, organisations and communities to work together on shared priorities for nature.

From today all local councils will be required to have regard to Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy in decision and plan making. This means they have to consider the priorities set out in the LNRS when determining how relevant plans contribute to and enhance the local natural environment at a plan-making level. The LNRS and its map become a 'material consideration' in the planning system today, based on the individual circumstances of the case.

Access it here - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/ecology-and-landscape/gloucestershire-local-nature-recovery-strategy/>

Fire safety guidance for hosts ahead of Cheltenham Festival

The four-day event from 10 to 13 March 2026 brings around 250,000 racegoers to the town each year, and many stay in short-term accommodation across the county.

GFRS is reminding property owners that hosting visitors, even for a short period, creates legal responsibilities under fire safety legislation. Owners are being given advice so they keep guests safe and reduce the risk of fire. They should ensure:

- Escape routes are clear, accessible and well signed
- Smoke alarms are fitted, tested and compliant
- Guests receive simple instructions on what to do if a fire starts or an alarm sounds
- Electrical appliances and wiring are in good condition and regularly checked
- Combustible materials are kept away from radiators, heaters and open flames

Further guidance and fire safety resources - <https://gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire>

Cheltenham Races traffic

In collaboration with local agencies, we have been working behind the scenes to accommodate the influx of visitors. We will postpone all planned roadworks in the area, including minor repairs and major projects such as the A435 cycleway. In the event of any urgent streetworks that cannot be postponed, we will coordinate with utility companies to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Arle Court Transport Hub will run a park and ride service to Cheltenham Racecourse every 15 minutes with Stagecoach. Buses depart from 9:15am to 2:30pm, with returns from 4pm to 7:30pm; the car park closes at 10pm. Tickets cost £15 per car per day and cover up to five passengers.

Celebrating over a year of Youth Hubs supporting young people across Gloucestershire

We are celebrating over a year of impact from our commissioned Youth Hubs, delivered in partnership with three notforprofit organisations working across the county. Together, these services form the Gloucestershire Commissioned Youth Service (GCYS) which is a coordinated network that offers early help, prevention, and positive opportunities for young people aged 11 to 25.

GCYS launched in October 2024 to ensure young people feel safe, supported, and able to thrive within their local communities. Over the past year, delivery partners The Children's Society, Family Action, and Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, have created vibrant and welcoming youth spaces across the county that have welcomed over 14,000 visits from young people.

Fostering Service celebrates debut novel of young person in care

We were proud to celebrate the achievement of a young person in care as he published his debut novel at 17-years-old. Craigson Palmer held a book launch at Shire Hall for his novel *Deepfaded*, providing a chance to recognise the achievement and celebrate the potential of children in care across Gloucestershire.

A first draft of the book, which is a psychological thriller and coming-of-age story, was completed when Craigson was just 14 and all earnings from the sale of the novel will be donated to the charity Women's Aid.