

Woolaston Parish Council
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10 JULY 2025 at 8 PM
AT WOOLASTON MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Councillors Terina Riches (Chairman), Pete Brown, Hannah Greenslade, Mary Greenslade (Vice Chairman), Jeanette McElroy and Ryan Rowlands

In attendance: Gillian Orchard Preece (Parish Clerk), Councillor C McFarling, DCllr J Lane, 2 members of the public

25/97 To receive Apologies for Absence.

Cllr M Fairless

25/98 Declarations of Interest

To receive the Councillors' Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda.
There were none

25/99 Public Open Forum.

Councillor McFarling thanked the parish councillors on the good work that they do on behalf of the parish and expressed his appreciation for the sacrifices made.

25/100 To receive the reports from the County and District Councillor.

- a. DCllr Birch sent apologies.
- b. Councillor McFarling forwarded a report on behalf of the County and District Councillors before the meeting
 - i. He mentioned that although this may not affect Woolaston, the Coleford Road closed from the Rising Sun to the mini roundabout for 3 weeks from 27 Jul 2025 between 9am – 3pm, when residents may be able to leave their homes apart from emergencies.
 - ii. Cllr Brown asked DCllr Lane for his opinion on which one of the Local Government Reorganisation options would be of most benefit to Woolaston. He replied that it is difficult to bring down to parish level. It was suggested that a split into two would be more disruptive and expensive, therefore a unitary may be better, however FOD's voice may be lost in a unitary. There are still a lot of things to consider. The Chairman reported that Tidenham Parish Council are hosting a session on Local Government Reorganisation on 7 Aug 2025 in Sedbury.

25/101 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 June 2025

The minutes of the meeting which was previously circulated to councillors were approved by the Council as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

25/102 To receive the Parish Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report (including the outline of updates on actions taken since the last meeting) had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting.

The Chairman handed the meeting to Cllr H Greenslade, Chairman of the Planning and Development Control Committee

25/103 To consider and agree a response to planning applications received.

There were none.

25/104 To note Planning Decisions taken by FODDC in June 2025

- a. [P0451/25/FUL | Variation of condition 02 \(approved plans\) to allow for amendments to garages and plot 4 of planning permission P2035/21/FUL | Montrose Road From Junction With A48 To Junction With Severn View Netherend Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6NN](#) – Consent 9 Jun 2025
- b. [P0386/25/FUL | Conversion of holiday accommodation to self-contained dwelling. | Colne Brook Barn Lane From Junction With A48 To The Lodge Colne Mill Alvington Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6AB](#) – Refused 20 Jun 2025

The above planning decisions were noted.

25/105 To note and/or discuss planning correspondence/ Other issues

a. To note any updates regarding issues with Woolaston Sewage Pumping Station in relation to approved planning applications in Woolaston. The clerk is still awaiting a response from Severn Trent Water to request a representative attend a public meeting. **Action: Ongoing**

b. To discuss the proposed meeting with Mr D Ashley, Environment Agency and other interested parties. Further to Mr Ashely's proposals, Ms S McPherson and Mr C Reynolds has agreed in principle to attend a public meeting. The Clerk is still awaiting a response from the Residents Association with regards a suitable date for a meeting. **Action: Ongoing**

c. Following Sarah Walker's visit to the Parish Council meeting on 12 Jun 2025, she sent an email to the council explaining that she has started to investigate potential rural exception sites. She also forwarded details of planning applications for new homes and suggested she may approach developers to explore the possibility of securing units as affordable housing. Building is already underway on three of the sites she identified, however, the clerk will ask Ms Walker to contact the developer of the 11 dwellings by Heals Homes (Alan's Cottage) to enquire whether any of these units could be designated as affordable housing. Councillors appreciated but declined her offer of joining a zoom session during which she could demonstrate the software tool she uses to identify and assess potential sites. Ms Walker will also be directed to the Planning Portal where the information is available regarding the withdrawal of Rose cottage is detailed.

Action: Clerk to respond to S Walker

Cllr H Greenslade handed the meeting back to the Parish Council Chairman

25/106 To consider the following matters:

a. Policing Issues.

i. The council noted that the crime statistics can be accessed by the following link (Lydney | Police.uk (www.police.uk).

ii. Neighbourhood Watch Report. Cllr Brown reported that the attendance of PCSO Abigail Coe at the Farmers Market in the Memorial Hall was successful and generated a lot of interest. The PCSO has asked that she attend on a regular basis (shift pattern dependent).

iii. Cllrs M Greenslade and Rowland attended the Councillor Advocacy meeting and reported that it was useful and informative.

b. Highways and Footpaths. A resident has reported that the Highway outside the Woolaston Inn is still to be resurfaced and has asked that the issue be raised at the Parish Council meeting. It has already been reported to "Fix my Streets" however, although potholes have been filled in, the whole road has not been resurfaced in 15 years. Cllr McFarling report that the issue has been noted and the Highways manager informed, but as it is a busy road there are a number of issues, including costs, the difficulty in closing the A48, and noise monitoring, to take into account. **Action: Ongoing**

c. Maintenance. There were no issues.

d. Churchyard and Cemetery.

i. The Chairman is still waiting for a quote for the levelling of the two graves that have sunk.

ii. The proposed changes will be forwarded to council for approval before the next meeting.

Action: Cemetery Working Group

25/107 Financial Matters

a. To receive the Financial Report.

i. Council resolved to note the Bank Reconciliation as at 30 Jun 2025 and noted the balance of accounts - £1,259.59 in the current account and £17, 702.26 in the Deposit (Reserves) account.

ii. The council resolved to approve the payment of accounts for Jul 2025 and note receipts and payments since the last meeting. The payment schedule was approved by two councillors and payment will be made online. **Action Clerk**

iii. Council resolved to note the virement of funds (£500 and £1500 - total £2,000) from the Deposit account to the Current (Community) account to ensure that the current account remains in credit and to take best advantage of the interest on the deposit account.

iv. Council received the quarterly Budget Monitoring Statement and the Summary of Receipts and Payments to date and noted that there is no significance variances between the actual spend vs budget.

b. Insurance. The Clerk reported that the council is covered under public liability for damage caused by falling trees. The response from Community First regarding the mitigating measures for the Type Rope swing was "As the rope swing is not something the council has arranged to install, nor is it a piece of playground

equipment or installed by a professional company, the council does need to act with caution as the PC could become liable for the swing. The council may need to seek guidance from an arborist on whether this will be damaging the tree which could ultimately lead to third party injury or damage". The clerk will examine the latest tree inspection report to check the state of the tree and whether any action is required before the next tree inspection is due. She will report back to the council at the next parish council meeting.

Action: Clerk to check Tree Report

c. Council resolved to agree that the funds received from the 364-day grazing licence be added to working capital and not allocated to any specific expenditure.

25/108 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence has been circulated to members before the meeting. The following was highlighted for discussion / resolution.

a. Council considered Gloucestershire County Council's Community 20s and Safer roads initiative / speed limit engagement. The council has previously made several attempts to try to reduce speeding in the parish – especially outside the school and resolved to forward an Expression of Interest (Eol) to Gloucestershire County Council to be considered for Community 20s on some roads within the area. There are other higher speed roads would benefit from a reduction in speed limit where there are currently safety concerns. The Chairman permitted a member of the public to speak. He asked whether the public rights of way, leading onto main roads could be considered when the initiative starts. The hedging provides a blind spot on the road between Church lane and Keynsham Lane thereby making it dangerous for walkers. **Action: Clerk to submit Eol**

b. Council considered councillor attendance on a Climate Adaption Workshop in Sep 2025. The Chairman will respond and suggest a convenient date in September. If she is unable to attend, Cllr Brown will volunteer.

Action: Chairman

25/109 **Other Matters**

a. Victory over Japan (VJ) Day 80th Anniversary Council proposed that an event for VJ Day will need to be different to the events already held and/or proposed this year (i.e., Carnival in July, and the School PTFA Summer fair and Circus in September). The rising Sun are also hosting an event on 16 August 2025. It was resolved to commemorate VJ Day on Friday 15 August with a short event by the Memorial Bench, with short readings. J Kirk will be asked to play the last post – Cllr Greenslade will contact him. Although an educational display involving the school was discussed, as the bulk of the school children will be on holiday, it was agreed that this would not be feasible. The Chairman will arrange a meeting for a small working group to make arrangements for the event. **Action: Chairman/ Vice Chairman**

b. GRCC Village of the Year. The judges visit on Friday 20 June 2025 went well. The Judges were taken around the village followed by a gathering in the Memorial Hall with residents. There was a good turnout – councillors were impressed with the positive response by residents. Cllrs M Greenslade and Rowland will attend the Awards Ceremony on 17 July 2025.

25/110 **Risk Assessment.**

There are no further changes to the Risk Assessment updated as at 30 June 2025.

25/111 **Councillors' local reports and note matters for the agenda for the next meeting.**

a. The Chairman reported that Tidenham Parish Council are hosting a meeting to discuss the local government reorganisation in Sedbury Village Hall on Thursday 7 August 2025 at 7pm and have invited FOD councillors to attend. Cllrs Riches, M Greenslade and Brown will attend.

b. Cllr Brown reported that an email has been received regarding expansion of the Mary Smart and Margaret Clayton Charities. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting

c. Ash dieback – the clerk will request an extension and add to the agenda for the next meeting.

25/112 **Date of Next Meetings.**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday 11 September 2025.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 2110

Signed: Date: