

Minutes of a Meeting of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Monday 9th June 2025 at 19:30, Belleme Room, Goring Village Hall

All Councillors are summoned to a Meeting of Goring-on-Thames Parish Council.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all council meetings.

(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

Prior to the start of the meeting; Questions and comments from members of the public (limited to 10 minutes in total)

This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the start of the meeting. Members of the public may make only one address to the council of no more than three minutes' duration and only concerning topics on the agenda. No decision can be taken during this session, but the Chairman may decide to refer any matters raised for further consideration.

MoP 1: Raised concerns regarding the new parking in Cleeve Road close to Glebe Ride causing near misses (OCCH issue, recommend to report on fixmystreet) & the litter bin on Gardiner by the nets.

MoP2: representing the tennis club to answer any questions regarding the lease

Members Present:

Chair Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)

Members:

Cllr T Thurston (TT)

Cllr M Stares (MS)

Cllr D Bermingham (DB)

Cllr J Emerson (JE)

Cllr N Mallen (NM)

Cllr B Newman (BN)

Cllr B Urbick (BU)

Officers Present:

Clerk S Edmunds (SE)

Assistant Clerk M Harper (MH)

Public and Press: Three

Meeting started 19:30

AGENDA

25.10.1. To receive apologies for absence. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Apologies received from Cllrs B McKenzie & R Williamson

25.10.2. To Receive any Declarations of Interests for items on this agenda [LA 2011 s31]

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

25.10.2.1. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]

None

25.10.3. To approve the minutes of previous council meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para 41(1)]

25.10.3.1. Meeting held on 12th May 2025

Unanimously approved

25.10.3.2. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

None

25.10.4. To Receive Minutes of Committees

25.10.4.1. Finance Committee

- Meeting Dated 6th May 2025

Appendix A

25.10.4.2. Planning Committee

- Meeting Dated 29th April 2025

Appendix B

25.10.4.3. Travel and Transport Committee

- Meeting Dated 15th April 2025

Appendix C

All the above minutes were unanimously approved/received

25.10.5. To note reports from District and County Councillors

25.10.5.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers

Clr Report

Noted

25.10.6. To approve signing the Tennis Club Lease

Appendix D

This revised version is now approved by both sides' solicitors

Should make sure the invoicing is annualised to ensure it is not missed, tree surgeons' recommendations clarified, confirmed parking was included under nuisance, pickle ball included, VAT not currently applicable but option to include if legislation changes

Unanimously Approved to sign the tennis club lease

25.10.7. Approve changes to committees/working groups or terms of reference **Appendix E**

Updated the 25/26 column to correct omission

25.10.8. To receive reports from each of the Committees, Working Groups or Village Liaisons:

Where possible they should provide a written report and/or action list in advance of the meeting as per standing orders.

25.10.8.1. To receive an update from Traffic & Transport Committee and approve a request for speed survey funding **Appendix F**

OCC here 17 June to discuss Manor Road option. JE suggests the Council should approve any works before going ahead with committing to any spend.

Recorded Vote on speed survey funding: Approved by Majority of 8, JE voted against

To receive a report from the Finance Committee
Looking at alternative software packages

Appendix G

25.10.8.2. To receive a report from the Playgrounds Committee
Work started today, comms have gone out to all residents nearby, announced on FB, GGN published an article, The hedge has been cut back, and the broken fence is being removed. Gardiner- hoping to get some costs /rough estimates to assess funding required. DB found a grant that may qualify – PC will investigate.

Appendix H

25.10.8.3. To receive a report from the Place & Assets WG
Updates on report – date for 19 July to have a clearance sale for OJFS. Extra litter bin collections commenced. Organise managing benches and hedges in the village. Look at a sinking fund for maintaining the benches and attempting to notify any families who donated a bench now in poor condition.

Appendix I

25.10.9. End of Year Finance 2024-2025

The following items have already been considered and approved by the Finance Committee

25.10.9.1. To note the reconciled bank accounts as of 31st March 2025.

Appendix J

Unanimously approved

25.10.9.2. To approve the annual accounts for 2024/2025, including:

Appendix K

- variances report
- reserves balances
- budget variations
- cash and investment reconciliation – Balance Sheet
- ~~adjustments~~
- reconciliation of Box 7 and Box 8

Appendix K should be read in conjunction with the Finance Committee report

Unanimously approved the above

25.10.9.3. To receive the Internal Audit report, consider recommendations & agree actions **Appendix L**
Unanimously Approved to receive the report and agreed the following actions

25.10.9.3.1. Submit explanation of VAT recoverable to external auditor and then ensure correct Balances are carried forward to 2025-6 as recommended by internal auditor

25.10.9.3.2 Develop a rolling IT Strategy as recommended by the internal auditor

25.10.9.3.3 Establish a working group to plan to work towards Cyber Essentials Certification during the 2025-26 financial year as recommended by the internal auditor

25.10.9.3.4 Draft an appropriate suite of GDPR and Data Protection policies for Scrutiny and onward Approval by Council Members as recommended by the internal auditor

25.10.9.3.5 Review and update the existing Document Retention policy as recommended by the internal auditor”

To approve suspending standing order 17E due to timescales requiring submission of completed AGAR by 30th June.

"17.E: A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council" NB the document has been issued to Finance Committee members.

Unanimously approved

- 25.10.9.4. To agree content and approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 1 "Annual Governance Statement" 2024/2025 **Appendix M**

Unanimously approved

- 25.10.9.5. To approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 2 "Accounting Statements" 2024/2025 **Appendix N**

Unanimously Agreed & Approved

- 25.10.9.6. To approve the dates for the public rights of inspection: Monday 23 June - 1 August 2025, being 30 working days including the first 10 working days of July.

Unanimously approved

25.10.10. Weed Control

Appendix O

- 25.10.10.1. To approve a Village Weeding Day, Sunday 29 June based at the Gardiner

Unanimously Approved.

- 25.10.10.2. To approve spraying weeds in the village (budget & options approval under confidential items)

Prefer not to use glyphosate, manual cleaning of gutters is the preferred option. The weeds are breaking up pavements & have roots too deep to easily dig up. OCC gully clean once a year. Consider employing temporary manual labourers to remove the weeds.

Approved by majority to spray selected areas (spot treating) of weeds in the village

25.10.11. To consider/approve a request for funding from the Community First Responder Appendix P

LGA 1972 Section 137(4) gives occasions where the grant can be paid to an individual where that individual is carrying out a service which benefits the local population. e.g. A Community First Responder (a NHS trained volunteer) whose role is to be the first on the scene as the result of an emergency call within a designated area (the Parish) to provide immediate life-saving support and who is required to raise funding to contribute towards the cost of the necessary equipment. It is clear that any grant made by the local Council will directly benefit recipients of the service and it is, therefore, my opinion that the grant can legally be given in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 for Parish Councils in England

Unanimously Approved for JE to liaise and invite a grant application if appropriate. DB to advise on any other grants available.

**25.10.12. To Note 2024-25 Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Annual Report
Noted**

Appendix Q

25.10.13. To approve joining the Rural Services Network (annual membership £52.50)

Membership benefits include: Weekly Rural Bulletin delivered to your inbox setting out key rural news stories; Monthly Funding Digest highlighting potential sources of funding and grants for you and your local organisations; Sharing your news and good practice with the RVSG group and the wider RSN and learning

from others; Dedicated Rural Village Service Group newsletter six times a year; A bespoke annual meeting for Councillors and Clerks of the group to share best practice and contribute to RSN campaigning work.

Unanimously Approved to join

25.10.14. Matters for future discussion.

Orientation plaque

Signage for the Bourdillon and other open spaces- Comms working on wording & to include QR codes for further information

Implications of Martyns Law on usage of our open spaces.

Date for next Annual Meeting of the Parish

Community Centre Hall is available for Council Meetings

25.10.15. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw.

Confidential Papers

25.10.15.1. To approve a budget for weed spraying in the village

Unanimously Approved to delegate to Clerk to work with CWS where /when to selective spray two staggered treatments with a budget of £1190

25.10.16. To note the date and time of the next meeting Monday 14th July at 19:30

NOTE: Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than **4th July**, in accordance with the Standing Orders.