

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025 held at Gretton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr G Hanson (Chairman), Cllr D Butcher, Cllr M Oliver and Cllr R Green

In Attendance: Parish Clerk plus 3 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from County Cllr Gray, Borough Cllr Madle and Borough Cllr Mason

2. To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting.

It was noted that Cllr Oliver is Chair of the GVA and a Cotswold Warden.

3. To receive comments from members of the public

The hall was opened early for public interaction before the formal session commenced.

No comments were received.

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman for Wednesday 13th November 2024.

5. Planning Matters

5.1. To make recommendations to the Planning Authority upon the suitability of the following planning applications

There was no new planning application for discussion.

5.2. To ratify Comments on planning applications received that required a response before the meeting

Reference	Location	Description	Comments
24/00903/FUL	6 Stanley Cottages Gretton	Demolition of existing conservatory & erection of single storey front extension to No 6 Stanley cottages. The erection of 1No self build dwelling, erection of car port & external associated landscaping.	No objection comment was submitted with observations around safety measures entering and exiting the properties.
24/01011/FUL	The Maples Gretton Fields Gretton	Removal/variation of condition 2, planning permission 22/00108/FUL, to reduce depth of rear extension and for car port to become internal footprint	No Objection comment was submitted.
24/00675/FUL	Myrtle Cottage Gretton Road Gretton	Application for Technical Details Consent for the erection of 1no. self-build dwelling with associated landscaping (pursuant to Permission in Principle application ref:23/00637/PIP)	Objection submitted and reconfirmed GPC previous comments.

5.3. Planning decisions

Reference	Location	Description	Decision
24/00928/TCA	12 Gopshill Lane Gretton	T1 Cherry reduce height 1.5metres and sides 2-3 metres	Permit

COUNCIL AGREED for Cllr Oliver to attend GAPTC Planning in plain English training in March at a cost of £45, as it will enhance the council's understanding and decision-making on planning matters.

6. Village Communication

6.1. To receive update on the newsletter and discuss the next issue

- Good feedback has been received from the December issue.
- Next Issue scheduled for the beginning of March. Options for content was discussed, to include Gretton's History and Gretton 2000 +25 years.

7. Information and Correspondence

7.1. To receive an update on Gretton's emergency plan and sandbags

Draft version of Gretton Village Snow, Ice and Flooding plan is available on the GPC website.

40 sandbags were received from TBC. 6 bags of sand have been purchased for the purpose of filling sand bags. **COUNCIL AGREED** to purchasing an additional 6 bags of sand.

ACTION Cllr Oliver to disseminate the information on social platforms and the newsletter.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to acquire 6 more bags of sand

7.2. To receive an update from the Town and Parish Council Seminar held on 28th November 2024

Cllr Hanson attended the Town and Parish Council Seminar chaired by Cllr Richard Stanley (Council Leader) and Alistair Cunningham (Chief Executive), with ~40 parish and town councillors present. Cllr Hanson gave the following overview:

- Parish Precepts: No significant changes; reminders about process and 31st January deadline.
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Continued pressure for housing development, 5-year land supply focus; limited value in refreshing older Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs).
- Council Name Change: Change to NGBC with a new logo launching in January 2025; strongly supported by non-Tewkesbury areas.
- Council Plan: New plan with priorities including flood resilience, housing, health, and climate focus areas.
- Place Programme: A broader community-focused initiative, concerns raised over lacking legal status or funding. Mixed views on its potential impact.
- Community Resilience: Primarily aimed at flood-prone communities; minimal relevance to Gretton.

ACTION – Clerk to seek further guidance from TBC about the Place programme such as grouping of parishes.

8. Highways

8.1. To receive an update on:

- 8.1.1 **Village Gateway** – The location for the new gateway has been identified and marked. **COUNCIL AGREED** to proceed with the work. **ACTION** Cllr Hanson to confirm the quote and authorise the work.
- 8.1.2 **School Parking** – The issue remains ongoing. Communications through the schools newsletters will continue to emphasise courtesy and respect.
- 8.1.3 **Relocation of 30mph near new development 'The Croft'** – TBC Legal has confirmed the developer has no contractual obligation to relocate the 30mph limit. **ACTION** Cllr Hanson to review original correspondence with the developer.

9. Reports

9.1. County Council

The Parish Council was updated on key developments from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) in advance of the meeting.

- **White Paper on Local Government Reorganization:**

Central government has proposed the abolition of two-tier local governments, mandating a transition to unitary authorities. This could lead to TBC being dissolved as early as 2026, with discussions moving toward the creation of a Gloucestershire unitary authority and potentially larger combined authorities. While an initial expression of interest is due shortly, the timeline and specifics remain unclear.

- **GCC Budget 2025/26:**

The draft budget is set at £649.6m, an increase of £32.7m (4.99%), comprising a 2% social care uplift and a 2.99% base uplift.

Additional central government funding for roads was announced in December. While the allocation of these funds is yet to be decided, GCC has stated that rural road improvements will be prioritised.

These developments were noted for their potential impact on local governance and infrastructure in the parish.

9.2. Borough Council

No report has been received.

9.3. Clerk

Report circulated prior to meeting and content noted.

9.4. To receive a report from Village environment

Discussion on maintaining Gretton's rural character and increasing greenery. ACTION: Cllr Green to draft a proposal for a tree planting initiative and circulate it for feedback.

Thanks was extended to a local resident for litter picking; it was agreed that no additional litter picking event is required at this time.

Disappointment was noted regarding fly-tipping in the village, including a toilet and cabinet discarded in a ditch. ACTION To be reported on FixMyStreet and highlighted in the newsletter.

9.5. Traffic & Road Safety

No recent Speedwatch activity; a training session for six new volunteers is planned for January, which the Police may join.

9.6. To receive a report from GVA

New committee formed; focus on promotion, premises updates, and future projects (e.g., solar, playing field access, and perimeter path).

COUNCIL AGREED to fund a traffic mirror for increasing the safety of vehicles existing the village hall. With support of the landowner

Successful recent events: Quiz Night, Advent Windows, Christmas Eve Carol Service, & New Year Walk.

2025 events planned, including Rogation Walk (25 May), Summer Fete (12 July TBD), and Apple Rock (4 October). Support from GPC is encouraged for major events.

GVA prepared to run Warm Space hubs year-round with GPC support.

COUNCIL AGREED to financially support the GVA to provide two main social events for the village in 2025, up to a cost of £500 each.

COUNCIL AGREED to financially support the GVA with £50 per Gretton Hub, where TBC Warm Space funding is not available.

9.7. Flood Group

No significant flooding reported in recent floods.

9.8. Cotswold Wardens

Boundary area jobs and fallen tree clearance are ongoing.

Resident work party for ditch clearing along Greenway Lane path is under discussion.

9.9. Gretton Primary School

No update was received. The school are now aware of the speed/parking concerns and have offered to improve awareness and publicity.

9.10. Police

The Cllr Advocacy Group has not met in the period.

Two overnight thefts were reported over the Christmas period.

Council noted that the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator is stepping down.

10. Parish Council Assets

10.1. Street Lighting. – **ACTION** Cllr Hanson to investigate costings for extending street lighting

10.2. Bus stop refurbishment – **ACTION** Cllr Hanson & Cllr Green to seek quotes for repairs

10.3. War memorial – curbing will be repaired after risk of frost. **ACTION** Clerk to investigate whether any grants are available to repair the lettering.

10.4. Grit/salt bins – awaiting installation by GCC Highways

10.5. Mobile speed sign – awaiting installation by GCC Highways

10.6. Gretton Tower - awaiting proposal from the Tower trustee including forecast of maintenance.

11. To receive an update on the potential acquisition of a second defibrillator within the parish.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the costs of utilizing streetlight power to supply a defibrillator unit. **ACTION** Cllr Green to explore options for match-funding grants.

12. Financial Matters

12.1. It was resolved that the following payments had been made since the last meeting. Payment of these were approved. Proposed Cllr Hanson and seconded Cllr Green.

Payee	Details	Amount
Saxon printing	Newsletter	192.58
D. Butcher	Expenses annual email subscription	43.20
D. Butcher	Expenses litter bags	48.00
C. Bridges	Clerk's salary - Dec 24 (plus arrears)	309.15
Total		£592.93

- **COUNCIL NOTED** There is no payment due to HM Revenue & Customs by Gretton Parish Council for December 2024 (PAYE £16.20, HMRC credit £96.00). HMRC credit of £79.80 to be carried forward.

12.2. It was resolved that the following payments for January be approved. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green.

Payee	Details	Amount
C. Bridges	Clerk's salary - Jan 2025	249.75
PATA	Payroll (Oct – Dec, plus arrears calc)	46.05
G. Hanson	Expenses sandbags	22.20
Total		£318.00

12.3. It was noted that the following receipts had been received

From	Details	Amount
Lloyds	Bank interest – Nov	18.30
Lloyds	Bank interest – Nov	19.97
Lloyds	Bank interest – Dec	12.43
Lloyds	Bank interest - Dec	20.38
Total		£71.08

12.4. COUNCIL APPROVED the bank reconciliation (Appendix A) for the current state of accounts 31 December 2024

COUNCIL NOTED Internal transfer of £3000 from B/A > C/A to cover payments.

13. To review the 2025/26 budget

Council reviewed and **APPROVED** the budget for 2025/26

ACTION Cllr Oliver circulate the grass cutting contract for 25/26

ACTION Clerks expenses to be reviewed and agreed

14. To agree and set the 2025-26 Precept

The council noted that Band D properties in Gretton has decreased from 265.30 to 263. To maintain the same purchasing power as the previous year, the parish council will set this year's precept to reflect a 2.6% increase due to inflation.

COUNCIL AGREED the precept for 2025/26 to be £12058.

15. Council documents:

15.1. **COUNCIL AGREED** to the adoption of the Social Media Policy

15.2. **COUNCIL AGREED** to the Re-adoption of the Privacy Notice

15.3. **COUNCIL AGREED** that the Publication Scheme may require further updates and deferred it to the March meeting

16. To discuss Other Items for Information Only/Future Agenda Items 12TH March

- Recruiting councillors
- Set date for AGM

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 12th March 2025, commencing at 7.00pm.

APPENDIX A

BANK RECONCILIATION - 31 DECEMBER 2024

Balance per Lloyds TSB C/A statement	31/12/24	2073.27	
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A statement	31/12/24	15150.74	
Balance per Lloyds TSB 32 day notice	31/12/24	10049.97	
			27273.98
Unpresented cheques			
	chq no	0.00	0.00
	chq no	0.00	0.00
			0.00
Balance as at 31st December 2024			27273.98

Cash Book

Opening balance at 1st April 2024		23950.10	
Add	receipts in the yr	35683.40	
Less	payments in the yr	32359.52	
Cashbook balance on 31 December 2024		27273.98	
Total to carry forward		£	27,273.98