

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 18th March 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, County Cllr Agg, Borough Cllr Mason and Borough Cllr Madel.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Gray.

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

The following matters were raised:

- Interest in establishing a Gretton-based health walks group (similar to Winchcombe initiative). This matter was referred to GVA.
- Importance of maintaining village heritage within the Village Vision.

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 15th January 2026

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 January 2026 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	Comments
26/00170/FUL	2 Close Field Gretton	No concerns were raised. ACTION Cllr Oliver to check with neighbours
26/00176/TCA	2 Close Field Gretton	No objection comment. ACTION Clerk to submit

5.2. Applications submitted by delegated authority for planning responses between meetings

None.

5.3. Planning Decisions Noted

Reference	Location	Comments
25/00978/FUL	Gretton Village Hall Winchcombe Road	Permit

6. Information and Correspondence

- 6.1.** Tewkesbury Borough Council Connecting Communities Workshop – Held on 23 January. Cllrs Hanson and Cllr Oliver attended and reported it to be a positive and productive event. A letter of thanks was received from the Community and Place Development Officer (East Area) (Appendix A).
- 6.2. Village newsletter** – The latest issue was well received. Thanks were given to Cllr Butcher for coordinating. Content for the June edition will be agreed at the next meeting.
- 6.3. GRCC Village of the Year Competition** – The 2026 categories have been released. It was noted that the Gretton Village Association would like to apply with Parish Council support. The benefits of participating were acknowledged. **ACTION** Cllr Hawkins to submit application

7. Highways

7.1. School Parking

Cllrs Hanson and Cllr Oliver attended a meeting with the Headteacher, who expressed concerns regarding parking and supported a joint campaign. It was agreed to hold a campaign week in partnership with the school, likely in the first or second week after Easter, with support from the police through school engagement and communications.

Cllr Hanson confirmed that Gloucestershire County Council Highways will extend the zig-zag markings outside the school to discourage parking. Overhanging hedges were also noted. The school is supportive of these measures.

A suggestion was made to consider temporary school bollards.

ACTION Cllr Oliver to arrange a follow-up meeting.

It was noted that the Council has also written to local school bus companies regarding residents concerns about vehicles waiting in the village.

7.2. Relocation of 30mph near The Croft site

GCC Highways have advised that the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is currently on hold, as priority is being given to identified hotspot areas within the first phase of the 20mph initiative. The potential for an equine awareness campaign in relation to speed was discussed.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to liaise with County Cllr Agg regarding communication with GCC Highways.

7.3. Community 20s and Safer Roads Initiative

County Cllr Agg reported that priority has been given to towns in the first phase. Locally, the B4077 (Black Shed area) and the road towards Prestbury have been identified for consideration.

7.4. Flooding No issues were reported following recent heavy rainfall.

7.5. GCC Grass cutting

GCC has reviewed areas for grass cutting and offered a contribution (based on two cuts at £0.04 per square metre) for the Parish Council to undertake the work. This was considered insufficient to cover costs.

It was agreed to seek quotes for undertaking the work.

The Council discussed promoting community pride through encouraging residents to maintain areas near their properties, potentially via the village newsletter. Liability implications were noted, and it was agreed to seek advice regarding indemnity cover.

Additional matters discussed:

- Visibility issues relating to hedging
- Removal of the ash tree near Myrtle Cottage where footpath is narrow – it was agreed that as tree this appears healthy and does not currently require action

7.6. Village Mapping – A mapping tool was suggested to support council work.

ACTION Cllr Butcher to investigate options.

8. Reports

8.1. County Council

The March report was received. Key points included:

- A planning application for a large compressor at Wormington as part of a two-year emissions reduction project, which may cause traffic disruption
- Concerns regarding future community support under Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Cllr Oliver highlighted concern over potentially losing the valued support provided by Community and Place Development Officer (East Area) and the funding team during the LGR process.

Cllr Madel noted similar concerns and will share relevant contact details for further discussion.

8.2. Borough Council – Cllr Mason reported:

- An upcoming scrutiny session on the LGR process
- The Council is in a strong financial position with an expected surplus
- There is a planning application at Badgeworth involving Green Belt land classified as “grey belt”

It was **AGREED** not to submit a further response to the Government's LGR consultation.

8.3. Clerks report – The report was received and noted.

8.4. Traffic & Road Safety – A Speedwatch session is scheduled for the following week. It was noted that 75 warning letters were issued to speeding motorists in the previous year. Connection with the Police has been established to understand the process to install a community speed camera. The next step is to document the process/actions and identify appropriate potential locations for the camera.

ACTION Cllr Oliver and Cllr Green to propose suitable locations for submission to the police.

8.5. GVA

- Ongoing focus on managing running costs and reducing expenditure.
- Current projects - Solar planning approved; Sports Storage and Activity Space projects progressing, with design work underway ahead of planning and funding applications (including GPC and via S106).
- Warm Space Hubs have been well attended and positively received. Invitation received to meet the Mayor and Tewkesbury Borough Council leadership.
- Funding application submitted to the Parish Council for Summer Hubs (April–November). *Item 10.3*
- Village Welcome Pack in development; GVA hosted a successful community event in January.
- Engagement with local green initiatives continues; a Men's Shed project is being explored to support community wellbeing and reduce isolation.

8.6. Cotswold Wardens – the three-way bridge is scheduled for replacement in the next financial year. Further discussions are ongoing regarding the path over the waterlogged path railway.

8.7. Gretton Primary School – No additional matters raised beyond those covered under school parking.

8.8. The Police – Police attendance at the community hub was noted. Residents are encouraged to report incidents directly or via Crimestoppers. Concerns were raised regarding anti-social behaviour involving electric bikes and potential drug use. Residents are encouraged to report all concerns to assist the police intelligence picture.

ACTION Cllr Oliver to liaise with residents.

9. Parish Council Assets and Village Projects

9.1 War memorial repairs – Quotes have been received. The memorial is Grade II listed, and ownership must be confirmed before progressing. A DOFF cleaning process may be required.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to obtain additional quote

ACTION Cllr Green confirm ownership and and progress pre-application for funding

9.2 Mobile speed camera – covered under item 8.4

9.3 Defibrillator – Options discussed included installation within the churchporch, within an insulated cabinet (no power required), or at the bus shelter (solar-powered option). It was agreed that the church is the preferred location.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to contact the church.

9.4 Village greening A resident has offered to repaint and repair the posts around the green and the bench.

Council **RESOLVED** to contribute up to £200 towards materials.

9.5 Village information board A proposal for an information board, which will include village history, points of interest, and walking routes, was discussed. Potential 50% of funding via the Cotswolds National Landscape was noted.

Estimated costs range from £1,000–£2,500. A Parish Council contribution of £500 was agreed in principle.

The preferred location is the village green, with options including a freestanding structure near the bench or wall mounting (subject to landowner consent).

ACTION Cllr Oliver to arrange a site visit and confirm size and location.

10. Financial Matters

10.1. Payments made since the last meeting were approved, proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green, totalling **£469.23**

To ratify payments made between meetings

Payee	Details	Amount
Clerk	Feb salary	224.50
Clerk	Feb expenses	14.70
HMRC	Tax/NI	33.20
Lloyds bank	Bank charge	4.25
Saxon Print	Q1 newsletter printing	192.58
Total		469.23

March payments were approved, totalling **£328.80**. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green.

To consider invoices for payment

Payee	Details	Amount
Clerk	Mar salary	224.50
Clerk	Mar expenses	14.70
HMRC	Tax/NI	33.20
Lloyds bank	Bank charge	4.25
PATA	Payroll	40.35
GVA	Hall Hire for meeting on 26/02/26	12.00
Total		329.00

Receipts totalling **£78.68** were noted.

To note receipts

From	Details	Amount
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (CIL)	5.79
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (B/S)	3.71
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (32 day)	32.23
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (CIL)	5.14
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (B/S)	2.69
Lloyds bank	Bank Interest (32 day)	29.12
Total		78.68

Council NOTED:

- Claim for refund of VAT has been submitted for £172.77 up until 28th February 2026.
- £1,168.08 repayment for the PWLB loan due in April.

10.2. Council APPROVED the bank reconciliation (Appendix B) for the current state of accounts up to the 28th February 2026.

10.3. Council RESOLVED that the financial update (budget vs expenditure) to 28 February 2026 be noted (Appendix C). No concerns were raised.

10.4. The Council received an update on GVA project funding.

Cllr Oliver, on behalf of Greeton Village Association, provided an update on the proposed Sports Storage and Activity Space projects at the Village Hall and playing field, planned for 2026. Design options are currently being explored with potential suppliers, following which

proposals will be finalised and a planning application submitted.
Council RESOLVED That the update be noted.

10.5. Council RESOLVED to award £300 to Gretton Village Association under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to support the delivery of six community hub sessions over the summer period. The Council considered these events to provide a clear benefit to the community by promoting social inclusion, reducing isolation, and offering access to advice and support services through engagement with external organisations.
Cllr Oliver did not participate in the discussion or vote.

10.6. Council RESOLVED to award £150 to Gretton Tower Trust under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as a contribution towards annual insurance costs. The Council considered this to be of benefit to the community in supporting the upkeep and protection of a valued local heritage asset that contributes to the character and historical interest of the parish.
Cllr Hawkins did not participate in the discussion or vote.

10.7. The Council considered the introduction of a grant application process and scoring matrix for assessing grant funding and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) requests.
Council APPROVED the introduction of a formal application and assessment process.

11. To agree the Date for the Annual Parish Meetings

The Council resolved to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 13 May at 7:00pm.

The Council resolved to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 28 May 2026 at 7:00pm.
Invitees to include the Police, Tower Trust, GVA, School and Ward Councillors.

ACTION Clerk to book the hall.

12. Assertion 10 compliance

The Council considered an initial draft improvement plan in relation to Assertion 10, prepared by the Clerk. Council agreed that the plan be reviewed and finalised for approval at the next meeting.

ACTION Cllrs Hanson and Butcher, together with the Clerk, to review and refine the plan.

13. To note agenda items for next meeting 13th May

None

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2026, commencing at 7.00pm.

APPENDIX A

Dear Gretton Parish Council,

In January I hosted an event as the Community and Place Development Officer for the East Area of Tewkesbury Borough - Connecting Communities.

I would like to formally express my sincere thanks as follows:

- Gretton Parish Council for their support during and post the event
- Gretton Village Association for their contribution in providing a venue to hold the event and support throughout
- The Royal Oak for providing use of their carpark for the duration of the event
- The community for their patience and understanding of increased parked vehicles on the day

The event received positive feedback, bringing together 43 grassroots organisations from the East Area of Tewkesbury Borough across 13 sectors, with an overall attendance of 63 participants - enabling the opportunity to capture the collective voices of community leaders, volunteers, and organisations - sharing their passion, local insight and lived experience. A space to reflect, connect, share and shape ideas.

Your commitment to our communities makes a meaningful and positive impact. Your support has ensured that community voices are not only heard but genuinely shape the future direction of work. I look forward to continuing to build on this framework for the benefit of our communities and future engagement across the borough.

Kind regards,

Community and Place Development Officer (East Area)
Community and Economic Development Team
Tewkesbury Borough Council

APPENDIX B

BANK RECONCILIATION - 28 FEB 2026

Balance per Lloyds TSB C/A statement	28/02/26	2025.50	
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A statement	28/02/26	5292.44	
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A CIL	28/02/26	11376.68	
Balance per Lloyds TSB 32 day notice	28/02/26	20518.66	
			39213.28
Unpresented cheques			
	chq no	0.00	0.00
			0.00
Balance as at 28 Feb 2026			39213.28

CASH BOOK

Opening balance at 1st April 2025		26993.54	
Add	receipts in the yr	25796.08	
Less	payments in the yr	13576.34	
Cashbook balance on 28 Feb 2026		39213.28	
Total to carry forward			39,213.28

APPENDIX C

BUDGET v ACTUAL Year 25/26

2024/25	2025/26 Financial Year			
Actual £	Budget £	Receipts	Spent to date £	Left £
11752	12058	Precept	12058	
378		Bank Interest	456	
0		CIL	11351	
19704		S106	0	
1473		Other funding/grants	1293	
3971		VAT reclaim	638	
37277	£ 12,058	Total income	£25,796	
Payments				
2975	3100.00	Staff Salary	2469	631
96	200.00	HMRC PAYE & NI	291	-91
356	600.00	Admin Expenses	391	209

2336	2336.16	Loan	2336	0
0	250.00	Audit	420	-170
363	450.00	Insurance	363	87
48	100.00	Hall Hire	144	-44
600	650.00	Grass Cutting	669	-19
171	300.00	Village Greening	168	132
426	1000.00	Village Assets - maintenance	482	518
293	150.00	Membership/Subs	0	150
255	300.00	Training	90	210
35	35.00	Data Protection	47	-12
927	1050.00	Village Communications	614	436
77	100.00	Defibrillator	65	35
1570	1800	S137	1302	498
4002	0	VAT paid	781	
19704		CIL/S106/Grant	2945	
		General Reserve	0	
£ 34,234	£ 12,421	Total Expenditure	£13,576	£ 2,571