

# Woolaston Parish Council

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2026 at 8 PM AT WOOLASTON MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Riches (Chairman), M Greenslade, H Greenslade, Rowlands, Fairless, McElroy, Brown  
IN ATTENDANCE: G Orchard Preece (Clerk), CCllr C McFarling, DCllr J Lane and 7 members of the public

1/26 APOLOGIES - There were none.

2/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were none.

3/26 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

A resident thanked the clerk for the information that representatives from Severn Trent Water will be in attendance at the next meeting. The church warden requested that the list of names for the location of graves in the cemetery be updated. He also had a question on an item on the agenda (tree planting in the Closed Churchyard) discussed when the item is reached.

4/26 REPORT FROM COUNTY / DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Written reports were received from Cllr McFarling and Dcllr Lane - there were no questions from the parish council. Cllr McFarling reminded attendees that the Draft Local Plan consultation is now live and urged everyone to consider the allocations and policies, and to respond. Dates for councillors and residents to attend open consultation sessions are available.

Both the County and District Council budget will be discussed next week - councillors should inform the CCllr/DCllr if they have any comments or points to raise.

5/26 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

The minutes from the meeting held on 11 December 2025 were agreed as correct and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman also signed the amended minutes from the meeting held on 11 November 2025.

6/26 CLERK REPORT.

- a. Cllr Fairless commented on the resolved and completed action regarding FWO 21/27 . The Wednesday Walkers were able to use the route without any issues for the first time in twenty years. He had contacted the PROW officer to thank him and to ask him that once the final issues regarding the signs have been resolved that way marks could be inserted.
- b. The Item referring to minute 25/67 is now resolved. Fencing has been erected by the resident and has reduced the overgrown vegetation.

*The Chairman handed the meeting to the Chairman of the Planning & Development Control committee.*

7/26 PLANNING. There were no new applications.

8/26 PLANNING RESPONSES AND RECEIVED SENT SINCE THE LAST MEETING

a. P1524/25/FUL - Shalom Woolaston Grange - removal of condition b.  
The parish council had no objections.

b. P1531/25/FUL - 1 Ash Way, Woolaston - revised plans for erection of garage outbuilding. The parish council had no objections.

## 9/26 FODDC PLANNING DECISIONS SINCE LAST MEETING

- a. [P1500/25/PIP | Permission in principle for the erection of 5 dwellings with associated works | Land At Cone Valley Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire](#) – Refused 16 Jan 2026
- b. [P1454/25/DISCON | Discharge of Conditions 6 \(Soft Landscaping\), 7 \(External lighting\) and 13 \(Landscaping scheme\) relating to planning permission P2044/20/FUL | Pleasant View Woodside Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6PA](#) – Granted permission 15 Jan 2026
- c. [P1190/25/LD1 | Application under Section 191 to establish whether the existing use of the land as a motorcross training facility is lawful | Land At Hollands Grove Stroat NP16 7LR](#) – refused 2 Jan 2026
- d. [P1221/25/FUL | Application under Section 73 for the variation of conditions 02 \(approved plans\) and 13 \(obscure glazing\) of planning permission P1525/23/FUL \(revised description\). | Netherend Inn Netherend Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6NN](#) – Granted permission 17 Dec 2025
- e. [P0959/25/FUL | Erection of a single storey extension to an existing agricultural workers dwellinghouse with associated works. | Woolaston Court Barn Main Road Woolaston Lydney Gloucestershire GL15 6PJ](#) – Granted permission 3 Dec 2025

The parish council noted the above planning decisions made by FODDC.

## 10/26 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

- a. The Chairman reported on the second meeting on 4 Feb 2026 with Station Road residents and representatives from Plusterwine. The newly appointed Ops Manager, Heidi Bradley informed the meeting that, going forward she would be the direct contact about issues raised in future. It was noted that residents felt the lack of attendance by the owners was a missed opportunity. Outstanding issues were discussed, including
  - i. The volume and size traffic - considered a major issue. Discussions centred around changing the flow to a one way system around the triangle and Heidi agreed to contact Highways. The possibility of a new access road was also discussed, and Heidi agreed that she would look into possibilities and report back.
  - ii. Residents felt that the curfew does not work and she will look at this.
  - iii. Digestate spreading had been raised as an issue as currently dribble bars are used: Heidi reported that alternatives were being looked into.
  - iv. Heidi will liaise directly with Station Road residents and vice versa and keep the Parish Council informed.
  - v. Severn Trent Water will attend the next parish count meeting and update councillors and residents.

It is hoped that there is now a satisfactory form of communication with Plusterwine for residents.

- b. The Council noted that the consultation period for the revised Draft Local Plan 2025-2045 runs from 4 Feb - 18 Mar 2026. It was further noted that some residents, based on social media posts, appear to believe that decisions have already been made. The council emphasised the plan remains at consultation stage and that both councillors and residents may attend public meetings to ask questions. The nearest event will be held in at Sedbury on Wed 25 Feb 2026. The clerk will publish the consultation dates on the council's website and Facebook page and advise residents that they are able to comment on the plan as individuals.

*The Chairman resumed the Chair of the PC Meeting.*

## 11/26 STANDING ITEMS

- a. Policing Issues
  - i. The council noted the crime statistics accessed via the national Uk link. ([Lydney | Police.uk](https://www.police.uk) ([www.police.uk](https://www.police.uk)).

ii. The council noted complaints about scrambling bikes on Woolaston Common with noise being the main concern. The PCSO advised that the police can take limited action unless a number plate is provided, though sightings of bikes being offloaded from vehicles may assist. The issue is widespread across the Forest of Dean, and while the police are not authorised, or equipped to pursue them, they request that any information be passed to them. A query was raised as to whether activity has increased since the refusal of the use of land as a motocross facility at Stroat. No-one was able to answer this. Cllr Brown agreed to try to capture number plates without any risk to himself.

iii. The police could not provide current crime figures but will send them once their system is restored. The PCSO noted the faded school zig-zag lines. Cllr McFarling confirmed they are scheduled for repainting in March, along with the road marking outside Old Dairy Way. The Chairman also asked that the red tarmac area with "School Ahead" that was removed during construction, be reinstated.

b. Highways and Footpaths

i. Council noted the concern of residents regarding the new potholes that have appeared following patching of A48 - residents. There is confusion about what the work will be completed in March

ii. The clerk has contacted Highways to confirm the access arrangements during the overnight proposed works planned for 16 Mar 2026 for residents who live on the A48. It was also noted that the diversion route is not clarified.

c. Maintenance

i. The council noted the removal of the tree at the corner of Birchwood Road/Woolaston Common by TrunkArb.

ii. The council noted the completion of the Asset inspection by Cllr Riches with the locations of all assets recorded and action required is noted.

- There is a broken dog bin at Woolaston Common to be replaced with the spare one
- It was noted that the bus shelter opposite the Wyvern Garage has vegetation that needs to be removed.
- There is also a broken bench still to be removed from the Cemetery.

d. Churchyard and Cemetery

i. The clerk has made slight changes to the rules, to include the removal of the charge to amend an ERB, and the addition of the date of the meeting at which the council approved the meeting. Councillors agreed the change and agreed that the rules be noted with the date of the meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

ii. The parish council approved the clerk to sign the Tree Agreement for planting 10 lime whips in St Andrews Churchyard. Although the parish council maintains the churchyard, a faculty is still required. The Churchwarden will arrange the application, and the clerk will forward the details to the churchwarden so the faculty can be completed before the trees arrive.

**Action: Clerk**

e. Governance Documents

i. Council resolved to re-adopt the Bio-diversity policy.

ii. Council considered the draft Volunteer working party policy - the clerk was directed to contact the District Council to check whether a safeguarding clause is needed, and whether any form of training is required.

**Action: Clerk**

## 12/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a. Financial Report.

i. The council received the financial report, approved the bank reconciliation and noted the balance of accounts as at 31 Jan 2026 (Community (Current) account - £259.97 / Deposit (Reserves & Savings) account - £20,751.75).

- ii. Council approved the payment of accounts for Feb 2026 in accordance with the Financial Report and noted receipts and payments since the last meeting which were made under delegated authority.
- b. Budget Monitoring Statement (BMS). Council reviewed and noted the council quarterly spend v budget to 31 Dec 2026 as per the BMS and Summary of Receipts and payments.
- c. Internal Controls. Council noted the completion of the quarterly checks and controls and approval of the quarterly bank reconciliation by Cllr J McElroy.
- d. Council noted the virement of £2,500 by the clerk, (as permitted by Financial Regs 6.7), from the Deposit to the Current Account for payments due in February 2026.

13/26 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Call for Sites 2026 Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA). Council confirmed that it does not have any available sites.
- b. FODDC Revised Emergency Plan Handbook. Council agreed that the current WPC emergency plan is sufficient and do not wish to amend in accordance with FODDC. The clerk will ensure the WPC plan is on the website. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Council noted the launch of Gloucestershire's' Local Government Reorganisation proposals. GAPTC who are a statutory consultee, have asked councils to formulate a response and forward to them by 13 Mar 2026 (ahead of the consultation end date of 26 Mar). Councillors are requested to consider a response to be agreed at the next meeting.

14/26 OTHER MATTERS

- a. Winter Warmers Friendship Group. Cllr H Greenslade reported that she has produced a flyer asking for volunteers and will send to other groups who use Woolaston Memorial Hall.
- b. Community Bench. Council agreed to purchase a Shenstone bench for £475 plus fixing kit to be sited on the corner of Birchwood Road. Cllr Fairless will arrange the purchase.
- c. CPR Training. The clerk reported that the CPR session with Mike Powell from SARA has been advertised on Facebook and the Council website.

15/26 GRASS TENDER CONTRACT 2026/2027. The Parish Council reviewed and considered the tenders received. The tenders were competitive - as the Council has confidence in their established performance and familiarity with the parish's needs, it was agreed to continue with the current contractor, Monmouthshire County Council. The clerk will let them and the unsuccessful contractor know. **Action: Clerk**

16/26 RISK ASSESSMENT. There were no new additions or updates to the risk assessment.

17/26 COUNCILLORS REPORTS/ ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Councillors asked the clerk to contact the school to enquire why the gate at rear of school is not opened. Parents are parking on the road outside the school instead of the Hall car park as the rear access is unavailable. It is understood the gate was closed following a sewage issue; however, the clerk was told this was resolved and the issue is now overhanging tree branch. **Action: Clerk**

18/26 NEXT MEETINGS

- a. Full Parish Council – Thursday 12 March 2026 at 8 pm
- b. Council agreed the date for the Annual Parish Meeting as 23 April 2026. The Clerk will advertise the meeting and invite groups to attend. Groups will also be invited to bring a display to advertise and provide further information about their organisation and activities.

Signed: ..... Date: .....