

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WINCHCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT ABBEY FIELDS COMMUNITY CENTRE, BACK LANE, WINCHCOMBE AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2025.

PRESENT: Mr J Mason (Chair) Ms L Gorton Mr S Maughan
 Ms S Sturgeon (Vice Chair) Mr D Gray Mr R Wakeford
 Mr D Chandler Mr M Lennard Clerk / Deputy Clerk
 Mr T Forrester Mrs G Madle

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PRIOR TO MEETING COMMENCING.

Resident John Silcock of Littleworth, ref Item 9. Despite 30mph limit, traffic does speed often and there are no footpaths. There have been traffic surveys over the years, most recently in November last year which consistently evidence speeding issues. 60% of vehicles were found to be exceeding 30mph, and 24% exceeding 35mph. Over 30% of vehicles coming from Greet direction are exceeding 35mph. Thanks to support from Cllr D Gray, Gloucestershire County Council Highways are working to replace missing signage and suggesting that 2 solar powered VASs are installed. Asks the Town Council to support this case.

Sue Dan resident of Evesham Road, spoke in support of the above, as regularly sends CCTV footage to the police with vehicles travelling at very high speeds and overtaking. Concerns that the road is very dangerous.

Lindsay Hodgeson, Littleworth resident echoed above with personal experiences of vehicles travelling at 60 mph and witnessing a cyclist accident caused by speeding vehicle. Spoke of VAS which can have speed monitor attached which communicates with speeding drivers, Woodmancote have a version. Open invitation to councillors to join any of the residents to experience the issues firsthand.

Janet Woods of Market Lane also spoke of cars speeding into Becketts Lane being very dangerous.

1. TO NOTE APOLOGIES. Cllr R Parker.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.
3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS;
 - a) PLANNING COMMITTEE AND FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 5 MARCH 2025. Planning – proposed Cllr R Wakeford, seconded Cllr S Maughan, carried unanimously. Full Council - proposed Cllr S Sturgeon, seconded Cllr L Gorton, carried unanimously.
 - b) GENERAL PURPOSES AND LEISURE & TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 12 MARCH 2025. General Purposes - proposed Cllr S Sturgeon, seconded Cllr J Mason, carried unanimously. Leisure & Tourism - proposed Cllr R Wakeford, seconded Cllr G Madle, carried unanimously.
 - c) BURIAL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 13 MARCH 2025. Burial - proposed Cllr S Maughan, sec Cllr J Mason, carried unanimously. Playing Fields - proposed Cllr S Sturgeon, seconded Cllr M Lennard, carried unanimously.
 - d) FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2025. Proposed Cllr R Wakeford, seconded Cllr D Gray, carried unanimously.
 - e) TO APPROVE A CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 5 FEBRUARY 2025. Proposed Cllr J Mason, seconded Cllr D Gray, carried unanimously.
4. TO RECEIVE MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

Old Boys School	Notice of Intention to Bid has been submitted
Winchcombe Park	Dachshund meet up on May 3rd at 10am

5. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM 1ST WINCHCOMBE SCOUTS, TO SUPPORT THEIR 2025 SPRING FAYRE WHICH AIMS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SERVICE THEY PROVIDE AND A NEW ROOF FOR THE WINCHCOMBE SCOUT HUT. Mark Tonkin group leader presented to councillors on recent activities and challenges. Formed in 1908, making it one of the oldest groups in the country. 60 children involved aged from 6 to 14 (half and half boys/girls), with 8 leaders and 8 trustees. The group is run as a stand-alone charity. Some active parents. Biggest asset is scout hut. Have a waiting list for new members. Need more trustees and leaders. Always fundraising. Recent Severn Trent grant helped refurbish the hut but still have ceiling and roof replacements to fund. Invited all to join the spring fayre on 5 May. Approximately 16k needed for ceiling and guttering works. What help may be available from WTC, funding? Material help for Spring Fayre? Secretary and Chair trustee positions urgently need to be filled – can the council members share with network of contacts?
Hut is used by scout group and let for community use, approximately 50% usage, and Isbourne Arts centre has introduced competition. Clerk to connect with (GoVolunteerGlos) and training opportunities available. Clerk to share contact details for AFCC as would like to borrow tables.
Cllr J Mason spoke of Community Grant Scheme which will be launched in coming weeks for grants of up to £1000 but also suggested that as the Scout Hut is such a valuable asset for the towns youth, that the Leisure & Tourism Reserve could be a possible source of funding and proposed a £3000 donation be issued to support the guttering works required. Seconded Cllr G Madle, carried unanimously.
6. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE SAFE AVON PROJECT TO FUND A FURTHER TWO WATER QUALITY TESTING KITS. Stuart Pickles of WinGreen Town spoke on behalf of the Safe Avon Project. Since the purchase of the first two kits the project team have established that four testing sites are needed to provide the most thorough results of water degradation and at the required weekly frequency. The kits are £300 each. Cllr S Maughan proposed that the Town Council fund the purchase of the further two testing kits, seconded Cllr D Chandler, carried unanimously.
6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM WINCHCOMBE YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB. Ben Rose thanked Cllrs J Mason and R Wakeford for giving time at a recent meeting and asked if there was an update from Cllr R Wakeford's approach to Sudeley Castle – awaiting a response. Cllr R Wakeford also spoke with Anj Patel, Community and Place Officer for Tewkesbury Borough Council, Ben to follow up with her. Ben not yet had a response from Andy Sanders at Tewkesbury Borough Council. The club are becoming very concerned over playing space availability. Cllr R Wakeford offered to support with exploring potential for using the land opposite the school. Club is hosting annual presentation Day on Sat 7 June, 12-6pm, councillors invited to attend. Clerk to share contact details of Scout Group as Ben may have helpful contacts.
7. TO CONSIDER VOLUNTARILY REGISTERING WINCHCOMBE PARK AS A TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN (TVG). Cllr S Maughan spoke of the TVG scheme and the benefits it could offer to Winchcombe Park and other green space in the town, including safeguarding from development/sale and opening up funding opportunities. Further investigation to be carried out to ensure that spaces registered are still able to be used for play parks etc. To be deferred to May meeting to allow Cllr S Maughan to follow up with the Open Spaces Society and members to consider other potential areas.
8. TO CONSIDER APPROVING, IN PRINCIPLE, SUBMITTING A REQUEST TO GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS FOR A SPEED ACTIVATED SIGN IN LITTLEWORTH. Cllr D Gray referred to residents' statements and concerns raised in public participation. Evidence does show that VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) do help to slow traffic. Members debated extensively the pros and cons, and other traffic management measures that could/should be considered. The Highways Working Group will be following this up, as part of the council commitment following the public consultation held in 2022 and are due to meet later this month. Cllr S Maughan proposed that in the immediate term, a solar VAS sign is purchased for Littleworth, and positioned on the existing post, seconded Cllr D Chandler. To be discussed with County Council Highways. Could be funded from newly elected GCC councillor, otherwise to be funded by WTC. Commit to follow up with residents to assess impact once installed. Carried unanimously.

9. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUPS.

The Clerk shared the plan of action for Four-Year Plan/CiL funding community consultation, which will run from mid-April for a month. Consultant Rafe Spies developing a campaign to inc a survey/social media/door drop, and councillors will host open sessions. Cllr G Madle and the Clerk meeting this week to discuss face-to-face sessions in more detail.

10. TO REVIEW AND ADOPT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES:

- a) FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY
- b) INFORMATION AVAILABLE UNDER THE MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME
- c) GENERAL PRIVACY NOTICE. Cllr G Madle suggested that more of the items mentioned as hard copy only are made available on the website where GDPR allows. Clerk to action.
Proposed Cllr D Gray, seconded Cllr S Maughan, carried unanimously.

11. CIRCULARS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

NALC	<p>Chief executive's bulletin - 27 February 2025</p> <p>Jobs newsletter 3 March 2025</p> <p>Events newsletter 4 March 2025</p> <p>Chief executive's bulletin - 6 March 2025</p> <p>Events newsletter 11 March 2025</p> <p>Chief executive's bulletin - 13 March 2025</p> <p>Events newsletter 18 March 2025</p> <p>Chief executive's bulletin - 20 March 2025</p>
TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tewkesbury Borough Council launches survey to support Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing sector • As the 80th anniversary of VE Day approaches on Thursday, 8 May, we're inviting our residents to start planning their VE and VJ Day celebrations • Tewkesbury Borough Council appoints designers for new visitor information point at the Cotswolds Designer Outlet • New community orchards and micro-woods spring into life across the borough in celebration of the coronation • Minimum changes this Easter for waste and recycling collections <p>Council sets 2025/26 budget to secure continuation of services</p> <p>Tewkesbury Borough Council has approved a budget for 2025/26, which sees its council tax rate remaining as one of the lowest in the country.</p> <p>On Tuesday 25 February, the council agreed a balanced budget of £13,450,226. This includes an increase in council tax for a band D property of £5 per year, from £144.36 to £149.36.</p> <p>Councillor Stewart Dove, Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management, said: "It is pleasing that this budget has been approved by the Council with cross-party support; this means that across the 2025/2026 financial year, the Tewkesbury Borough average householder will pay the council less than £2.90 per week to have bins emptied, food premises inspected, fly tips cleared and all our other vital services delivered.</p> <p>"Less than 8% of the total council tax that householders pay goes towards covering the cost of services provided by the borough council – as the whole bill also supports the county council, local parish and town councils, and the county's police and crime commissioner - but we will nevertheless be seeking to provide excellent value for money as always and deliver on our council ambitions. I'm especially pleased that this budget will support this administration's commitment to tackling the climate and ecological emergency including our investment in hydrated vegetable oil will see an 80-90% reduction in vehicle emissions where it is used by our waste and recycling crews.</p>

“Despite the financial challenges facing the council due to further cuts in central government financial support for local councils after more than a decade of austerity, and with the borough rapidly expanding, it is pleasing to note that this budget has not required any reductions to services currently provided by the council and has allowed for some further investment in some of our key services such as Environmental Health and Planning, as well as our flood response.”

The budget is based on continuing current council services and the [Council Plan](#). As the council continues to work with neighbouring councils in light of the upcoming [Local Government Reorganisation](#), the budget will be reviewed, ensuring resources and funding meet its needs and prepare for the formation of a new unitary authority.

To view the full budget visit tewkesbury.gov.uk

GLOUCESTERSHIRE VCS ALLIANCE FUNDRAISING TRAINING

Gloucestershire VCS Alliance Grants and Fundraising Workshop - 10th April 2025, held at Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices

This workshop will help equip you with essential tools and strategies needed to secure and manage your fundraising. This event/course is fully funded for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) groups & organisations delivering services in Gloucestershire. Parish Councils are able to register on the waitlist and can attend if there are places that are available. The workshop will cover:

- Identifying sources of funding: Learn where to find potential funding opportunities and how to match them with your organisation’s needs.
- The grants process: Understand the step-by-step process of applying for and managing grants.
- Top tips on applying for grant funding: Discover practical advice and insider tips to obtain successful grant applications.
- Become a funder & choose your projects: Participate in an interactive exercise to experience the decision-making process from a funder's perspective.
- A glimpse into Social Value: Explore how social value could play a role in your fundraising efforts going forward.

These sessions are informal and interactive. You'll have the chance to share experiences and ask as many questions as you need. The aim is to make sure you leave with practical insights that you can use right away. The workshops are on the following dates:



- Tewkesbury (at the Borough Council offices) - 10 April 2025
- Cheltenham - 20 May 2025

You can find out more and book your place on through the VCS Alliance website: <https://www.glosvcsalliance.org.uk/book-now>

Tewkesbury Borough Council opens tender for new management of Homelands Community Centre

Tewkesbury Borough Council is launching a new tendering process for the operation and management of the new Homelands Community Centre in Bishop’s Cleeve. Community organisations are invited to submit expressions of interest to take on the management of this fantastic community asset.

	<p>The Homelands Community Centre, located off Gotherington Lane, is a well-designed facility featuring a meeting room, kitchen, two halls, and facilities, as well as a landscaped outside space, all designed to serve as the heart of community life. The centre is now ready for a dedicated organisation to manage community activities, making it available for hire to residents and groups.</p> <p>Pete Tonge, Director of Communities, said: “Homelands Community Centre offers a fantastic opportunity for a community organisation, and we eagerly anticipate tenders that will offer a vibrant hub for local residents. We look forward to seeing the centre become a welcoming environment that enhances community life.”</p> <p>The planning application for the centre included a comprehensive scheme of hard and soft landscaping to ensure a pleasant environment for both nature and the wider community.</p> <p>Organisations interested in managing the Homelands Community Centre are encouraged to express their interest from today, Tuesday, 25 March 2025.</p> <p>For more information, and to express your interest, visit Tewkesbury Borough Council E-procurement Portal</p>
GCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councils Connected: February 2025 - Budget 2025/26 approved • Councils Connected: March 2025 - County council elections 1 May
GAPTC	<p>Dear Members,</p> <p>Here’s a brief rundown of what support we are offering our councils when it comes to planning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We shared model responses to the NALC planning survey that informed a collective response to the government’s <u>consultation on proposed reforms to the NPPF</u>. 2. We have published <u>two planning-specific newsletters</u>. You can read them here: August 2024 https://mailchi.mp/bab02a3437b0/august-2024-planning-newsletter January 2025 https://mailchi.mp/0b6411dc4be8/planning-newsletter 3. We hosted a <u>free webinar</u> last night for all clerks and councillors to update you on the changes to the NPPF. This can be viewed here: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/E3getwFohUWMHswO5Vw7eeOAKF17V8M7OyKZeZSTeQdjPi0YFZ1ZzVe1vLZGORvn.yk4aGdTmIC-MG8XS?startTime=1740592849000 Passcode: N?QQ3^LT Please find the <u>slide deck</u> to the session attached, it is jam packed with useful links. If you are interested in the <u>AI Tool demonstrated</u> last night, please contact Tina at CloudyIT (tina.cunnell@cloudyit.co.uk) 4. Book onto an upcoming <u>Planning in Plain English</u> course with Gail. These are online sessions in the evening 6-8pm (£45) 10 March, 15 April, 12 May, and 9 June Book here: https://gaptc.org.uk/event (please ensure you are signed into the member portal as a clerk to book) 5. NALC has a dedicated planning page https://www.nalc.gov.uk/campaigns/utilising-the-planning-system.html
Rural Services Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Bulletin - 4 March 2025 • RSN Rural Funding Digest - March 2025 Edition

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rural Bulletin - 11 March 2025 • The Rural Bulletin - 18 March 2025 • The Rural Bulletin - 25 March 2025
<p>Gloucester Police</p>	<p>Update from Temporary Chief Constable Maggie Blyth 24.03.25 - Town and Parish Councils re update.pdf</p>
<p>Your Community Alerts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2025 newsletter • Neighbourhood Watch Network Trustee Opportunity Details of how to apply for a trustee role, or to request an informal chat to find out more about it, are on the Charity Jobs website at Trustee volunteer roles in the community development sector CharityJob Please submit your application by 18th April 2024. <div data-bbox="527 451 998 1123" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="color: #008080; font-weight: bold;"> <h3>Volunteering opportunities in your area</h3> </div>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">We need you to help your neighbours feel confident and safe when it comes to the BT Digital Voice switchover</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>Are you...</p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Available during the day? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A good communicator <input type="checkbox"/> Motivated to help? </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>What you can expect...</p> </div> <div style="width: 65%;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BT training provided <input type="checkbox"/> Full support offered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenses reimbursed </div> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>If you would like to know more, please contact us</p> <div style="background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Emily.Barker@ourwatch.org.uk Emily Barker, Digital Voice Coordinator (South West) </div> </div> </div> <p>We have had numerous reports within the Borough of Tewkesbury of suspicious activity such as people shining lights through windows and walking down driveways in the early hours of the morning. Please be vigilant and watch out for your neighbours. If you have any further information about these incidents, we'd like to hear from you. You can report this via phoning 101 or reporting it online.</p>



Digital Voice is coming to your town

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will be running free information sessions for residents about the BT landline switch over.

Just drop in and find out more:

10:00-13:00 (drop in)
Winchcombe library
Back Lane, Winchcombe,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL54 5PZ
22/04/2025



Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, charity no: 1173349

Protect your online accounts from hackers and enable 2SV: Action Fraud issue new warning about social media and email account hacking as new data is revealed. This year Action Fraud and Meta are encouraging the public to protect their social media and email accounts as data shows there were more than 35,000 reports made last year. Data shows there was a rise of social media and email account hacking reported in 2024, with a total of 35,434 reports made to Action Fraud, compared to 22,530 reports made in 2023.

GRCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Parish & Town Councils Update • Don't miss out on your chance to win! Village of the Year Competition
SLCC	News Bulletin - 5 March 2025
The Cotswolds Classic	The Cotswolds Classic 2025 Event Plan.pdf
CPRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More tickets added: A visit to Cranham Woods • {user_data~First Name~Friend}, big changes ahead? Our response to the Planning bill

Winchcombe Town Council

Transactions for All Banks (From 01/03/2025 to 31/03/2025)

Date	Description	Supplier	Total
INCOME			
03/03/2025	PATA Rental Income	PATA	990.00
10/03/2025	Burial Fees	Selim Smith Funeral Directors	750.00
10/03/2025	Burial Fees	Alexander Burn	750.00
10/03/2025	Bank Interest (Gross)	Lloyds Bank - Bus. Bank Instant - 07874178	496.26
12/03/2025	ERoB - Exclusive Rights of Burial	Robert and Debra Turner	125.00
EXPENDITURE			
03/03/2025	Public Toilet Electricity	Scottish Power	-135.05
06/03/2025	Grave Digger Fees	Moonbeam (D M Jones)	-750.00
06/03/2025	Cemetery Garden Waste Club	TBC - Tewkesbury Borough Council	-116.00
06/03/2025	Grounds Recharge	GCC (Gloucestershire County Council)	-143.87
06/03/2025	Scribe Cemetery Subscription (2024)	SCRIBE	-58.80
06/03/2025	Winchcombe Park Electricity	British Gas	-206.08
06/03/2025	website maintenance	Peter Hampton	-70.00
06/03/2025	ReformIT Support	ReformIT	-451.92
06/03/2025	HMRC - Tax and NI	HMRC - Tax and NI	-551.99
06/03/2025	AFCC Room Hire	AFCC - Abbey Fields Community Centre	-20.00
06/03/2025	Winchcombe Park Grounds Maintenance	Fairways Contracting Ltd., (Winchcombe Park Dev	-1,079.10
06/03/2025	PAT Testing	Calbarrie Compliance Services Ltd	-110.52
10/03/2025	NEST - WTC and Employees' Contribution	NEST Pension	-307.20
11/03/2025	Water Supply	Water Plus	-73.20
11/03/2025	GAPTC	GAPTC - Gloucestershire Association of Parish ar	-1,550.39
11/03/2025	Pads for defib	Community Heartbeat	-112.74
14/03/2025	Bank Service Charge	Lloyds Bank - Main Bus. Account - 02535901	-8.50
17/03/2025	Telephone and Internet	Talk Talk (Office 'Phone & Broadband)	-71.93
18/03/2025	Bank Service Charge	Lloyds Bank - Internet Bank Account - 33678060	-8.50
18/03/2025	Council Tax - Office Building	TBC - Tewkesbury Borough Council	-1,566.93
19/03/2025	Photography	MCL - Midshire Communications Ltd.	-144.00
19/03/2025	Cleaning Public Toilet Back Lane	Initial	-103.89
21/03/2025	Greening Group	Winchcombe Greening Group	-34.51
24/03/2025	PATA payroll	PATA	-81.51
25/03/2025	Toilets maintenance contract	Donna Clarke - A Star Cleaning	-1,126.67
28/03/2025	Grounds Recharge	GCC (Gloucestershire County Council)	-143.98
28/03/2025	Staff salaries		-3,571.35
28/03/2025	AFCC - Gas and Electricity	AFCC - Abbey Fields Community Centre	-451.92
31/03/2025	Cemetery and playing fields maintenance	Ian Humphries	-1,786.66
31/03/2025	Clear path & removal of Ivy Abbey Field	Ian Humphries	-240.00
31/03/2025	Repaint/repair Toilet Block	Ian Humphries	-360.00

Proposed by Cllr D Gray, seconded by Cllr D Chandler that the accounts be settled and bank reconciliation signed off, carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

Littleworth resident raised further queries around traffic management options as well as concerns over suspicious activity late at night. Have been in liaison with the Police but feeling very scared. Cllr J Mason explained that police operations have been underway, and offered reassurance that Concerns are taken on board and can be raised by the council via the police councillor advocacy scheme.

Meeting closed 9.37pm.