

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WINCHCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT ABBEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE, BACK LANE, WINCHCOMBE AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2025.

PRESENT: Mr J Mason (Chair) Mr D Gray Mr W Marlow
 Ms S Sturgeon (Vice Chair) Mr M Lennard Mr R Wakeford
 Ms L Gorton Mr S Maughan Clerk / Deputy Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRIOR TO MEETING COMMENCING. None.

1. TO NOTE APOLOGIES. Cllrs D Chandler, T Forrester, G Madle and R Parker.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.
3. URGENT BUSINESS: THE CHAIRMAN WILL MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: UNDER SECTION 100 (B) (4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE FOLLOWING ITEM BE ADDED TO THE AGENDA AS A MATTER OF URGENCY AND CANNOT BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AS DEFINED IN PART 4, SECTION 7 OF THE ACT.
4. TO CONSIDER A LEAVE OF ABSENCE REQUEST FROM COUNCILLOR H CLARKE. Due to personal circumstances Cllr H Clarke has requested leave of absence until after September. Proposed Cllr D Gray, seconded Cllr W Marlow, carried unanimously.
5. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS:
 - d) PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2024. Proposed Cllr R Wakeford, seconded Cllr S Sturgeon, carried unanimously.
 - d) GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2024. Proposed Cllr S Sturgeon, seconded Cllr M Lennard, carried unanimously.
 - d) COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2024. Proposed Cllr W Marlow, seconded Cllr S Sturgeon, carried unanimously.
 - d) FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2024. Proposed Cllr D Gray, seconded Cllr M Lennard, carried unanimously.

6. TO RECEIVE MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

Old Boys School	WTC Working Group - Cllr G Madle has issued an invitation for members to join this group. Replies to GM by Fri 10 Jan.
Policies & Procedures	All WTC Policies & Procedures are located in Teams > Winchcombe Town Council > Policies & Procedures

THE CHAIRMAN BOUGHT FORWARD ITEM 9 TO ENABLE CLLR D GRAY (CHAIR OF FINANCE COMMITTEE) TO LEAD AS HE NEEDED TO LEAVE BEFORE THE END OF THE MEETING.

7. TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE 2025-26 BUDGETS AND SET THE PRECEPT.
 Following discussion and review of the options presented by Cllr D Gray, members agreed to set the precept at £277,998.00. this represents an increase on 2024-25 of £2 per Winchcombe electorate. The additional funds will help to cover increasing costs and enable set up of a Community Grant Scheme.
8. TO CONSIDER AND DECIDE UPON ADOPTING CIVICLY ASSET MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.
 The Clerk presented a business case for the asset management system, which would enable councillors to photograph and upload visual records of all council assets/equipment, to aid future

condition monitoring, maintenance requirements and reporting. Prop Cllr D Gray, sec Cllr W Marlow, carried unanimously.


CLLR D GRAY LEFT THE MEETING.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WINCHCOMBE SPORTS HUB.

Cllr G Madle and Pete Griffiths are in the process of becoming Directors of the limited company so that Sue Sturgeon and Jonathan Templeton can step back as requested. This will enable the appropriate authority to start making the organisational changes needed. Cllr G Madle hopes there will be more to update at February's meeting about the building transfer.

10. CIRCULARS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

<p>NALC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Chief executive's bulletin - 28 November 2024</u> • <u>Hey Enter name, we've announced this year's Star Councils Awards finalists. 9 Dec</u> • <u>Events newsletter 10 Dec</u> • <u>Chief executive's bulletin - 12 December 2024</u> • <u>Events newsletter 17 Dec</u> • <u>Chief executive's bulletin - 19 December 2024</u>
<p>TBC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Private hire driver prosecuted for illegally plying for hire</u> • <u>Community organisation needed to manage Homelands Community Centre</u> • <u>Tewkesbury Borough Council response to English Devolution White Paper publication</u> • <u>Treecycle – Christmas tree recycling</u> • <u>Tewkesbury Borough Council to review name change decision</u> <hr/> <p>Today, Wednesday, 11 December 2024, it was agreed that Tewkesbury Borough Council's name change to North Gloucestershire Borough Council will be moved to March 2025, so we can consider any impact from the anticipated government white paper on devolution.</p> <p>The white paper was announced in the budget in October, and was due by the end of November, but it has still not been issued. The paper may create uncertainty around the future role of district councils, which could have significant implications for us and our move to change our name.</p> <p>We've always said that the name change will be completed at minimal cost – so if the white paper mandates that Gloucestershire's local government structure requires reorganisation in the next two to three years, changing our name would not be an efficient use of our budget.</p> <p>Once the white paper is published and we understand the implications for our council, we will update you on our plans.</p> <p>You can find out more about the name change by visiting A new name for Tewkesbury Borough Council - Tewkesbury Borough Council</p> <p>If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at customer.services@tewkesbury.gov.uk.</p>

	Sincerely Alistair Cunningham OBE.
Bromford Housing	Regeneration plans for 4 blocks of flats in Winchcombe; Aragon House, Boleyn House, Howard House, and Parr House. These properties have been identified as underperforming and not providing an environment for our customers to thrive in due to high energy costs and significant condensation, damp and mould issues. Due to this we are proceeding with regeneration plans for the site and moving all customers out of the properties into new homes to enable them to thrive in.
GCC	<p>Councils Connected December 2024. Budget 2025-26 Consultation - Have Your Say! </p> <hr/> <p>Western Gateway's Strategic Transport Plan - Consultation</p> <p>The Western Gateway is one of seven sub-national transport bodies in England. Western Gateway STB work with nine constituent Local Authorities, including Gloucestershire, to take a strategic overview of transport, helping to champion and protect the region, prioritise strategic transport interventions, and work cooperatively beyond local boundaries on regional transport issues. Western Gateway's Strategic Transport Plan is the link between national policy and local strategy. The plan focuses on strategic issues relevant to the region. It is supported by the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – the purpose is to achieve the aims and objectives of the adopted Strategic Transport Plan and to provide a list of prioritised investment proposals for the region.</p> <p>We are sharing the engagement sessions coming up in December 2024 and January 2025 for the SIP. Please see the details below. Public consultation on the draft Strategic Investment Plan goes live from 20th December 2024 to 2nd February 2025. Your engagement and feedback is important –</p> <p>Strategic Transport Plan Western Gateway STB.</p> <p>Regards Transport Planning Team Gloucestershire County Council</p>
Rural Services Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Bulletin - 10 December 2024 • The Rural Bulletin - 17 December 2024 • Read the latest roundup for the RSN Rural Market Town Group - Dec 2024
Your Community Alerts	A burglary was reported at a premises in Ford in Temple Guiting near Cheltenham. Entry was gained and jewellery stolen. This occurred between 1130 hours and 1400 hours on the 9th of December. Anyone with any information please quote Incident number 251 9/12/24.



Fraudsters put a lot of effort into making fake messages look real. Report it by forwarding the message for FREE to 7726

Last Christmas, almost £5 million was lost to gift card fraud. **Watch out for unsolicited callers claiming you need to purchase gift cards in order to pay a fine or bill.** This festive season, don't fall for fake "investment" opportunities. Criminals will present professional and credible-looking online adverts, send emails, and create websites to advertise fake investment opportunities.



Police are issuing advice to people who have ordered Christmas gifts online and are having them delivered to their homes across Gloucestershire.

Parcel theft is particularly prevalent at this time of year with opportunistic thieves taking advantage of deliveries left unattended on people's doorsteps. Following an increase in reports of parcel theft across the county, officers are urging people to take the following preventative steps to try and keep deliveries secure:

- Track your parcel to ensure you or someone else is at home for the delivery
- Install a video doorbell; this can be connected to your mobile so you are notified immediately of any delivery, and are often easier to install than a full CCTV system
- Install a security light.
- Arrange for your parcel to be delivered to a trusted neighbour, or other family members who will be at home; if you live in a flat, is there someone who could accept the parcel for you?
- Use an off-site locker service for frequent deliveries or for expensive items. These parcel boxes are more likely to be in busy, safer locations -

	<p>such as supermarkets - rather than secluded areas which could be targeted by thieves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a secure storage box outside the building. • Look at the delivery preferences on the company's website to see what suits you best.
CPRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SPONSOR A HEDGE!</u> • <u>{user_data~First Name~Friend}, we've achieved a lot together this year</u> • <u>December newsletter</u> • <u>A message from CPRE's Campaigning Lead</u>
Cleeve Common Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Winter news from Cleeve Common Trust</u> • <u>Merry Christmas</u>
SLCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>News Bulletin - 18 December 2024</u> • <u>'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities in England' Government Consultation</u>

11. ACCOUNTS FOR REPORTING AND SETTLEMENT.

The Chair signed off the bank reconciliation but deferred Accounts for Reporting to the February meeting as no longer quorate.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. None.

12. SEPARATE BUSINESS. THE CHAIRMAN WILL MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION: UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FOR THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY INVOLVE THE LIKELY DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION AS DEFINED IN PART 1 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE ACT.

13. TO CONSIDER A RETAINED SERVICES PROPOSAL FROM MOOD LANDSCAPE TO SUPPORT PROJECT DELIVERY IN WINCHCOMBE PARK.

Members agreed that Mood Landscape be asked to provide a proposal for project management of specific elements to be achieved in 2025, which can then be presented to council for consideration at the February meeting. Cllr S Maughan and Clerk to action.

Meeting closed 8.46pm.