

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 15th January 2026 held at Gretton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr G Hanson (Chair), Cllr R Green, Cllr D Butcher, Cllr S Hawkins & Cllr M Oliver

In Attendance: Parish Clerk, 1 member of the public, Borough Cllr Gray

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Received from County Cllr Agg, Borough Cllr Mason and Borough Cllr Madel.

2. Declarations of Interest

It was noted that:

- Cllr Oliver is Chair of the Gretton Village Association (GVA) and a Cotswold Warden.
- Cllr Hawkins is a trustee of the Tower Trust.

3. Public Participation

Members of the public commented on the following matters:

- Concerns regarding the apparent disbanding of the Speedwatch team. The Council confirmed that the Speedwatch group will continue to operate.

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 25th November 2025

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 November 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. Planning Matters

5.1. The Council considered the following applications and agreed comments as noted:

Reference	Location	Discussion
25/00978/FUL	Gretton Village Hall Winchcombe Road	A retrospective application as installation was not per original spec. Council AGREED to a no objection comment.
25/01012/FUL	Sunrise Nurseries Gretton Fields Gretton	No objection. Refer application to Alderton Parish Council as not within parish boundary.

5.2. Applications Requiring Ratification between meetings

None.

5.3. Planning Decisions Noted

Reference	Location	Decision
25/00626/FUL	The Walnuts Gretton Fields	Refused
25/00919/TCA	Gretton House Duglynch Lane	No objection
25/00927/TCA	25/00927/TCA	No objection

6. Information and Correspondence

6.1. Parish & Town Council Seminar, 27 November – Cllr Hanson attended and reported on discussions relating to local government reorganisation. Many borough functions are expected to transition to a new unitary model, with proposals suggesting the creation of approximately 20 neighbourhood areas once the borough is disbanded. These neighbourhoods would operate with a degree of localism and be largely officer-led. The role and importance of parish councils is expected to increase as a result.

6.2. Village newsletter – The next edition of the village newsletter is scheduled for early March. **ACTION:** Cllr Butcher to set and circulate publication deadlines.

6.3. Green Agenda – Cllr Oliver circulated information outlining examples of parish council-led initiatives that support the green agenda. It was noted that, while the Parish Council has limited assets to improve directly, its role could focus on information sharing and signposting

via the website and newsletter. Potential future ideas include increased planting, green spaces, litter picking, clothing banks, composting initiatives, and vegetable patches. These themes may be incorporated into future vision and planning work. It was noted that a representative from the Climate Action team from GCC has offered to meet the council to discuss the range of initiatives and support available.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson and Cllr Oliver to attend GRCC climate sessions.

ACTION: Include a Green Agenda article in the March newsletter and duplicate content on the website.

7. Highways

7.1. School Parking School-related parking continues to be recognised as a significant issue within the village. Discussion included the importance of engagement with the school. Police feedback was to involve pupils through awareness campaigns. It was noted that many vehicles originate from outside the parish so a campaign led by the school was most appropriate, it was also acknowledged that the school has limited resources.

The Council **AGREED** that the issue requires a coordinated campaign to support the school.

ACTION: Cllr Oliver to provide feedback to the Headteacher and arrange a future meeting to discuss next steps.

7.2. Relocation of 30mph near The Croft site –

Cllr Gray advised that Gloucestershire County Council has allocated funding to support 20mph and speed limit initiatives for parishes who completed an expression of interest and can demonstrate local consultation of initiatives. It was recommended that proposals be developed promptly. Discussion included consulting residents via the newsletter and incorporating potential extensions to the 30mph limit on the North and west roads into the village.

ACTION: Cllr Butcher to draft a current speed limit map with proposed changes.

It was noted that the GCC Highways TRO team is currently reviewing GPC's formal request to extend the 30mph zone, to include *The Croft & White Cottage*.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson to progress.

7.3. Flooding No current flooding issues were reported. Greenway Lane ditch maintenance was identified as requiring a working group.

Residents will be encouraged to submit photographs of flooding issues via the newsletter.

7.4. Grass cutting Gloucestershire County Council has offered to undertake a site visit to map grass cutting responsibilities within the village.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson to follow up on the proposed meeting and report back to Council.

8. Reports

8.1. County Council – Cllr Agg had circulated a written report separately. Of note, the previous *Build Back Better* fund has been replaced by a *Grassroots Neighbourhood* fund, providing each C Cllr with £20k to fund public health & wellbeing projects.

8.2. Borough Council – Cllr Gray reported that:

- Tewkesbury Borough Council elections are scheduled to take place one year prior to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and are therefore unlikely to proceed.
- Budget setting is currently underway at both County and Borough levels; while neither authority is in financial distress, increases of around 5% are anticipated.
- Gloucester City Council has a declared financial deficit of £7m, although it still holds a substantial property asset portfolio.
- It was noted that LGR is expected to have downstream impacts on Parish councils and their budgets.
- The development of the new Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) progresses and holds potential planning weight, with further consultation with Parish councils anticipated. Provision of infrastructure to support housing growth remains a key issue, with completion of the plan expected in 2027.
- Members also noted that a £30,000 annual highways budget has been withdrawn.

8.3. Clerks report – No report

- 8.4. Traffic & Road Safety** – Speedwatch operations are expected to recommence after January. Cllr Oliver is awaiting a response regarding Speedwatch Plus camera options.
ACTION: Cllr Oliver to continue to pursue.
- 8.5. GVA** – GVA reported ongoing financial pressures, with hire rate increases and a marketing push planned for 2026. A retrospective planning application for solar panels has been submitted, with a decision expected in early February. Planned projects for 2026 include sports storage and an activity space. Replacement trees have been planted. Warm Space Hubs will run until 22 March, with additional GRCC digital support and possible police drop-ins. Recent community events were successful, and key 2026 event dates have been shared. The GVA is hosting a TBC Community Team networking event on 23 January.
- 8.6. Cotswold Wardens** – Cotswolds National Landscape has agreed to fund 50% of new information boards. Cllr Oliver will circulate schematics once available. A works rota for the year has been completed, including maintenance at the three-way bridge, drainage issues across the top of the railway path.
- 8.7. Gretton Primary School** – no feedback.
- 8.8. The Police** – Cllr Oliver attended the Police Councillor Advocacy Group; a positive update was provided. Crime levels in Tewkesbury are significantly down, with remaining concerns focused on anti-social behaviour and drink-driving. Police are undertaking proactive measures, including plain-clothes patrols in pubs and increased visibility at the community and will attend a GVA hub.
ACTION: Cllr Oliver to include a police update in the newsletter.

9. Parish Council Assets

- 9.1 War memorial repairs** – Feedback from the War Memorials Trust has been received. Further guidance from War Memorial Conservation is awaited.
ACTION: Cllr Green to circulate when available.
- 9.2 Mobile speed sign** – Discussed in item 8.4
- 9.3 Defibrillator** – Discussion focused on suitable lamppost locations. Council AGREED to proceed with installation on the church lamppost being the most suitable location for accessibility.
ACTION: Clerk to seek Funding opportunities are available.
- 9.4 Maintenance of tree on the village green** – work is complete
- 9.5 Village greening and Jubilee Oak** – The wooden structure around the Jubilee Oak requires attention.
ACTION: Cllr Green to investigate and address maintenance.
It was noted that no commemorative plaque was installed at the time of planting.
ACTION: Cllr Hanson to explore commemorative plaque options

10. Financial Matters

- 10.1.** Payments made since the last meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green, totalling **£850.90**

Payee	Details	Amount
Lloyds bank	Bank acc charge	4.25
Clerk	Dec salary	224.50
Clerk	Dec expenses	14.70
HMRC	Tax/NI	33.20
Lloyds bank	Bank charge	4.25
Chris Arnold Tree Surgery	Hornbeam 2-3m reduction and maintenance	570.00
Total		850.90

January payments were approved, totalling **£474.69**. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green.

Payee	Details	Amount
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Clerk	Jan salary	224.30
Clerk	Jan expenses	14.70
HMRC	Tax/NI	33.40
Community Heartbeat	Replacement defib pads	77.94
PATA	Payroll	52.35
GVA	Hall Hire 2026 (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov)	72.00
Total		474.69

Receipts totalling **£83.73** were noted.

From	Details	Amount
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (CIL)	4.29
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (B/S)	4.03
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (32 day)	30.52
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (CIL)	5.42
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (B/S)	3.47
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (32 day)	36.00
Total		83.73

Council NOTED:

- Lloyds Bank interest rate will be reducing from 1.95% to 1.85%

10.2. Council APPROVED the bank reconciliation (Appendix A) for the current state of accounts up to the 31st December 2025.

11. To approve the 2026-27 budget

The Council reviewed the budget for 2026–27 and **RESOLVED** to approve it.

12. To agree the 2026-27 Precept

The Council considered the precept requirement for 2026–27 and **RESOLVED** to request a precept of **£13,167**. This represents an increase on the previous year to reflect the Council's agreed budget requirements.

13. To discuss Assertion 10 compliance

Cllr Butcher presented the requirements of Assertion 10 in relation to council email and website provision. It was confirmed that the Parish Council owns its email domain and hosting. The Council **RESOLVED** to retain the existing *.org.uk* domain, which is acceptable under the new standards.

The Council noted that action is required to ensure the website meets WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility standards. It was agreed that this could be achieved by purchasing a compliant website template, rather than appointing a third-party provider, in order to remain compliant while keeping costs proportionate.

ACTION: Clerk to produce an Assertion 10 improvement schedule for compliance to be agreed at next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Butcher to upgrade the hosting for the current parish council website and investigate measures to ensure accessibility compliance.

14. Adoption of Parish Council Documents

The following documents were considered and **RESOLVED** to be adopted:

- 14.1. IT Policy**
- 14.2. General Privacy Notice**
- 14.3. Social Media Policy**

15. To note agenda items for next meeting 18th March

None

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 18th March 2026, commencing at 7.00pm.

APPENDIX A

BANK RECONCILIATION - 31 DEC 2025

Balance per Lloyds TSB C/A statement	31/12/25	1351.09
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A statement	31/12/25	7286.04
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A CIL	31/12/25	11365.75
Balance per Lloyds TSB 32 day notice	31/12/25	20457.31

Balance as at 31 Dec 2025

40460.19

CASH BOOK

Opening balance at 1st April 2025	26993.54
Add receipts in the yr	25717.40
Less payments in the yr	12250.75
Cashbook balance on 31 Dec 2025	40460.19

Total to carry forward

£ 40,460.19