

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7.00pm

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

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

VISITORS - None

231/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – None

232/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Bendall.

233/26 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

234/26 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th April 2026

The minutes of the 8th of April 2026 meeting were approved as a true record.

235/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8th April 2026

None

236/26 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that the new benches has been installed.

The Rospa report has been received. The Playing field committee will review the areas that have been highlighted. The goal post has been highlighted as an emergency item. Needing the fixings on the crossbar to be replaced.

Cllr King said three more trees will be labelled with dedications in the orchard.

It was agreed to padlock the large gate and supply a key to the contractor.

Cllr Mulligan reported that the tree that fell into neighbour's garden has been removed and the area cleared.

Cllr Mills said the goal nets are damaged and that there is a possibility of donated nets. It was agreed that if the donation is unable to proceed, then Cllr Mills will get a quote to purchase new nets.

The Clerk reported receiving a complaint of electric bikes using the playing field. The Council discussed the issue at could not come up with a solution. It is a district wide issue.

The Clerk will research to see if there are any regulations covering this.

The Play Rangers is booked for a date in August. The Clerk will get the precise timings and inform the contractor. let the

Following Cllr Kings research into CCTV legislation, the Council agreed that the small amount of vandalism, does not justify the time and cost that would be incurred installing and running CCTV.

Container installed on private land on the Avening Road – The clerk said that following an enquiry to the police asking what action could be taken Which took 12 days to receive a response. PCSO Maine said that they were very busy, but the Parish Council should seek out the landowner asking them to report unauthorised encampment. If the land does not have a registered owner, then there was nothing that could be done. Cllr Mulligan said the owner has been located and intends to remove the container, which was installed by someone attempting a land grab.

Memorial Hall Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that he has not yet received a response from the Athelstone Trust. He will make a further approach and, if no response is forthcoming, will attend the local office.

The kitchen is scheduled for delivery on 25th May, with installation expected to be completed by the end of that week. Cllr Hetterley advised that the WI will require use of the kitchen for the Church Fete on 7th June.

Cllr Hetterley requested approval for the purchase of 20 'comfortable' chairs for the Memorial Hall. This was agreed, and the Clerk will arrange a convenient delivery date.

Arrangements for The Parish Meeting.

Cllr Mills confirmed his presentation is ready for the Parish Meeting.

Cllr Hetterley said refreshments are organised. The event starts at 10.30 am and Parish Cllrs will get to the Social Club just after 10 am.

The Clerk confirmed that notices of the event is on both notice boards.

237/26 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

A concern was raised that the diversion signage for the Avening to Nailsworth road closure was inaccurate and positioned unnecessarily far from the closure point, which was causing confusion. It suggested that the signs should state the location of the closure more clearly.

238/26 FINANCE

Finance Report

This is the first financial report for F/Y 2026/27. The spreadsheet and Budget have been updated to reflect the Precept plus carry forward for uncompleted work from last year.

The current total Bank balance is £136,971 which comprises of unspent budget (£85K) and Ringfenced items (£22K). Reserves therefore stand at approximately £30K (or £44K budgeted reserves including outstanding 25% Precept).

Significant transactions to date include receipt of 75% of the Precept (41,625), payment for purchase and installation of park benches (£3,470 vat-ex) and further payment towards Memorial Hall kitchen (£3,861 vat-ex).

A further CIL receipt (£7,310) has also been received in connection with the Quarries development. This will be added to the Ring-fenced sum making total unallocated CIL receipts of £16,973. Total Ring-fenced items stand at £21,973.

A separate Finance meeting will review the latest Budget and Reserves figures.

Approve Bills for Payment

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

239/26 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- i. Consider Annual Governance Statement – Consider Annual Governance Statement. - The Clerk presented the annual governance statement which was considered by the Parish Council
- ii. Approve the Annual Governance Statement –The Parish Council approved the annual governance statement, and the Chair signed the AGAR form.

240/26 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

- i. Consider Accounting Statement - The Clerk presented the annual accounting statement which was considered by the Parish Council
- ii. Approve the Accounting Statement - The Parish Council approved the annual governance statement, and the Chair signed the AGAR form.

241/26 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT –

Appendix 1

242/26 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

Appendix 2

243/26 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

26/01236/TELEC Telecommunications Mast Tetbury Hill Prior notification for permanent backup generator with associated fuel apparatus (10kVA canopied generator), 1no. cabinet is to be installed within the existing equipment cabinet and ancillary development. – No Comment. Cllr Parsons said that the NFU are submitting a response to this application
S.26/0677/FUL Land adjacent to the Weighbridge Inn – Improved Field Access – No Comment

244/26 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

26/01166/NONMAT Longtree Barn Tetbury Road Nonmaterial amendment to permission 22/00926/FUL - (Conversion of a Dutch barn into 1 no. dwelling) to change cladding materials and amendments to fenestration. - Permitted

26/01090/TCONR Blenheim Cottage 3 Woodstock Lane T1 and T2 - Beech trees in rear garden - remove

T3 Beech - in garden at Ansford Cottage - Reduce tree all round by a maximum of 0.5 below previous pruning points to create/maintain a balanced canopy form. Prune branches the canopy to allow a clear 'tunnel' for the overhead wire passing through the canopy and giving the wire at least 0.5m space all round. Lift lowest minor branches (nothing over 75mm in diameter). – Permitted.

It was noted that the Change of Use application for the Queen Matilda was refused by the planning officer under delegated powers.

245/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

GRCC Grass Cutting underway

20s Plenty- Cirencester, Siddington and Preston approved

Martyn's Law

Motorcycle in Playing Field

Roz Savage Event

Police response

Kemp IT

246/26 COUNCILLORS

The Clerk said that the vacancy notice has been published. The residents have until 28th July to request an election. Ten resident will need to submit a request to CDC for this to be actioned. If no request is received, then the Parish Council can co-opt a new Parish Councillor.

Cllr Hetterley asked the Council if he should install hanging baskets at the memorial hall. The Council agreed with a budget of £100

247/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be June 10th at 7pm

The meeting closed at 20.35pm

Actions

243/26	Submit Planning	Clerk
220/26	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan & Cllr King
244/26	Pay Bills	Clerk
239/240-26	Submit Agar	Clerk

Appendix 1

May brings us better weather, spring flowers, and blossoming trees (plus many birthdays in my family). It is also the season for **Annual Parish Meetings**, which play a key part in the local calendar each May. These meetings give residents the opportunity to come together, discuss what is happening in their communities, meet their elected representatives, and ask questions. They also usually coincide with parish AGMs where officers are elected for the coming year.

Public attendance varies from place to place. In Beverston, it is common for most residents to attend, while other meetings are less well supported. I enjoy these sessions because they give me the chance to meet more people than I would at regular parish council meetings and are a less intimidating environment than full Cotswold District Council (CDC) meetings. I will be at as many of these as my diary permits and look forward to seeing you.

It's traditional to provide a review of the previous year, and the last 12 months have introduced government initiatives that will fundamentally change the Cotswolds and the way the public interacts with its elected representatives! CDC is working towards Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), which will see CDC dissolved into a larger unitary authority. A decision from the government on how this will look is due in the summer. I have expressed my concerns over costs, and how it may affect the efficiency of the council where senior officers are diverted onto complex LGR programmes of work.

Planning: You may recall the government has also called for some 18000 houses to be built in the Cotswold district by 2043, which means around 9000 in our area! Following representations by council leader Mike Evemy in February, when he presented ministers with dozens of comments from residents and town and parish councils, the Government has once again told CDC that it must use the Local Plan process to set out the constraints that meeting its huge housing target – effectively saying just get it done!

This was a key consideration when CDC recently withdrew from a public enquiry into a proposed 195-home development in Moreton-in-Marsh claiming that the national planning system now leaves councils with little realistic chance of defending refusals of this kind. At CDC the planning team are now largely meeting processing service level targets for new applications, but issues remain in the Enforcement team.

The problems associated with missed **bin collections** following a significant change in routes last summer have now largely been resolved, and the council are now reaping the cost savings as planned.

Roads continue to be a major issue locally, and while this is a County Council service I will continue pressing for improvements.

The next year promises to be one of major change, and I will continue to summarise the key points in my monthly updates.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

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

Appendix 2

Stronger Futures at Shire Hall

We launched our strategy to modernise, protect vital services and cut costs at the council.

The programme will overhaul how the council operates, using new technology, tighter financial controls and a more efficient structure to deliver millions in savings allowing money to be spent where it's needed most. Communities, roads, health provision, the list goes on.

We are incredibly proud of this programme; it's about doing things differently. The previous administration was content to leave things ticking along and ignore dwindling funding. However, we are being proactive, investing in efficiencies and ensuring every pound is spent in the best possible way to support our residents.

Highways

Network safety, potholes and the post-winter backlog

- Safety defect volumes still high but now decreasing and we are around 25-30% down from the peak last month. Teams are working hard to prioritise and get round to repair everything.
- There are now 2 x Dragon Patcher machines working across the network – one on helping to get safety defects fixed, and one on Find and Fix locations. The Roadmender operations also start in early May. Both operations will help to make an impact on the network over the dryer, summer months.
- The Find and Fix operations this year will also include a patching gang to be able to tackle larger repairs alongside the other works.
- AI cameras are being trialled to enhance safety inspections; early results are looking positive for carriageway defects, with an anticipated report back to Highways Board in Summer 2026.
- Grass cutting will be starting in May – programmes being finalised currently but will be published on website as soon as they are available – safety cut will be first (junctions/bends/rbts).
- Support being provided by highways to Police on RAF Fairford traffic management

Resurfacing and planned maintenance

- Resurfacing programme mobilising well, with 188 sites currently programmed for 2026/27, data-led but geographically spread across the county.
- See this webpage for details and map
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/resurfacing/>

Safer Roads and Community 20s programme

We passed a Cabinet report that demonstrates how locations will be prioritised, how communities will be involved and how decisions will be made as the programme is rolled out across the county.

We also confirmed the first locations to move into public engagement, starting with Cirencester, Preston and Siddington.

Read more about prioritisation and future roll out in the report here -

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/g12175/Public%20reports%20pack%20Wednesday%2022-Apr-2026%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

This was one of our key manifesto commitments and we are incredibly happy to see it come to fruition. The amount of road casualties our county experiences is far too high, and we are fully committed to reducing this through safer roads.

Local Growth Plan

Cabinet passed the Local Growth Plan 2025-2035 on 22 April. It unites all seven councils behind a single economic strategy for the first time ever.

The plan sets out a strategic vision focused on developing sectors where Gloucestershire already has competitive advantages over other counties such as:

- Secure Technologies and Digital
- Agri-Tech
- Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing
- Energy Transition and Low Carbon Innovation

It focuses on growth that people can actually feel rather than just stats that look good on paper, there is a serious delivery plan and clear method of being held to account.

For more information, the Cabinet report can be found here -

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/g12175/Public%20reports%20pack%20Wednesday%2022-Apr-2026%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Be Water Aware campaign

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is running its annual Be Water Aware campaign from Monday 27 April to Sunday 3 May highlighting the ongoing and preventable risk of accidental drowning.

Between 2019 and 2024, 1,602 people across the UK lost their lives in accidental drowning incidents. Of these, 56 per cent occurred in inland waters such as rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

We are working with partners across Gloucestershire to promote water safety, including community engagement activities and water safety education.

For more information and advice visit - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire/your-safety/safety-outdoors/water-safety/>

Fire and Rescue Service Community Risk Management Plan 2026 2030

We passed our new community risk management plan for the Fire and Rescue Service. This lays out how we will allocate resources and implement strategies to mitigate identified risks effectively.

This is a modern, forward-looking plan that sets out how we will prevent emergencies where we can, protect people and places where risks exist, and respond quickly and effectively when incidents do happen.

Primary School Places

98 per cent of pupils have been offered a place at a school of their choice. Parents and carers who applied online should have received an email on 16 April confirming their school place, which they will be invited to accept online.

Those who did not apply online will receive a letter detailing the place offered and the reasons for it. This letter will be specific to each child.

Cotswold canal restoration

We invested £1 million into replacing Walk Bridge near Whitminster as part of a partnership with Stroud District Council. Replacing Walk Bridge will support our wider economic and climate goals by connecting the canal sections, improving active travel routes, strengthening green infrastructure and helping deliver long-term biodiversity and environmental improvements.

Trading Standards enforcement

Gloucestershire Trading Standards have carried out a targeted project over the past month to check whether local shops are following the law on price marking, as set out in the Price Marking Order 2004.

Officers visited 61 stores across Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury, Dursley, Stroud, Stonehouse, Cirencester and the Forest of Dean.

Anyone who is concerned about pricing or possible non-compliance can email tradingstandards@gloucestershire.gov.uk or visit the Trading Standards website at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/trading-standards/>

Lydbrook Bridge

We are working with Herefordshire Council on next steps for Lydbrook Bridge in the Forest of Dean. The bridge remains closed due to safety concerns, as the temporary scaffolding providing pedestrian access since 2016 has now reached the end of its safe working life.

We are working hard to secure funding for a long-term, sustainable solution that balances safety, heritage and value for money. In the meantime, the existing scaffolding will be removed for safety reasons, and options under consideration include retaining and repairing the current structure or potentially delivering a new bridge in keeping with the surrounding area.

New Assistant Chief Fire Officer

We have appointed Mick Berry as its new Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO). He joins GFRS from Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, where he has spent 28 years working across a wide range of operational and leadership roles.