

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th October 2025 at 7.00pm

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

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

VISITORS:-

130/25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No members of the public were present.

131/25 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE – Cllr Hamilton, Cllr Slater, Cllr Watson - GCC

132/25 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

133/25 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2nd September 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd of September 2025 were signed as a true record.

134/25 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 September 2025 Memorial Hall Update

Cllr Mulligan said that the roof was now complete. Both the main roof and the flat roof have been replaced. The project has gone over budget. This was due to the main roof had no insulation. It has now been insulated. The flat roof had been layered one roof on top of another. The roof was stripped back and rotten beams repaired.

Cllr Mulligan said he was in the process of getting quotes for solar panels. Cllr Bendall said he had been approached by some residents who felt the panels were inappropriate for the building. Cllr Bendal felt the village should be asked if they wanted solar panels . Cllr King said this was just an idea at this stage and if the Parish Council were in a position to proceed, that would be the time to inform the residents. Cllr Mulligan said the next project will be the refurbishment of the kitchen.

The floor in the main hall also needs repairs.

Cllr Mulligan has been given the contact details of a company that supply chairs. He will get a quote.

135/25 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Community Issues

Playing Fields Update

Cllr Mills said he intended to contact the site manager of the Quarries to ask if they have any topsoil, they are willing to donate to repair the areas of the playing field.

Cllr Mulligan said that the CCTV signs have not yet been installed. The Clerk said she is waiting for guidance from GAPTC regarding adopting a Parish Council Policy for the management of CCTV.

The Clerk provided the Council will some options for replacement park benches. It was agreed that three, four-seater benches would be adequate, and the Eco benches were a good option. The Clerk was asked to get quotes for this spec.

Defibrillator

The old defibrillator has still not been installed.

Cllr Mills has checked the defibrillator at the hall and updated the information on the Circuit website.

It had been reported that a resident trying to access the defib, couldn't see clearly how to open the box. Cllr Mills said the box was lit by an integral light so visibility shouldn't be a problem, but he would check.

Biodiversity Report

The Clerk distributed the Bio-Diversity report produced by Dr Pheobe Carter.

The Council approved this report and agreed that the next step was to produce a plan of action that were achievable. Cllr King said the Dr Carter; Alan Watson would work on this with Cllr Mills and Himself.

Bus Shelter

The Clerk said that the insurance company have been in contact asking for the bus shelter repairs to be carried out asap. They will not pay the claim until the final invoice is submitted. The Clerk said the contractor is hoping to start before the end of the month but is weather dependant.

136/25 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS

A complain has been received regarding the Avening to Nailsworth road being impassable in places, causing pedestrians to walk in the road. The Clerk has reported this via Fix my Street and contacted the Highways manager, who informed her that it was on the cutting list but didn't know when it would be done. A safety officer was coming out to inspect the area.

The Clerk reported that she had noticed the traffic lights on the Avening to Nailsworth road stuck on red. She will report this to Highways.

Cllr Parsons said the stone stile on the Rodway House to Tetbury footpath was overgrown and impassable. Also, the stile on the Brandhouse to Barton End. Cllr Blackie said she would walk the path and provide the Clerk with a what3Words location.

137/25 FINANCE

Conclusion of Audit

The Clerk confirmed that the external auditor has completed their review. Everything is in order. They have issued the official conclusion of audit documents and the right to inspection has been placed on both notice boards and the website. To date there has not been any request to view the accounts.

Finance Report

8th October, the overall Bank balance was £137,000. The second part of the precept has been paid.

Activities on the account this past month include payment of the zip wire repair and a donation towards the new sound system from the Memorial Hall. Cllr Hetterley acknowledged the increase cost of the roof repairs. For simplicity proposed taking £16.5K from the ring-fenced fund and the £20K Cil payment. This will leave a small shortfall that can come from reserves. This was seconded by Cllr Mulligan and approved by the Council.

Cllr Bendal asked if there were any further invoices due from the Contractor. The Clerk said that no further invoices were expected.

The Clerk said she would submit a VAT refund request

Cllr Mills will submit the contractor's invoice to CDC for the grant payment.

Approve Bills for Payment

The Parish Council approved bills for payment.

The Clerk said that 2026/27 budget planning needs to commence next month. Cllr Hetterley suggested holding a finance committee meeting. It was suggested 14th November at 10am. The Clerk will check Cllr Slaters availability.

138/25 Policies for Approval

The Clerk distributed draft policies prior to the meeting for the Council to adopt. Finance Regulations and Risk Management Policies were adopted at the AGM on 14th May.

Equality & Diversity Policy – Adopted

Complaints Policy – Adopted

Media Policy – Adopted

Grant Policy – Adopted

Biodiversity Policy – Adopted

Assertion 10 Requirements

The Clerk explained that these policies were now a legal requirement and proof of adoption will be required by the external auditor for the 2025/26 audit.

IT Policy – Adopted

Data Protection Policy – Adopted.

139/25 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT – Appendix 1

Cllr Slater provided a report in his absence.

140/25 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unavailable.

141/25 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

25/02789/FUL Plumtree Cottage 19 High Street - Erection of two storey side extension and porch. – No Comment

142/25 Planning Correspondence and Decisions

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 - Permitted

25/02359/COMPLY Boat House Gatcombe Water

Compliance with Condition 9 (Construction Environmental Management Plan - Biodiversity (CEMP-B)) of permission

24/03624/FUL - Repair, refurbishment and extension to Boathouse to form a self-build dwelling and the erection of external garage and maintenance hut - Permitted

25/01641/COMPLY 12 Star Lane

Compliance with condition 3 (sample materials) of permission 24/03783/FUL - Erection of replacement garage with ancillary accommodation over - Permitted

25/01387/FUL Plum Patch Cottage 7 Star Lane

Erection of a self-build dwelling - Permitted

143/25 CORRESPONDENCE

Complaint re: Avening – Nailsworth Foot path.

GRCC are recruiting flood wardens across the district to boost community resilience and local preparedness. We have an induction session coming up on the evening of 23rd October 2025

Glos Wildlife Trust – Trillis Banks – Restoring & Creating Habitats - Nature Reserve

Barnwood Trust Accessibility Fun

funding opportunity to improve community spaces making them more accessible.

This is a new funding programme designed to make both indoor and outdoor spaces more welcoming and accessible for disabled people and people with mental health conditions.

GRCC News bites

144/25 COUNCILLORS

The Clerk asked if the Parish council intended to do a Christmas Tree Lighting event. If so, did the want the choir to perform and what date. It was agreed that yes, there would be a tree lighting event. The preliminary date suggested was Sunday 7th December at 5pm. The Clerk said she had approached Gatcombe estate to donate a tree and is waiting for a response. It was suggested siting the tree outside the memorial hall. The Clerk was asked to get quotes for commercial Christmas Tree stands.

Cllr Hetterley said he had been informed that the Church would not be holding a fete in 2026 and asked if the Council should fund it? It was agreed that this should be considered, Cllr Hetterley would speak to Cllr Hamilton to establish if that was the Church's intention.

Cllr King thanked Cllr Mulligan for installing the shelves in the phone box. Cllr King also asked if they could be adjusted. Cllr Mulligan said they could but would prefer to see if the current layout worked first.

145/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 8th October 2025

The next meeting will be November 12th at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Actions

134/25	Submit Invoices to SDC	Cllr Mills
135/25	Install 2 nd Defib	Cllr Mulligan & Cllr King
137/25	Pay Bills	Clerk
141/25	Submit Planning response.	Clerk

Cotswold District Council (CDC): Not a great deal to share this month from the full council, but there is a developing story following a report submitted to the Audit and Governance Committee relating to procurement of contracts without following due process. If this escalates, I'll send an additional report.

I attended a meeting with the **Planning Enforcement** team, who appear to be going in the right direction to improve service delivery. I raised the issue that I've had no information on cases raised, which has contributed to unwanted developments being built because cases were not pursued. The team acknowledged this as an issue that needs improvement but noted that there are sometimes legal reasons why updates cannot be provided.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Gloucestershire's devolution process is estimated to cost £3.6 million for the period up to the submission of the county's preferred devolution plan in November 2025, which local councils are seeking government funding to cover. It has been reported that the devolution of Gloucestershire councils could eventually run to around £30m. The government believes the simpler unitary structure will be more cost effective to run and lead to better outcomes for residents and improved local accountability. However, from a district and parish council point of view, it will mean that contact and decision making is moved further away from residents.

The September **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** (O&S) asked that consideration be given to putting local social and/or archaeological artefacts on public display at the Council's offices, including artefacts related to the history of local government in the area. The Council's Leisure and Culture Manager will explore with the Museum operator, Freedom Leisure, opportunities to improve public access to the Museum's extensive collection.

Around the district: Congratulations to **Didmarton** on reaching 50 years of publishing their parish magazine, known as Dyddi Digest. This achievement was celebrated on the local BBC news, and I am grateful to the editors for including my small contributions. **Avening** have just successfully completed the re-roofing of their Memorial Hall – a mammoth and expensive project which will secure the hall for many years to come. Elsewhere, the outcome of the planning application to convert the Queen Matilda pub into a private residence will be announced soon. **Beverston** are closer than they have ever been to securing a realistic speed limit and traffic calming measures through the village, with all parties working together to move the scheme forward. Residents of **Leighterton** have been suffering at the hands of a developer who has strayed from agreed plans and caused issues with uncontrolled dust. I have been liaising with the CDC Enforcement Team to ensure they are on the case. I have supported several parishes in registering recreational areas as dedicated 'Green Spaces', which will offer greater protection against speculative developments.

Councillor Tony Slater

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