

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligans- Chair, Cllr Bendall. Cllr King, Cllr Parsons, Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Hetterley, Cllr Slater, Cllr Mills. Cllr Blackie

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

VISITORS:- Caroline Howe

82/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – Ms Howe presented her concerns about the planning application submitted to CDC for 12 Star Lane. Application 25/01259/FUL.

MS Howe summarised the application stating that the results of permission being granted would result in a significant amount of green and open space being lost in an area where developments are meant to be preserved. Once taken away the green and open space will be gone forever. This site has already been developed from a detached 2-bed plus loft room home with a single garage, with a large open garden, to 4-bedroom house a result of an approved extension. The single garage has been developed into a double garage with accommodation over, also approved.

This new application is for an additional 2-bedroom detached dwelling and extended drive, parking space, turning point. These changes, taken as a whole, move the site from one single dwelling with attractive and open green space and garden site to what would be three buildings with accommodation, with associated driveways and parking spaces, creating a visually enclosed space with much reduced visual sightlines to green areas. A previous application was refused by the planning and conservation officer because of the effect on the landscape. Ms Howe asked the Parish Council to consider objecting to the application.

Cllr Mulligan thanked Ms Howe and said the Parish Council would discuss the application under the agenda item 10. Ms Howe was advised to encourage neighbours to submit any objections on the CDC planning portal. Ms Howe thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

83/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – None

84/25 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Slater - Agenda Item 7 – Finance. Website maintenance

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

85/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th May 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th May 2025 were signed as a true record.

Minutes of the AGM held on the 14th May 2025 were signed as a correct record with a minor change. It was requested that Cllr Mills role as liaison with the Queen Matilda was removed from the list of roles and responsibilities. This was agreed.

86/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14th May 2025

87/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

The Parish Council discussed the purchase and installation of CCTV to use as a deterrent to vandalism and theft in the playing field. The Clerk said the Parish Council were able to install CCTV as long as the complied with legislation.

The Parish Council agreed that this was a good idea, but the residents should be informed before installation, giving them the time to raise any concerns. Cllr Mulligan will report on this in the Villager and Cllr Slater will put an item on the Facebook page.

Memorial Hall

The pothole reported outside the Chamberlain room has been repaired.

Cllr Bendall reported that a new hirer had booked the hall for adult ballet classes.

A local male voice choir have also booked use of the hall.

It was suggested that the hall uses an online booking website. It was agreed that this was a matter for the hall Trustees and will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Defibrillator

Cllr Mills confirmed that the

- Rescue Ready Kit has been located .
- Back of defib has 2 small grub screws missing – have been ordered from the supplier.
- It was agreed that the code being visible is not a good idea. It will leave the defibrillator vulnerable to theft and vandalism. Cllr Mills said the code should be supplied by the ambulance service, but the code has been put under the box. Cllr
- Cllr Mills has put a notice in unit - “Ring Guardian (Tel no...) for replacement pads”
- The Defib has been cleaned of spider’s webs.

Cllr Mulligan said the second defibrillator will be installed 1st week of July.

Phone Box Refurbishment

Following the invitation to Clare Bebbington to attend this meeting to present her ideas for managing the community library.

Cllr King said that Clare Bebbington was unable to attend this meeting but has requested that it is on the agenda next month. This was agreed.

88/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk said she had received a number of complaints, One being the about cars parked on pavements. The Clerk informed the complainant that in the past the police have been unable to act, and they recognise that parking in rural communities is difficult.

A complaint about overgrown vegetation on Tetbury Hill has also been received. The Clerk will write to the owners of the property and land to request it is cut back.

The road between Avening and Nailsworth is very overgrown, along with Hampton Hill/Lawrence Road junction. The Clerk will report to Highways.

Cllr Bendall reported that the potholes had been repaired on New Inn Lane. The repairs have since been damaged by the construction vehicles working on the wall repairs. It was agreed that once the repairs are complete, Highways are informed so it can be repaired again and cross charged to the contractor.

There are concerns regarding the construction traffic at Old Quarries. It was agreed that Cllr Mulligan and Slater arrange a meeting with the site manager.

Following the bus stop being damaged by vehicle, the Clerk requires two quotes to proceed with the insurance Claim. Cllr Mulligan will speak to contractors to get the quotes. The Council considered if the shelter was needed. It was agreed it was well used and should be replaced. The Clerk had a quote for a new shelter, like for like at over £9k plus VAT not including delivery and fitting. It was agreed to wait for the insurance claim. The bus shelter is currently safe to use.

Cllr Mulligan said that the two village street maps are inaccurate. Should they be updated? It was agreed that there were items on the maps that were no longer relevant, and the maps should be renewed. This will be a project for the next financial year.

89/25 FINANCE

Finance Report

As of 9 June the overall Bank balance was £123,623 consisting of: outstanding in year budget £33.5K, Ringfenced £60K and estimated reserves £30K. (Plus outstanding Precept due later in year £13.5K).

The annual CIL return had identified £20,056 CIL to date.

Main items in the Cash Book since last meeting were: payment of PC grants £5K, Parish Insurance £1,754 and grass cutting.

Total Bank Balance £123,623.07

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

The Parish Council agreed to move the Clerks SCP level to SCP 20 in line with other Councils pay scales.

Asset Register Update – It was agreed that Cllr Mulligan will walk the village and make notes of the Parish Councils assets in order to update the asset register.

90/25 POLICE REPORT – Unavailable.

91/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Appendix 1

92/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unavailable

93/25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

25/01259/FUL - 12 Star Lane - Erection of detached dwelling with associated works.

The Parish Council discussed this application at length, although agreed that housing is required, this level of housing was not what the community needed. It would have a negative impact on the conservation area and AONB . It is a loss of green open space. It would also impact highways with increased traffic.

25/01387/FUL Plum Patch Cottage 7 Star Lane Erection of self-build dwelling (previously approved 21/02282/FUL) – The Parish Council support this application.

94/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

25/01481/NONMAT 12A Star Lane Non-Material Amendment (design) to permission

24/01031/FUL - Erection of a residential dwelling - Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/03751/FUL – Permitted

25/01401/TCONR Rodways Place Point Road Reduce Box tree – No Objection

25/00694/COMPLY 51 Nags Head Lane Compliance with condition 4 (details) of planning permission 24/01179/FUL - Alterations and extensions to convert garage, erection of canopy and relocation of parking area and existing vehicular access and condition 3 (details) of listed building consent 24/01180/LBC - Alterations and extensions to convert garage, erection of canopy and relocation of parking area and existing vehicular access – Application Permitted

25/00473/FUL The Barn Gatcombe View Stable Woodstock Lane Conversion of a barn to a dwelling (Part Retrospective) Application Permitted

95/25 CORRESPONDENCE

GAPTC Climate Change newsletter

GAPTC – Navigating Martins Law – free course.

Mr Vizor – Complaint regarding cars parking on pavements

Mr Wilkinson – Overhanging vegetation on Tetbury Hill.

GCC Councils Connected

Mr Lindley, - Enquiry regarding the Village fete.

96/25 COUNCILLORS

Cllr Slater remarked that there are no visible road signs at St Lawrence Road and Sunground. This is causing some confusion for delivery drivers. Cllr Slater agreed to follow this up with the relevant department at CDC.

The missing lid for the grit bin at Sandford Leaze has reappeared. It was agreed that some grit bins need replacing. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Hetterley reported that there will be a cream tea held at the café on Saturday 21st June 2pm-4pm.

Cllr Hetterley said that a design for a rug to hang in the memorial hall has been designed. Cllr Mulligan said that it would need to be fireproof. This will be on the agenda.

The Clerk reported she had received an email from Mr Lindley requesting the Parish Council considers a village fete as the Church will not be holding one this year. Cllr Hamilton said the Church runs alternates the fete with the Queen Matilda celebrations. This year it is the Queen Matilda celebration. The Parish Council agreed it is too late to arrange a fete for this year. The hall will not be usable throughout the summer due to the roof repairs.

97/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7.00 pm.

There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be September 3rd.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Actions

88/25	Submit Highways	Clerk
89/25	Update asset register	Cllr Mulligan
88/25	Meet with Site manager Old Quarries	Cllrs Mulligan & Slater
87/25	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan
89/25	Pay Bills	Clerk
93/25	Submit Planning response.	Clerk

Cotswold District Council (CDC): has a new leader – As expected Councillor Mike Every has been elected as the new leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on the council and formally took over as council leader at the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday, May 21. He succeeds Councillor Joe Harris, who stepped down after six years in the role. Cllr Every represents the Siddington & Cerney Rural ward and has served as deputy leader and cabinet member for finance since 2019.

How the move to a Unitary Authority will affect Town & Parish Councils – I attended a Town & Parish Council Summit at the Royal Agricultural University on 4th June. The need for effective Parish Councils will become even more crucial as the proposed reorganisation means that CDC could be dissolved as soon as 2026, and residents will no longer be represented by a District Councillor to champion their needs. It is likely that the equivalent of two county councillors will provide this service instead. Gloucestershire is one of only 21 areas in the country still with 3-tiers of local government (County/District/Parish) and the government plan is that both CDC & GCC will be scrapped in favour of one or possibly two unitary authorities. Following this first step, full devolution may follow and entails the transfer of powers and funding from Central Government to Strategic Authorities of around 1.5 million people.

The Unitary plan is still being worked through with the government, but Gloucestershire has been invited to proceed in November 2025. These options were submitted for review: a single Unitary – including the whole county; two Unitaries – one including Cheltenham/Tewkesbury/Cotswold and the other the Forest of Dean/Stroud; Two Unitaries - Enlarged Gloucester city area, and the rest of the County. The final submission will be made this November, with the transition (including more elections for a 'shadow' council) commencing from May 2026.

The unitary authority will unlikely be able to afford to cover everything district and parish councils do now, with their focus being on adult care, children, planning, highways and other county wide services, so parishes will need to take ownership of local services and charge accordingly. Although the theory of a unitary authority will realise savings (fewer councillors, CEOs etc), the reality from previous transitions is that local taxes will probably go up.

There will be a lot of work (and costs!) to explore how the new setup will work, as no one has all the answers!

A417 missing link: Members of the project team visited the A3 Hindhead Tunnel at Devil's Punchbowl, Surrey this month by invitation of the National Trust, to understand what lessons could be learned about building a repurposed road, like that planned on the A417 scheme. This is especially important for the Missing Link project. We know that poor planning of disused old roads can lead to antisocial behaviour, failure to take up missing opportunities of repurposing and expensive servicing by both Gloucestershire County Council, Cotswold District Council, the Police and other bodies.

The Missing Links scheme has shared an exciting update about the innovative UK-first trial it's been running to explore how vegetation removed from the site can be reused to make significant carbon savings.

Biochar – a charcoal-like material produced by burning organic matter at extremely high temperatures – was produced from vegetation removed by the scheme, turning it back into a product that can be reused to fertilise new plants and catch microplastics. The study produced five tonnes of biochar on site, which is a saving of 13 tonnes of CO₂ – the equivalent of roughly five flights from London to Perth.

Adders were translocated to new sites as part of the Missing Link scheme. High numbers have been seen to be in good health and have expanded across their new receptor sites well.

Councillor Tony Slater

Cotswold District Council, Representing Grumbolds Ash with Avening.

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

Other updates and information for Parish Councils:

UNSUNG HEROES

The Unsung Heroes Awards is to acknowledge all the work being done across the district by volunteers who give up their time to help others. Residents and businesses have nominated people in their communities who they think have made a difference, from individuals who give up their time to help neighbours, to members of local groups who volunteer to deliver local projects.

This is a rolling scheme with winners announced at every Full Council meeting going forward. Please nominate your Unsung Hero here: www.cotswold.gov.uk/unsungheroes

HOW TO REPORT POTHOLE

I recommend using this link, especially if you have a smartphone and can take a photograph of the pothole and identify the exact position. It is more efficient than emailing the council as officers get a daily schedule of these alerts.

Gloucestershire County Council, report a pothole:

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/your-highways-report-it/>

FIX MY STREET

Report, view, or discuss local problems like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting. This reports back to the appropriate Council: [LINK](#)

REPORT IT

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/report-it/>

New forms for reporting graffiti, overflowing bins, dog fouling and street cleaning are now live on the Cotswold District Council Website.

A map pin drop allowing for what3words location submissions can be used.