



**Minutes of a meeting of the Town Council
held Monday 15th June 2026 at the Town Hall**

Present:

Councillors: 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 Theresa Watt

In Attendance: Carlos Novoth - Town Clerk and County Councillor Dean Botterill

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

Public questions/comments

County Councillor Dean Botterill asked why he was not made aware of the recent change committed to by Glos County Council in respect of improving the road traffic crossing next to the Bonds Mill roundabout; he felt that having raised the matter with the county council, he should have been updated on progress. Cllr Botterill also asked whether there were other major highways projects/concerns that have been communicated directly to Glos County Council he should be made aware of. It was confirmed that whilst there were quite a number of highways issues generally, these have all been shared with him through the minutes of the town council's Transport and Highways working group meetings, to which he has been invited; there were no other major issues being discussed with the county council's current administration. It was also highlighted as a point of clarity that Cllr Botterill initially thought there were no problems with the crossing by Bonds Mill roundabout and that his thoughts had been widely shared on social media - it was considered therefore that he was not in favour of implementing improvements.

The lead councillor on the town council's Transport and Highways working group confirmed that Cllr Botterill will be kept updated on local highways issues.

TC3621 To receive apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs John Callinan and Carol Trim

TC3622 To receive declarations of interest

Declarations of interest were noted by Cllrs Keith Terry and Keren Capeling in relation to Agenda item TC3628

- TC3623 To approve the minutes of the Town Council meeting of 18th May 2026**
Subject to the following minor amendments in relation to
- agenda item TC3611 resulting in the removal of reference to improvements to Wallbridge and
 - agenda item TC3616 relating to a change in the number of Cllrs voting in favour of a decision from fourteen to thirteen Cllrs
- Council **APPROVED** the minutes as true and accurate record of the meeting
- TC3624 To note matters arising**
The Clerk highlighted that at the time of writing the support papers for the meeting, he had intended to update the council's website with the most recent documents agreed by council. Unfortunately this has been delayed. Cllr Carol Kambites asked for the Working group memberships to be recirculated to Cllrs to confirm accuracy
- TC3625 To receive reports from Chair of Town Council and town councillors**
Cllr Theresa Watt attended meetings held by 'Stroud Valleys cycle path' group. Cllr Marcus Dixon confirmed that a very successful 'Nature environment day had been held at the Ship Inn Community space last at the weekend - he mentioned that a proportion of the event had been powered by Solar energy.
The Chair confirmed he had taken a group on a Tree walk
- TC3626 To receive reports from County and District Councillors**
Cllr Dean Botterill opened by stating that he would in future try and summarise his monthly reports to the town council and as a result would welcome feedback on the reports to ensure that he would be providing enough detail.
Cllr Carol Kambites had attended a number of extra meetings at Stroud District Council recently in relation to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - it was considered that if there was to be a single authority for the county, this would be the most expensive option - the planned reorganisation will result in local elections being brought forward to May 2027.
Cllr Theresa Watt suggested that it was likely that an announcement would be made on the successor authority in Mid July this year.
There was discussion in relation to cost of elections to the town council; the Clerk was asked to seek confirmation of this and whether Stroud District Council would set aside funding to support the town/parish costs.
- TC3627 To receive RFO's budget report and bank reconciliation for May '26**
Council **NOTED** the latest Bank Reconciliation for May 2026 with an opening balance on 1st May '26 of £256,442.09 and a closing balance on 31st May '26 of £60,983.73.

Council also **NOTED** the latest budget report showing a 'Net Actual' Expenditure totalling £88,482.69; a 'Net Actual' Income of £217,301.98 and Reserve movements of £599.10.

TC3628 To approve the latest payment lists:

- **BACS payments**
Councillors Keith Terry and Keren Capeling remained in the meeting in case of questions but in light of their declared interest in agenda item TC3628 left the meeting prior to the vote at 7.26pm.
Council voted to **APPROVE** the BACS payment list totalling £19,137.41
Cllrs Keith Terry and Keren Capeling returned to the meeting at 7.27pm
- **Debit Card payments (Retrospective approval)**
Council **RETROSPECTIVELY APPROVED** the Debit card payments totalling £107.90

And to Note the Standing order and Direct debit payments made since the previous full town council meeting

Council **NOTED** Standing Order and Direct Debit payments made since the last meeting or £10,733.99 and £4,031.08 respectively

TC3629 To receive the draft Minutes of Business Committee meeting 1st June 2026 and approve the following recommendations:

- **To receive and note the completed 2025/26 internal audit from GALC and note its recommendations**
Council **RECEIVED** the Annual Audit report produced by Gloucestershire Association of Local Council's following their audit on the town council in May 2026. Council **NOTED** the observations and minor recommendations.
- **To receive and note the 4th quarter ICC checks for 2025/26 financial year**
Council **RECEIVED** the report findings and **NOTED** the recommendations
- **To approve the 2025/26 Year End Accounts, Balance Sheet and Bank Reconciliation**
Council **APPROVED** the 2025/26 Year End Accounts
- **To approve the dates for the 'Exercise of Public Rights'**
Council **APPROVED** the dates for the Notice for the Exercise of Public Rights with the announcement date being Tuesday 16th June 2026; the commencement date being Wednesday 17th June 2026 and the end date being Tuesday 28th July 2026.

TC3630 To approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the 2025/26 financial year

Having discussed each of the ten individual criteria of the AGS, Council **APPROVED** the Annual Governance Statement establishing that the town council had a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the accounting statements. Both the Chair and Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement

TC3631 To approve the 2025/26 Accounting Statements by Resolution and for the meeting's Presiding Officer to sign the Accounting Statements

In answer to a query raised by Business Committee, the Clerk confirmed that the end of year budget report would differ from the Accounting Statements in as much as the latter would include the financial year's Debtors and Creditors.

Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the 2025/26 Accounting Statements as provided in the supporting papers. Both the Chair and RFO signed the 'Accounting Statements for 2025/26'

TC3632 To discuss and determine whether to request that Stroud District Council include Stonehouse Town Council in the Community Governance Review 2025/26 and to establish their reasoning for the request.

The Chair provided an overview of what had been requested by Stroud District Council explaining that the review process would in all likelihood have taken before the next election but because the elections will be brought forward to May '27, the review was also brought forward. Having identified the list of reasons why a Parish/town council may wish to be included in a review, town councillors felt that none of these applied to Stonehouse. It was also thought that Standish was possibly included in the review due to the expansion of new housing north of Great Oldbury - it was less likely to do with the boundary between Standish and Stonehouse.

Discussion broadened to include the impending local Government Reorganisation with concerns being raised in relation to assets that may be transferred during the reorganisation. It was felt that attention needed to be given to identifying assets owned by both the county council and district council that could be of particular benefit to Stonehouse should those assets be transferred. It was agreed that the Clerk would formulate a list of known county and district land holdings/assets for future discussion

Council **RESOLVED** not to request inclusion in the forthcoming Community Governance Review

TC3633 To receive the draft Minutes of Environment Committee meeting of 8th June 2026.

Council **RECEIVED** and **NOTED** the draft minutes

TC3634 To receive an update from HR Sub Committee and to approve the following recommendation:

- To approve the temporary position of one day per week to support the watering regime during the summer months, up to the end of September.

The Clerk presented Council with an overview of the problems experienced by the Town Maintenance Officers in watering the town's flower planters due to the hot weather conditions; it was in this context that consideration was given by HR Sub Committee to providing Officers additional support that would enable them to continue with their key maintenance duties during the watering season. It was recognised that an existing staff member who was not already involved in the watering process was willing to work an additional six hours on the Monday of each week to help support the watering schedule.

The Officer would undertake the work on the same scale as the Town Maintenance Officer.

There was a question raised in relation to the value of the plants purchased this year - it was explained that this amounted to £3,000; it was commented that this justified the council's continued watering support during the summer season. It was also explained that the work of Stonehouse In Bloom (SIB) was being recognised in the 'Cotswold Life' magazine. In addition, the Clerk had identified that since the struggles to maintain the flower display during the last summer, SIB had made a number of improvements to reduce reliance on watering.

Council **APPROVED** the new short term post of 6 hours each Monday for the period of mid June to the end of September at a approximate total cost of £1,500 ; the actual cost would depend on the length of the watering season.

TC3635 **Date of next meeting - Monday 20th July 2026**
Council **NOTED** the date of the next meeting