

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 7.00pm

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

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

VISITORS:- Cllr Watson - GCC

114/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No members of the public were present.

Cllr Mulligan welcomed Cllr Watson and thanked him for his attendance.

Cllr Watson gave the Parish Council a brief resume of his background.

115/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – None

116/25 CODE OF CONDUCT

166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Agenda item 6.5 - Cllr Slater – Agenda Item 7.2, Payment of invoices Cllr Bendal – Agenda Item 10, 5 Church Field

166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None

117/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9th July 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 July 2025 were signed as a true record.

118/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 July 2025 - None

119/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

The zip wire has been repaired.

Cllr Mulligan said that some of the benches and tables need to be replaced. The Clerk will get some prices for the next meeting.

Cllr Mulligan said that the CCTV signs will be installed in the coming week. There have been no objections from the public. Cllr King will distribute a precis of the legislation covering CCTV usage in public spaces.

CDC Local Plan – Call for Green Space Nominations

There is a call for Parish owned Land to be registered. Without a local plan, CDC can do it on behalf of the Parish. The Clerk said that if the Council had any land in mind, they must be aware that they will then be responsible for its future maintenance and upkeep. The Council agreed that it didn't hold any substantial land.

Defibrillator

The old defibrillator has still not been installed. The Clerk reported that she had received an invoice for pads from Community Heartbeat, dated 2024. This has now been paid.

120/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

The Clerk confirmed that she had expressed the Parish Council's interest in 20mph speed Consultation.

Cllr Watson said that the Parish could make an application for a road traffic order (RTO).

The Council said that the cost of this was prohibitive to the Parish. Cllr Watson said he had a fund that he could possibly donate towards the cost. He agreed to send the Clerk the instructions on how to apply.

Cllr Watson was asked if anything could be done about the cars parking on pavements as the Police are unwilling to act. Cllr Watson said he would ask the Cabinet Minister for Highways for a statement on this matter but suggested that little action would be taken. The Clerk was asked to write again to Tetbury House to ask them to cut back the hedges overgrowing the pavement.

The Clerk said there was no way of reporting the overgrown stream on the Highways

“Fix my Street”. She has reported the stream directly to the Highways Manager. She will Chase this up.

121/25 BUS SHELTER

The Clerk said that the insurance had approved the quote and agreed to pay on completion. The Clerk will instruct the contractor to begin work when he is next available.

122/25 FINANCE

Finance Report

27 August, the overall Bank balance was £120,609 with an additional £13.5K precept due in October.

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

The Clerk said that the Parish Council will need to start the budget process in November.

The Clerk ask the Council to request local groups submit their grant application forms.

A notice will be put in the Villager.

123/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Appendix 1

In addition, Cllr Slater reported that a decision on the Queen Matilda is due imminently.

A report from Wessex Water and the Environment Agency is due following the survey on the impact of the bore hole.

Cllr Slater said he has an expert in hydrology willing to overview the report and explain anything not understood.

The Environment Agency is still negotiating with Captain Philips regarding the lack of water in the stream.

124/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Appendix 2

In addition, Cllr Watson reported that he had given some of his budget to clear /repair the Culvert at Westend.

The proposed devolution of councils will be structured in one of three ways.

One Unitary Council for Gloucestershire

A split body between town and rural

A donut scheme with Gloucester and two separate areas around it. Avening will be part of 8-10 common interest groups.

Ultimately Whitehall will make the final decision and it will be driven by financial savings.

125/25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

25/02579/COMPLY Land Southwest Of 12A Star Lane

Compliance of conditions 4 (Sample materials), 7 (Window and door finishes),11 (Landscaping scheme), 13 (Details), 18 (LEMP),19 (External lighting), 23 (CMP), of permission 24/01031/FUL - Erection of a residential dwelling - Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 21/03751/FUL - Support

25/02373/FUL Brandhouse Farm West End

Erection of single storey extension to NW elevation, open loggia to SE elevation and balustrade to rear wing - Support

25/02195/FUL 5 Orchard Field

Removal of existing oil tank and base and forming new base max 300 high with new tank in new location. Removal of side ground floor window and changing to new door. Removing side hedge and replacing with new timber fence. - Support

126/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

25/01259/FUL 12 Star Lane

Erection of detached dwelling with associated works – Refused

25/01812/COMPLY Old Quarries Compliance with conditions 5 (Stonework sample panel), 10 (Infilling of doorways) and 15 (Rainwater goods) of consent 22/03637/LBC - Change of use of existing buildings from residential institution (C2 use) to residential (C3 use) including demolition of modern extensions, internal alterations and extensions, rebuilding of boundary wall. - Permitted

25/01913/TCONR The Old Coach House Hampton Hill Cut back Poplar to boundary. - Permitted

127/25 CORRESPONDENCE

CDC & Roz Savage – Call for local green space

NALC Chief Exec –2025/26 - Average Increase in precept 9.68%. Band B & D increased 7.4%

Rural England CIC has published its latest State of Rural Services 2025 report, providing an updated and detailed picture of how people living in rural areas across England access and experience essential local services. The report shows persistent and wide-ranging disparities between rural and urban communities. It examines services including health and social care, transport, digital connectivity, education, employment support, local infrastructure and community facilities.

CDC - 5-year local housing plan

Philippa Moore, Acting Inspector

CPRE Newsletter – report on solar farms

Cotswold Round Up – Introduction of Cllr Andrea Pellegram, Cabinet Member for Environment and Regulatory Services.

GAPTC _ Newsletter

Thriving Communities Grants Open for Local Projects

Cllrs wanting access to GAPTC Portal

128/25 COUNCILLORS

129/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 8th October 2025

The next meeting will be October 8th at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Actions

120/25	Follow up Stream overgrowth	Clerk
119/25	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan & Cllr King
122/25	Pay Bills	Clerk
126/25	Submit Planning response.	Clerk

Cotswold District Council (CDC): With two O&S meetings and a full council there's a lot to digest from July! The full council was mostly a wider discussion on these items:

Overview & Scrutiny (O&S): The most critical task for CDC is to complete a revised Local Plan to protect against speculative and uncontrolled development. The plan was already in production, but the Government imposition of new housing targets (increased from under 400 to 1036 per year) means the Cotswolds district now only has a 1.8-year supply of housing instead of the previous 5 years required. The main problem in achieving anything like this number is that once the highly protected Cotswold Landscape (formerly AoNB) is taken out, plus other unsuitable areas such as flood plains, there is only 16% of the district available for development. This will focus any strategic developments on to a very small number of communities, which will inevitably lead to objections and legal challenges. O&S recommended several actions for the Cabinet (later accepted), most notably to use appropriate reserve pots to fully resource and fast track production of the plan; and to write to the Secretary of State to argue that the target is unachievable (the letter has now been sent).

We reviewed the financial performance for quarter 3 – there were several areas that had improved since the last review, and others that had deteriorated – notably, the income from car parking was £82k down on forecasts. What I queried this shortfall; the response was that CDC had lost its two enforcement officers so there was no income from parking tickets! New wardens are now being employed, so the 'free parking holiday' should now cease. Also down was the forecast income from cemeteries due to 'lower service provision' – arguably a good thing?

It should also be noted that in a written response to my question, there will be no further spending on the Publica transition of resources back to CDC until the outcome of local council reorganisation is known.

The planning team are now almost at full capacity, with 80% of applications being dealt with on time, but the Enforcement team are still struggling. They were the subject of a recent peer review and action plan, with several important initiatives to be implemented, including a new triage process, IT improvements, and actively using software already available. These improvements won't immediately help to reduce the 561 outstanding cases, and even new cases are likely to take up to 6 months to be dealt with! This was a pertinent discussion as I had two new urgent planning breaches the same week, one of which broke during the meeting! This will be very frustrating news for all those affected, and O&S recommended to Cabinet that resources be prioritised in this area.

At an earlier full council a motion was proposed to write to the Chancellor Rachel Reeves concerning the imposition of inheritance tax (IHT) on farms. The motion was deferred to O&S to investigate the matter in more detail, and what is called a Task & Finish group reported back their recommendations. The result was a very constructive set of options including one to charge Capital Gains Tax on any future sale rather than IHT. This would help protect our essential small farms, but rightly tax speculators trying to avoid IHT on their estates. It would also help to reduce the artificially high price of land, and give farmers, whose industry average age is 59, a fair opportunity to plan for any future taxes. The recommendations were enthusiastically approved at full council, with the final wording to be agreed. Will we be able to change the Chancellor's mind - probably not, as she didn't even consult with the industry before imposing it, but at least we can show we are constructively supporting our farmers in the Cotswolds.

Avening stream: For several years we have had issues with water levels in the stream which has completely dried up this summer. I have been working with the Environment Agency (EA) and several water authorities to understand why. A report was commissioned with Wessex water to study the impact of housing on our underground aquifers, and this will be published in September – I'll provide a summary when it's available, but one headline is that the additional housing in Tetbury is apparently not to blame, as their source aquifer runs further down our system around Longford's Mill. This still doesn't answer our issue, and I am continuing to work with the agencies to identify the major causes.

The Cirencester Fire Station roundabout works have been completed! The roundabout on the dual carriageway in Cirencester, closest to the Fire Station, along with the mini roundabout at the junction of Love Lane and Midland Road, underwent a major upgrade to improve traffic capacity and

flows, improve safety, and mitigate flooding in the area. A drainage basin has been created in the central island, to mitigate flooding issues. This island was reduced in size to create extra lanes on the roundabout. The existing verges have been reduced to create a three-lane entry from Midland Road onto the main roundabout. Intelligent traffic lights on the main roundabout are operational 24hrs a day, which can detect vehicle levels and react accordingly to improve traffic flow. The two signal-controlled pedestrian crossings have been installed providing safe crossing points for pedestrians and cyclists which are activated by push buttons.

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:

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The District Council has received two formal requests, one from a Parish Council asking to change to a Parish Meeting, and the other requesting an increase in the number of parish councillors. CDC are therefore preparing to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) and are inviting all other Parish and Town Councils/Meetings to consider whether there are changes you would like to propose. A CGR can consider:

- Creating, merging, altering, or abolishing parishes;
- Changing the name of a parish;
- Reviewing electoral arrangements (e.g. number of councillors, warding);
- Grouping or de-grouping parishes under a common council;
- Changing the status of a parish (e.g. from council to meeting) to reflect local circumstances.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH ME if you would like more information relating to CGRs. The review is expected to take place over the next 9–12 months, with any changes implemented at the ordinary elections in May 2027. Requests should be made to elections@cotswold.gov.uk no later than 30 September 2025.

Crowdfund Cotswold opens new round of funding for local projects

The latest round of funding is now open, and the Council is encouraging individuals, groups, and organisations to get involved and share their ideas for projects that will benefit their local communities. The deadline to apply is 24 September 2025.

If you are interested in raising funds for your own ideas you can get started today by visiting the [Crowdfund Cotswold website](#) and creating your own project page.

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.

Tetbury Division Councillor Report

Period: July–August 2025

1. Business Considered by the Cabinet at GCC

During July and August, Gloucestershire County Council’s Cabinet and committees considered key decisions, including:

- **Fostering Payment Scheme Review (August 8)** – Updated payment structures to improve recruitment and retention.
- **Procurement of Children’s Social Care Services (August 6)** – Approved new commissioning arrangements for better outcomes.
- **Public Transport & Rural Bus Services** – E-petition activity around changes to the “C bus” route.
- **Highways Investment Priorities** – Continued emphasis on resilience and repairs after recent heavy rainfall.
- **Climate & Environment Action Plan** – Progress on carbon reduction and active travel initiatives.

2. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Devolution

- **Devolution Deal Progress**
Gloucestershire leaders continue to explore options for a county-wide **devolution deal** with Government, which could bring additional powers and funding for **transport, housing, skills, and economic growth**.
- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)**
While no formal decision has been made, discussions about **streamlining governance** (e.g., moving from the current two-tier system of County and District councils to a single unitary model) remain part of the long-term debate.
- **Impact on Residents**
For communities like Tetbury, LGR and devolution could mean:
 - **More local decision-making** over transport, planning, and infrastructure.
 - **Potential governance changes**, including fewer councils but stronger local boards or community networks.
- **Next Steps**
 - County officers are continuing discussions with Government; any public consultation is likely to happen later this year or in 2026.
 - I will keep residents updated on how this might affect services and representation locally.

3. Infrastructure & Highways

- **Tetbury Trail Resurfacing**
In July, the Tetbury Trail underwent essential resurfacing to improve accessibility and safety. The closure lasted around five days, and feedback so far has been positive.

4. Council & District Updates

- **New Political Leadership at GCC**
Since the May 2025 elections, Gloucestershire remains under **No Overall Control**, with a **Liberal Democrat minority administration** now in place, led by **Cllr Lisa Spivey**.
- **Committee Activity**
Key committees met in July, including Full Council and Fire & Rescue Scrutiny, with updates on emergency services resilience and road safety budgets.