



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 9th February 2026 at 18:30, The Old School, Station Road, Goring RG8 9HB

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)

At 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; this meeting will be livestreamed commencing after the public forum; a link will be published on our website. Recordings of the meeting 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.**

Members Present:

Chair Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)

Members:

Cllr B Newman (BN)

Cllr R Williamson (RW)

Cllr J Emerson (JE)

Cllr B McKenzie (BM)

Cllr T Thurston (TT)

Cllr B Urbick (BU)

Officers Present:

Clerk S Edmunds (SE)

Assistant Clerk M Harper (MH)

Voluntary Deputy Clerk N Mallen (NM)

Public and Press: 4

Meeting started 18.30

Member Of Public (MOP) 1: re grant application on the agenda

MOP2: re weeding in the village , concerned our efforts underestimate the problem.

MOP3: re weeding in the village, concerned re glyphosate.



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AGENDA

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

Apologies received from Cllrs M Stares & D Bermingham

25.49.2. 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)

None

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

None

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

25.49.3.1. Meeting held on 18th December 2025

Approved by majority (those not there abstained)

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

None

25.49.4. Councillor vacancy

25.49.4.1. To note the resignation of Councillor N Mallen,

the vacancy has been advertised & if no election is called, the post will be available for co-option from the March meeting

Noted, co-option policies on the website

25.49.5. To note that Mike Harper has resigned as Assistant Clerk as from last day of Feb

Nick Mallen has taken on the role as Volunteer Deputy Clerk. The staffing committee will meet and recommend the next course of action. We continue to invite other applications for voluntary admin support.

Noted, MH has offered to continue to support the council on a voluntary basis

25.49.6. To note reports from District and County Councillors

25.49.6.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers

Cllr Report

25.49.7. To Receive Minutes of Committees

25.49.7.1. Travel and Transport Committee

- Meeting Dated 18th November 2025

Appendix A

Unanimously Received

25.49.7.2. Finance Committee

- Meeting Dated 2nd December 2025

Appendix B

Unanimously Received



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25.49.7.3. Playgrounds Committee

- Meeting Dated 7th November 2025

Appendix C

Unanimously Received

25.49.7.4. Planning Committee

- Meeting dated 28th October
- Meeting dated 9th December
- Meeting dated 6th January

Appendix D

Appendix E

Appendix F

Unanimously Received all planning minutes

25.49.8. To consider and if thought fit to approve a grant request from Goring Community Centre to upgrade the lavatories

Appendix G

JE cost code 4090 under GPC allow us to move budget across from underspend in staff code. TT asked JB to expand his priority list to be tackled as the money becomes available, JB said donations to date £14k, first is to refurbish toilets, secondly redecorate Reiss Room, thirdly update the Reiss Room chairs, fourthly improve the front porch, fifth to install a projector & screen in Reiss Room. BU suggested grant application of £5k and a loan for the balance.

Unanimously Approved the grant request for £7500 ringfenced for the lavatory upgrade only

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

Appendix H

25.49.9.1. To approve appointing Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Manager to the role of VH Liaison

Unanimously approved

25.49.9.2. To approve filling any vacancies created by resignation of Cllr N Mallen

Updated in the meeting

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

25.49.10.1. To receive an update from Traffic & Transport Committee

Appendix I

Unanimously received

25.49.10.2. To receive a report from the Finance Committee

Appendix J

25.49.10.2.1 To treat any £85,000 limit in the Investment Strategy as a £120,000 limit and to authorise Finance Committee to redistribute existing investments to keep each within the new £120,000 FSCS protection limit.

Unanimously Approved



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25.49.10.2.2 To open an Easy Access SME saver with Hampshire Trust Bank (interest rate 3.81%) and deposit up to £120,000.

25.49.10.2.3. To open a 180-day notice account with Mansfield Building Society (interest rate 4%) and deposit up to £120,000.

Unanimously Approved to open the above accounts with Hampshire Trust Bank and Mansfield Building Society, authorise the Clerk, and Cllrs J.Emerson, B.McKenzie and T.Thurston to operate them and for correspondence to be directed to The Old School, Station Road, Goring RG8 9HB, and to deposit up to £120,000 in each account.

25.49.10.2.4. To transfer £1,106.68 from General Funds into EMR 355 Street Light Replacement.

Unanimously Approved to delegate to FC to make appropriate transfer.

25.49.10.3. To receive a report from the Playgrounds Committee(verbal) **Appendix K**
BN said the Proludic site meeting has given us a 9th March start date, including remedial surface work at Bourdillon. The play equipment is to be delivered 23 March. Surfacing 30th March. If all goes to plan, it should be open towards end of Easter holidays. They flagged the size of the extension & picnic benches, must ensure there is still enough space for emergency access. They are looking at the option of using the Proludic voucher for an older childrens' climbing frame on the other side of the pavilion. The finalised proposal will come to full council.

25.49.10.4. To receive a report from the Place & Assets WG **Appendix L**
The three new perch benches have been installed around the village. Grounds & Facilities Manager KS will pick up repairing the other village benches or replacing as required.

25.49.10.4.1 To note the next footpath clearing Volunteer Day is 25th February
Noted

25.49.10.4.2 To approve a budget of £100 for the litter picking day on 21st March, the Reiss Room has been booked

Unanimously Approved the budget of 6240 waste & litter. KS to lead with RW

25.49.10.5. To receive a report from the Sheepcot Committee **Appendix M**
SL gave a verbal report: The Planning Application is in, the clubs who use the Sheepcot recreation ground have been asked to fundraise and also send out requests to the village for donations.

25.49.10.6. To receive a verbal report from the OJFS Sale WG
SL gave a verbal report: it is noted that B Powell has taken over from Jemima at Prettys Solicitors, the Drs have been chased, they have said they have only a couple of details left to sort out



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25.49.11. To note the IT Policy Draft is under discussion and is due to be brought to the March meeting for approval

Noted, an informal meeting will be held for Cllrs to discuss using personal equipment for council business, thanks were given to BU for linking with other policies

25.49.12. To note the publication of the Goring-on-Thames Conservation Area Appraisal and the obligations in its Management plan **Appendix N**

Noted and all Cllrs are encouraged to read it. Link is on the website

25.49.13. To approve continuing to support Readibus to the end of the financial year (31 March 2026) with paying £350 towards the running costs **Appendix O**

Unanimously Approved £350 from 4070 transport code

25.49.14. To approve the Statement of Work for a consultant to take forward an update of the Neighbourhood Plan, and to approve seeking quotes from potential consultants. **Appendix P**

Unanimously Approved the Statement of Work

Unanimously approved seeking quotes for potential consultants

25.49.15. To note the Annual meeting of the Parish is booked for 6pm on Friday 29 May

Noted, the village hall has been booked

25.49.15.1. To discuss and if thought appropriate approve the format and date of the village gathering, Saturday 4th of July has been provisionally booked.

BN said part of Gap festival is community showcase, they like the idea of collaboration, further discussion will continue

25.49.16. Clerks Report

25.49.16.1. To approve permission for the GG Croquet & Bowls Club to fit out the changing room at the Gardiner

Keys to any locked storage are to be left with the Clerk

Unanimously Approved permission to fit out subject to keys being shared.

25.49.16.2. To approve permission for Goring in Bloom to use the Rectory Garden for their annual plant sale, on Saturday, 2 May 2026.

Unanimously approved



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25.49.16.3. To approve permission for Goring in Bloom to plant an Elm at the top of the Sheepcot Field.

Their volunteers have offered to plant the tree at a spot agreed by the Council, and to ensure it is watered during its first year in the ground.

Unanimously approved

25.49.16.4. To approve the annual King's Club 28th July to 1st August using the Rectory Gardens & Gardiner Recreation Ground for children of the village.

A "Bouncy Castle" would also be erected as in previous years. The supplier of the "Bouncy Castle" has the appropriate insurance to cover public liability.

Unanimously Approved

25.49.16.5. To approve the football presentation day at Sheepcot on Saturday 6th June 2026.

The usual scaffolding presentation stage to be erected for the weekend, along with inflatables and BBQ on the day.

Unanimously Approved

25.49.16.6. To approve the purchase of 50 hi viz vests with council logo and VOLUNTEER printed, budget of £375

Unanimously approved to purchase the vests using the code 6240 waste

25.49.17. To approve the PAWG recommended strategy for weed control in the village. Appendix Q

BU suggested a weeding machine and will showcase the equipment at Harwell that cost £5500 and has performed well.

Unanimously Approved option B, publicise the weeding event and comms to let residents to know no glyphosate will be sprayed this year

25.49.18. Matters for future discussion.

Comms re weeding

Fundraising – need to know processes

25.49.19. To note the date and time of the next meeting 18:30 on Monday 09 March 2026

NOTE: Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than Monday 2nd March please

Noted



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25.49.20. Confidential 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

25.49.20.1. To approve the business case ref staffing

Unanimously approved the business case to restructure the role of litter picker into a Grounds & Facilities Assistant role with a costed proposal to be brought back to a future meeting.

25.49.20.2. To approve a request for short term hire of WHBG grounds

Unanimously Approved to permit the request to hire the WHBG between 2-5 March

Meeting closed 20.11