

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025 held at Gretton Village Hall.

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

In Attendance: Parish Clerk plus 7 members of the public and County Cllr Gray.

The hall was opened early to allow public discussion before the formal session commenced.

1. To receive apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Green, 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

- A member of the public highlighted the plan to establish a 2025 record in collaboration with GVA and various other organisations around the village, with documents and photographs 25 years on from the Millennium.
- Concerns were raised regarding the 2nd village gateway (on Alderton approach), in particular noting limited consultation. The Chair responded that it has been discussed at the Parish Council meetings, the recent survey, included in the village newsletters and has been a collaborative project with Gloucestershire County Highways representatives which includes part-funding, as village gateways are generally recognised as a beneficial feature, helping vehicles identify a village or built-up area.
- Appreciation was expressed for the bus shelter repairs, with a request for regular inspections and litter monitoring. A call for volunteers was suggested and improved signage in the bus shelter.

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman for Wednesday 8th January 2025.

5. To discuss how GPC could support Gretton's Tower Trust in the future, Paul White from the Tower Trust to attend

The Tower Trust representative outlined the Trust's previous fundraising efforts for repairs and ongoing maintenance of the tower, ensuring it remains a functioning and visually appealing amenity for residents and walkers. However, financial sustainability remains a challenge, particularly regarding annual insurance costs, as the Trust has no regular income and struggles to secure grants or donations for insurance expenses.

Currently, £4,500 is ring-fenced for future repairs and maintenance. The Trust is run entirely by volunteers. The annual insurance cost has been up to £500, with a reduced cost of £292.63 for 2024-25. Without secured funding, the Trust could face potential insolvency within the next ten years.

The GVA has offered to support fundraising efforts by including the Tower Trust in upcoming events. Additionally, it was suggested that the tower could be formally recognised as a landmark for the Winchcombe Walking Festival, increasing awareness and potential support.

The discussion also considered whether the Parish Council could take on the Tower as an asset in the long term, allowing it to be covered under the PC's insurance. Recognising the tower as a valuable village asset, the **COUNCIL AGREED** to contribute half of the insurance cost for 2024-25, approving a \$137 donation of £150.

6. Planning Matters

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

There was no new planning application for discussion.

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

Reference	Location	Description	Comments
25/00062/FUL	Close House Winchcombe Road Gretton	Proposed rear single storey extension	Reviewed and no objection comment has been submitted.
25/00098/TCA	5 Apple Orchard Close Gretton	T1 Hawthorn Reduce to previous points approx 2-3m T2 Hawthorn Reduce to previous points approx 2-3m T3 Willow Thin, reduce overhang back from house (patio area) T4 Willow Thin, reduce overhang back from house	Reviewed and no objection comment has been submitted
24/01036/LBC	Oak Cottage Greenway Lane Gretton	Solar Panels to South Elevation	Reviewed and no objection comment has been submitted
24/01053/FUL	Gilders Yard Gretton Fields Gretton	Change of use of the site from mixed commercial use (Class E) to residential and for the demolition of existing buildings and hardstanding on site and erection of 5no. detached dwellings with associated parking and garden spaces.	Public meeting was held. Feedback received from the neighbours were generally supportive, as it would replace an industrial unit. GPC submitted an 'No Objection' response but raised concerns that would need to be addressed if the development were to proceed. Cllr Hanson has also followed up on these comments with TBC planning officer.

6.3. Planning decisions

Reference	Location	Description	Decision
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	Permit
25/00038/TCA	5 Barn Close Gretton	T.1 - reduce crown height and lateral spread by 3-4m and shape. T.2 - reduce crown height by 0.5m and lateral crown spread on western side by 3m and shape. T.3 - Hawthorn in rear garden - ivy clad, remove to ground level.	No Objections
25/00034/TCA	Gretton House Duglynch Lane Gretton	T1 Yew Tree Reduce 2-3meters and shape sides to stop further snap outs	No Objections
24/00418/FUL	Manor Farmhouse Gretton Road	Erection of garage and link extension together with installation of infinity pool and erection of detached pool building with associated landscaping.	Permit

7. Presentation from Frances Evans, GRCC, regarding a potential Housing Needs Survey for Gretton Parish.

Frances Evans from GRCC outlined plans for an updated Housing Needs Survey for Gretton Parish. A 2020 survey received a 33% response rate (72 out of 219 households), identifying two households needing affordable or accessible housing. As this data is now outdated, a new survey would assess current local housing needs.

The survey aims to:

- Provide a profile of existing housing and identify those in need.
- Support housing choice and retain local employment by enabling workers to live in the village.
- Offer first-hand evidence for housing-related planning applications.

The process is fully funded by GRCC, with prepaid survey distribution via Royal Mail and local engagement efforts to be undertaken. Responses remain anonymous, and residents can express interest in community-led housing initiatives. GRCC will present findings and can work with the community on next steps.

Timeline: May/June, aligned with the newsletter and AGM.

COUNCIL AGREED to proceed with the survey.

8. Village Communication

8.1. The newsletter - Thanks to **Cllr Butcher** for the work on the last issue; received feedback has been positive. The next issue deadline is mid-May.

8.2. Agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting - Discussion on last year's postponement and a revised format to encourage participation. Plans include publicity for councillor recruitment, key topics (greening, speeding), a review of the year and future plans. Proposed dates: 14th or 18th May.

ACTION Clerk to check requirements and Cllr Hanson to follow up.

9. Information and Correspondence

9.1. Gloucestershire Village of the Year 2025 – Council agreed that entering would be beneficial, with potential recognition for overall winner, runner-up, or category awards. Closing date: 30th April.

COUNCIL AGREED to apply with GVA's support.

10. Highways

10.1. To receive an update on:

10.1.1. **Village Gateway** – installation expected in May

10.1.2. **School Parking** – no update

10.1.3. **Relocation of 30mph near new development 'The Croft'** – Discussions with the contractor are ongoing. A Traffic Regulation Order (up to £15K) is required to move the limit. Issue of horse safety was also raised.

10.2. To receive feedback from meeting with Gloucestershire Highways held on 20th February

Village walk through took place with GPC representatives and GCC Local Highways Manager and Team Leader Highways Development Management.

Notes from this meeting were circulated. Topics addressed :-

- 30mph zones at Alderton and Prescott approaches.
- Potholes and drainage issues.
- Location of VAS signs – Highways to advise on revised locations.
- School parking – challenges, constraints and options to improve

11. Reports

11.1. County Council

- TBC supports a unitary authority model; a single unitary authority could save money and unify services. No confirmed timetable as the bid was unsuccessful in the first tranche.
- County Council elections and potential borough elections discussed.
- Discussions ongoing with neighbouring authorities about forming clusters under an elected mayor.
- Glos CC is financially strong, partly due to revenue from the Gloucester 'Energy from waste' incinerator
- Strategic plan proceeding, with more emphasis on Parish Councils.
- TBC increased council tax by 4,8%, with finances in good standing.

- No change planned for TBC's name.
- A councillor allowance scheme will be available from 1st April.
- 100 miles of road resurfacing planned in the next 12 months, including Stanley Pontlarge and Winchcombe to Toddington road.
- TBC meetings and planning committee webcasting available.
- Mark Hawthorne, GCC leader stepping down after 14 years.

11.2. Borough Council

Report circulated prior to meeting see Appendix A

11.3. Clerk Report

Report circulated prior to meeting and content noted.

11.4. To receive a report from Village environment

This item was deferred to the May meeting

11.5. Traffic & Road Safety

- Ongoing concerns around school traffic and parking
- Speedwatch training for new volunteers to take place on Sunday 16th March
- The Council noted that large delivery trucks have been going through the village to the development in Winchcombe.

11.6. To receive a report from GVA

- GVA has been working with the TBC Community Funding Officer for funding applications, securing a Coronation Orchard Grant for fruit trees for the playing field. The GVA applied to Greener Gloucestershire for efficient heaters but were not successful.
- Currently exploring options with solar panels to improve the village hall's sustainability.
- S106 funding from the Redwood development is allocated for pitch improvements, with plans to relocate the current shed for a new sports equipment storage facility with electricity.
- Looking to use GPC funding to rework the parking area once the shed is relocated.
- Planning to submit an entry for Village of the Year.
- Green initiatives: Encouraging community sustainability efforts through the Greener Gloucestershire and proposing future opportunities for GPC green initiatives. **ACTION** Clerk to investigate GCC bulb planting scheme.
- Traffic mirror installation expected soon.
- Archiving project: A volunteer is leading efforts, with villagers contributing old photos.
- Upcoming events have been published in the newsletter.

11.7. Flood Group

No significant flooding has been reported.

11.8. Cotswold Wardens

Greenway Lane path repairs have been completed with resident volunteers

11.9. Gretton Primary School

The school have confirmed involvement in VE day and the summer Fete.

11.10. Police

No update.

12. Parish Council Assets

12.1. Street Lighting. – Following discussions with Glos CC, Cllr Hanson reported that the issue is more complex than just extending existing street lighting. GCC will report further on its feasibility and cost, but are unlikely to fund. GCC has confirmed that the street lighting remains on all night but dims to 30% between midnight and 5:30AM.

12.2. Bus Shelter refurbishment – Two quotes were obtained, and the Parish Council selected the contractor who quoted £290, as it aligned best with the budget and availability. The decision was agreed upon between meetings, and the work has now been completed.

12.3. War memorial – funding is available for refurbishing the war memorial. Quotes for work are required

12.4. Grit/salt bins – new grit bin has been installed.

12.5. Mobile speed sign – GCC Highways have agreed that the post they installed recently, is not in a good location and will reposition the post.

12.6. The potential acquisition of a second defibrillator. GCC has now advised that using lamppost electricity is acceptable. This requires a new lamppost base and a contract for power supply via the national grid.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson - Identify a proposed location, possibly outside the church and proceed with obtaining a quote.

13. Financial Matters

13.1. 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 Oliver.

To ratify payments made between meetings

Payee	Details	Amount
C. Bridges	Clerk's salary - Feb 25	247.95
Cotswold Building	Bus shelter roof repairs	290.00
Total		537.95

13.2. COUNCIL AGREED to the Clerk's expenses of £14.70 per month, totalling £176.40 for the period from April 2024 to March 2025. Going forward, expenses will be paid bi-monthly.

It was resolved that the following payments for March be approved. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Oliver.

To consider invoices for payment

Payee	Details	Amount
C. Bridges	Clerk's salary - Mar 25	247.95
PATA	Payroll (Jan – Mar)	37.35
Exps R. Green	Guttering for bus shelter	6.88
C. Bridges	Clerks expenses Apr 24-Mar 25	176.40
GAPTC	Annual subscription	159.95
Saxon Printing	March newsletter printing	192.58
Total		821.11

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

To note receipts

From	Details	Amount
Lloyds	Bank interest – Jan	12.87
Lloyds	Bank interest – Jan	23.99
Gloucestershire County Council	BBB funding for village gateway	1472.58
Lloyds	Bank interest – Feb	8.36
Lloyds	Bank interest - Feb	35.51
Total		1553.31

13.4. COUNCIL APPROVED the bank reconciliation (Appendix B) for the current state of accounts 28 February 2025

COUNCIL NOTED Internal transfer of £10,000 was transferred from the 1% B/A account to the 32-day notice account.

COUNCIL NOTED Internal check carried out and no issues were raised

13.5. COUNCIL APPROVED the detailed budget for 2025-2026.

14. Council documents:

14.1. COUNCIL AGREED that the Publication Scheme may require further updates and deferred it to the May meeting

15. To discuss Other Items for Information Only/Future Agenda Items 14TH May

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 14th May 2025, commencing at 7.00pm.

APPENDIX A – Borough Councillors report circulated prior to the meeting

Introduction of webcasting - a few (to be expected!) teething tech issues but general feedback is positive from all sources. No negative public feedback. Officers are finding it useful to understand the context behind meeting decisions/actions. One Parish Councillor has said it's been useful to watch planning meeting and share locally. First figures for viewing are encouraging:

Planning - 96 live & over 600 playback

Council - 40 live & over 200 playback

Links can be found on the TBC website under the relevant meeting agendas.

Local Development Scheme Update - Process of engagement with local stakeholders to inform the submission for the Plan from now until Apr 2026. Worth being proactive rather than waiting for TBC to contact you as a Council. Council will approve a pre-submission that will take this engagement into account in May-July 2026. A formal public consultation will take place August to September 2026 and the resulting pre-submission will be to Secretary of State in Oct-Nov 26.

Budget - despite no increase in net funding from Govt TBC has still managed to include planned growth items in the budget. Agreed an overall net budget of £13,450,226. Council Tax raised by £5 for a Band D. Future funding looks bleak but TBC has some reserves put aside for this purpose.

Local Government Reorganisation - An interim proposal is being brought to council next Tuesday (18th) details of which can be seen here <https://minutes.tewkesbury.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Mid=5317&x=1>. At present the 7 different councils are not in agreement on the most suitable way forward and three options are on the table. Tewkesbury, along with Gloucestershire County Council, are supporting the single unitary model for the reasons outlined in the report. Proposals will be worked on for full submission in November 2025. There's a useful summary of what's going on at <https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation/>

APPENDIX B**BANK RECONCILIATION - 28 FEBRUARY 2025**

Balance per Lloyds TSB C/A statement	28/02/25	2691.70	
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A statement	28/02/25	5171.97	
Balance per Lloyds TSB 32 day notice	28/02/25	20109.47	
			27973.14
Unpresented cheques			
	chq no	0.00	0.00
	chq no	0.00	0.00
			0.00
Balance as at 28 February 2025			27973.14

Cash Book

Opening balance at 1st April 2024	23950.10
Add receipts in the yr	37236.71
Less payments in the yr	33213.67
Cashbook balance on 31 December 2024	27973.14

Total to carry forward	£ 27,973.14
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