

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 February 2026 at 7.00pm

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

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

VISITORS - Mrs Marilyn Jones

187/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –

Mrs Jones raised concerns about extensive clearing in the field beside her garden, noting that most trees and vegetation had been removed and the work appeared harsh. She asked whether the Parish Council knew anything about the activity.

Cllr Slater said he was aware of the work and believed the previous owner had left the field untidy, making this an appropriate time to clear it before the nesting season. Although unsightly now, he felt it would recover.

Mrs Jones expressed worry that the field was being prepared for development and stressed its importance as a wildlife corridor.

Cllr Slater explained that development was unlikely because the field is outside the development boundary. Cllr Mulligan added that, without a planning application, the Parish Council could take no action, as the current activities are not illegal.

188/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Blackie

189/26 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

190/26 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 January 2026

The minutes of the 14 January 2026 meeting were approved as a true record.

191/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 January 2026

None

192/256 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Playing Fields Update

The Clerk has secured a 5% discount on the benches, with delivery agreed in mid-March and payment due 30 days afterward. A decision on the colour is required.

The Parish Council agreed brown benches were more in keeping with the area. The Clerk was asked to increase the order to 4 benches with tamper proof covers. The Clerk was asked to contact Pete Savage to arrange installation.

The Clerk has received a tree survey quote of £540 + VAT. The Parish Council agreed the cost. The Clerk was asked to arrange the survey.

Cllr Mulligan reported that a nearby resident requested assurance that any installed camera would not capture their property. Cllr Hetterley said he would not support installation until the Council adopts a CCTV policy. The Clerk confirmed that Cllr King will draft the policy and that installation cannot proceed until it is approved and published.

The Council agreed to seek advice and a quote from a professional CCTV company, and Cllr Slater will arrange this.

Memorial Hall Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that although the rent has been agreed, the Athelstone Trust has requested further clarification on detail. Frequent staff changes within the Trust have led to uncertainty about previously agreed lease requirements.

Cllr Hamilton reported birds entering a gap near the roof space.

Cllr Slater said he had asked the contractor to block the gaps when the roof was replaced. The Clerk will contact the contractor to return and complete the work.

Cllr Slater reported that debris from the roof replacement has fallen into the archive cupboards. The Clerk will ask the cleaner to clear the cupboards and also request that the meeting room and stairs be cleaned.

Cllr Bendall reported that, following the recent fire in Switzerland, the Fire Service has issued guidance for all public buildings. He believes the hall's fire safety measures are generally adequate but noted a weakness in the parish council meeting room, where the only escape route if there was a downstairs fire would be through a window with a 12-foot drop. He was asked to provide a fire safety assessment and suggestions for improving the room's safety.

The Clerk recommended if the cost of solving the fire safety was too high, converting the room to storage due to limited space elsewhere in the hall and holding parish council meetings in the main hall or Chamberlain Room instead.

Concerns were raised that should a fire break out in the school kitchen access would not be possible as the door is locked by staff. Cllr Mulligan said he holds a key. It was agreed to purchase a key safe to store the key onsite.

Cllr Hetterley confirmed that the Pat testing will be carried out during the half term.

Cllr Bendall asked when the kitchen would be renovated. Cllr Mulligan agreed that he would get a design drawn by a kitchen company.

It was agreed to get a quote for the renovation the floor from a local company.

The Clerk said that following an increase in income, the Memorial Hall accounts need to have an independent examination in order to comply with Charity Commission regulations. Mark Aldridge of Xeinadin has quoted £400 +VAT. The Parish Council on behalf of the Trustees approved this outlay.

Bus Shelter The Clerk discussed the repair with the contractor and asked whether the bus stop needed to be suspended during the work. The Parish Council agreed suspension was unnecessary as buses are infrequent, and the contractor could work around bus users.

Defibrillator

Cllr Mulligan said the installation remains outstanding.

193/26 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

Cllr Mills presented a draft road safety assessment and asked the Parish Council for feedback and any additional information. It will be added to the next meeting agenda. The Clerk has also requested advice from the Highways Manager about applying for a TRO.

The Highways Manager has agreed to move the grit bin at Mr Hendry's request. The Parish Council must now choose a new location, and it was agreed to place the bin at the top of

Rectory Lane to replace the damaged one.

CDC has also agreed to move the waste bin to the opposite side of the street.

The Clerk has been informed that Cllr Ian Watson has allocated £5K of his budget for resurfacing in Avening. Cllr Slater said he was sure that the funding had been increased and that it will be used to repair the culverts.

The Clerk was asked to report the blocked culvert on the double bend leaving the village which is causing flooding on the road.

192/26 FINANCE

Finance Report

Cllr Hetterley reported that the bank balance stands at £106,370K, which includes the ring fenced and CiL payment of £33K and remaining in year budget of £27K. This leaves a budgeted reserve of approximately £46K

Approve Bills for Payment

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

The precept request has been submitted.

The Clerk has informed the grant applicants of the Council's decision.

Following the Council's offer of an early part-payment to begin the outdoor project, the Playgroup Committee has now requested the funds. The Parish Council agreed to make the payment immediately out of reserves.

The Clerk said the Parish Council's internal auditor has decided to cut back on her workload and will no longer be doing audits. It was agreed to ask Mr Bob Jennings who lives in the village of he would like the paid role.

193/26 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT –

Appendix 1

194/26 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT –

Appendix 2

195/26 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

26/00186/COMPLY The Old Quarries Compliance with Conditions 3 (sample materials), 8 (Design details 1), 11 (rainwater goods), 13 (new windows), 14 (external woodwork), 15 (Garage doors), 25 (Artificial roosting nesting) and 26 (CMS) 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. – No Comment

196/26 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

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 - Approved

25/03913/FUL Vale Farm West End Construction of an equestrian manege and ancillary residential sand games court - Approved

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. - Approved

25/03300/FUL Avendale 2 High Street Creation of dropped kerb and parking area with access steps and ramp- Refused

197/26 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

M5 Newsletter Junction 11. Drop-in session- 19th Feb Cheltenham West Fire Station 10 am to 4pm

Citizens Advice Impact report

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin – Peers push for stronger protections for parish and town councils.

Election notification 6th May 2027

Complaints regarding Old Hill

Complaints regarding parked van

Cirencester Food Bank – Trustees required.

198/26 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mulligan said he had witnessed a carpet cleaning company in Stroud emptying waste cleaning fluid into the canal. Cllr Mulligan reported the incident to the police and encouraged anyone who witnesses similar incident to do the same.

Cllr Slater reported that during a litter pick on the Avening–Nailsworth road, volunteers collected 12 bags of rubbish and approximately 100 butane canisters. Due to concerns that the canisters may be used for inhalation by young people, the Clerk was asked to notify the police.

Cllr Hetterley said the Café's AGM is on the 9th of March.

Cllr Mills said that the Social Club thanked the Parish Council for the grant.

The Clerk asked the Parish Council to consider ideas for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held by the end of May.

199/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be March 11th at 7pm

The meeting closed at 21.00pm

Actions

193/26	Contact Highways to relocate grit bin, Report blocked Culvert	Clerk
192/26	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan & Cllr King
192/26	Pay Bills	Clerk
198/26	Report Butane to Police	Clerk
196/26	Submit Planning response.	Clerk

Appendix 1

Cotswold District Council (CDC): The next full Council is 18th March. The **Overview and Scrutiny (O&S)** meeting met on 2nd February primarily to discuss the 2025/26 budget and updates to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). Having ploughed through the 151 pages of the report, plus another supplement, I was actually surprised that CDC finances are in pretty good shape – but I believe this is primarily due to the excellent stewardship of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) rather than the administration. He has ensured that major capital expenditure such as the replacement waste vehicle fleet have been budgeted well in advance and made provision for the forthcoming Local Government Reorganisation. There is now no need for the council to borrow money to meet its liabilities.

Litter: Readers may recall a year ago when I wrote about two successful fines imposed on people who had discarded McDonalds bags on the side of the road. With the help of the CDC Environment Officer, we tracked them down from the receipts inside. A few weeks ago, following a comment on a local Facebook post about littering the story suddenly took off and had a great deal of National coverage! I appeared in the Times and subsequently did interviews for Times Radio, the BBC News channel, GB News and LBC Radio. Jeremy Vine also covered the story, but I couldn't make the programme. The commentary was overwhelmingly positive, and I've received calls and messages from all over the country! What it proves is we can fight back against the scourge of litter, which is particularly prevalent currently. If you are involved in litter picks in your village, do look for a receipt or a name that might help identify the lout, and follow it up – I'm happy to help steer you in the right direction.

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.

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

Appendix 2

Gloucestershire County Council – Tetbury Division Report

Councillor: Ian Watson

Period: December – February 2026

This has been an incredibly busy month for the Liberal Democrats at Gloucestershire County Council. We've hit the ground running since the start of 2026 and have been working hard to get our budget finalized and across the line.

Local Government Re-organisation

Having established the 12 workstreams that will make up the transition program, the LGR program board is now being recruited to.

We continue to work collaboratively as 7 councils and have agreed a split of LGR costs and have already got a firm governance structure in place.

We have appointed a program director who will start full time at the beginning of April.

Emily McGuinness brings vast experience from her role as SW regional manager for the LGA and is a well-respected and personable figure who will be a real asset in managing the complexities of this transition.

Each workstream has a lead "sponsor" made up largely of the Chief Execs from the 7 councils and other directors. The sponsors will continue to lead on the workstreams on top of their own role. Workstream managers/ coordinators are largely also in place and are made up of council officers whose day jobs will be "backfilled" to allow them the time to concentrate on the LGR transition.

We expect the government consultation to begin in the coming weeks and will last for 7 weeks. This will be led by MHCLG, and we believe it will be on all 3 options put forward in November.

We still anticipate a ministerial decision on the government's preferred option by the beginning of July.

Much of the work of the workstreams at this stage is about base-lining and data gathering so that we have a clear picture of how each council operates, what systems they use, what assets they own etc.

The next stage will be designing the future operating model, and this is where councillors and partners will be asked to input through a series of workshops.

It is important to note that whilst structures will be put in place to ensure that the new authority/ies will be safe and legal and be able to deliver services on day 1 of the new council/s, many of the decisions will be made by the newly formed "shadow" authority/ies following elections in May 2027.

Fair Funding Review Settlement

We received our Fair Funding Review settlement from the Government just before Christmas, this decides the amount of funding we will receive from central government over the next few years. Unfortunately, this review was far from 'fair' for Gloucestershire, and we are facing a devastating near £10 million cut in funding next year, rising to a staggering £30 million in three years.

This is a horrible position for government to have put us in as we need this money to deliver essential services for our communities.

We will continue to work tirelessly to do everything in our power for our residents. We have implored the Government to rethink this insulting, irresponsible decision.

Budget

On 28 January, Cabinet passed our 2026/27 budget, which will go to full council on 18 February.

We faced a significant challenge in producing a budget that honoured our commitments, protected and improved essential services, as well as absorbing the impact of reduced funding from the fair funding review and dealing with the black hole left by the conservative administration.

However, we are incredibly happy with what we have managed to achieve, including the highest ever investment in Highways, £6.35 million towards the cost of three new adult care homes and a £42m investment in Youth Hubs.

Full budget from page 27 -

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/g12173/Public%20reports%20pack%20Wednesday%2028-Jan-2026%2010.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=10>

Highways Summary

Peer Review

- We are having a peer review of our highway's system. Scheduled for 10–12 February 2026 with peers confirmed by the LGA.
- Scope agreed, position statement and interview schedule being finalized.

£15m Budget Allocations

- £5m per year over 3 years allocated across drainage, resurfacing, deep cleans, route impact schemes, customer response, and additional operational resources.
- Officers are developing delivery and resourcing plans, to be reported to the Highways Board in March.

Member Influence Process

- We are reworking the current system to ensure members have proper influence. The aim is a strategic, needs-led approach to maintenance with fair countywide distribution.
- Peer Review feedback will inform the final approach, full details due in March.

Major Projects Update

- A40 Hambrook House: Bridge repairs progressing well; completion expected mid-February.
- A435 Cycle Link: On track for completion before the Gold Cup Festival (w/c 9 March).

Upcoming Resurfacing

- Multiple schemes across Forest, Stroud, Cotswold, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham districts running January–February 2026 with varied operational hours.
- Full list available on the County Resurfacing Works webpage.

Find and Fix

- 70% of enquiries now come via FixMyStreet (up from 35%), reducing inefficiency and duplicate reports.
- System redirects non GCC issues automatically and improves visibility of true network demand.
- Please continue to report issues at - <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

M5 Junction 10

After strong lobbying from our Councillors and MPs we received an additional £71.5million in funding for the transformative M5 Junction 10 Improvements Scheme.

This will allow us to move ahead with vital transport upgrades that will unlock homes, jobs and investment. Completion of the scheme will:

- Enable the delivery of over 20,000 new homes — including over 7,000 that are affordable
- Support the Golden Valley development and the National Cyber Innovation Centre and technology cluster, including the creation of around 12,000 skilled jobs for local people
- Build on the successful delivery of the £33 million Arle Court Transport Hub

However, we understand that during construction there may be disruption to local areas and will ensure we manage this as carefully as possible.

Community Safety/ 20mph Zones

We continue our work on community and road safety including the roll out of 20mph zones. We launched a six-week consultation on Monday 19 January, to seek views on proposals to enforce moving traffic offences at 16 high risk locations across the county.

For more information, including a full list of the identified locations, and to take part in the consultation, please visit -

<https://haveyoursaygloucestershire.uk/engagementhq.com/moving-traffic-anpr-enforcement-site-consultation?preview=true>

Gloucestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

We are delighted to announce that our Local Nature Recovery Strategy will be published mid-February. This marks a landmark step towards a greener, healthier future for our county.

The strategy includes a county-wide interactive map where individuals can select any area in the county and see how biodiversity and wildlife can be supported and enhanced there.

This will help planners, land managers, and communities identify priority areas for restoring habitats, improving rivers and green spaces, and promoting sustainable land management. It aims to create wildlife friendly places, connect habitats, and support community led nature projects.

Read more and access the map from 13 February here -

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

Digital Infrastructure, Inclusion, and Innovation Strategy

We are incredibly excited about our new digital strategy with three key focuses:

- Infrastructure
- Inclusion
- Innovation

The aim of this is to create a fully connected, digitally skilled, and innovation-driven county by 2030.

A key part of this is working with SMEs to ensure they are fully utilising digital opportunities to boost their businesses, we will offer them grants and training.

It is vitally important to us that all Gloucestershire's citizens have access to technology and are confident using it.

Read the full strategy here -

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=12173>

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund

Councillors continue to distribute their Grassroots Neighbourhood funding. It is incredibly exciting to see the positive impacts from this. Examples include –

Adult Social Care Survey

We are inviting feedback from residents as part of the national Adult Social Care Survey, which runs annually under the guidance of the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England.

Around 1,439 people in Gloucestershire have been selected at random to take part in the 2025-26 survey. Questionnaires will start arriving by post this week and responses should be returned by 6 March.

The survey plays a vital role in improving services by showing what works well and where changes are needed.

For further information - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-survey/>

Royal Visits

On Wednesday 21 January Her Majesty The Queen met with staff who provide vital care and support to victims and survivors of domestic abuse in Gloucestershire.

Upon arrival, Her Majesty met privately with a domestic abuse survivor who now works for the service after receiving direct support.

Her Majesty then met with staff and volunteers, who outlined the stages of an individual's journey through GDASS services, from initial contact through to the range of support available to those who have experienced, or are experiencing, domestic abuse.

We were also honoured to have Her Royal Highness Princess Anne officially opening University of Gloucestershire's City Campus.

We're proud to be working with the university to support the wider regeneration of Gloucester's city centre.

F40 Campaign

This month was F40 campaign week fighting for fairer funding for every pupil.

Currently Gloucestershire receives less funding per pupil than many other counties. We're calling on the Government to confirm that upcoming policy reforms will include a real commitment to reinvest in our primary and secondary schools.

The children of Gloucestershire deserve equal funding.

Find out more about the campaign - https://www.f40.org.uk/campaign-activity/?fbclid=IwY2xjawPoIPhleHRuA2FlbQlxMQBzcnRiBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzIxNzg4MjA_wODkyAAEeFeCxKb3B8GLNraNapLe0T8jh9riYTAcbVszGMLF7SQg7US6gCOhEROGnB8_aem_kgKskBThuvX43XY_BR9TCw

Local Foster Carers for Local Children

Across the county, many children and young people continue to need compassionate and dedicated foster carers—adults who can offer stability, care and security during what can be an incredibly challenging time in their lives.

At Gloucestershire County Council, we remain committed to our principle of 'Local foster carers for local children'.

We welcome foster carers from all walks of life, and with a range of fostering options available, we're confident there's a type of fostering that can fit different lifestyles and circumstances. Every new carer brings us closer to ensuring more children can grow, recover and thrive within their own county.

Find out more - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/childrens-social-work-jobs/foster-with-us/>