



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 10th October 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.

Recording of Meetings Policy; it is our intention to livestream once an appropriate platform is established, details will follow. Recordings can be viewed at the Council Office by arrangement.

If anyone speaking at the meeting does not wish to be recorded, they should let the Chair of the meeting know.

MoP 1: re Jubilee Garden,

MoP 2: re recording of meetings

Members Present:

Chair

Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)

Members:

Cllr B Urbick (BU)

Cllr D Bermingham (DB)

Cllr N Mallen (NM)

Cllr B Newman (BN)

Cllr J Emerson (JE)

Cllr R Williamson (RW)

Cllr M Stares (MS)

Cllr T Thurston (TT)

Officers Present:

Clerk

S Edmunds (SE)

Assistant Clerk

M Harper (MH)

Public and Press:

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Meeting started 19:30



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AGENDA

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

Apologies received from DB & BM

25.29.2. 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)

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

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

25.29.3.1. Meeting held on 8th September 2025

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

25.29.4. To Receive Minutes of Committees

25.29.4.1. Planning Committee

- Meeting Dated 26th August 2025
- Meeting dated 16th September 2025

Appendix A

Appendix B

Unanimously approved

25.29.4.2. Travel and Transport Committee

- Meeting Dated 15th July 2025

Appendix C

Unanimously approved with from 40 t to 44' lorries

25.29.4.3. Finance Committee

- Meeting Dated 14th August 2025

Appendix D

Unanimously approved with correction to remove "and not" from item 10 "Reviewed and noted that the withdrawal for the playground has come from Unity and not "

25.29.4.4. Staffing Committee

- Meeting Dated 10th June 2025

Appendix E

Unanimously approved



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25.29.5. To note reports from District and County Councillors

25.29.5.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers

Cllr Report

25.29.6. To note the current membership of committees/working groups or terms of reference and approve any updates

Appendix F

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

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

25.29.7.1. To receive an update from Traffic & Transport Committee

Appendix G

25.29.7.2. To receive a report from the Finance Committee

Appendix H

Discussion to introduce a 5 year budget plan

25.29.7.3. To receive a report from the Playgrounds Committee

Appendix i

All tender questions to potential contractors answered for the evaluation, and planning permission has been granted for the playground extension.

25.29.7.4. To receive a report from the Place & Assets WG

Appendix J

The vegetation cleared has made the footpath to Reading Road far safer – Oxfordshire Together need to stand by the commitment to remove the waste generated

Streetlights have nearly completed the upgrade to LED, just waiting for the parts to upgrade the bridge.

Clerk advised a new electricity contract has been signed representing a saving of £900 a month.

25.29.7.5. To receive a report from the Sheepcot Committee

Appendix K

Verbal report that SL is to prepare a scope of works

25.29.8. To delegate to the Planning Committee and Clerk to prepare a specification for an update to the neighbourhood plan to enable sourcing an appropriate consultant. Appendix L

To propose to full council the way forwards with the NP

Appendix L has been circulated and uploaded to website

Unanimously approved to a budget of up to £5k and delegate to the Clerk to prepare a specification for an update to the neighbourhood plan to enable sourcing an appropriate consultant (to define a way forward) and produce the ToR for the consultants.

25.29.9. To approve the following requests from the Traffic & Transport Committee:

25.29.9.1. To approve a budget of £725 for an initial engineer site visit for Pedestrian Safety Projects identified and approved by the Travel and Transport Committee

Appendix M

RW spoke this is just to get the ball rolling on the process with no further commitment without returning to full council.

Unanimously approved a budget of £725 for an initial engineer site visit.



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25.29.9.2. To approve a budget of £400 for Speed watch signs.

Appendix N.1

TT spoke that two sorts of signs are required, one is a portable swing sign (circa £100) to put on the road to warn motorists of the speed check ahead. The other type for mounting on lampposts near the speed check sites as permanent warning signs.

Unanimously approved a budget of £400 for signs.

25.29.9.3. To approve a budget of £20,000 for the surfacing of the right of way along the Ferry Lane Open Space.

Appendix N.2

The existing ROW runs down the side of the space, looking to resurface this route to give more open space and possibility that OCC may adopt the upkeep. There is also work required on the Thames Path which is in poor condition and those works need to be kept separate. Quotations to be reported back to council and BU offered to assist in sourcing grant funding.

Unanimously Approved to set aside a budget of £20k for the surfacing of the right of way along the Ferry Lane and to seek grant funding.

25.29.10. To approve the following requests from the Staffing Committee:

Appendix O

25.29.10.1. To approve a part-time post of Grounds and Facilities Manager (approx. 2.5 days per week)

Unanimously approved to create a part-time post of Grounds and Facilities Manager.

25.29.10.2. To approve the Job Description and Person Specification as presented.

JE proposes re JD1 to insert "Council" between 'appropriate' and 'groups' in "and coordinate with appropriate groups and committees JD 18 delete "and all other relevant bodies" Between 23 & 24 Add to JD: to deal with improperly placed signs (see Posters & Signs Policy).

Unanimously approved the Job Description and Person Specification with the above amendments.

25.29.10.3. To delegate to the Staffing Committee to commence recruitment and manage the appointment process.

Unanimously approved to delegate to the Clerk & Staffing Committee to, commence recruitment and manage the appointment process.



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25.29.11. To approve the following request from the Place & Assets WG: Appendix P

25.29.11.1. To approve that the Council should continue to post printed paper notices of meetings, and (as space permits) other Parish notices such as job vacancies and meeting agendas in at least five official council noticeboards located around the village, in addition to making these notices available on the website.

Clerks note: the arcade/Inspirations noticeboard is the largest and most prominent and has been used as our primary board. The station noticeboard is too small to post multiple agendas and the one at the OJFS has had a notice on it since May saying its use had been discontinued.

Unanimously approved to maintain the arcade board as the official noticeboard and the rest of the boards to continue as council information boards

Action – Clerk to contact PAWG – are they happy with boards, any thoughts how to achieve a bigger one at station

25.29.12. To approve actions for the receipt of the CiL grant Appendix Q

25.29.12.1. Unanimously approved to request the CiL Funding Grant

25.29.12.2. Unanimously agreed to enter into the grant funding agreement

25.29.12.3. Unanimously agreed to authorise SL & MS as the signatories with the Clerk as witness to seal/execute the CiL Funding Grant Agreement: Towards building 2 new playgrounds on existing playground sites – Bourdillon Field and Gardiner Recreation Ground in Goring on Goring-on-Thames Parish Council's behalf.

25.29.12.4. Unanimously Approved sealing the deed confirming that Goring-on-Thames Parish Council holds and uses a common seal. This is in accordance with Section 14(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Goring-on-Thames Parish Council Standing Order 23 (Execution and Sealing of Legal Deeds), the CiL Funding Grant Agreement shall be executed under the Council's common seal, witnessed by the signatures of the two authorised members of the Council and the Proper Officer (the Clerk).



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- 25.29.13. To approve that the council return to the meeting recording policy that was approved in March 2025; that the council rescind the decision made in July 2025; and that the council amend the published policy accordingly. Appendix R**

Clerks note: we are still experiencing issues with the technology and are currently restarting from scratch with setting up new storage/publishing mediums to address this

Clerk advised the council there had been technical issues, many Cllrs had opinions about how to address them. The meeting was suspended for people to gather their thoughts (after it took 8 minutes to turn off the recording device) MoP said she is confused by the debate, is the recording there? MS put forwards the following resolution which was

Unanimously Approved the Council agrees to delegate to the Clerk to expediate the livestreaming, recording & access to recordings and report back to the Council.

- 25.29.14. To note the external auditors report has been received and published on noticeboards and the website. Appendix S**

Noted and any actions required will be brought to a future meeting.

- 25.29.15. To note that Virgin Media will be carrying out remedial works for all affected roads in Goring between 27 and 31 October 2025.**

History: Virgin Media's contractors installed a new fibre service in trenches in the pavements of some roads in Goring in October 2024. Many of these pavements had been completely resurfaced by Oxfordshire County Council Highways in August 2024 and the new work damaged the recently laid surfaces. Where work is undertaken causing damage to a recently laid pavement or road surface, there is a legal obligation to return the road or pavement surface to its original condition by total reinstatement.

Noted

- 25.29.16. Maintenance of Jubilee Garden, to approve one of two actions, either: Appendix T**

25.29.16.1. To approve a new contractor should be instructed to take on the maintenance of the Jubilee Garden

OR

25.29.16.2. To approve that the Garden be restored to a grass strip, with an avenue of trees in lieu of shrubs/flowers.

Debate for and against the garden and after the discussion which included sourcing a new contractor for 2026 to work in conjunction with the new role of Facilities.

Unanimously approved 16.1 so motion 16.2 was discarded.



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25.29.17. Clerks Report & Updates

Appendix U

25.29.17.1. To note the NALC/ Local Government Service Pay Agreement from 1st April 2025-31st March 2026 has been approved nationally.

The value of the scale point has increased. The Council operates an NJC contract, and this is a contractual obligation. Backpay to 1st April 2025 will be applied to all employed during the applicable period.

Noted

25.29.17.2. To note the water supply has been restored to the Gardiner but the equipment is failing and needs urgent replacement, and I request that the Council approve budget for immediate works to maintain supply.

I am seeking quotes to endeavour to have a sum for approval at the meeting. Further quotes currently being sought as well as a review of the existing.

Noted

25.29.17.3. To note the Autumn Village Clean up day is 8th November and approve a budget of £300 for advertising, purchase of brooms & leaf collectors.

Unanimously approved a budget of £300 for the clean up day.

25.29.17.4. To approve actions to address an increase in dog mess on the recreation areas.

Unanimously approved to purchase dog bag dispensers x 3 and increase awareness on social media.

25.29.18. Matters for future discussion.

- Signage for the Bourdillon and other open spaces- include QR codes for further information (BN & MS)
- Implications of Martyns Law on usage of our open spaces
- Biodiversity Policy (SL & Clerk)
- External Auditor recommendations (JE & Clerk)

Update on Internal auditor recommended actions (it is anticipated that this will be in the November meeting)

- Develop a rolling IT Strategy and Policy (TT & Clerk)
- Establish a working group to plan to work towards Cyber Essentials Certification during the 2025-26 financial year (TT & Clerk)
- Draft an appropriate suite of GDPR and Data Protection policies for Scrutiny and onward Approval by Council Members (JE & Clerk)
- Review and update the existing Document Retention policy. (JE & Clerk)
- NM congratulated Goring in Bloom's success on behalf of the Council, winning its 10th consecutive Gold Award in the Thames & Chilterns region of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Britain in Bloom competition for 2025., Goring also received the "Best in Category" trophy

25.29.19. To note the date and time of the next meeting Monday 10th November at 19:30

NOTE: Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than **31st October** please

Meeting closed 21:15