



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council
held Monday 20th April 2026 at the Town Hall**

Present:

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

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.

With the Chair of council having reminded the attending public that the meeting could be filmed, photographed or recorded, County Councillor Dean Botterill stated that he wished to film the meeting.

Public Questions

Members of the public were asked if they wished to speak.

Councillor Dean Botterill stated his wish to speak and further stated that he believed his comments at the last town council meeting were not detailed entirely within the minutes produced by the Clerk and as such did not adequately reflect his comments in relation to both the 20 mph speed limits issue or the town council's recent purchase of the Thermal Imaging Device. The Chair stated that the minutes were not meant to record verbatim what was said, but to provide an accurate summary of key points. Cllr John Callinan raised a point of order and stated that the minutes cannot be re written and that should there be a discrepancy, this would be discussed and dealt through the relevant item on the meeting's agenda in the usual manner. County Councillor Dean Botterill spoke no further.

A member of the public wished to again highlight the issue of pre existing signs at Laburnum playing field requiring dog owners to keep their dogs on leads when entering the field. Cllr John Callinan spoke to this matter and confirmed that there were at one time signs present on the outside of the entrance to the playing field but that they had been removed but not by the town council. He also stated that he had undertaken some research through the county archives and had found a Byelaw relating to the issue dated 1982. There was a question mark over whether the bylaw

had been superseded by the introduction in 2012 of the current Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which are enforced by Stroud District Council. It was stated that it will be unlikely that the PSPOs would accommodate the restrictions requiring dogs to remain on leads at either this or any playing field but he stated that this would be carefully looked into and he will be reporting back at a future meeting.

The Chair thanked those attending the meeting and with there being no more questions, called an end to Public Questions

TC3584 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Theresa Watt

TC3585 To receive declarations of interest

A declaration of interest was raised by Cllr John Parker in relation to agenda item TC3591

TC3586 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16th March '26

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

TC3587 To note Matters Arising

The Clerk provided the meeting with an updated detailed in the supporting papers

TC3588 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors

The Chair highlighted the successful international arboriculture event held at Stonehouse Court Hotel. The two town councillors attending the event thought that it was extremely interesting and explained that many issues being discussed could easily relate to a number of the town council's projects.

Cllr John Callinan highlighted the upcoming Planning Inspectorate Inquiry between 17 and 19th November '26 in relation to the owners of Verney Fields appeal against the recent decision by the Commons Committee at Glos County Council to make each of the 5 prescribed footpaths running through the site into designated footpaths. The county council has now engaged a barrister to represent them. It is possible that the town council may be approached to engage its own barrister. The Inquiry is to be held at the North Warehouse at Glos City Council.

Cllr Marcus Dixon stated that representatives of the National Heritage Lottery Fund had recently visited the Ship Inn site

Cllr Carol Trim attended the new Climate and Nature Partnership meeting run by Stroud District Council

TC3589 To receive reports from County and District Councillors report

Written reports were provided by both County Councillor Dean Botterill and Ward Councillor Carol Kambites on behalf of the three Ward Cllrs. Cllr John Callinan thanked County Cllr Bean Botterill for his very

detailed report stating that it was clear that there were many good things happening at the county council. There were no questions for the County councillor or Ward Cllrs

TC3590 To receive RFO's budget report and bank reconciliations for March '26

Council **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for March '26 with a closing balance on 31/03/26 of £71,447.91.

Cllrs raised the following questions in relation to the council's updated Budget report:

- Cllr Keith Terry queried expenditure on plants at Pound Farm - it was explained that following a town council decision to purchase plants for the top end of the High street car park to ensure that the area was smartened up
- Cllr Carol Trim queried the budget code 1090 as it was significantly overspent - it was explained that this budget heading was used for a wide variety of purposes, in particular where the nature of the expenditure could not be attributed to a relevant cost code - it was also stated that the overspend was countered by underspends on other budgets
- Cllr John Callinan asked when the interest on investments would be reported - it was explained that this should be at the next meeting

Council **NOTED** the latest Budget report: Total 'Actual Net' Income of £463,108.93; total 'Actual Net' Expenditure of £500,865.80; reserve movements of £59,559.06.

TC3591 To :

- **approve the latest BACS payment list and**
Council **APPROVED** BACS payments of £358 and £18744.06
- **retrospectively approve Debit Card payments and**
There were no Debit card payments made
- **to note Standing order and Direct Debit payments**
Council **NOTED** Standing order and Direct Debit payments totalling £9,727.34 and £4,158.24 respectively

TC3592 To approve annual insurance cover for the council's van

The Clerk had secured three quotes - quotes were based on the same level of cover as is currently being supplied; these were detailed in supporting papers.

Council **APPROVED** the award of the council 2026/27 van insurance to 'Pukka Insure' at a cost of £731.98

TC3593 To approve changes to and resolve to sign the revised Stagholt playing field covenant

Questions were raised in relation to whether the changes to the covenant for Stagholt Field included the whole field and whether Stagholt Lane formed part of the covenant - the Clerk confirmed that

the covenant focussed on the whole field but did not cover Stagholt Lane as the lane belonged to the town council
Council **RESOLVED** to sign and SEAL the revised covenant.

- TC3594** To receive draft minutes of Business Committee meeting of 7th April '26 and approve the following recommendation:
Council **RECEIVED** the draft minutes
- Council approve Standing Order and Direct Debit payment arrangements for the 2026/27 financial year
Council **APPROVED** the Standing Order and Direct Debit payment arrangements for the 2026/276 financial year as detailed in supporting papers
- TC3595** To receive draft minutes of Environment Committee meeting of 13th April '26
Council **RECEIVED** the draft Environment Committee minutes
- TC3596** To note the date of the next town council meeting Monday 18th May '26
Council **NOTED** the date of the next town council meeting