

Woolaston Parish Council
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 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, Cllr P Brown

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

25/165 To receive Apologies for Absence.

There were none

25/166 Declarations of Interest

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

Nil

25/167 Public Open Forum

A resident informed the council that he intended to attend the next transport meeting held by Matt Bishop, MP for Gloucestershire, and asked if he could ask anything on behalf of the council. The chairman thanked and resident and informed them that the council would write separately to Highways department on any issues.

The chairman commented that a sum of money has been allocated to local buses, however it would be interesting to know how the income has been invested.

A resident commented that he had not received any feedback from Severn Trent Water, following the public meeting on 20 Nov 2025. The chairman informed them that Severn Trent have a meeting planned for Mon 15 Dec 2025. He also reported ongoing drainage issues on the A48, previously submitted via the "Fix My Street" service. He has logged two reports recently, with both now marked as resolved, although the manholes remain blocked and the gullies have not been swept. Photographs provided show the drains are still obstructed and covered in mud. The resident explained that water continues to run down the A48, flooding the bus stop outside their property, with spray being thrown over their frontage when buses pull in. He requested that the Parish Council raise the matter directly on his behalf, as his own reports have not resulted in action. The situation remains unchanged since his initial complaint. The resident will forward details to the Parish Clerk

25/168 To receive the written reports from the County and District Councillor.

Apologies were received from Cllr C McFarling and Cllrs Lane and Birch who were attending the Full Council meeting at FODDC. The reports were noted – there were no questions.

25/169 To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 November 2025.

The Chairman proposed that Minute 25/158c.i be amended to read "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 considered that residents would move it back". Council resolved to approve this amendment and the minutes will be amended accordingly prior to signature by the Chairman.

25/170 To receive Parish Clerk's report.

The Parish Clerk's report was noted.

Cllr H Greenslade took the Chair for Planning discussions.

25/171 Planning applications

- a. [P1390/25/FUL | Erection of Screening Bund, Storage Area and Associated basin and Drainage with Landscaping Works. | ReeceR Space Ashwell Grange Stroat NP16 7LS](#)

Council discussed the above application and agreed that it represents a worthwhile exercise, beneficial to small businesses and unlikely to have any adverse impact. It was resolved to support the application.

b. [P0188/25/FUL | Change of use of the land from an agricultural/equestrian use to a tourism use and the construction of 2 holiday accommodation units, improved vehicular access, parking area and associated works | Hillside Cottage Woodlaston Lydney GL15 6PB](#)

Council considered the revised plans for Hillside Cottage. Members noted that the proposal was substantially similar to the previous application considered in March 2025, when the Council had recalled not supporting a similar application in 2024. At that time, the Council had observed that although the location of the holiday units had been changed, the entrance and exits had not been addressed and the proposed vehicle access was not safe or suitable. Members agreed that the revised plans still did not resolve these concerns and therefore reiterated their objections. Council resolved not to support the revised application, restating its previous objections regarding unsafe and unsuitable vehicle access and the overall suitability of the site.

25/172 To discuss any urgent applications received since publication of agenda

a. [P1500/25/PIP | Permission in principle for the erection of 5 dwellings with associated works | Land At Cone Valley Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire](#)

Council considered the above application, received after publication of the agenda. Concerns were raised regarding the additional traffic that would require access onto the busy A48 together with the increased tarmac which would further reduce drainage capacity. The site adjoins a flood zone (alongside Cone Brook) which is prone to frequent flooding due to its low lying nature and recent weather conditions. Members also noted that the existing public sewerage system is already inadequate for current properties in the village and would struggle to accommodate further housing. In addition, planning permission for Shepherds huts was previously refused on adjacent land. For these reasons, the parish council resolved not to support the application for permission in principle.

b. [P1507/25/FUL | Proposed new access and construction of agricultural track | Plusterwine House Station Road Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6PN](#)

Council considered this application, received on the day of the meeting. Members noted that the proposed access arrangements would alter traffic movements along Station Road with heavy agricultural vehicles being potentially diverted behind properties rather than past them. Concerns were raised about the impact of ongoing applications, including a pending proposal for 30% increase in tonnage through the plant, and the uncertainty created by the ongoing judicial review. It was agreed that given the lack of clear information and the potential implications for the nearby listed building and local infrastructure, the council could not reach a definitive position at this stage. The council therefore resolved to adopt a neutral stance until further details and outcomes are available.

25/173 To note planning decisions taken by FODDC in September 2025

There were none

25/174 To note and discuss planning correspondence / other issues

a. Council noted feedback from public meeting with residents and representatives from the Environment Agency(EA), FODDC Planning and Environmental Protection and Severn Trent Water (STW) and Plusterwine Biogas arranged for Thu 20 Nov 2025, regarding ongoing issues at Plusterwine and the ongoing sewage and drainage concerns. The meeting was well attended, with representation all previously mentioned (Highways Department were not present).

The chairman reported that while the meeting provided an opportunity for direct discussion, many residents expressed frustration that longstanding concerns dating back over a decade remain unresolved. Severn Trent representatives acknowledged the strength of local feeling and undertook to report back to senior management, with an action plan expected to be shared with residents and both parish councils. Concerns were raised about the adequacy of Woolaston's pumping station and the announcement that sewage from new developments would be directed to Alvington, where capacity issues already exist. Council agreed that the meeting had highlighted the depth of resident concern but had not provided reassurance or resolution. It was noted that Plusterwine representatives did not contribute as much as residents would have liked, though subsequent correspondence has suggested a further meeting may be arranged. Residents requested that the site owners are present at any follow up meeting, to address outstanding questions on traffic, drainage, and digestate management

b. Planning appeal against the refusal of Planning Application P0454/25/OUT – Greenacres, Parkhill Common, Woolaston, Lydney, GL15 6PU

The parish council noted the planning appeal and resolved that no further comments be submitted.

The Chairman resumed the Chair of the PC meeting

25/175 To consider the following matters:

a. Policing Issues. Councillors noted the latest crime statistics published on the national police link. A neighbourhood policing update was unavailable as the officers were on leave. The community van had visited the village. Members discussed the email from PCSO Coe regarding traffic and parking concerns on Netherend, particularly outside the school where zig-zag lines end where there used to be a disabled parking space. The PCSO suggested reinstating / extending the zig-zag lines, introducing double yellow lines, and extending restrictions to improve safety. It was noted that parking pressures have been exacerbated by the closure of the school's back gate due to sewage issues, as well as contractor vehicles associated with nearby housing development. Council agreed that the clerk should report the sewage issue to Environmental Health and also raise concerns with Highways regarding road safety and parking restrictions outside the school. Members further noted that the building of the new houses has significantly altered traffic conditions, which will change again once completed.

Action: Clerk

b. Highways and footpath issues

- i. The pothole on Spout Hill has been a continuous issue. The last repair consisted of the hole being filled with soft tarmac which lasted one week – nothing has been resolved. The issue is to be reported again and will inform the Cllr McFarling.
- ii. An email was received from a resident reporting that the footpath between Birchwood Road and Ring Fence was not level. Council noted that this path belonged to a property where the previous residents maintained but also consider that it is not wide enough. Cllrs Brown and McElroy agreed to investigate its status, speak to the new residents and report it on "Fix my Street" if necessary.

Action: Cllrs Brown/McElroy

c. Maintenance

- i. Tree Maintenance / Management. Council considered the quote of £633 from Trunk Arb and resolved to agree that they carry out the work to remove tree T32 on the corner of Birchwood Road. **Action: Clerk**

d. Cemetery and Churchyard.

- i. The grave has been re-levelled, and the invoice received and is on the list for payments to be approved. There is a broken bench in the churchyard which needs to be removed. **Action: Cllr Fairless**

25/176 Financial matters

a. To receive the Financial Report.

- i. Council approved the Bank Reconciliation as at 30 Nov 2025 and noted the balance of accounts (Community account - £1,450.44 / Deposit account - £20,751.75).
- ii. Council approved the payment of accounts for Dec 2025 in accordance with the Financial Report and noted receipts and payments since the last meeting.

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

- i. The clerk confirmed that only three properties from the new development are included in the Council Tax Base calculations for the next financial year, as only those are expected to be completed and occupied. As a result, while the overall parish council budget will increase by 10%, the Band D charge will rise by 8%.
- ii. There were no changes or additions to the draft budget reviewed by council at the last meeting: Council approved the budget for 2026/2027 as £33,142.
- iii. Council resolved to set the precept for 2026/2027 as £30,340 and authorised the clerk to submit the request to FODDC (billing authority). **Action: Clerk**

c. The residents who provide the electricity for the Christmas tree lights have stated they do not require reimbursement. The clerk will write a thank you letter to the residents. **Action: Clerk**

d. Council resolved to appoint of GAPTAC as the Internal Auditor Service for 2025/2026 for a fee of £250 – a service that offers independent and impartial audit of the parish council governance and processes.

25/177 Correspondence

a. An email was received from a resident – enquiring whether the speed limit on Woolaston Common (Rising Sun to Sandtumps) can be reduced. This issue has already previously been raised with Highways and has not been approved previously as the national speed limit applies. It is unfortunate that some people do drive at 60mph on that particular stretch of road.

25/178 To discuss other matters

a. Woolaston Warmers . The Council discussed the future of Woolaston Winter Warmers. The chairman noted that attendance had been low and that the organisation of sessions had fallen largely to two individuals, which was not sustainable. It was observed that similar schemes elsewhere had shifted their emphasis from providing warmth to addressing loneliness and encouraging social interaction, which had proven effective. Members agreed that any future sessions should focus on community friendship and social engagement rather than the original “warmth” theme, and that a new name such as “Community Friendship Group” might be more appropriate. It was further agreed that wider involvement from local groups would be essential, with the possibility of a rota system to share responsibility. Cllr H Greenslade will contact village organisations to seek support and report back. No decision was taken on restarting sessions until further interest and assistance are confirmed.

Action: Cllr H Greenslade

b. GRCC Village of the Year award – prize money. Councillors discussed the purchase of the bench with the prize money from the Village of the Year Runner-Up award. In the original application submission, the Council had indicated that the winnings would be used to provide a bench for the playing field. At the meeting, however, members noted that the playing field already has sufficient benches and therefore agreed that the corner of Birchwood Road would be a more suitable location. Options for materials and siting were considered, including the need for a suitable base (concrete or slabs). After discussion, it was agreed that a fully recycled plastic bench would be most appropriate, given durability and ease of maintenance. The total budget for the bench, including the base, will be met from the £1,000 prize money. Cllr Fairless will investigate quotations, including the price of an inscription plate, and report back at the next meeting for final approval of siting and cost.

Action: Cllr Fairless

c. CPR Training. Cllr H Greenslade reported that she has been in contact with the SARA Station Officer, Mark Powell regarding arrangements for a Heart Start CPR training session. He has agreed to deliver a training session and will provide manikins. Members agreed the session should be held on a weekday evening (not Thursday, due to existing commitments) and not at a weekend, with February identified as the most suitable month. The Clerk will investigate when the hall is available. It was resolved that a small donation of £50 be offered to SARA for providing the service, and to give them the option to bring a collection bucket for voluntary contributions. It was noted that other organisations, including the WI, are planning separate sessions in the Spring, and that refresher training should ideally be offered annually. Members agreed that efforts should be made to encourage attendance from the football team, given their potential need for CPR skills. The Clerk will liaise with SARA to confirm dates and details, and publicity will be arranged once the session is scheduled.

Action: Clerk

25/179 Risk Assessment

There were no amendments or changes

25/180 To receive any Councillors reports

There were no reports .

25/181 The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and noted the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Thursday 12 February 2026 at 8pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.02 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman