

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Cllr Mulligan (Chair), Cllr Bendall, Cllr Blackie, Cllr Hetterley, Cllr Slater, Cllr Mills and Cllr King.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Baker (Clerk).

VISITORS: Emma Maskell- Prospective Parish Councillor Applicant.

The Council observed a minute's silence following the death of Nigel Stanton, who served as Chair of the Parish Council for many years.

279/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Ms Maskell introduced herself to the council, gave a brief overview of her experience and reasons for wishing to become a Parish Councillor, and put herself forward for co-option to the current vacancy.

280/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

None

281/26 CODE OF CONDUCT

266.1 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda

Cllr Slater Agenda Item 7.3

266.2 Updates to Members' Registers of Interests

None.

282/26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

283/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JULY 2026

None.

284/26 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS

Playing Fields Update

The bolts on the goal post have not yet been replaced.

The Clerk confirmed that she had requested a repair from the contractor.

Cllr Mills said he will contact the resident to enquire if the replacement nets were still available .

Environment

Dark Skies – The Clerk explained the regional "Dark Skies" projects across the UK are conservation and community efforts aimed at reducing light pollution, protecting nocturnal wildlife, and preserving the night sky. It would entail turning off non essential streetlights after a certain time. Other areas use 11 pm as the lights off time. Cllr King said that this would require further investigation and to reach an agreement with the community, as some residents may feel unsafe. Cllr King agreed to investigate further and report at the next meeting.

Defibrillator.

Cllr King received a quote from an electrician to install the second defibrillator. The cost of £168 +VAT. The Parish Council agreed to this expenditure . The Clerk will instruct the electrician.

Memorial Hall Update

Cllr Mulligan reported that he had received a draft lease from the Athelstone Trust. The draft contained several errors, including an incorrect rent figure, and he had submitted the necessary corrections.

Cllr Hetterley reported that the Athelstone Trust (AT) refuse to pay the interim invoice until the lease is signed. Cllr Hetterley read and email from Tim Learman of the AT, saying the not all conditions of the draft lease will be agreed to. The email indicated it will be resolved and signed October. This is looking unlikely.

A legacy of £1,019.36 has been received from the estate of Mr Robert Hill. (Jim). It was agreed to use some of the fund to frame the Memorial rug.

The Clerk reported that Tesco had made contact to invite a funding application for the Memorial Hall under their community grant scheme. The current funding round specifically targets projects supporting children and youth groups that incorporate a food-related element.

The Clerk advised that they had initially directed the opportunity to the local School. Tesco subsequently confirmed that a separate application from the Memorial Hall would also be eligible for consideration, provided it directly supported or complemented the school's project.

Cllr Mills said the schools had applied previously and been successful. It was agreed that should the school apply again, the hall would consider supporting the project.

Donation of Table Tennis Table.- It was agreed to decline the generous offer of the table tennis table as there is currently an unused table in the cupboard and storage is an issue.

Cllr Mulligan reported that hall redecoration was more expensive than anticipated due to repair works to the ceiling and re- plastering in the toilets.

This phase of the hall refurbishment is now nearly complete, with only the kitchen flooring To be installed which is booked for Sunday 20th September. The next major project will be to repair/ replace the wooden floor in the hall.

The Parish Council agreed that the extra expenditure was necessary.

Village Fete 2027

There is no Church Fete scheduled for 2027. The Parish Council agreed to consider if a committee should be set up to organise a Parish fete.

Proposed Changes to the Polling stations

The Clerk reported on proposed changes to polling station locations.

Avening residents would continue to vote at the Memorial Hall. It had also been proposed that Cherrington residents use the Memorial Hall as their polling station.

285/26 TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS

IT was agreed the digging out of the stream carried out by Highways, was incomplete as the spoil has been left behind. The Highways manager said there is no available funds to remove it, but a team will attend site to smooth it out. Taking advice from a Chartered Ecologist, they advised that leaving the material in place is not environmentally appropriate.

Smoothing it out would not resolve the issue, as the rubble may still affect the watercourse, local habitat, drainage, and the wider appearance of the area. The Clerk will write to the Highways manager requesting the work is completed in a satisfactory manner.

The other rubble left behind was caused by the contractors repairing the school wall. The School have agreed to get it removed.

286/26 FINANCE

Finance Report – Cllr Hetterley

Total Expenditure this financial year (at 7th Sept) s approximately £30K.

Main items of spend in the last month was maintenance and running costs.

The current total bank balance is £117K. This included unspent budgeted items (£66K) and ringfenced (£22K). Budgeted reserves are therefore estimated at £29K (or £43K after the receipt of the outstanding precept).

Approve NALC Pay Award

The Parish Council approved the NALC pay award of 3.3% backdated to 1st April 2026.

Approve Bills for Payment

The Council approved the bills for payment.

It was agreed to make a donation to the hall of £4,000 as part of the section 137 allowance to pay towards the redecoration.

287/26 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The report is attached at Appendix 1.

288/26 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

No report was available.

289/26 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

New Planning Applications

Parish Council Decisions made via email

26/02276/FUL – 11 Pound Hill. Proposed new entrance porch, fenestration changes including four new dormer windows, and erection of a garden room at the south-east corner. Decision: No objection.

26/02096/LBC and 26/02095/FUL – The Old Post Office, 5 Point Road. Erection of a first-floor rear extension; internal alterations to provide a ground-floor WC and utility room; fenestration alterations; replacement roof covering to the entrance hall; and associated drainage works. Decision: No objection.

26/02096/LBC and 26/02095/FUL – The Old Post Office, 5 Point Road. Erection of a two-storey rear extension; associated internal alterations to provide a ground-floor WC and utility room; replacement and amendment of fenestration; replacement roof covering; installation of four rooflights; associated drainage works; and removal of the external soil vent pipe. Decision: No objection.

26/02082/LBC – The Old Post Office, 5 Point Road. Roof repairs, installation of a rooflight, replacement window and soundproofing to the party wall. Decision: No objection.

275/26 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE AND DECISIONS

26/02319/TPO – 4 Old Hill. Works to two protected yew trees (*Taxus baccata*). T1: reduce long lateral branches extending into the neighbouring garden by 1.5 metres. T2: reduce lateral branches extending towards the owner's property by 1.5 metres. Decision: Permitted.

276/26 CORRESPONDENCE

CPRE Hedgerow Heros

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin x 2

Glos Playing Field Inspection Seminar 6th Oct 20-2 £65

GRCC Safeguarding for Commercial Buildings 1st Dec 10am £8.00

Tesco Grants

GALC

National Grid, Tree cutting

Container complaints

Glos Police Cllr Advocacy Meeting 13 Oct 6-7.30

Get to know your inspector

Casual Vacancy

Ms Maskell left the meeting so the Parish Council could discuss her request for co-option. The Parish Council voted on the application. The decision was unanimous. It was agreed that Ms Maskell was an ideal candidate. The Clerk will inform Ms Maskell of the Council's decision.

290/26 COUNCILLOR MATTERS

Councillor Blackie presented a sample frame for the community rug, following up on discussions from the previous meeting.

The Parish Council approved the selection of a black frame, with the proviso that Perspex or a similar protective glazing be incorporated to protect the rug from dust.

Agreed that Councillor Blackie will liaise with the framer to confirm the feasibility and cost of including the protective Perspex casing and report back to the Council.

Cllr Parsons asked if there would be an open day for the memorial hall following the refurbishment. The Council agreed to consider combining with another event, remembrance service of school fete.

291/26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on 14th October 2026 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

ACTIONS

284/26	Contact Contractor to Install 2 nd Defib	Clerk
282/26	Pay Bills	Clerk

Appendix 1

Local Government Review (LGR) – This certainly isn't the update I was expecting to give you! Following the change of Prime Minister and as a result of several applications for a Judicial Review by other councils, the government has decided to 'put on hold' plans for LGR in 14 areas including Gloucestershire. The previous ambitious timescales mean there is no chance that any changes will be made before local elections in May, so instead of choosing councillors for a new county wide administration, the elections will be for Cotswold District Council – which was due to be abolished in 2028. Confused? I'm not surprised!

Preparations for the LGR changes have put an enormous strain on the officers throughout the county and have come at a huge financial cost. It also means more uncertainty for the public and will be of particular concern for employees - we are now left not knowing what will happen beyond 2028. If the plans are resurrected it could mean another election at a cost of around £250k just in the CDC area alone, in addition to ramping up the programme of work to make it happen.

I've asked the council leader to claim back the costs incurred from the government – it might at least deter them from launching ill thought out initiatives that cost us millions!

The Electoral Matters Working Group has considered a review of polling stations, and a report will be presented to Council on 23 September with proposals for change to be consulted on. Every polling station needs a Presiding Officer and Poll Clerk, along with the necessary stationery and equipment to run the poll effectively. Other costs include building hire and delivery/collection of polling screens. The aim of the changes is to make savings and improve efficiency while still ensuring polling places remain convenient for electors.

The proposed changes in Grumbolds Ash are:

Current venue	Parish	Proposal
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Beverston Village Hall, GL8 8TT	Beverston	move to Kingscote
Cherington Parish Hall, GL8 8SW	Cherington	move to Avening
Didmarton Village Hall, GL9 1DT	Didmarton	add Leighterton & Westonbirt
Kingscote Village Hall, GL8 8XY	Kingscote, Ozleworth	add Beverston
Leighterton Primary School, Leighterton	Boxwell-with-Leighterton, Weston	move to Didmarton
Memorial Hall, Avening, GL8 8NF	Avening	add Cherington

Please let me know your thoughts.

Councillor Tony Slater

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