



To Members of the Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a Town Council Meeting to be held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall, 1 Queens Road, Stonehouse

Council Members:

Councillors: John Callinan, Keren Capeling (Vice Chair), Keith Creighton, Debbie Curtis, Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Stephen Hunter, Carol Kambites, Simon MacGregor, John Parker (Chair), Val Randell, Keith Terry, Carol Trim and Theresa Watt

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend the meeting. Up to 15 minutes will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to raise questions.

Carlos Novoth
Town Clerk
14th April 2026

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.

A G E N D A

- TC3584 To receive apologies
- TC3585 To receive declarations of interest
- TC3586 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16th March '26
- TC3587 To note Matters Arising
- TC3588 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors
- TC3589 To receive reports from County and District Councillors
- TC3590 To receive RFO's budget report and bank reconciliations for March '26
- TC3591 To :
- approve the latest BACS payment list and
 - retrospectively approve Debit Card payments and
 - to note Standing order and Direct Debit payments
- TC3592 To approve annual insurance cover for the council's van

- TC3593** To approve changes to and resolve to sign the revised Stagholt playing field covenant
- TC3594** To receive draft minutes of Business Committee meeting of 7th April '26 and approve the following recommendation:
- Council approve Standing Order and Direct Debit payment arrangements for the 2026/27 financial year
- TC3595** To receive draft minutes of Environment Committee meeting of 13th April '26
- TC3596** To note the date of the next town council meeting Monday 18th May '26

Notes on Agenda items, Full Town Council Monday 20th Apr '26

TC3586 - Minutes	See attached draft minutes																				
TC3587 – Matters arising	<p>Officers have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing works with Aubergine to prepare for the council's new website Signed up to the new three year gas supply contract Updated the website with the recently revised policies Removed the Kingfisher to the workshop for much needed works Provided feedback to SDC planners on the planning application for the community centre 'In Post Lockers' Has set up the admin arrangements for the new working group considering the town's signage 																				
TC3589 – District/County reports	Awaiting reports																				
TC3590 – Budget & Reconciliation	See attached budget to date and Bank Reconciliations for March '26																				
TC3591 – Payment list	See attached payment lists for BACS payments and Debit Card payments for approval. Please also see attached report for Direct Debit and Standing Order payments to note																				
TC3592 – Van Insurance	<p>The council's van insurance is due for renewal over the next few days. Officers have secured quotes on a like for like basis, one of which is based on a lower cost than the council is paying at the current time – see below for details</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Pukka</th> <th>Highway</th> <th>Sabre</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Annual Cost</td> <td>£731.98</td> <td>£995.72</td> <td>£1333.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Windscreen Cover</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No Claims Bonus Protection</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Excess</td> <td>£250</td> <td>£250</td> <td>£250</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Recommendation: To secure insurance for the council's van with Pukka insurance</p>		Pukka	Highway	Sabre	Annual Cost	£731.98	£995.72	£1333.44	Windscreen Cover	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Claims Bonus Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Excess	£250	£250	£250
	Pukka	Highway	Sabre																		
Annual Cost	£731.98	£995.72	£1333.44																		
Windscreen Cover	Yes	Yes	Yes																		
No Claims Bonus Protection	Yes	Yes	Yes																		
Excess	£250	£250	£250																		
TC3593 – Stagholt	See attached the revised covenant for Stagholt allowing the town council to expand the allotment ground and undertake improvements to Stagholt Field – the covenant will need signing and Sealing.																				
TC3594 – Business Committee	<p>See attached draft minutes including a Link the committee's support papers showing the following documents</p> <p>Please note that if this link does not work, please go to the council's website and go to the following: 'Meetings and Agendas' and click on 'Supporting papers' alongside April's Environment Committee meeting</p> <p>Minutes to be supplied later this week.</p>																				
TC3594 contiued – S/O and DD payments	<p>Annual Review of Approved Annualised, Direct Debit, Standing Order payments for the 2026/27 financial year – April 2026</p> <p>Payments for Business rates to be made in full at the commencement of financial year 2026/27.</p> <p>Council currently pays the following by Variable Direct Debit to the council's current ongoing suppliers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> YU Energy – (Supplies for 4 Electricity Meters and 1 Gas Meter) Waterplus – (Three water meters) Lloyds Bank – (Bank charge) BT – (Pod internet) John Stayte Services - (Vehicle Fuel) NEST pension – (Staff Pension) 																				

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Licensing • Sky Mobile – (Ship Inn site) • Peninsula • Information Commissioners Office (ICO) <p>Officers recommendations for the 2026/27 Financial Year are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuing with Standing Order arrangements for the following payments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Salaries (Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Business Support Officers, Project Officer, Senior Town Maintenance Officer and Town Maintenance Officer b. PATA payroll & pension admin services 2. Continuing with the Variable Direct Debit arrangements for payments, as detailed above. <p>* All other payments are made using bank transfers (BACS) or the council’s Debit card.</p>
<p>TC3595 – Environment Committee</p>	<p>See attached draft minutes including a Link to the committee’s support papers showing the following documents</p> <p>Please note that if this link does not work, please go to the council’s website and go to the following: ‘Meetings and Agendas’ and click on ‘Supporting papers’ alongside April’s Business Committee meeting</p>



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council
held Monday 16th March 2026 at the Town Hall**

Present:

Councillors: John Callinan, Debbie Curtis, Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Simon MacGregor, John Parker (Chair of Council), Val Randell, Keith Terry, Carol Trim and Theresa Watt

In Attendance: Carlos Novoth - Town Clerk, two members of the public and County Councillor Dean Botterill.

Attendees were reminded that the Proceedings of the meeting could be filmed photographed or recorded.

Public Questions

County Cllr Dean Botterill suggested, that in light of the recent incident outside the Shrubberies school, it would be helpful for the town council to make representation to Glos County Council for a 20mph speed limit to be implemented outside schools and if this required a Road Traffic Order, then it would be helpful to apply for double yellow lines to be installed. Asked about whether this should also include Wycliffe college, Cllr Botterill suggested not, as the school was fenced off.

The town council confirmed that the matter was not on the agenda so no immediate commitment was possible at the meeting, but that the town council of course supported the principle of road safety around schools. Councillor Simon MacGreogr stated that in light of the condensed nature of the town, the Town Council had already put forward a request to Glos County Council to be included in the County Council's drive to further implement 20mph zones around Gloucestershire and as such requested an extension of the speed restriction within Stonehouse to cover remaining parts of the town; this was thought to be a more helpful move to reduce the risk of accidents to children and other vulnerable people more generally throughout the town and not just in isolated areas. Cllr Botterill rejected this option on the basis that drivers could get frustrated when having to drive more slowly. A member of the public stated that the priority should be to protect children in this particular case.

Another member of the public raised the issue of dogs currently being allowed to run freely without leads on Laburnum playing field. She claimed there had been a 'Dogs on Lead' sign at the entrance to the playing field when she made a past complaint to the council but officers found no evidence of a sign; she was concerned that dogs

were on occasions entering the children's play area. The issue was supported by Cllr John Callinan who also remembered the presence of a similar sign several years ago. He stated that he knew of numerous residents who were nervous and uncomfortable around dogs, especially dogs that are allowed to run freely and agrees that they should be kept on leads. The member of the public stated that she wish to repair the relationship with the town council following recent events.

The County Councillor also raised concern about the council's wish to purchase a Thermal Imaging Device to help residents, amongst other groups, to get a better understanding of heat loss within their property stating that it was an ill-conceived idea, not properly thought out and necessitated a waste of money to be trained to use the device. The Chair thanked him for his thoughts and stated that the council considered the thermal imaging device to be a useful tool that would prove to be good value for money and will raise people's awareness of the value of insulating their homes.

TC3572 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Carol Kambites

TC3573 To receive declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were raised by both Cllrs Keith Terry and Keren Capeling in relation to Agenda Item TC3582 (E/1032)

TC3574 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16th February '26

Cllr John Callinan asked whether the two issues (Lime trees and dog waste) raised by a member of the public at the previous meeting were going to be pursued in future meetings. The Clerk stated that they would.

Council **APPROVED** the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Following a request by County Councillor Dean Botterill, the Chair, with agreement, brought forward agenda item TC3577

TC3577 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Dean Botterill highlighted his written report to the town council and had assumed it had been presented in time to have been included in supporting papers. There was some confusion with the Clerk stating that he believed that he had not received the report; having looked through his files, it appeared that he had received them but mistakenly omitted to include them - he apologised to the county councillor. Cllr John Callinan raised a question in relation to the issue of youth provision within Stonehouse (citing the way that the 'Door's' work was currently being funded by the town council) and mentioned the county councillor's previous statement which identified that there was cross party support from his administration to support youth provision locally. Councillor Botterill stated that he was in favour of supporting youth provision and as a result had already allocated £1,000 from his grass roots fund. Cllr Callinan thanked him for that.

Cllr John Callinan spoke on the issue of Gov funding to Stroud District Council to raise the EPC of council buildings and in the case of the properties along Midland road, the prevention of damp issues - he stated that works were about to start on 8 properties in Midland road.

Cllr Carol Kambites had submitted a written report

David Drew raised the issue of the Stratford Park Lido and why it was to cost so much (£5M) to reinstate the pool. Councillor Callinan stated that the district council were meeting to discuss the Lido and that council could submit questions and/or comments. It was suggested that if there was a strength of feeling amongst councillors to try and retain the use of the Lido for the future, council may wish to write a letter of support.

Councillor Dean Botterill left the meeting along with 2 members of the public 7.25pm

TC3575 To note Matters Arising

The Clerk detailed the following key actions since last the previous town council meeting:

1. Processed approved payments
2. Notified 'Edge It Systems' of authorisation to enter new three year financial software contract
3. New Sickness Absence Policy updated to website
4. Notified 'Aubergine' of authorisation to enter into new contract to design and host the council's new website
5. Completed a number of changes to earmarked reserves - some will need to be undertaken into the new financial year
6. Set aside the agreed three year earmarked reserves for the Ship Inn site
7. Made enquiries for the application of the Certificate of Lawfulness for the short term development of the Ship Inn site

TC3576 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors

The Chair was recently in Mumbai, India, with work, and met the Mayor of Mumbai. She was very interested in the Stonehouse Community Arboretum project and the work being done in Stonehouse. Cllr Debbie Curtis mentioned the forthcoming meeting with representatives of the Heritage Lottery funders at the Ship Inn Community Space - the funders will be visiting other sites along the canal corridor - town councillors were invited to attend

Councillor Drew raised concern of specific parking issues at Gloucester road citing a need for a wide scale review of parking more generally in light of growing concerns around the town and neighbouring estates; he asked if the matter could be added to the next Business Committee Agenda. The Clerk highlighted the ongoing parking issues with High street businesses. A question was raised in relation to whether taxpayers money should be used to accommodate businesses, whose owners do not live in Stonehouse

TC3577 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

Agenda item brought forward. See above for details

TC3578 To receive RFO's budget report and bank reconciliations for Feb '26
Council NOTED the bank reconciliation for the council's operating account for Feb '26 - the closing balance totalling £29,247.83. A question was raised in relation to one of the redactions re a payment for £580. It was stated that this was due to GDPR requirements

Council NOTED the total 'Actual Net' Income of £451,846.61; total 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £464,623.69 and Reserve Movements totalling £53,065.86

TC3579 To :

- **approve the latest BACS payment list and**
Council APPROVED BACS payments totalling £7,569.03 and £6,438.00
- **retrospectively approve Debit Card payments and**
Council RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVED Debit Card payments totalling £284.79
- **to note Standing order and Direct Debit payments**
Council NOTED Standing Order and Direct Debit payments totalling £10,990.94 and £4,525.00 retrospectively

TC3580 To receive the latest position on changes to the Stagholt playing field covenant
Supporting papers show the revised covenant agreed with Glos County Council. Town Council agreed to pay GCC's legal fees of £500; this payment has now been made.
The revised covenant is ready to be signed in line with clause 23 of the council's Standing Orders
Council received the revised Covenant.

TC3581 To receive draft minutes of Business Committee meeting of 2nd March '26 and approve the following recommendations:

- **B/982 To approve Business Committee's recommendation to enter into a new three year agreement from 3rd December 2026 for the supply of gas to the town hall at the following costs: Unit rate of £0.655 per kWh and a standing daily charge of £0.3694.**
The town council currently has its gas and electricity supplied by 'Yu Energy'. The gas supply contract runs until December 2026. Two utility brokers have provided the council with a number of options culminating in a recommendation to extend the gas contract with Yu Energy for either two or three years. Supporting papers include recommendations from two brokers; an update provided today Monday 16th March provides a marginally improved offer. Quotations offered within supporting papers included the council making an annual saving from 2027 of approx. £307.21 over two years or £339 over three years.

Councillor John Callinan suggested that it would be prudent to commit the council to a renewed contract at this stage in light of rising energy prices. It was suggested that the markets remained quite volatile.

Council **APPROVED** a new gas supply contract with YU Energy through Brokers TUS for a period of three years from 3rd December 2026 at costs of 36.88 pence per day Standing Charge and 6.1370 pence per kWh as per the last minute offer submitted by the broker on 16th March '26

- **B/983 To approve Business Committee's recommendations to adopt the following the reviewed council key documents and policies**
 - **Transparency Code Information**
Council **APPROVED** the updated Transparency Code Information
 - **Freedom of Information Publication Scheme**
Council **APPROVED** the updated Freedom of Information Publication Scheme
 - **Data Protection Policy**
Council **APPROVED** the updated Data Protection Policy
 - **Communications and Engagement Policy - subject to the following changes:**
To make the following changes to the wording from the penultimate paragraph of Appendix II - remove the wording 'facilities and communications Coordinator' and change 'Town Clerk and Chair' to 'Town Clerk or Chair'.
A question was raised as to why the latter change was being recommended and it was explained that in the event that the Clerk was unavailable to provide the go head for an urgent communications to be posted on social media, then the option to liaise and agree a post with the Chair of Council would prevent unnecessary delay.
Cllr Simon MacGregor asked whether the deputy clerk and Vice Chair could act in the absence of the Clerk and the Chair and the response was affirmative.
Cllr Debbie proposed the following amendment to the motion - to change the wording to 'Clerk/Deputy Clerk or Chair/Vice Chair'; the amendment was seconded; all voted in favour
Approval of the revised motion was proposed and seconded; all voted in favour
- **IT policy (New Policy)**
The Clerk stated that the incorrect draft policy was inserted in the supporting papers. Therefore he asks that council approve the new policy with the recommended changes:
 1. To remove 'The Introduction' to the policy in page 2
 2. To remove the last paragraph under the heading 'Purpose of the IT Policy' commencing with 'Council will also need to determine and clearly state

3. To add a section headed 'Third Parties' which includes a single paragraph that states
'The council uses third party services, such as Edge Finance, to process and store data on its behalf. The council remains the Data Controller and ensures that these providers meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR. Data sharing agreements or contracts will be maintained, and as such relationships will be reviewed periodically to ensure ongoing compliance and security'

Council understood the need for the revisions to the document and therefore **APPROVED** the amended IT Policy

- **B/984** To approve Business Committee's recommendations in relation to the new leases with Stonehouse Town Football Club and Magpies Social Club:
 - To cease further negotiations with both organisations on the new leases
 - To approve the new leases in their current form

The Clerk highlighted the length of time it had taken to reach the current position in agreeing to the current revised leases - both are very similar in their content.

The Clerk mentioned there were a number of concerns raised by an anonymous complainant in relation to the social club. Recent discussion with the club suggested there were some issues that needed resolving and that they would prioritise them. It was recommended that the lease be signed only if and when issues found to be of concern were appropriately resolved.

Cllr David Drew suggested that whilst the council could have considered incorporating increased lease payments into the lease should a significant increase in income to the organisation be generated, he was aware that the timing for this was too late. Council **APPROVED** the signing of the new 25 year lease with Stonehouse Town Football Club

Council also **APPROVED** the signing of the 10 year lease with Magpies Social Club at the appropriate time

TC3582 To receive draft minutes of Environment Committee meeting of 9th March '26 and approve the following recommendations:

- **E/1029** To recommend to Full Council the redesign and relocation of the Kingfisher to the Ship Inn Community Space, with the work to be undertaken by Stonehouse in Bloom volunteers at a cost of no more than £120.

Council **APPROVED** the redesign and relocation of the Kingfisher sculpture to the Ship Inn Community Space with the work to be undertaken by Stonehouse In Bloom volunteers at a cost of no more than £120

- **E/1030 To recommend to Full Council that a Task and Finish Working Group be set up to identify locations for signage to link the station, canal, Cotswold Way, and the Town Centre, and establish a suitable design and source costings.**
Cllrs felt that a task and finish working group would be an appropriate way to review signage and develop a proposal. Council **APPROVED** the proposed new working group to include Cllrs Theresa Watt, Debbie Curtis, Val Randell and Marcus Dixon
- **E/1032 To comment on Planning Application S.26/0180/FUL Stonehouse Community Centre, Stonehouse S.26/0180/FUL** Click [here](#).

There was wide debate on the issue and Cllrs drew attention to local resident objections which included the proximity to the adjacent properties, the turning area for visiting cars, the potential for car users to be fined for driving through to the rear car park, the impact of deliveries and collections being made throughout a 24 hour period and ingress/egress by car users to and from Regent street. Local residents highlighted alternative locations for the lockers within the community centre site as it was felt that the canopy acted as an amplifier. Highways acknowledged difficulties with the site but have not objected

Questions were raised about the income this facility would generate (approx £1500 per year), whether the facility needed Planning approval (yes it did), would visitors be fined for using the car park (No), were there implications on the council in terms of its position as Landlord.

Council **APPROVED** the following response to the Planning Authority:

‘In considering the planning application, Stonehouse town council understands the need for Stonehouse Community Centre to generate additional income to ensure its long term financial viability but also appreciated the range of local residents’ concerns’

TC3583 To note the date of the next TC meeting Monday 20th April ‘26
Council NOTED the next town council meeting

Pulhams launches electric buses and depot improvements following £8m investment

Pulhams is launching 15 electric buses into service and has unveiled significant improvements to one of its depots thanks to a multi-million investment in clean technology.

The first of the new vehicles and numerous depot upgrades, including 16 electric charging points, were revealed at a celebratory event at the Golden Valley depot in Staverton this week.

Pulhams confirmed the £8.17m investment will save more than 700 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year.

Of the new buses, seven are double-decker Wrightbus Electroliners with 442kWh battery packs. There are also eight single-decker Wrightbus GB Kites, four with 528 kWh battery packs, and four with 442kWh battery packs. All have been developed and built by Wrightbus in its UK-based factory in Ballymena, Northern Ireland.

The project has seen £6.63m spent on the electric buses and £1.54m on charging infrastructure. The investment also resulted in a new bus wash, fuelling system, refurbished offices and driver rest facilities at Pulhams' Cheltenham site.

Go-Ahead Group, the parent company of Pulhams, invested £4.7m, while £3.21m came from the Department for Transport's ZEBRA (Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas) scheme. Gloucestershire County Council contributed £260,000.

Luke Marion, Managing Director of Pulhams, said: "This is a considerable investment in starting our electrification journey at Pulhams, as we continue to innovate and modernise our fleet and infrastructure.

"This will significantly improve air quality in the communities we serve and will further help make bus travel an even better option for travelling.

"The investment in our facilities at our Cheltenham site brings it up to the standard we envisioned after acquiring the site from Swanbrook Transport in November 2024.

"I'm grateful the company has been able to invest heavily into a project of this scale and for the support of key stakeholders who have made this possible. This is a great example of healthy partnerships working together to create better outcomes for all."

The new buses and improved depot facilities were unveiled at a special launch event held on Friday 6 March, with various dignitaries attending, including local councillors, council officers and NHS staff.

Cllr Roger Whyborn, cabinet member for sustainable transport at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “This is a really important step forward in modernising bus services in Gloucestershire.

“By supporting this investment, we’re helping to make bus travel a more attractive option for local people, improve air quality and cut carbon emissions.

“It’s also a strong example of what can be achieved when councils, operators and government work together, combining local investment with national funding.

“These new electric buses and upgraded depot facilities will deliver long-term benefits for passengers, communities and the environment.”

John McLeister, Managing Director for Sales in the UK and Ireland at Wrightbus, said: “It’s been a pleasure for Wrightbus to support Pulhams as it embarks on its electrification journey.

“Wrightbus is proudly marking its 80th anniversary this year and we’re leading the way globally in zero-emission bus technology. These Gen 2 Electroliners are the most efficient battery electric buses we have ever produced, with class-leading range, charging speed and battery life.

“This investment from Pulhams shows the importance of zero-emission transport. And because the buses have been developed and built in our UK factory in Ballymena, this fleet of buses will not only help to improve air quality across Cheltenham, but will also support good green jobs in the wider UK manufacturing sector.”

It is an exciting period of expansion and growth at Pulhams, with the bus and coach operator last year introducing five new executive coaches for use on tours, day trips and private hire following a £1.5m investment.

Since the Go-Ahead Group acquired Pulhams, more than 60 vehicles have been added to the fleet, taking it to more than 150. It has also recruited more than 60 new staff to support network expansion.

Growth Hub network saved after funding approval

Gloucestershire’s network of Growth Hubs will continue to provide free business support in every district after funding was approved to keep the countywide service open.

The Gloucestershire City Region Board has agreed to fund the Growth Hub network for the next two years, following a successful bid to the Board’s Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF). This means the district based Growth Hubs network will remain open and continue supporting local businesses after its existing funding ends in March 2026.

The City Region Board approved £252,000 for the 2026/27 financial year and a further £282,600 for 2027/28, subject to confirmation of national funding. The funding comes from a ring-fenced pot generated through the county’s business rates pool and is designed to support projects that drive economic growth across Gloucestershire.

Growth Hubs provide free, practical support to start-ups, small businesses and growing firms, offering expert advice, training, mentoring and access to workspaces. Since 2014, the Gloucestershire Growth Hub network has supported around 16,000 businesses, welcomed more than 45,000 visitors and delivered over 1,700 training events. Since 2023 alone, the hubs have helped create and safeguard hundreds of jobs and supported new businesses to launch.

The funding bid was submitted by the county council on behalf of the county’s districts and assessed by senior economic growth officers, before being approved by the City Region Board. The Board brings together council leaders and partners to make decisions on strategic investment that supports jobs, businesses and long term growth.

Cllr Julian Tooke, chair of the City Region Board and cabinet member for business, economic development, planning and infrastructure at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “This is very welcome news and a real boost for Gloucestershire’s business community. Our Growth Hubs play a vital role in helping local businesses start up, grow and adapt, and they have a proven track record of creating jobs and supporting innovation.

“Securing this funding means the hubs can stay open in every district, providing trusted, face-to-face support where it is needed most. I’m pleased the City Region Board recognised the value of this work and approved the full funding request.”

Book free activities for children this spring holiday through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme



Book free activities for children this spring holiday through the Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Activity booking for Gloucestershire County Council's spring Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) opens at midday on Monday 16 March.

A wide range of free, fun activities and nutritious food will be on offer for eligible children and young people across the county to keep them happy, healthy and entertained from Saturday 28 March for the spring school holiday.

Children in Reception to Year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals can take part. Gloucestershire County Council is also extending holiday activities to all children in the county through its Holiday Activities Programme (HAP) using grant funding. Both programmes will run during the spring holiday.

Families should visit the new Family Hubs booking system: <https://familyhubs.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>.

To book activities, families must:

- Create an account
- Add a profile for each child taking part in activities
- Include any Special Educational Needs and Disability information for each child taking part
- Make sure emergency contact details are up to date

This spring, there are lots of exciting options to choose, from creative arts to sports, outdoor activities, science workshops, sensory play and inclusive activities for children with additional needs, family days out and special ticketed attractions.

[HAF Community Connectors](#) are available across all districts to help families who may need support with booking or attending sessions. [A specialist SEND \(Special Educational Needs and Disabilities\) Community Connector](#) is also in place to help children and young people with additional needs benefit from the programme.

Cllr Linda Cohen, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "Spring HAF is a fantastic opportunity for children and young people across

Gloucestershire to enjoy healthy food, new experiences and time with friends during the school break. We know how important these programmes are for families, and we're committed to making sure every child who can benefit is able to take part. I encourage families to get ready to book and explore the brilliant range of activities on offer this spring."

Major investment planned to improve bus services across Gloucestershire

Plans to deliver bus service improvements across the county are being outlined in a report to be presented at a meeting of Gloucestershire County Council's cabinet.

The report sets out how the council intends to use £28.4 million of Government funding awarded by the Department for Transport to support bus services and invest in public transport infrastructure between 2026 and 2030. The funding will help maintain the current bus network, improve reliability and accessibility, and support future growth in bus use.

The funding, known as the Local Authority Bus Grant, brings together previous Government bus funding into a single package. It includes both revenue funding to support bus services and capital funding to improve infrastructure such as bus stops, interchanges, passenger information and priority measures to help buses run more quickly and reliably.

Cabinet is being asked to authorise the spending programme and begin reprocurring bus services and home-to-school transport contracts that are due to end between April 2026 and August 2027. This will provide greater certainty for passengers, schools and bus operators, and better value for money.

The proposals build on Gloucestershire's Bus Service Improvement Plan and the partnership work between the council and bus operators. They include continued support for, and strengthening of, key bus routes, further development of The Robin services in rural areas, and investment to improve journey times and passenger experience.

Subject to approval by cabinet at its meeting on Wednesday 18 March, the council will submit its Local Transport Delivery Plan to the Department for Transport, allowing the funding to be released and delivery to begin from April 2026.

Cllr Roger Whyborn, cabinet member for sustainable transport and strategic

highways, said: “This funding gives us the opportunity to provide certainty for passengers and operators while continuing to improve the quality of bus services across Gloucestershire.

“Our focus is on improving reliability and accessibility, and making bus travel a more attractive option for everyday journeys. By working closely with operators and using this funding wisely, we can build a stronger and more sustainable public transport network for the future.”

County Council to support residents with £17.1 million Crisis and Resilience Fund

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Gloucestershire County Council’s Cabinet is set to accept a £17.1 million grant from the Government to support vulnerable residents and strengthen local welfare and resilience services.

The Crisis and Resilience Fund will provide Gloucestershire County Council with £5.7 million each year from 2026 to 2029 and replaces the Household Support Fund, giving the county a multi-year approach to helping people when they need it most.

This funding is essential to maintain and enhance the council’s ability to deliver targeted support, address financial hardship, and build community resilience in line with national priorities. It will allow the council and its partners to respond quickly to residents in crisis, while also investing in support that strengthens communities and helps people get back on their feet.

Gloucestershire County Council’s Cabinet is set to accept the new grant funding at their meeting on Wednesday, 18 March.

The fund will provide practical help with essentials such as food, fuel, housing-related costs and travel. A proportion of the funding will also be used to support local voluntary and community organisations delivering services such as financial advice, social and digital support, and help into work.

Cllr Ben Evans, Cabinet Member for Children’s Safeguarding and Care at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “We know that many people across Gloucestershire are still finding things tough, and this funding will make a real difference to those who are struggling.

“It means we can step in quickly when someone is facing a crisis, but it also gives us the chance to do more than just short-term fixes. By working with trusted local organisations, we can help people build stability and resilience, so they’re better supported in the long run.”

The new fund reflects the council’s wider commitment to reducing inequality and supporting the most vulnerable residents in its communities.

Further information on how residents can access support through the Crisis and Resilience Fund will be shared later this year, ahead of the new arrangements coming into effect.

Cabinet set to approve £3.6 million investment in new Best Start Strategy

?

Gloucestershire County Council’s Cabinet is being asked to approve plans to invest £3.6 million in a countywide programme supporting children aged 0-5 years to have the Best Start in Life in line with the national ‘Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life Strategy’.

At its meeting on 18 March, cabinet will seek approval to accept £3.6 million of Government funding for the national ‘Giving Every Child the Best Start in Life Strategy’.

Gloucestershire will develop and deliver its Best Start Strategy through a countywide network of Best Start Family Hubs. If approved, the first ‘Best Start Family Hub’ will be based at Bartongate Family Hub in Gloucester, with more hubs to follow across the county as part of the three-year national programme.

Family Hubs bring together health, education and family support services under one roof. They offer a ‘one stop shop’ making it easier for families to get the right support, at the right time, near to where they live. The Best Start offer will offer enhanced support for young children from pregnancy through to school age.

The plans aim to give every child the best possible start in life by improving early childhood development and supporting parents and carers. Families will be able to access:

- Friendly, trained staff who can offer clear advice on everything from baby development and emotional wellbeing to childcare and learning at home.

- Evidence-based parenting programmes to help three and four-year-olds get ready for school.
- Support from dedicated SEND practitioners, helping families navigate services quickly and confidently.
- Joined-up help from health, education and community partners, reducing the need to repeat their story to several professionals.

The 'Best Start Family Hub' will be open to all families, with a focus on areas where extra support can make the most difference. It will support Gloucestershire's goal of improving early development outcomes helping more children reach a Good Level of Development by the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

If Cabinet approves the proposals, the council will publish a local plan and begin work to launch Gloucestershire's first 'Best Start Family Hub' in April 2026.

Cllr Linda Cohen, cabinet member for education and skills at Gloucestershire County Council said: "Every child deserves the best start in life, and this investment will help us make that a reality for more families in Gloucestershire. By bringing more services together under one roof, we're making it easier for parents and carers to get the support they need without having to navigate a complicated system.

"The Best Start Family Hub will offer a welcoming space where families can find practical help, expert advice and early support that really makes a difference to a child's development. This is a positive step for our communities, and I'm proud that we're creating a stronger, more joined-up offer for families across the county."

New climate funding launched as county emissions fall



Gloucestershire County Council has published its sixth annual Climate Change Report, setting out progress made and strengthening its long-term commitment to tackling climate change. Its publication is being marked with the launch of the Community Climate Change Fund today, on Friday 13 March.

The report to cabinet on 18 March provides an update on the council's work to reduce carbon emissions across the council's own operations and across the wider county and reports falls in both. It confirms the council's ambition to reach net zero for its own direct emissions by 2030, alongside faster progress in cutting emissions linked to travel and procurement.

During 2024–25, direct council emissions fell by 11 per cent compared with the previous year. Emissions from the council's electricity use remain at zero through the continued purchase of 100 per cent renewable electricity.

Emissions across the whole county fell by just over five per cent.

The report highlights a wide range of positive activity already underway, including investment in renewable energy, more efficient buildings and vehicles, support for active and sustainable travel, and work with local businesses and communities.

Looking ahead, Gloucestershire County Council is working to reduce its wider carbon footprint particularly in procurement. The council will be working with suppliers and contractors to reduce emissions across the supply chain, which makes up 73 per cent of our wider carbon footprint, while offering free support to small and medium-sized businesses via The Growth Hub Net Zero business support programme.

To read the full report, visit [Climate change report 2024-2025 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

To support the action across the county, the council is offering £100,000 in grant funding to communities to help reduce carbon emissions and the impacts of climate change.

This latest round of funding was launched on Friday 13 March, allowing community groups from across the county to apply for between £2,000 and £4,999 for projects that tackle climate change and increase people's awareness and knowledge of the climate emergency.

The Community Climate Change Fund has already granted up to £150,000 since January 2024, supporting 35 projects across the county. The funds allocated so far have been spent in communities to improve local facilities and help tackle the climate crisis. It has helped make buildings warmer and keep costs down for vital community spaces.

Eligible groups don't have to be climate experts to apply. Priority will be given to projects that are able to reduce the most carbon, engage with their communities and provide the best value for money.

For more information on the Community Climate Change Fund and for details on how to apply, visit [The community climate change fund | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Cllr Martin Horwood, cabinet member for nature, climate and waste reduction,

said: “This report shows that while the council has been making real, measurable progress in cutting carbon emissions, we need to go further and faster and our new administration is committed to doing just that. We are investing in renewable energy, more efficient buildings and cleaner travel, while also turning our attention to reducing emissions from all our suppliers and contractors who make up by far the largest part of our overall carbon footprint as a council.

“I’m also pleased to welcome the launch of the Community Climate Change Fund, which puts practical support directly into the hands of local groups. Communities across Gloucestershire have a vital role to play, and this funding will help them take action, reduce emissions and build awareness of the climate emergency.”

New sixth form block takes shape at Henley Bank School



A new £2.6 million sixth form block funded by Gloucestershire County Council is taking shape at Henley Bank School.

The new two-storey teaching block will enhance the school’s existing post 16 facilities and create an additional 150 places for 11 to 16-year-olds.

During a recent visit to the site, councillors and staff spoke about the impact of the new build.

The new sixth form block will include six new classrooms, alongside a dedicated common room and private study areas, designed to give students a calm, disruption-free space to focus on their learning.

The sixth form block is scheduled to open in September 2026, ready to welcome both existing students and a new intake progressing from Year 11 into Year 12.

The build is being led by The Greenshaw Learning Academy Trust.

Cllr Linda Cohen, Cabinet Member for Education at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “This investment in a new sixth form block at Henley Bank School is about making

sure young people have access to high-quality, modern learning environments that support their ambitions.

“The new facilities will give students the space they need to study, collaborate and thrive, while helping the school continue to grow and serve the local community.

“We’re pleased to see this important project taking shape and look forward to welcoming students into the new building in September 2026.”

Faye Bradbury, Head of Henley Bank School, said: “We’re really excited to get the new Sixth Form block as part of Henley Bank High School. It’s going to give us better spaces which are bespoke to our Sixth formers and will provide them, and the rest of the school, lots of fantastic new opportunities to support them in their next steps.”

To find out more, [watch the video from the visit](#).

Music service continues through new community partnerships



A music service previously run by Gloucestershire Libraries will continue thanks to new partnerships with local music organisations.

At the end of last year, Gloucestershire Libraries announced the difficult decision to close their Music Service from January 2026. Since then, they have been working closely with a number of partners who were keen to explore ways to keep the service going.

These discussions have now been successfully concluded.

The Gloucestershire Academy of Music will take on the orchestral music sets, while the Three Choirs Festival will take responsibility for the choral music sets. Both organisations will offer access to the music through a subscription service.

This approach ensures that valuable music resources remain available in the county and continue to support learning, performance and participation in music.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member for libraries at Gloucestershire County

Council, said: “This is a really positive outcome for the future of the music service in Gloucestershire. We know how important these resources are to individuals and groups across the county, and I’m very grateful to the Gloucestershire Academy of Music and the Three Choirs Festival for stepping in and helping to secure their future.

“Moving the service away from libraries was not an easy decision, and we understand the disappointment it caused. I’m pleased that, by working with trusted community partners, we’ve been able to find a way for the service to continue and for this music to remain in active use.”

Richard Ashton-Phillips, Executive Director, Gloucestershire Academy of Music, said: “We are delighted to be becoming custodians of the music collection. Being able to offer a home to the library and keep such a valuable cultural asset in the heart of the city centre is simply wonderful. We look forward to making the collection as accessible as possible to local musicians, ensembles, and orchestras for years to come.

“We are hugely grateful to the council for their support in making this a reality. We are also thrilled to be working in partnership alongside The Three Choirs Festival.”

David Francis, CEO Three Choirs Festival, said: “Three Choirs Festival is delighted to be partnering with Gloucestershire Academy of Music to ensure that sheet- and choral-music resources previously available through Gloucester Library remain in the city and will continue to be accessible for the many performance groups who benefit from this resource. We know from the demands on our existing library that choirs from far and wide seek scores from libraries, not least because it makes performing the music far more accessible and cost effective. We are grateful to Gloucestershire Libraries for making the transfer of the music possible.”

New countywide bus map launched for Gloucestershire

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Gloucestershire County Council has published a new bus map showing all the main bus routes across the county, operated by all the major operators.

It allows residents and visitors to see, at a glance, where the main bus routes go, where rail stations are located, and how services connect — making it easier to plan journeys.

The map is available to download and print in full colour. It also includes a QR code linking to Traveline (other providers are available), where people can check timetables and view live departure information to track their bus.

The map also shows all areas covered by the innovative on-demand transport service the Robin. The Robin connects rural communities with flexible, reliable, and accessible public transport, offering a lifeline to residents with limited access to timetabled public transport. Robin buses are bookable services, costing a standard £3 fare.

To view the new bus map, please see: [County bus network maps | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Cllr Roger Whyborn, cabinet member for sustainable transport and road safety at

Gloucestershire County Council, said: “One of the biggest barriers for people using the bus is simply knowing where services go and how they link together. This new map tackles that head-on by bringing everything into one clear picture for the whole county.

“It’s about giving people confidence to try the bus, whether they’re travelling locally, connecting with rail, or using our Robin services in rural areas. There’s more to come, such as day tickets which allow people to change buses between bus companies’ routes without having to pay again. And we want to improve connections between bus routes, and with rail.

“This map lays the foundations for further planned improvements, including better ticketing and stronger connections between services, as we continue to make public transport a more practical and appealing choice for everyday journeys.”

New fire safety rules to protect residents needing extra support

?

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is getting ready for new national fire safety regulations that come into force on 6 April 2026, designed to improve evacuation arrangements for residents who may need support to leave their building in the event of a fire.

The Fire Safety (Residential Evacuation Plans) (England) Regulations 2025 introduce a new process called Residential Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (RPEEPs). These apply to certain multi-occupied residential buildings and place new legal duties on responsible persons, usually building owners, landlords or managing agents.

Under the regulations, responsible persons must use reasonable endeavours to identify residents who may have difficulty evacuating without assistance because of a physical or cognitive impairment. They must offer a person-centred fire risk assessment and, where the resident wishes, agree an emergency evacuation statement. A building-wide emergency evacuation plan must also be developed and kept under review.

With the resident's consent, a small amount of essential information will be shared with GFRS, including the resident's flat number, floor number and a basic indication of the assistance they may need. No medical or personal information will be shared.

Taking part in the RPEEP process is voluntary, and residents can withdraw consent at any time. The regulations apply to residential buildings in England including those that are 18 metres or seven storeys or higher, or are more than 11 metres in height above ground level that have simultaneous evacuation strategies in place. A simultaneous evacuation strategy applies to certain buildings deemed to be at a higher risk of fire, where all residents should leave the building in the event of a fire, rather than staying put if they do not feel threatened by the fire.

Chief Fire Officer Mark Preece said: "These new regulations are an important step in making sure everyone can feel safe in their own home, particularly those who may need extra help in an emergency. They clearly set out what is expected of building owners and managers. While fire and rescue services are not responsible for carrying out assessments or creating evacuation plans, we are ready to receive any information that is shared and use it to help our crews respond as effectively as possible if a fire does occur."

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, cabinet member for the fire and rescue service at

Gloucestershire County Council, said: "These changes put people and choice at the centre of fire safety. They give residents more confidence that their needs are understood,

while making responsibilities clear for those who manage buildings. Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service is well placed to support the introduction of these regulations and continue its work to keep communities across the county safe.”

For further information, please visit: [Residential PEEPs: Factsheet - GOV.UK](#) and [Business fire safety](#)

New £20m Cheltenham special school given the green light



A new £20 million special school for 200 children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) has been approved by the planning committee.

Gloucestershire County Council’s planning committee approved the plans on 19 March, marking a significant milestone in delivering a new ‘all-through’ school for pupils aged 4–16 with Complex Learning Difficulties (CLD), including autism and associated communication and interaction needs.

The school will be built on land owned by the county council to the west of Alstone Croft, accessed via Arle Road. The site is a former playing field previously used by the now-closed St Benedict’s Catholic School. The new school is expected to open in January 2028.

Demand for special school places continues to rise both locally and nationally, with the highest need focused in the Gloucester and Cheltenham areas. The new Cheltenham school forms part of a wider programme of investment to expand SEND provision across the county.

A £16.5 million 200-place special school is also due to open in Gloucester in January 2027. This follows the opening of Brook Academy, an £9.75 million 80-place secondary special school, and Sladewood Academy, a 60-place primary special school, which opened in 2022 and 2023 respectively.

In addition, over recent years the council has invested £2.7 million to expand existing special schools creating extra places. Despite this significant investment, demand continues to outstrip capacity, meaning some children currently travel out of county or attend independent provision.

Cllr Linda Cohen, Cabinet Member for Education at Gloucestershire County Council, said: “I’m delighted that the planning committee have approved the scheme for a brand-new special school in Cheltenham.

“We want all children and young people to thrive and have access to high-quality, inclusive education close to home. That’s why we’re investing more than £36 million in new special school places where they are needed most and working closely with schools to put children first.”

The council is also investing £2.7 million in SEND services to meet rising demand for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) needs assessments and ensure children receive the right support at the right time.

Most children with SEND, including those with EHCPs, are successfully supported in mainstream schools. The council continues to work with schools to strengthen inclusive practice, expand resource bases and SEN units, and improve access to early help through the graduated pathway. Work is also underway to make the EHCP process more efficient and timelier for families.

The new school will be run by Enable Trust, which has extensive experience supporting children and young people with complex SEND needs in the local area.

Andrew Buckton, CEO of Enable Academy Trust, said:

“We are delighted that the new special school has been formally approved. This decision recognises the importance of augmenting high-quality provision for Gloucestershire children with complex learning difficulties.

We look forward to working closely with the county council, local schools, families, and the community to deliver the very best education for children and young people.”

Gloucestershire councils set sights on future membership of the West of England Combined Authority

Six of Gloucestershire’s seven councils have written jointly to Government, outlining a shared ambition for the county to join the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) as part of its long-term devolution pathway.

In the letter – sent to Ministers Matthew Pennycook MP and Miatta Fahnbulleh MP – leaders set out that the first essential step is the creation of a single countywide Foundation Strategic Authority (FSA) by May 2027.

This would provide Gloucestershire with the strategic capacity, devolved powers and evidence base required to progress towards WECA membership in the years ahead.

The letter is co-signed by the leaders of:

- Gloucestershire County Council
- Gloucester City Council
- Cotswold District Council
- Cheltenham Borough Council
- Stroud District Council
- Forest of Dean District Council

Tewkesbury Borough Council will confirm its position at a Council meeting next month.

Why WECA? A natural economic fit

WECA was set up in 2017 to make decisions and investments that benefit people living and working in the West of England. Its aim is to deliver economic growth for the region and address some of the region's challenges, such as productivity and skills, housing and transport.

Council leaders state that Gloucestershire's economic strengths already align closely with that region, comprising Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

High-growth sectors such as cyber and secure tech, green energy, digital, aerospace, agri-tech and advanced manufacturing show stronger links with WECA than with alternative regional geographies. Labour market flows, commuting patterns and shared infrastructure investments further reinforce this southwest orientation.

Joining WECA would, leaders argue, bring:

- deeper strategic and analytical capacity
- stronger regional collaboration
- more direct access to investment
- a governance model naturally aligned to Gloucestershire's economic identity

Separate from council reorganisation

The proposed devolution pathway runs alongside the ongoing programme to reorganise local government in Gloucestershire. Government is currently considering three proposals for moving from the existing county/district model to one or two unitary councils, with a decision expected this summer.

Leaders are clear that the preference for a single countywide FSA would apply regardless of whether the county ultimately becomes one or two unitary authorities.

Countywide Spatial Development Strategy underway

The councils have also confirmed their commitment to developing a Gloucestershire Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) – a strategic planning framework guiding sustainable growth, infrastructure and land use. Preparatory work has already been coordinated through the Gloucestershire City Region Board, including shared evidence, a Local Growth Plan, the Strategic and Local Plan, and a Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Next steps

Leaders have invited Ministers to early discussions to ensure Gloucestershire can move at pace and secure a devolution arrangement suited to the county's history, economy and ambitions.

Further detail on Gloucestershire's proposed devolution pathway will be submitted in an Expression of Interest to Government later this year.

Cllr Lisa Spivey, Leader of Gloucestershire County Council, speaking on behalf of the six council leaders who signed the letter, said: "Gloucestershire's council leaders agree this is the right way forward for the county. Our economy and our communities already work closely with the West of England, so this approach would see our area join a combined authority that truly reflects who we are and where we most naturally align.

"By setting out our position now, we are aiming to unlock the benefits of devolution sooner, ensuring our residents feel the difference in their day-to-day lives."

Residents invited to help shape the future of Gloucestershire's public paths and countryside access

Gloucestershire County Council is starting work on an important update to its Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) – the long term strategy that guides how the county looks after and improves its network of public footpaths, bridleways, byways and access routes.

Public Rights of Way play a vital role in everyday life across Gloucestershire. They help people travel locally, explore the countryside, stay active, enjoy nature and connect with communities. The council wants to make sure this network continues to meet the needs of residents, visitors and land managers now and into the future.

The current ROWIP was published in 2011 and is now due for review. Since then, a lot has changed – including how people travel, the condition and use of the network, expectations around accessibility, health and wellbeing priorities, and the digital tools people use to plan journeys and explore outdoor spaces.

To help shape a new Rights of Way Improvement Plan for 2027–2037, the council is inviting people from across the county to [share their views and experiences](#).

Whether you regularly walk, cycle or ride, use mobility aids, manage land, live locally, visit occasionally, or simply value access to the countryside – and even if you don't currently use public paths – the council wants to hear from you.

Feedback will help the council understand:

- how well the current network meets the needs of different users
- what barriers people face, such as poor surfaces, missing links, accessibility challenges or unclear signage
- where improvements are most needed
- what would make the network more enjoyable, inclusive, safe and better connected
- how Public Rights of Way can support wider goals, including sustainable travel, community health, climate resilience and countryside enjoyment

The information gathered will play a key role in shaping a practical and ambitious 10-year plan. It will help guide future priorities, decision making and investment, ensuring improvements are focused where they matter most.

This is a chance for residents, communities and countryside users to have a real say in the future of Gloucestershire's access network – helping us to manage our paths and routes to work better for everyone, now and for generations to come.

Cllr Joe Harris, Cabinet Member for Highways at Gloucestershire County Council, said:

“Gloucestershire's public rights of way are a huge asset for our county – supporting everyday journeys, access to the countryside, physical and mental wellbeing, and sustainable travel.

Our current plan is over a decade old, and it's important that the next one reflects how people live, travel and enjoy our county today.

“We want to hear from as many people as possible, including those who don't currently use public paths, so we can understand what's working well, what isn't, and where improvements will make the biggest difference. The feedback we receive will help shape a practical, ambitious plan for the next 10 years and ensure our rights of way network works better for everyone.”

Council's Community Catalysts helping small businesses flourish and changing lives

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Gloucestershire County Council's Community Catalysts programme is helping small businesses flourish and changing lives with personalised care and support.

Delivered in partnership with Community Catalysts, a national social enterprise that creates opportunities for people to thrive, the council has invested £170,000 to help micro-enterprises grow and become sustainable.

Community micro-enterprises are run by individuals or small groups, offering flexible, person-centred “help at home” for older and disabled people. This support can include tasks such as shopping, assistance with attending appointments and social activities, cleaning, practical jobs around the home, and personal care. The Community Catalysts programme helps to fill gaps in local services while supporting the [development of small businesses which help to change lives](#).

Individuals who wish to become self-employed to provide ‘help at home’ receive free one-to-one support from Gloucestershire's Community Catalyst, Heather Vincent. She guides them through the Community Catalyst Development Programme, offering coaching and mentoring, as well as signposting local business support and networking opportunities. This support helps local providers to confidently deliver high-quality, good-value, reliable person-centred services.

The programme, which began in 2024, is now expanding beyond support in people's homes to also include community-based activities and groups. These can include social sessions, cooking, gardening, creative activities, and gentle movement. This wider offer supports wellbeing, reduces isolation and strengthens preventative support by helping delay or reduce the need for more formal care.

Zoe, based in the Forest of Dean, developed her micro-enterprise with one-to-one support from Community Catalysts. After completing the development programme, she launched a service offering personal care and practical support in people's homes. The support offers flexible, relationship-based help that can adapt to what matters most to the person and their day-to-day life.

Cllr Dr Kate Usmar, Cabinet Member for Adults Support and Independence at Gloucestershire County Council, said: "This programme is about recognising the strength and potential within our communities. By supporting local people to turn their skills and passions into sustainable micro-enterprises, we're creating more choice for residents and helping people stay independent, connected and supported in ways that matter to them."

For more information on the Community Catalysts programme, visit www.communitycatalysts.co.uk/our-work/gloucestershire/ or contact Heather Vincent heather.vincent@communitycatalysts.co.uk

55 roads to be resurfaced as part council's 'Fix our Roads' campaign

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55 roads to be resurfaced as part council's 'Fix our Roads' campaign

Fifty-five roads across Gloucestershire will be resurfaced this spring as part of a major programme to improve road quality and deliver longer-lasting repairs.

The schemes, scheduled between April and June, mark the start of this year's resurfacing programme, with more roads set to follow later in the year.

Cllr Joe Harris, Cabinet Member for Highways, said:

“I know many of these roads cannot be fixed soon enough, which is why it’s great to see 55 resurfacing schemes getting underway this spring. We know that many of our roads are in a poor state after a very wet winter and we’re committed to fixing our roads.

“This is about focusing on the work that makes the biggest difference. Resurfacing delivers longer-lasting results, and with an additional £15 million investment in our highways network over the next three years, we can deliver more of these durable improvements right across Gloucestershire.

“This is just the start, and residents will see more roads being improved as the programme continues throughout the year.”

Works will take place either overnight or during the day, sometimes within off-peak hours (typically between 9.30am and 3pm), to help minimise disruption.

As resurfacing is weather-dependent, schedules may change at short notice. Residents are encouraged to check the council’s resurfacing [webpage](#) for updates, look out for local signage, and follow @GlosRoads on social media for the latest information.

SDC Councillor report to Stonehouse Town Council – April 2026

Council meetings - Link to meeting agenda and documents in the committee title.

Development Control Committee - 10th March 2026

- **Bisley with Lypiatt parish** - Former rabbit farm at Stancombe. S.25/1691/FUL - Permitted
Application to erect a replacement building with two live/work units. Conversion of the original building had been approved in 2015, but the original building was partially demolished and then collapsed in a storm. Officers recommended refusal on the grounds that this would be a new building, in the open countryside, rather than conversion of an existing building. The committee agreed to permit.
- **Amberley parish** - Enforcement case - Land adjacent to PROW MMH41 - N23/0377 - Defer
Two yurt structures on this site in the Cotswold Natural Landscape in open countryside, used for a family home. Members considered the expediency of taking action against unauthorised development. It was agreed to defer serving the enforcement notice until the outcome of a planning appeal against a prior application refusal is known.
- **Whitminster parish** - Land off School Lane, S.25/0970/REM - Application withdrawn.

[Video recording](#) (96 views)

Housing Committee - 17th March 2026

- **New Downsizing Policy for council tenants**
A new downsizing incentive scheme will support tenants seeking to downsize from family-sized council homes (2 bedrooms and above) to smaller accommodation that better meet their household's needs. The aim is to make more effective use of council houses to meet the demand on the housing register, reduce long term reliance on temporary accommodation for homeless families. Tenants can apply to move under this initiative and will be entitled to receive a grant of £1,500 to £2,500, depending on how many fewer bedrooms there are in the new property.
- **New Mutual Exchange Policy for council homes**
SDC is keen to promote mutual exchange as a way of encouraging and promoting tenant mobility. This policy provides a framework which enables tenants to move, with the consent of SDC, without going through the standard housing allocation process and to ensure households can move to properties that better meet their needs.
- **Vulnerability and Inclusive Services Policy**
The new policy sets out the steps and measures that SDC will take to identify, support, and protect vulnerable tenants and residents throughout their interactions with SDC as their landlord.

- **Counter Fraud & Enforcement Unit (CFEU) report**

The Council is committed to an effective counter fraud and anti-corruption culture, by promoting high ethical standards and encouraging the prevention and detection of fraudulent activities. Housing and tenancy fraud remains one of the top four areas of fraud and abuse within the public sector. In 2024/25, two properties were recovered, one had been abandoned and one tenant was served with a notice to quit. From April-December 2025, two further properties were recovered, one had been sublet and one was deemed to be ineligible for succession, and the housing application was withdrawn. The total loss avoidance over these periods was £168k.

There will be a review of the [housing waiting list](#), including verification of applications within Emergency Band, Gold Band and Silver Band. There are approximately 16,000 active household applications on the register for Gloucestershire of which 3,080 relate to Stroud district.

- **New Homes & Regeneration Programme**

- Four sites are under construction. In Wotton, Gloucester Street/Bradley Street (8 units) - completion now anticipated in April 2026; Cambridge Avenue, Dursley (13 units), Glebelands, Cam (23 units), Queens Drive, Cashes Green, Stroud (7 units).
- Swedish homes: The Avenue, Stinchcombe (16 units) - planning submission anticipated April 2026, Mount Pleasant, Wotton (8 units) - awaiting planning determination, The Knoll, Uley (18 units) - drainage and highways issues being addressed.
- Section 106 acquisitions - 33 new homes have been approved to buy new homes from developers including 16 in Kingswood and 13 in Dursley.

- **Depooling of rent and service charges**

From April 2025 rent and service charges were separated, which led to an increase in overall service charges. These are eligible for universal credit and housing benefit, so tenants in receipt of those benefits did not experience any personal increase in costs. Arrears have increased but it is difficult to know whether this is due to depooling or the cost of living more generally.

- **Tenant Support Fund**

This is a discretionary £200k fund with £105k awarded in grants from April-December 2025. The fund has been used for different purposes, including to clear debts, to purchase goods and to support training for tenants seeking employment.

- **Independent Living scheme action plan**

Independent Living schemes are a group of unfurnished, self-contained homes specifically designed for older people (55+). The aim is to provide independent, secure accommodation with the optional addition of social facilities and functions. A new action plan supports the Independent Living Strategy and will involve improving recycling areas by adding clear signage.

- **Empty Council Homes**

There are currently 98 empty homes of which 36 are ready to let, the remainder are due to be refurbished.

[Video recording](#) (30 views)

Community Services & Licensing Committee - 19th March 2026

- **Stratford Park Lido** Lots of public interest in this agenda item and the recommendation for SDC to temporarily close the Lido for the 2026 summer season due to the extensive repairs and refurbishment that is needed. It has been estimated that up to £5m is needed to undertake works to the Lido. The committee approved the recommendation and a proposed reallocation of the £900k budget for Lido capital works.

The Council is committed to work collaboratively to enable community-led fundraising to secure the additional funding needed to cover the cost of repairs. People can sign up on the council website to be part of the fundraising campaign [here](#).

These recommendations will next be considered by Strategy & Resources Committee (on 16 April) and Council (on 30 April). Since this first committee meeting, the council is reviewing the evidence about the Lido condition to reconsider the possibility of opening it this year. A new, independent, health and safety assessment will be undertaken, as well as a new full condition survey of the site. A risk assessment has since been shared and an action plan for community engagement will be published.

- **Leisure Capital Investment Options Appraisal**

In addition to the Lido repairs, two other items were considered for Stratford Park leisure. It was agreed to commit £650k to fund gym equipment replacement and refurbishment works at the Active Lifestyles Stroud leisure centre, following community consultation. It was also agreed to continue to maintain Stratford Park within existing budgets.

- **Member / officer reports** were shared on the Museum in the Park, the Police & Crime Panel, Citizens Advice, Health and Wellbeing Champion updates,

[Video recording](#) (605 views)

Audit & Standards Committee - 24th March 2026

- External Audit Plan - Agreed with external auditors Bishop Fleming.
- Treasury Management Activity - Quarter 3 report accepted.
- Strategic Risk Register - members discussed high scoring risks and requested updates for the next meeting.
- Corporate Complaints Performance Data ([link](#)) - Quarter 3 report noted. The complaints volume remains steady across the year. The majority of complaints relate to council

housing.

[Video recording](#) (43 views)

Other news

- **Stratford Park Lido** Statement from Cllr Chloe Turner, Council Leader, following the CS&L Committee meeting (above). <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/statement-from-council-leader-on-stratford-park-lido/>

Since the CS&L meeting of 19th March, more reports have been commissioned. They are:

- I. an independent condition survey report to assess risks to employees and non-employees against current UK legislation, industry guidance and best practice (report anticipated imminently); and,
- II. a structural subterranean survey of the diving board and pool surrounds (report anticipated in May or June 2026)

At time of writing, the matter will be discussed at Finance and Strategy committee on Thursday 16th April and all the paperwork, including a detailed timeline of events, is available [here](#)

- **Canal Project** Water flows into the first section of the canal's missing mile that was filled by the M5 construction in the late 1960s. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/water-flows-in-to-first-section-of-canal-s-missing-mile/>
- **Garden waste service extended** Every household in the Stroud district can now use the council's expanded garden waste collection service including remote and rural areas that were previously unreachable. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/garden-waste-service-expands-to-reach-every-household-in-the-stroud-district/>
- **Prosecution for breach of environmental law** A Stroud-based company has been fined more than £4,000 after admitting to illegally emitting dark smoke from an industrial site in Sharpness. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/stroud-business-fined-for-emitting-illegal-black-smoke/>
- **Scam warning** Residents urged to stay alert after a local person recently lost more than £3,000 in a Direct Debit scam. <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/news/council-urges-residents-to-be-alert-to-direct-debit-refund-scam/>
- **LGR** I attended on online briefing on LGR but have very little new information. A Government decision as to Gloucestershire's unitary structure is expected in the early autumn.

With usual thanks to Councillors Gareth Kitchen and Catherine Braun

Carol Kambites, 15th April 2026

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
INCOME						
Town Business Committee						
100	Precept	£410,143.00	£0.00	£410,133.00	£-10.00	0.00%
105	Newsletter Advertising	£100.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-100.00	-100.00%
120	Feed-in Tariff from Town Hall	£800.00	£0.00	£1,009.02	£209.02	26.13%
125	Stonehouse Town FC lease	£600.00	£0.00	£1,160.00	£560.00	93.33%
126	STFC Water Recharge	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-200.00	-100.00%
127	STFC Electric Recharge	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,540.33	£540.33	27.02%
130	Athletics Field Lease	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
135	Phone Mast on Land	£6,000.00	£0.00	£5,998.12	£-1.88	-0.03%
140	Building Lease at OEL	£637.00	£0.00	£637.00	£0.00	0.00%
145	Magpies Social Club	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,100.00	£100.00	5.00%
150	Community Centre Lease	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	£0.00	0.00%
155	OEL Pitch Hire	£3,000.00	£0.00	£1,815.00	£-1,185.00	-39.50%
160	Misc Income	£500.00	£0.00	£4,779.56	£4,279.56	855.91%
170	Investments Interest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
171	Bank Interest - Lloyds Bank	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
172	Bank Interest - Charity A/C	£2,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-2,000.00	-100.00%
173	Bank Interest - Natwest	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
174	Bank interest - Cambridge BS	£2,000.00	£0.00	£1,886.18	£-113.82	-5.69%
176	Bank Interest - Nationwide	£2,000.00	£0.00	£3,314.19	£1,314.19	65.71%
177	Bank Interest - Melton Building Society	£2,000.00	£0.00	£850.00	£-1,150.00	-57.50%
178	CCLA Interest	£21,000.00	£0.00	£17,688.21	£-3,311.79	-15.77%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
179	Town Hall/Library Recharges	£3,000.00	£0.00	£4,712.01	£1,712.01	57.07%
Total Town Business Committee		£458,480.00	£0.00	£459,122.62	£642.62	0.14%
Town Environment Committee						
200	Stonehouse in Bloom	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
205	Event Income/Donations					
205/1	Events	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,335.00	£135.00	11.25%
205/2	Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£49.20	£49.20	0.00%
205/3	Markets	£0.00	£0.00	£805.00	£805.00	0.00%
205	Total	£1,200.00	£0.00	£2,189.20	£989.20	82.43%
210	Planting Sponsorship	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
215	Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£1,797.11	£1,797.11	0.00%
Total Town Environment Committee		£1,200.00	£0.00	£3,986.31	£2,786.31	232.19%
Total Income		£459,680.00	£0.00	£463,108.93	£3,428.93	0.75%
EXPENDITURE						
Town Business Committee						
1000	Salaries					
1000/1	Contracted staff	£223,800.00	£0.00	£213,008.01	£10,791.99	4.82%
1000/2	Locum	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1000/3	Short term contracted staff	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1000	Total	£223,800.00	£0.00	£213,008.01	£10,791.99	4.82%
1010	Training & Recruitment					
1010/1	Contracted Staff	£2,500.00	£0.00	£2,102.98	£397.02	15.88%
1010/2	Councillors	£500.00	£0.00	£1,731.00	-£1,231.00	-246.20%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
1010	Total	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,833.98	-£833.98	-27.80%
1020	Health & Safety	£2,500.00	£0.00	£1,173.98	£1,326.02	53.04%
1030	Professional Fees	£8,000.00	£0.00	£6,783.56	£1,216.44	15.21%
1040	IT support					
1040/1	General	£6,750.00	£0.00	£3,995.92	£2,754.08	40.80%
1040/2	Website	£1,300.00	£0.00	£2,564.76	-£1,264.76	-97.29%
1040/3	Newsletter	£0.00	£0.00	£0.40	-£0.40	0.00%
1040/4	Phones	£1,500.00	£0.00	£153.68	£1,346.32	89.75%
1040/5	Printing	£0.00	£0.00	£823.55	-£823.55	0.00%
1040	Total	£9,550.00	£0.00	£7,538.31	£2,011.69	21.06%
1050	Office Equipment Renewals	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	100.00%
1060	Grants					
1060/1	One-Offs	£10,000.00	£7,500.00	£22,670.00	-£5,170.00	-51.70%
1060/2	Long-Term	£7,400.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,400.00	100.00%
1060	Total	£17,400.00	£7,500.00	£22,670.00	£2,230.00	12.82%
1070	Town Hall/Library Shared Costs					
1070/1	Rates	£4,500.00	£0.00	£5,613.75	-£1,113.75	-24.75%
1070/2	Water	£1,200.00	£0.00	£619.02	£580.98	48.42%
1070/3	Electric	£3,000.00	£0.00	£2,794.90	£205.10	6.84%
1070/4	Gas	£1,800.00	£0.00	£1,990.95	-£190.95	-10.61%
1070/5	Interior Maintenance (reactive)	£500.00	£0.00	£1,556.99	-£1,056.99	-211.40%
1070/6	Interior Maintenance (programmed)	£500.00	£0.00	£0.00	£500.00	100.00%
1070/7	Waste Collection	£300.00	£0.00	£10.92	£289.08	96.36%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
1070/8	Security	£200.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	100.00%
1070	Total	£12,000.00	£0.00	£12,586.53	-£586.53	-4.89%
1080	Town Hall/Library STC costs					
1080/1	Exterior Maintenance/Cleaning	£500.00	£0.00	£314.45	£185.55	37.11%
1080/2	Interior Cleaning	£1,700.00	£0.00	£2,315.19	-£615.19	-36.19%
1080	Total	£2,200.00	£0.00	£2,629.64	-£429.64	-19.53%
1090	Admin Expenses					
1090/1	Paper	£250.00	£0.00	£111.34	£138.66	55.46%
1090/2	Other	£500.00	£0.00	£2,114.07	-£1,614.07	-322.81%
1090/3	Printing and Delivery of Newsletters	£8,000.00	£0.00	£7,946.00	£54.00	0.68%
1090/4	Travel expenses	£500.00	£0.00	£45.00	£455.00	91.00%
1090	Total	£9,250.00	£0.00	£10,216.41	-£966.41	-10.45%
1100	Mayor's Charity & Expenses	£300.00	£0.00	£100.00	£200.00	66.67%
1110	Travel Costs/Staff & Councillors	£400.00	£0.00	£0.00	£400.00	100.00%
1120	Election Costs	£0.00	£9,185.29	£15,236.79	-£6,051.50	0.00%
1130	Civic/Remembrance Parades	£180.00	£0.00	£0.00	£180.00	100.00%
1140	Pavilion Overheads					
1140/1	Rates	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1140/2	Water	£1,200.00	£0.00	£1,991.87	-£791.87	-65.99%
1140/3	Electric	£6,300.00	£0.00	£5,168.89	£1,131.11	17.95%
1140/4	Cleaning	£1,000.00	£0.00	£1,516.16	-£516.16	-51.62%
1140/5	Maintenance (reactive)	£2,000.00	£2,160.00	£4,048.87	£111.13	5.56%
1140/6	Maintenance (programmed)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£3.10	£996.90	99.69%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
1140/7	Waste Collection	£500.00	£0.00	£43.68	£456.32	91.26%
1140/8	Security	£200.00	£0.00	£90.00	£110.00	55.00%
1140/9	Septic Tank	£700.00	£0.00	£3,376.68	-£2,676.68	-382.38%
1140	Total	£12,900.00	£2,160.00	£16,239.25	-£1,179.25	-9.14%
1150	Workshop Overheads					
1150/1	Water	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1150/2	Electric	£300.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00	100.00%
1150/3	Maintenance (Reactive)	£300.00	£5,912.39	£7,471.32	-£1,258.93	-419.64%
1150/4	Maintenance (programmed)	£700.00	£0.00	£160.43	£539.57	77.08%
1150/5	Waste Collection	£1,800.00	£0.00	£1,732.37	£67.63	3.76%
1150/6	Security	£200.00	£0.00	£30.00	£170.00	85.00%
1150	Total	£3,300.00	£5,912.39	£9,394.12	-£181.73	-5.51%
1160	Equipment & Vehicle Costs					
1160/1	Equipment and Vehicle costs	£700.00	£4,049.17	£4,604.29	£144.88	20.70%
1160/2	Maintenance	£600.00	£0.00	£1,024.74	-£424.74	-70.79%
1160/3	Fuel	£900.00	£0.00	£578.54	£321.46	35.72%
1160/4	Tax	£200.00	£0.00	£345.00	-£145.00	-72.50%
1160/5	MOT/Service	£600.00	£0.00	£0.00	£600.00	100.00%
1160	Total	£3,000.00	£4,049.17	£6,552.57	£496.60	16.55%
1170	Youth Centre Workers	£66,000.00	£0.00	£65,000.50	£999.50	1.51%
1180	Youth Centre Overheads					
1180/1	Rates	£1,400.00	£0.00	£1,458.88	-£58.88	-4.21%
1180/2	Water	£300.00	£0.00	£164.81	£135.19	45.06%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
1180/3	Electric	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,457.50	£42.50	2.83%
1180/4	Cleaning	£1,300.00	£0.00	£1,283.00	£17.00	1.31%
1180/5	Maintenance (reactive)	£1,000.00	£5,365.00	£6,177.89	£187.11	18.71%
1180/6	Maintenance (programmed)	£1,500.00	£0.00	£46.50	£1,453.50	96.90%
1180/7	Waste collection	£300.00	£0.00	£21.84	£278.16	92.72%
1180/8	Security	£500.00	£0.00	£1,285.40	-£785.40	-157.08%
1180/9	IT costs	£1,000.00	£0.00	£979.30	£20.70	2.07%
1180	Total	£8,800.00	£5,365.00	£12,875.12	£1,289.88	14.66%
1200	Subscriptions	£3,500.00	£0.00	£4,534.35	-£1,034.35	-29.55%
1210	Insurances					
1210/1	Public/Employee Liability	£8,000.00	£0.00	£8,851.28	-£851.28	-10.64%
1210/2	Buildings	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1210/3	Vehicle	£0.00	£0.00	£137.42	-£137.42	0.00%
1210	Total	£8,000.00	£0.00	£8,988.70	-£988.70	-12.36%
1220	Project Planning & Delivery					
1220/1	OEL Car Park	£0.00	£2,555.00	£2,555.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220/2	Stagholt	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220/3	Ship Inn site	£0.00	£6,968.52	£6,991.52	-£23.00	0.00%
1220/4	Court View	£0.00	£23.00	£13.00	£10.00	0.00%
1220/5	Great Oldbury	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
1220	Total	£0.00	£9,646.52	£9,659.52	-£13.00	0.00%
1230	Climate Change	£5,000.00	£0.00	£281.97	£4,718.03	94.36%
Total Town Business Committee		£399,580.00	£43,818.37	£429,303.31	£14,095.06	3.53%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

		2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
Town Environment Committee						
1190	Amenity Areas					
1190/1	Grounds Maintenance (contract)	£29,500.00	£0.00	£29,526.00	£-26.00	-0.09%
1190/2	Grounds Maintenance (in-house)	£1,000.00	£0.00	£829.88	£170.12	17.01%
1190/3	Play Equipment maint/repairs/insp	£3,800.00	£0.00	£3,955.83	£-155.83	-4.10%
1190/4	Public Space Improvements	£6,000.00	£0.00	£4,577.88	£1,422.12	23.70%
1190/5	Tree & Hedge/boundary maintenance	£4,500.00	£0.00	£2,615.72	£1,884.28	41.87%
1190/6	Waste Collection	£4,000.00	£0.00	£2,978.32	£1,021.68	25.54%
1190	Total	£48,800.00	£0.00	£44,483.63	£4,316.37	8.85%
2000	Christmas Lights	£2,000.00	£14,897.15	£17,007.15	£-110.00	-5.50%
2005	Climate Change	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010	In Bloom					
2010/1	Contract Planting	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/2	Non-Contract Planting	£0.00	£343.54	£343.54	£0.00	0.00%
2010/3	Watering Services	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010/4	Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2010	Total	£0.00	£343.54	£343.54	£0.00	0.00%
2050	Cultural Events & Studies					
2050/1	Goodwill	£6,000.00	£0.00	£5,724.26	£275.74	4.60%
2050/2	Civic Awards	£300.00	£0.00	£24.91	£275.09	91.70%
2050/3	Other	£3,000.00	£0.00	£3,304.00	£-304.00	-10.13%
2050/4	Communications	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2050	Total	£9,300.00	£0.00	£9,053.17	£246.83	2.65%

Financial Budget Comparison

Comparison between 01/04/25 and 31/03/26 inclusive. Includes due and unpaid transactions. Includes commitments.

Excludes transactions with an invoice date prior to 01/04/25

	2025/2026	Reserve Movements	Actual Net	Balance	Bal %age remaining
2080 Neighbourhood Plan Review	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Planning Specialist Advice					
2090/1	£0.00	£500.00	£675.00	-£175.00	0.00%
2090/2	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	0.00%
2090 Total	£0.00	£500.00	£675.00	-£175.00	0.00%
Total Town Environment Committee	£60,100.00	£15,740.69	£71,562.49	£4,278.20	7.12%
Total Expenditure	£459,680.00	£59,559.06	£500,865.80	£18,373.26	4.00%
Total Income	£459,680.00	£0.00	£463,108.93	£3,428.93	0.75%
Total Expenditure	£459,680.00	£59,559.06	£500,865.80	£18,373.26	4.00%
Total Net Balance	£0.00		-£37,756.87		

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Stonehouse Town Council **01651837** **30-98-29**

Statement Number	72	Bank Statement No.	72
Statement Opening Balance	£29,247.83	Opening Date	01/03/26
Statement Closing Balance	£71,447.91	Closing Date	31/03/26
True/ Cashbook Closing Balance	£71,447.91		

Date	Cheque/ Ref.	Supplier/ Customer	Debit (£)	Credit (£)	Balance (£)
02/03/26	DD020326PENINSU LA	Peninsula	451.36	0.00	28,796.47
02/03/26	FPI020326STFC	Stonehouse Town Football Club	0.00	257.65	29,054.12
02/03/26	SO020326PATA	PATA Payroll	97.75	0.00	28,956.37
05/03/26	DD050326WATERP LUS	WaterPlus	13.88	0.00	28,942.49
05/03/26	DEB050326SDC	Stroud District Council	175.00	0.00	28,767.49
09/03/26	DD090326YUENER GY	YU Energy	1,037.74	0.00	27,729.75
09/03/26	FPO090326BROXA P	Broxap	742.68	0.00	26,987.07
09/03/26	FPO090326 █	█	12.75	0.00	26,974.32
09/03/26	FPO090326CSG	Cotswold Security Group Ltd	777.60	0.00	26,196.72
09/03/26	FPO090326EDGE	Edge IT Systems Ltd	1,539.48	0.00	24,657.24
09/03/26	FPO090326GRUND ON	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	98.77	0.00	24,558.47
09/03/26	FPO090326 █	█	433.40	0.00	24,125.07
09/03/26	FPO090326HMRC	HMRC	4,324.61	0.00	19,800.46
09/03/26	FPO090326MDL	MDL Kelex	1,192.00	0.00	18,608.46
09/03/26	FPO090326P █	█	12.75	0.00	18,595.71
09/03/26	FPO090326POUND FARM	Pound Farm Shop	412.25	0.00	18,183.46
09/03/26	FPO090326STROU DALARM	Stroud Alarms	68.88	0.00	18,114.58
10/03/26	DD100326YUENER GY	YU Energy	332.81	0.00	17,781.77
10/03/26	DEB100326LS	L&S Engineers	48.48	0.00	17,733.29
10/03/26	DEB100326UKOFFI CE	UK Office Direct	41.93	0.00	17,691.36
11/03/26	DEB110326VOIPFO NE	Voipfone	9.60	0.00	17,681.76
12/03/26	DEB120326TAYNT ONS	Tayntons Solicitors	100.00	0.00	17,581.76
12/03/26	DEB120326WIAUT O	WiAutomation	281.97	0.00	17,299.79
17/03/26	PAY170326LLOYD S	Lloyds Bank	10.35	0.00	17,289.44
18/03/26	BGC180326EDF	EDF	0.00	126.56	17,416.00

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

18/03/26	DD180326SKY	Sky Mobile	13.00	0.00	17,403.00
19/03/26	DD190326WATERP LUS	WaterPlus	98.36	0.00	17,304.64
19/03/26	FPO190326ABBEY LOOS	Abbey Loos	230.40	0.00	17,074.24
19/03/26	FPO190326ADAD	All Done and Dusted	250.80	0.00	16,823.44
19/03/26	FPO190326AUBER GINE	Aubergine 262	1,078.80	0.00	15,744.64
19/03/26	FPO190326EASYW INDOW	Easy Window Cleaning	24.00	0.00	15,720.64
19/03/26	FPO190326GBSPO RT	GB Sport & Leisure	678.00	0.00	15,042.64
19/03/26	FPO190326GCC	Gloucestershire County Council	201.48	0.00	14,841.16
19/03/26	FPO190326GLEN ALE	Glendale Countryside Limited	976.54	0.00	13,864.62
19/03/26	FPO190326GRUN ON	Grundon Waste Management Ltd	68.27	0.00	13,796.35
19/03/26	FPO190326HOGG	Hogg and Smith	216.00	0.00	13,580.35
19/03/26	FPO190326JIREH	Jireh Solutions Ltd	322.15	0.00	13,258.20
19/03/26	FPO190326PROLI FIC	Prolific Solutions (South West) Ltd	79.79	0.00	13,178.41
19/03/26	FPO190326SMITHS	Smiths Gloucester LTD	82.20	0.00	13,096.21
19/03/26	FPO190326TTPUM PS	T-T Pumps LTD	408.00	0.00	12,688.21
19/03/26	FPO190326TWH WKINS	T W Hawkins & Sons	2,952.60	0.00	9,735.61
20/03/26	3078935		0.00	80,000.00	89,735.61
20/03/26	DD200326JSTAYTE	John Stayte Services Ltd	93.83	0.00	89,641.78
20/03/26	DD200326NEST	NEST	2,449.16	0.00	87,192.62
20/03/26	DEB200326FASTH OSTS	Fasthosts	13.20	0.00	87,179.42
20/03/26	FPO200326MHS	Marlyn Home Services	6,438.00	0.00	80,741.42
23/03/26	DD230326BT	BT	204.83	0.00	80,536.59
24/03/26	SO240326STAFF	Staff Salaries	9,642.49	0.00	70,894.10
26/03/26	DD260326WATERP LUS	WaterPlus	44.64	0.00	70,849.46
30/03/26	DD300326PENINSU LA	Peninsula	451.36	0.00	70,398.10
30/03/26	FPI300326 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0.00	10.00	70,408.10
30/03/26	FPI300326 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0.00	5.00	70,413.10
30/03/26	FPI300326STFC	Stonehouse Town Football Club	0.00	264.66	70,677.76
30/03/26	FPI300326T [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	0.00	5.00	70,682.76
30/03/26	SO300326PATA	PATA Payroll	84.85	0.00	70,597.91
31/03/26	FPI310326MELTON	Melton Mowbray Building Society	0.00	850.00	71,447.91

Bank Account Reconciled Statement

Uncleared and unrepresented effects

Total uncleared and unrepresented	0.00	0.00
Total debits / credits	39318.79	81518.87

Reconciled by Carla Swindells

Signed _____
Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

Chair

Date _____

Stonehouse Town Council

Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year 01/04/25

Supplier totals will include confidential items

BACS Approval List

No	Payment Reference	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Invoice
4941		£253.44	1220/3	31/03/26	Abbey Loos - Mar '26 - Portaloo Hire - Ship Inn Site	84789
		£253.44			Abbey Loos - Total	
4942		£25.50	1040/1	31/03/26	Jireh Solutions Ltd - Mar '26 - Billable Hours (17/03/26)	35390
4944		£30.00	1040/1	31/03/26	Jireh Solutions Ltd - Mar '26 - Billable Hours (05/03/26)	35537
		£55.50			Jireh Solutions Ltd - Total	
4943		£49.06	1150/5	31/03/26	Smiths Gloucester LTD - Mar '23 - Waste - Workshop	586506
		£49.06			Smiths Gloucester LTD - Total	
Total		£358.00				

Signature _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Expenditure transactions - approval list

Cheque	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Cheque Total
	£451.36	1030	30/03/26	Peninsula - Apr '26 - Monthly Contract	
	£180.00	1140/5	01/04/26	Clarian Property Services - Pavilion - replacement fire door ref changing room	
	£9.60	1040/4	01/04/26	Voipfone - April '26 Renewal of Number & PBX	
	£240.00	1010/2	01/04/26	Arboricultural Association - Training - Cllr [REDACTED] & Cllr [REDACTED]	
	£300.00	1030	01/04/26	Tayntons Solicitors - First Registration (Town Greens)	
	£24.00	1080/1	01/04/26	Easy Window Cleaning - April '26 - TH	
	£322.15	1040/1	01/04/26	Jireh Solutions Ltd - Apr '26 Contract	
	£5,500.00	1060/2	01/04/26	The Fig Tree - Grant 26/27 - Approved 17th Nov 25 TC3523	
	£0.00	1140/1	01/04/26	Stroud District Council - Non Domestic Rates - Football Ground	
	£45.00	1200	01/04/26	Cotswold Canals Trust - Membership 26/27	
	£52.00	1200	01/04/26	Information Commissioners Office - Membership 26/27	
	£1,701.70	1180/1	01/04/26	Stroud District Council - Non Domestic Rating - Pod	
	£4,154.80	1070/1	01/04/26	Stroud District Council - Non Domestic Rating - Town Hall	
	£5,763.45	1070/1	01/04/26	Stroud District Council - Non Domestic Rates - Library	
Sub Total	£18,744.06				
Total	£18,744.06				

Signature _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Purchase Day Book

Showing only	Account type All	Ledger Date before	Ledger Date after	10/03/26
	Supplier	Paid date before	Paid date after	
Type	All	Payment type	<input type="text" value="Direct Debit"/>	Reference

No.	Date	Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Heading	Net	Vat type	Vat	Gross Due	Due	Payment Reference	Paid
4930	23/03/26	064	BT	Internet - Pod - 4th Quarter	1180/9	£170.69	20% Standard	£34.14	£204.83	22/04/26	DD230326BT	23/03/26
4928	18/03/26		Lloyds Bank	Mar '26 Bank Charges	1090/2	£9.23	Zero Rated	£0.00	£9.23	17/04/26	PAY170326LLO YDS	17/03/26
4900	20/03/26		NEST	March 26	1000/1	£2,449.16	Outside the S	£0.00	£2,449.16	19/04/26	DD200326NES T	20/03/26
4931	18/03/26		Sky Mobile	Mar '26 CCTV Sim Card Ship Inn Site	1220/4	£13.00	Outside the S	£0.00	£13.00	17/04/26	DD180326SKY	18/03/26
4932	14/03/26	12004140	WaterPlus	Mar '25 - Water - Pod	1180/2	£13.39	Zero Rated	£0.00	£13.39	13/04/26		
4933	29/03/26	12070878	WaterPlus	Mar '26 - Water - Pavilion	1140/2	£106.56	Zero Rated	£0.00	£106.56	28/04/26		
4935	31/03/26	12169320	WaterPlus	Mar '26 - Water - TH	1070/2	£54.67	Zero Rated	£0.00	£54.67	30/04/26		
4940	31/03/26	03537242	YU Energy	Mar '26 - Electric - Pod	1180/3	£137.54	5%	£6.88	£144.42	30/04/26		
4939	31/03/26	03537233	YU Energy	Mar '26 - Electric - Library	1070/3	£69.57	5%	£3.48	£73.05	30/04/26		
4938	31/03/26	03537238	YU Energy	Mar '26 - Electric - Pavilion	1140/3	£529.95	20% Standard	£105.99	£635.94	30/04/26		
4937	31/03/26	03537230	YU Energy	March '26 - Electric - TH	1070/3	£180.44	5%	£9.02	£189.46	30/04/26		
4936	31/03/26	03781385	YU Energy	Mar '25 - Gas - TH	1070/4	£251.93	5%	£12.60	£264.53	30/04/26		
					Total	£3,986.13		£172.11	£4,158.24			

12 Transactions

Purchase Day Book

Showing only	Account type All	Ledger Date before	Ledger Date after	10/03/26
	Supplier	Paid date before	Paid date after	
	Type All	Payment type	Reference	

No.	Date	Invoice no.	Supplier	Details	Heading	Net	Vat type	Vat	Gross Due	Payment Reference	Paid	
4898	20/03/26	25/0818/PP	PATA Payroll	March 26 Payroll with Pension Service	1000/1	£84.85	Outside the S	£0.00	£84.85	19/04/26	SO300326PAT A	30/03/26
4897	20/03/26		Staff Salaries	March 26	1000/1	£9,642.49	Outside the S	£0.00	£9,642.49	19/04/26	SO240326STA FF	24/03/26
2 Transactions						Total						
									£9,727.34	£0.00	£9,727.34	

Legal Services

Carlos Novoth
Stonehouse Town Council
Town Hall
High St
Stonehouse GL10 2NG

Gillian Parkinson
Assistant Director of Legal Services
Shire Hall
Westgate Street
Gloucester, GL1 2TG

email: amar.kansal@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Please ask for: Amar Kansal

Phone: (01452) 426469

Our Ref: AK/87734

Date: 24 February 2026

Dear Carlos,

Deed of variation - Stagholt

Further to the above matter, please find enclosed the deed of variation for signing.

Please could you ensure that the document is properly executed under your signing rules, and then return it to me undated. I will date it when I have both parts on completion.

Yours sincerely

Amar Kansal
for Assistant Director of Legal Services

BETWEEN:

- (1) **GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** of Shire Hall Gloucester GL1 2TG ("the Council")
- (2) **STONEHOUSE TOWN COUNCIL** of The Town Hall High Street Stonehouse Gloucestershire ("the Covenantor")

WITNESSES as follows:

1. Definitions

- a. "The Covenantor's Land" means the land which is now owned by the Covenantor and is registered under title number GR188915
- b. "The Existing Covenants" means the restrictive covenants set out in the Deed of Variation
- c. "The New Covenants" means the restrictive covenants set out in the Schedule hereto
- d. "The Retained Land" means the land defined as "the Retained Land" in the Deed of Variation
- e. "The Deed of Variation" means a deed of variation of the Covenantor's Land dated 13 August 2014 made between (1) the Council and (2) the Covenantor

2. Recitals

- a. By the Deed of Variation the Covenantor's Land was subject to the Existing Covenants which were expressed as being for the benefit of the Retained Land
- b. The Covenantor's Land is now owned by the Covenantor subject to the Existing Covenants
- c. The Retained Land is still vested in the Council
- d. The Council has agreed to release the Existing Covenants and accept the New Covenants

3. Release of Existing Covenants

The New Covenants by the Covenantor contained in Clause 4 below the Council as owner of the Retained Land releases the Covenantor and his successors in title and the Covenantor's Land and each and every part of it from the Existing Covenants

4. New Covenants

In consideration of the release of the Existing Covenants contained in Clause 3 above the Covenantor covenants with the Council so as to burden the Covenantor's Land and for the benefit of the Retained Land to observe and perform the New Covenants

5. Transfer to continue

The parties hereto agree and declare that except as set out in this Deed the Transfer shall continue in full force and effect

SCHEDULE

New Covenants

The Covenantor HEREBY COVENANTS with the Council for the benefit and protection of the Retained Land and so as to bind the Covenantor's Land into whosoever hands the same may come to use the Covenantor's Property to use the Property for no other purpose other than as community allotments and natural public open space

IN WITNESS whereof this Deed has been executed the day and year first before written

The **Common Seal** of
GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL was hereunto affixed

In the presence of:

Head of Legal Services

Name (printed).....

SIGNED as a **DEED** by

(Chairman) and

(Vice-Chairman)

Two Members of STONEHOUSE
TOWN COUNCIL pursuant to Section 14(3)
Local Government Act 1972
in the presence of:

Witness Signature

Witness Name (printed)

Witness Address



Minutes of a Town Business Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7pm at the Stonehouse Town Hall/Library, Queens Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2QA

Present: Councillors John Callinan, Keren Capeling, John Parker, Val Randell, Keith Terry, Carol Trim and Theresa Watt (Chair of Committee).

In Attendance: Town Clerk; Town Councillors David Drew and Simon MacGregor; Glos County Councillor Dean Botterill; representatives of Stroud Cricket Club and several members of the public

All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend and a period of up to 15 minutes will be set aside at the beginning of the meeting for members of the public to raise questions.

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.

Cllr Dean Botterill questioned the value to be gained from undertaking air pollution monitoring in the community and asked whether the work was a town council initiative or it had been asked for by another organisation. It was confirmed that this was a town council initiative to improve air quality in the town

Town Councillor Simon MacGregor raised concern about the parking issues in Gloucester road and the desperate need for off road parking. He commented that the row of red brick houses further up the road were provided with off road parking by Glos County Council many years ago but due to reasons, the parking arrangement was not replicated at the lower set of properties. Residents' experiences of parking on the roadside include cars being damaged and written off and hit and runs including many near misses to adults and children having to walk between vehicles. In addition, there was no way for residents to use electric vehicles. A local resident had echoed the issues explaining that local residential roads were being adversely impacted by the parking issue. Attempts have been made in the past to secure planning approval but to date they have been unsuccessful. It was suggested that GCC should have spent the money used for the very short cycle path in Standish, could have been better used on this parking issue. A question was raised by a further resident about the suggested progress made by the previous county councillor on the parking issue - it was confirmed that the town council knew of no progress on this issue. The current county councillor confirmed that he knew of no progress.

It was recommended that parking in this area be referred to the town council's Transport and Highways working group

The Chair brought the public question time to an end thanking all participants for their input

B/988 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Carol Kambites

B/989 To receive Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest - It was noted that as Agenda Item B/995(2) referred to a grant application applied by the Parents Teachers Association of Park Infant School and not the school itself, Cllr John Parker, as governor of the school, had no interest to declare

B/990 To approve the minutes of the Business Committee meeting held on March 2026

Committee APPROVED the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting

Following agreement by Committee, the Chair brought forward agenda items B/995 and B/999 respectively as requested by representatives of Stroud Cricket Club and Non Committee Members wishing to speak on the parking issue

B/995 To approve the following grant applications:

1. Stroud Cricket Club (2 Applications)

Club representatives were present to answer questions. It was stated that the club had many teams including a women's team; they have a number of Stonehouse residents within each cricket team citing approximately 15% of the youth teams were made up of youngsters from Stonehouse. It was suggested that the club had substantial sums already in their reserves; they commented that it was decided to focus on stabilising the club's financial position over the next year reducing player costs and contracting costs by bringing contract work in-house. The club highlighted their problem with two main parts of the roof leaking - two options had been provided by a builder, both costing substantial amounts; they were unfortunately having to reply on contracting out the work in light of their being no building experience within the volunteer base. The club confirmed that their sponsors were being approached along with Stroud Town Council for funding. Asked if the rest of the building was in good order, the representatives confirmed that it was.

In stating that the town council responds well to grant applications but that he could not advocate providing the full amount asked for, Cllr John Callinan proposed a grant of £1,000 to help with the club's costs in light of it being the closest cricket club to Stonehouse. It was further proposed to increase the grant amount to £2,000; the further proposal was seconded - all voted in favour.

Committee **APPROVED** a grant of £2,000 to help with the necessary roof repairs.

The representatives thanked the committee and stated that they really appreciated the award and would therefore withdraw their second grant application for player kit.

2. Stonehouse Park Federation School

It was clarified that the grant application had been applied for by the school's Parents Teachers Association (PTA) and not the school itself. Whilst the application was made for only £60, committee agreed that it could not award a grant in arrears. Committee also felt that the value of the PTA's event was really worth supporting in future and had therefore committed a total of £120 for the event in the 2026/27 financial year. Committee **APPROVED** the award of £120 to Stonehouse Park Federation School's Parent Teachers Association for financial year 2026/27

3. Great Western Air Ambulance Service

It was acknowledged that the town council had awarded a grant to the service in financial year 2025/26; whilst the service was operated outside the Stonehouse community, it did provide much needed support to preserve human life and as such needed supporting financially. Committee therefore **APPROVED** a grant award of £1,000 to the Great Western Air Ambulance Service.

B/999 To discuss and consider the need for a widescale parking review for the town

Council resolved to refer this agenda item to Business Committee at its last meeting. Councillor David Drew was invited to speak on the item; he highlighted the many parking issues that existed around the community and amplified the comments made by members of the public at the commencement of the meeting in relation to Gloucester road. He further commented on

- problems that may be created by the development of the planned new care home at Elm road;
- the fact that planning apps should consider current parking issues
- GCC will only look at whole schemes not road by road.
- the High street car park managed by Stroud District Council - this was once a paid for car park reverting to a non paying one (comment was made by another cllr that significant improvements have been made recently in relation to the long stay portion allowing businesses greater chances of finding parking spaces).
- parking problems around schools especially outside Park school and the Shrubberies
- the impact of rail users on nearby residential roads
- inadequate parking for local High street businesses

Cllr Drew stated that a parking review should take place for the whole town with expert help. The council should not avoid looking at the issue. This view was supported by the Chair of Council with a view to considering public transport, use of shared vehicles and other options. Cllr John Callinan stated that this was not an issue that the town council could resolve by itself but

help and support needs to be provided by the county council as highways authority.

Committee **REFERRED** the matter to the council's Transport and Highways working group with consideration given to active travel.

Cllr Drew thanked the committee for hearing his concerns and that of local residents and then left the meeting

B/991 Matters arising

Officers provided the following update:

- The thermal Imaging device has been purchased and is ready for use
- The new three year gas supply contract has been signed by the Clerk
- The updated policies have been forwarded for updating onto the council's website
- Leases for Stonehouse Town Football Club and Magpies Social Club are now nearing completion and will be ready for signing by the end of the month
- All Assertion 10 requirements for 2026/27 have been sufficiently complete

B/992 To receive the latest budget position

The Clerk confirmed that income from investments not yet been confirmed. The reserves for budget codes 1120 (elections) and 1140/9 Septic tank) would need final adjustment. Final outcome figures for the year will become known following account closure in the coming weeks. Committee **NOTED** total 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £427,404.75; total 'Actual Net' Income of £452,551.61 and total Reserve movement of £43,607.17

B/993 To approve the latest BACS payment list and provide retrospective approval for Debit Card Payments

Committee **APPROVED** BACS payment totalling £17,081.54

Committee also **RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVED** Debit card payments totalling £495.18

Committee **APPROVED** the repayment of £72 to a stallholder that had made a duplicate payment at the last Goodwill event

B/994 To recommend for council approval standing order and direct debit payment arrangements for the 2026/27 financial year

Committee **RECOMMENDED** town council approve the list of Direct Debits and Standing Orders to be applied to the council's payment regime for the 2026/27 financial year

B/995 To approve the following grant applications:

1. Stroud Cricket Club (2 Applications)
2. Stonehouse Park Federation School
3. Great Western Air Ambulance Service

This agenda item was brought forward - see notes of discussion above

B/996 To receive an update relating to the installation of additional flagpoles on the Town Green and establish core requirements

The Clerk provided an overview of the priced information he had secured to date. Prices from various suppliers related to two options based on the following assumptions - flagpoles needed to be erected elsewhere on the green other than the location of the current flagpole due to the presence of overhead cables and, the central flagpole would either be 11 metres or 8 metres in height and the remaining two poles would be shorter. Pricing would include installation of two new poles and the relocation of the existing pole and that prior to installation, ground checks for the presence of utility services would be undertaken by the installers (this would be standard practice). The Clerk stated that there were a number of issues that he needed direction on and that these had been presented in supporting papers to the committee.

Committee members discussed forming a new working group to consider this matter (the existing flag response working group which was set up on a task and finish basis no longer existed), but it was suggested a councillor may submit a motion on this issue and so it would not be necessary to form a working group - the motion would consider the placement of the three flagpoles and whether it would be necessary to light up the Union flag at night. (Whilst current Government guidance identifies that lighting a raised Union flag at night on a Government building was necessary, the guidance omits to identify requirements, if any, to Union flags raised on ground installed flagpoles).

Cllr John Parker stated that he would put forward a motion for a future meeting of the town council on this issue.

B/997 To receive quotations for undertaking air pollution monitoring within Stonehouse and approve the contract award to the preferred contractor

The value offered by this work to the community was questioned. The Clerk advised that a baseline had been created back in 2022/23 for certain areas of the community where it was felt that traffic based air pollution was thought to be most harmful to local residents. This follow up monitoring would be used as a comparison to see whether pollution had worsened or improved - this would then become the focus of future improvement campaigns. It was thought that Stroud District Council was periodically conducting local air monitoring in relation to potential impacts from the incinerator at Javelin Park. The Clerk was tasked with finding further information on this.

The matter was **DEFERRED** to a further committee meeting once the information was secured and reported

B/998 To consider and approve the council's response to Stroud District Council's consideration of the closure of Stratford Park Lido

Committee did not agree a response for council to approve.

B/999 To discuss and consider the need for a widescale parking review for the town

Agenda item was brought forward - see above for discussion details

B/1000 To recommend Council approve the reinstatement of signs at each entrance to Laburnum Recreation ground requiring dogs be kept on leads
Councillor John Callinan had checked the Gloucestershire Archives to determine whether the town council had secured a past local byelaw requiring dogs to be kept on leads whilst being exercised at Laburnum playing field. He commented that further work on this matter was required and that his findings would be reported back to Committee.

The Clerk stated that he had discussed the issue of byelaws and the more up to date Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) with the lead environmental Health officer at Stroud District Council and that the PSPO may have superseded any byelaw that may have existed; he further mentioned that it was unlikely that a future PSPO would enable the town council to restrict dogs to leads whilst being walked in Laburnum playing field. Committee **DEFFERED** the matter to a future committee meeting once further information was gathered.

It was acknowledged that local residents and in particular elderly residents and children have reported feeling concerned about dogs that have been let loose to run around the playing field by their owners and that this had on occasion prevented them from using the ground

B/1001 To review the council's current market licence agreement with stall holders for the town market

There was concern in relation to recent changes to the Market Stallholders agreement with the town council in that a recent decision by the Clerk to restrict stall holders attending the market to those that did not conflict with products sold in the High street shops or by other stall holders, was questioned. The condition used by the Clerk had been included in a revised licence that had yet to be taken to council for approval. Realising this, the Clerk has now sought approval. The rationale was explained but it was determined by Committee to revert to the council's old licence conditions (It was clear that would require stallholders to sign the old licence agreement previously approved by council). Further to this, it was agreed that stall holders will be able to use the Green, understanding that there may be a requirement by council to cease the use of the green during bad weather in order to protect it. It was made clear that in such an event, market stallholders will not be licensed to operate from the hardstanding in future.

Committee **RESOLVED** to remain with the council's original licence conditions

B/1002 To receive an update on the council's progress towards meeting the requirements of Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

The Clerk thanked Cllrs for their efforts to ensure compliance with training requirements for March 2026. The council had now met all its requirements to satisfy internal audit for the 2025/26 financial year. Further improvements were required for the following financial year 2026/27.

B/1003 To receive updates from the following working groups:

1. Climate Change Action Forum

- The forum had met recently
2. **Communications**
The working group had not met
 3. **Oldends Lane Development**
A copy of the minutes from the last meeting had been provided presented the latest developments - the next meeting was scheduled for Friday 10th April - Cllr Callinan invited other cllrs to turn up to the working group's future meetings
 4. **Support Stonehouse**
The working group had not met
 5. **Youth**
Town Cllrs attended the golden hinge award run by the door
 6. **Policy**
The policy register has identified the work to be undertaken in the 2026/27 financial year
 7. **Internal Control Checks (ICC)**
Quarterly bank reconciliations have not yet be undertaken
 8. **Local Government Review**
Cllr Carol Kambites will be attending the Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils Local Government Reorganisation seminar in April '26

B/1004 To note the date of the next meeting - Tuesday 5th May 2026

Committee **NOTED** the date of the next meeting. The meeting ended at 9.20pm



Minutes of a meeting of the Town Environment Committee held on Monday 13th April, 7pm at Stonehouse Library, High Street, Stonehouse GL10 2NG

Present:

Councillors: Keren Capeling, Keith Creighton, Deborah Curtis (Committee Chair), Marcus Dixon, David Drew, Stephen Hunter

Also present:

Jacqui Sanders (Deputy Clerk)

Attendees are reminded that the Proceedings of this meeting may be filmed, photographed or recorded.

E/1036 To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllrs John Parker and Simon Macgregor.

E/1037 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

E/1038 To approve the minutes of the Town Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9th March.

Committee APPROVED the Minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

E/1039 To receive the latest updated Environment Budget.

Committee NOTED the updated report showing a total 'Actual Net' Income of £3,986.31; 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £71,562.49 and Reserve Expenditure of £15,740.69.

E/1040 To receive the latest tree survey and agree on its recommendations.

Officers reminded committee that having contracted the tree specialist, Glendale, to undertake the survey it is recommended that their advice is followed as they hold appropriate insurance and indemnifications for the survey they undertook.

Committee reviewed the thoughts presented by Cllr John Parker and agreed to follow his advice, rather than Glendale's, regarding the trees in Doverow Wood. Officers again reminded committee that Glendale carry appropriate insurance and indemnity.

Committee requested to not act on the recommendation by Glendale regarding the tree works at Stagholt Brook until Cllr Parker could submit his advice.

E/1041 To comment on recent Planning Applications

S.26/0450/HHOLD 119 Arrowsmith Drive, Stonehouse
Erection of a rear single-storey extension.

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

S.26/0454/FUL Unit 1, 13 High Street, Stonehouse
Erection of single storey extension to the rear and first floor extension to create 4no additional treatment rooms and staff amenities.

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

S.26/0410/HHOLD 3 Anderson Drive, Stonehouse
Erection of a single storey rear extension

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

S.26/0274/HHOLD Leonard Stanley House, Beards Mill, Leonard Stanley
Reinstate fencing and erection of vehicle gate and posts.

Comment: No objection.

S.26/0424/FUL, Far Westrip Farm, Stroud,
Build a roof and cast concrete walls on two sides of a hard standing currently used for maize silage and other forages, adjacent to existing maize silage bunkers.

Comment: No objection.

S.26/0503/HHOLD 46 Midland Road, Stonehouse
Erection of a single storey front and side extension.

Comment: No objections as long as none from neighbours.

S.23/1451/OUT Land Northwest of Stonehouse

Mixed use development comprising the following individual, severable and self-contained elements:

- Up to 635 residential dwellings
- A primary school
- Sport and recreation facilities. Associated works including: infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space (including allotments), landscaping and access.

Comment: The previous objection by Stonehouse Town Council submitted in September 2023, still applies. This council also notes the objections concerning a lack of promised infrastructure, and also asks that the impact the extra traffic would cause on the already busy level crossing be considered.

Pre-planning application:

2025/0654/PREAPPPRE/284 Orchard House, 60 High Street, Stonehouse
Major repairs to the roof of a listed building.

Comment: This council supports the work requested and appreciates the efforts by the homeowners to repair a listed building.

E/1042 To receive a report on planning decisions received from Stroud District Council.

**26/0110/HHOLD 17 Kings Road, Stonehouse
Erection of a rear dormer extension and loft conversion.
Application withdrawn**

E/1043 To receive Working Groups updates.

- **Communications**
Now reports to Business Committee.
- **Stroudwater (Bristol Road) Station**
Not met.
- **Transport and Highways**
Not met.
- **Public Rights of Way**
Not met.
- **Recreation.**
Met. Minutes attached to supporting papers.
- **Canal Rejuvenation**
Not met.
- **Court View**
Not met.
- **Community Arboretum and Open Spaces.**
Not met.
- **Events**
Met. Minutes attached to supporting papers.

**E/1044 Date of next Environment Committee meeting: Monday 11th May 2026.
Committee NOTED the date of the next meeting.**