

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligan- Chair, Cllr Bendall. Cllr Parsons, Cllr Hetterley, Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Blackie, Cllr Mills.

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

VISITORS - Simon Hendry, Emrys Hendry(minor)

174/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –

Mr Henbury asked the Parish Council to relocate the waste and grit bins outside his property. He confirmed that Highways Manager Gill Portlock had no objections. The Clerk agreed to contact the relevant departments to request the relocation.

175/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Slater, Cllr King,

176/25 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

177/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 December 2025

The minutes of the 10 December 2025 meeting were approved as a true record, with an amendment noting that Cllr Hamilton was not present.

178/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10 December 2025

Villager of the year will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

179/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Mills asked if the benches had been ordered. It was agreed to order three benches and arrange delivery for late March.

Cllr Mulligan stated that a tree survey in the playing field was overdue. The Clerk confirmed the last survey took place in 2019 and was asked to arrange a new one with the Tree Maintenance Company.

Memorial Hall Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that the Athelston Trust has agreed to an annual rent of £18,000, and the matter is now with the Trust's solicitors. The Council is awaiting further information.

Bus Shelter

The Clerk reported that the Contractor has agreed to make a start on the bus shelter week beginning 26th January.

Defibrillator

Cllr Mulligan said the installation remains outstanding.

180/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk received a complaint about flooding on Old Hill. Cllr Mulligan confirmed the issue has been resolved. The recent roadworks there were unsatisfactory; the Highways Manager has inspected them and agreed to rectify the faults.

A complaint was received about parking on Point Road/High Street. After discussion, the Council agreed to explore applying for an RTO to address the most hazardous areas in the village.

181/25 FINANCE

Finance Report

Cllr Hetterley reported that the bank balance stands at £106K, The increase due to the receipt of the £9,426 CiL payment. The bank balance includes £23,500 in ring fenced and around £28,000 outstanding in year budget.

Approve Bills for Payment

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

The Clerk has informed the grant applicants of the Council's decision regarding the grants Precept Agreement

The precept request has been submitted.

182/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Appendix 1

183/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Appendix 2

184/25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

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. - No Comment

25/03913/FUL Vale Farm West End Construction of an equestrian manege and ancillary residential sand games court – No Comment

25/03823/FUL Minchinhampton Golf Club Replacement of existing cladding to existing workshop building, extension of lean-to canopy to one side, extension forming enclosed steel-frame metal-clad storage building over existing hardstanding and installation of photovoltaic panels to roof. – No Comment

25/04036/LBC The Lodge The Old Quarries Dismantling and reconstruction of a curtilage listed garden wall. - Support

185/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

25/02163/COMPLY Old Quarries Rectory Lane Partial Compliance with conditions 3 (sample materials), 7 (sample panel - timber boarding), 13 (new windows), 14 (external woodwork), and 15 (timber garage doors to silver) of Phase 1 of development of planning 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 -Permitted

186/25 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Jan 26

CDC – Report Empty Homes

Cotswold Warden Guided Walks

NALC Events Newsletter

GAPTC Newsletter

Parish and town councils were raised during the Second Reading of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill in the House of Lords. Peers highlighted the importance of local councils to community life and neighbourhood governance and the government confirmed there are no plans to abolish parish or town councils or reduce their powers.

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments (SAAA) is working on a project to introduce a web-based submission of the AGAR from 2027. This will be presented to all members later in the year.

The government is proposing changes that could weaken protections for historic parks and gardens — you can help influence the outcome by responding to the consultation and writing to your MP via The Gardens Trust. [Link to consultation and template letters](#)

The Gardens Trust is a statutory consultee in relation to development likely to affect any registered park or garden (i.e. Grade 1 [sic], Grade II, and Grade II*). It has been a statutory consultee since 1995 and in 2024-25 received 1,849 consultations, making 1,289 responses. 96 of these were objections to the proposals (7.4%). The Gardens Trust assess that 90% of their responses were given within the 21-day deadline. We are considering removing The Garden

Richard's Hedge: A Living Legacy to Honour Richard Lloyd MBE - CPRE – Donations? Planted at Sapperton

173/25 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Bendall informed the Council that e had directed the Clerk to a grant opportunity. The Clerk confirmed that it was Cotswold National Landscape organisation and that the best fit would be the orchard project. The information has been forwarded to Pheobe Carter

Cllr Parson said she had received a letter from Tetbury Town Council regarding the change in electoral boundaries. Cllr Parsons asked if this would have any impact on the Parish. It was agreed to ask Cllr Slater's opinion on the matter.

Cllr Parsons reported being the victim of road rage by someone she believes is local to the Parish and was advised to report the incident to the police.

174/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be February 4th, 2026, at 7pm

The meeting closed at 20.00

Actions

174/25	Contact CDC removal of Bins	Clerk
179/25	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan & Cllr King
181/25	Pay Bills	Clerk
1184/25	Submit Planning response.	Clerk

Appendix 1

My January newsletter is back to the more usual format following the 'excitement' of the Local Plan in December – Thanks to those that attended the public event in Tetbury, and I hope everyone took the opportunity to complete the consultation document.

Cotswold District Council (CDC): There was no full Council in December, and I'm away for the January meeting, but the **Overview and Scrutiny (O&S)** meeting was quite lively! The Service Performance report for Q2 (July-September) made reasonable reading, but I asked for an update on progress in the Planning Enforcement team and their progress on reducing the backlog of cases – this will come as a written update to me. The Financial Performance Report was also good overall, largely thanks to the prudent hand of our Chief Financial Officer.

We then reviewed the Waste Fleet Replacement Report – There is an established need to replace the 31 ageing dustbin lorries in the next couple of years, as they are increasingly unreliable and cause 'service failures' (missed collections) when they break down. I had hoped that a review of the service would have been undertaken in good time to feed into the report, or at least some discussions in readiness for **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** so that we would at least be aligned with our neighbours, but unfortunately the way our rubbish and recycling is collected was covered off in a couple of sentences and will remain the same for the foreseeable future – so we are stuck with the grubby white sacks for plastics and the completely unsuitable blue bags for ever increasing quantities card! The bigger debate was around how to reduce carbon emissions from the fleet – The Cotswolds isn't suited to the current level of technology around electric vehicles, so other than one 'test' EV for Cirencester the rest will be diesel. The solution was to start using biofuels or HVOs. These are made from waste oils such as chip fat but often include palm oil or other specially grown crops. The latter were not palatable to many of us on the committee due to the environmental impacts and the loss of agriculture for food. As a result, there were only two votes in favour of adopting the policy, but the Cabinet will ultimately decide on any actions, or audit of the fuels supplied.

Litter: Litter is prominent at this time of year due to the lack of foliage in the verges, so in Avening I organised a small and targeted litter pick along the Nailsworth Road to collect the accumulation of bottles, tins, and especially lighter fluid bottles which have become a big problem lately. We achieved 12 dustbin bags full in an hour!

Roads are obviously suffering through the winter, so please continue to report potholes via Fix My Street. I continue to work with the local Highways Management to highlight areas of particular concern.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

Appendix 2

Gloucestershire County Council – Tetbury Division Report

Councillor: Ian Watson

Period: December – Early January 2026

Budget and Finance

Public Budget Consultation Launched

The proposed 2026/27 budget of around £697.5 million opened for public consultation (4 Dec–9 Jan), featuring £15 million for road safety improvements, £2 million for new 20 mph zones, £21.1 million for a new special school in Gloucester, and enhancements to SEND services and adult care homes. Council Tax is expected to rise by 2.99%, with an additional 2% precept for adult social care, adding approximately £1.61 per week for a Band D household.

Strategic Growth Investment

Over £2 million was awarded by the Gloucestershire Business Rates Pool (Strategic Economic Development Fund) for initiatives including:

- A County Energy Plan plus recruitment of an Energy Officer
- Careers Hub expansion in schools (£392,000 over two years)
- Inward investment support (£350,000).

Cabinet Meeting, 3 December

- Major items discussed included:
- Draft 2026/27 Budget presentation
- Performance and risk monitoring reports for Q2
- Extension of key service contracts: household recycling (Ubico), fostering
- Future use proposals for Wheatridge Court
- Strategic development of the Coombe Hill site
- Plans for Holiday Activity & Food programme 2026–28
- Procurement framework for maintenance contracts
- Residential care provision decisions for children and young people.

Government Fairer Funding Review

On the 17th of December, the government sent the details of the fairer funding review for Gloucestershire. It will mean an approx. £10M cut in finances for 2026/7 and 2027/8.

Money will be redirected by the government to metropolitan boroughs in London and away from rural counties. Officers and the cabinet are committed to a balanced budget. This will be revealed at the cabinet meeting on the 28th of Jan. Road Safety and Highways improvements have been ring-fenced.

County Council and Democracy Round-Up

Important announcements included:

- Launch of three-year Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025–28
- Gloucestershire Fire & Rescue awarded by the Asian Fire Service Association for ED&I work
- Achievement of Active Travel England Level 3 accreditation – top banding for rural areas
- ‘Gritter-naming’ competition winners announced (e.g., Gritting McQueen, Feathers McGrit)
- County Council signed solidarity agreement with Zaporizhzhia region in Ukraine, focusing on cybersecurity, green energy, agriculture, SME support, and aerospace development

- Employment summit held on 9 December, gathering county partners to boost job support.

Service and Infrastructure Updates

- Fire & Rescue Community Risk Plan Survey Launched (24 Dec) – public feedback invited
- Avian Influenza Alert – H5N1 confirmed in Brockworth; bird-keepers notified (19 Dec)

Major Works

- Improvements to the Arle Court Park & Ride (Service 100) launched (11 Dec)
- Closure of Hempsted Household Recycling Centre deferred to accommodate essential upgrades (12 Dec)

Public Budget Consultation Continues

The 2026/27 budget consultation remains open through 9 January. Key proposals include £15 million for road safety, £2 million for expanded 20 mph zones, £21.1 million for a new special school in Gloucester, investment in SEND (£2.7 million), and upgrades to adult care homes, recycling centres, and fire services. This follows Cabinet approval in December.

January Council Activity

Key Meetings in January:

- Cabinet meets on 28 Jan
- Scrutiny Committees
 - Fire & Rescue (9 Jan),
 - Adult Social Care (13 Jan),
 - Environment (14 Jan),
 - Children & Families (15 Jan).
- Full Council convened on 29 Jan.

Highways & Infrastructure

Framework for Highways Projects:

A new £72 million Highways Major Projects Construction Framework launched. Divided into two lots—highways schemes and structural/geotechnical works—its tender closed mid-January, with contractor awards expected by month-end.

Ongoing Resurfacing Schemes:

Winter resurfacing continues across the county. Works schedules and closures are being managed dynamically with updated communications via GlosRoads channels.

Services, Communities & SEND

SEND Families Newsletter – January:

- Update from SILAP board and co-chairs, Director of Education and Deputy Director of Integrated Commissioning.
- Financial support listings and budgeting advice for SEND families via Gloucestershire's Local Offer.
- New Parent Carer Guide issued for EHCP annual reviews.
- Higher education planning advice