

Woolaston Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025 at 8 PM AT WOOLASTON MEMORIAL HALL

Present: Cllr T Riches Chairman, Cllr M Greenslade Vice Chairman, Cllr R Rowlands, Cllr H Greenslade, Cllr M Fairless, Cllr J McElroy

In Attendance: G Orchard Preece (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public

25/148 To receive Apologies for Absence.

Cllr P Brown

25/149 Declarations of Interest

To receive the Councillors' Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda.
Nil

25/150 Public Open Forum

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the forthcoming A48 closure (outside the Woolaston Inn) for 'patching' works scheduled between 1 – 8 December 2025 ahead of a full surface dressing planned for Summer 2026. The resident noted that this section of road has been subject to longstanding issues, with repeated patching and temporary repairs of potholes, and he expressed doubt that the works would be carried out as stated. The resident wished their concerns to be noted.

25/151 To receive the written reports from the County and District Councillor.

Apologies received from CCllr C McFarling and DCllrs Lane and Birch who were attending the Full Council meeting at FODDC. The reports were noted – the Chairman noted the availability of a grant from GCC Grass roots Neighbourhood Fund. There were no questions.

25/152 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9 October 2025.

These were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

25/153 To receive Parish Clerk's report.

The Parish Clerk's report was noted.

Cllr H Greenslade took the Chair for Planning discussions.

25/154 Planning applications

- a. [P1215/25/FUL | Change of use from agricultural land to additional residential curtilage and creation of new access and hardstanding parking area. | Plusterwine House Station Road Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6PN](#) - reply required 14.11.25

The parish council discussed the planning application and resolved that it objects to the change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage, citing its previous stance and the risk of setting a precedent. The Council does not consider the proposed access, or hardstanding would benefit highway safety or how it would help preserve a Grade II listed building.

- b. [P1291/25/FUL | Sub-division of Springfield into three self-contained dwellings | Springfield Station Road Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6PN](#) – reply required 14.11.25

The parish council discussed the application and resolved that there was no objection to the subdivision of Springfield into three self-contained dwellings. However members expressed concerns regarding parking and access requirements, and the potential impact on local traffic given that there are already

existing issues in that area. The council would be interested to note the comments from Highways department on this matter.

- c. [P1221/25/FUL | Application under Section 73 for the removal of condition 13 \(Obscure Glazing\) of planning permission P1525/23/FUL | Netherend Inn Netherend Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6NN](#) – reply required 17.11.25

The parish council discussed the application and resolved not to support the removal of Condition 13. The council noted that this condition was originally imposed to protect the privacy of neighbouring properties. The parish council recommended that planning permission remains as originally approved.

25/155 To discuss any urgent applications received since publication of agenda

There were none

25/156 To note planning decisions taken by FODDC in September 2025

- a. [P1043/25/DISCON | Discharge of condition 13b \(completion report\) and 13c \(completion report certificate\) for Plots 8 - 15 and Plots 25 - 36 relating to Outline permission P1995/18/OUT | Netherend Farm Netherend Woolaston Gloucestershire](#) – Granted permission 10 Oct 2025
- b. [P0860/25/LBC | Listed building consent to strip roof, replace defective rafters, insulate between rafters, plaster water damaged ceilings, felt and batten replaced, replace cement slates with natural slate-Merayo, replace gutter and downpipes, replace windows, remove cement render make good substrate, lime render external elevations. | Burnt House Main Road Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6PJ](#) - Granted permission 21 Oct 2025

The above planning decisions were noted.

25/157 To note and discuss planning correspondence / other issues

- a. Council noted that the meeting has now been confirmed as 20 November 2025 at 11.30. The Chairman emphasised that this meeting has taken a year to arrange, and a good attendance is expected from agencies. It is hoped that they will be able to agree on a procedure for how things will be managed in the future and confirm that the AD is still adhering to its original planning conditions. Issues with the inadequate Pumping Station and subsequent flooding in the village and at Brookend is also on the agenda. The clerk will forward the final agenda to all attendees ahead of the meeting. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman resumed the Chair of the PC meeting

25/158 To consider the following matters:

- a. Policing Issues
- i. Cllr Brown received clarification that the report received from PCSO Coe and PC Turner last month are specific to Woolaston. PC Turner confirmed that Woolaston does come under Lydney hence the figures on police.uk will be different as they provide an overview of the whole district of Lydney.
 - ii. PC Turner confirmed that the person involved with the robbery has been arrested and remanded.
 - iii. The community van will be in the village on Tue 18 Nov 2025 at 1400 outside Netherend Stores.
- b. Highways and footpath issues
- i. Council noted the information regarding the planned A48 repair works between 1 – 8 December 2025, and that there is a long history of repeated temporary pothole repairs. The council and residents have been advised that the upcoming works will involve removing all previous pothole repairs and replacing them with a single consolidated patch of approximately 260m². It was acknowledged that the term 'patching' in this instance does not refer to temporary repairs, and a full surface dressing is scheduled for Summer 2026. The road is due to be closed at night.

ii. Cllr McElroy suggested that the volunteers for the Alleyway and Footpath Project be led by the parish council – all agreed. She will liaise with the Clerk to produce a Volunteer Policy to encompass all aspect of volunteers matters, including risk assessment, for all areas in the parish.

Action: Cllr McElroy/Clerk

c. Maintenance

i. Tree Maintenance / Management. The council considered the recommendations from Trunk Arb for the maintenance of the tree T32 on the corner of Birchwood Road/Woolaston Common and resolved to request a quote for the tree to be removed. Council resolved that (notwithstanding the recommendation of Trunk Arb) the tyre rope swing be left in position and would not be moved, as it was concerned that residents may move it back.

Action: Clerk

ii. Community Orchard. The resident who volunteered for the Community Orchard withdrew his offer. Steve Hamblyn is still content to continue as a volunteer and will cut/trim branches as necessary, however the system for engaging volunteers will be reviewed in conjunction with minute 25/158bii above.

d. Cemetery and Churchyard.

i. The clerk requested that Blatchly's re-level and return the grave in question and will check whether it has been completed.

Action: Clerk

ii. The Chairman will forward the amended rules to the clerk.

Action: Chairman

e. Governance Documents

i. The review of the Draft Volunteer Policy was deferred until the next meeting.

25/159 Financial matters

a. To receive the Financial Report.

i. Council approved the Bank Reconciliation as at 31 October 2025 and noted the balance of accounts (Community account - £1975.89 / Deposit account - £22,739.79).

ii. Council approved the payment of accounts for Nov 2025 and noted receipts and payments since the last meeting as per the financial report.

iii. Council noted the virement of £2,000 on 13 Nov 2025 from the deposit (Reserves) account to the current account to ensure sufficient funds for the payment of invoices.

b. Budget and Precept Preparation for financial year 2026/2027

i. Council considered the draft budget prepared by the clerk. Members agreed that no adjustments or amendments were required and noted that the overall budget represents an approximate 10.2% increase, leading to a proposed 10% increase in the precept. The Chairman asked the clerk to confirm with FODDC that the increased number of homes in Woolaston have been taken into account when calculating the tax base figures for the next financial year.

Action: Clerk

ii. Council reviewed the level of financial reserves and noted the limited availability of additional reserves to support the precept. It was agreed that no reserves will be used to support the budget or precept.

c. Council approved the Clerk attendance on the GAPTC Networking session on 3 Dec 2025 – cost £35 plus travel.

d. Council noted the completion of the quarterly internal control check (July – September 2025) by Cllr McElroy. There were no issues.

25/160 Correspondence

a. An email was received from a resident asking about the impact expected on the Parish from the proposed development of a 4 Reactor Nuclear Power Station at Oldbury, just 3 miles across the river from Woolaston. The question has been overtaken by events – it was reported on 13 Nov 2025 that the power station would be sited in Anglesey.

b. Council noted the Biosphere Letter from FODDC dated 5.11.2025 - Intention to Apply for UNESCO Biosphere Status and survey. Councillors will respond individually. The clerk will post the details to the council and community Facebook pages. **Action: Clerk**

c. Council considered an email from a resident suggesting additional street lighting in the area from the Rising Sun to Sandtumps. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) street lighting department advised that the parish council could pursue this option but would be required to fund at least 50% with GCC's contribution capped at £5,000. It was noted that this level of expenditure is not affordable within the current budget, nor would it be appropriate to consider lighting in only one part of the parish. Council also noted that, as a rural village, limited street lighting is normal and generally expected. The resident will be informed of the decision. **Action: Clerk**

25/161 To discuss other matters

a. Woolaston Warmers . It has not been possible to arrange a meeting; however, members were emailed to ask for suggestions for the way forward. The Chairman advised that the group is intended as a form of social interaction for parishioners, and members were asked how the group should go forward. She also noted that it would be necessary for more groups and volunteers to be involved in running the sessions. Members suggested targeting young mothers, single parents, and other groups that use the hall. It was noted some residents may need transport, and a buddy system could be considered. It was also noted that other similar groups had taken over a year to become established. The Chairman will collate the ideas and forward to members. **Action: Chairman**

b. Sponsorship of the Christmas Tree. The Vice Chairman spoke to a local business to ask if they could sponsor a tree for the parish, however due to the increased cost of trees, this has not been possible. The council will contact Trunk Arb to ask them to provide a tree as in previous years. **Action: Clerk**

Council resolved not to erect the Christmas Lights to the school and residents' homes, noting that they were damaged in last year's storm, and that, for health and safety reasons, they should not be used again. It was agreed that the Christmas tree lights will be installed on 30 Nov 2025 - Cllr McElroy will contact M Rose to ask for his assistance as in previous years. **Cllr McElroy**

c. GRCC Village of the Year award – prize money. The style of bench and wording is still to be decided. Cllr Fairless will investigate suitable bench and a concrete base and report back at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Fairless**

d. CPR Training. It is planned to host another CPR training session in the spring and to invite members of the football team to attend. The Chairman reported that SARA can provide training if needed, however Cllr H Greenslade will investigate sourcing CPR manikins as she had previously. **Action: Cllr H Greenslade**

25/162 Risk Assessment

There were no amendments or changes

25/163 To receive any Councillors reports

There were no reports .

25/164 The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and noted the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Thursday 11 December 2025 at 8pm.

The Meeting closed at 9 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman