

Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held at West Kidlington Primary School
on
Tuesday 4th March 2025

Meeting commenced at 7pm

Councillors present: Cllr Clive Stayt (Vice Chair), Cllr Merlin Smith, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Chair), Cllr Suzanne McIvor, Cllr Nigel Simpson, Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson (DC)

To receive and accept apologies of absence from: None

Other attendees: The clerk

24/491 Declarations of interest: Cllr Smith farming within area of development potential. Cllr McIvor is part of Friends of Stratfield Brake. Cllr Simpson declares he is a season ticket holder for OUFC.

24/492 Public Participation: None

24/493 To confirm the minutes of the previous council meeting on 4th February 2025 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 4th February 2025. Proposed Cllr C Stayt, Seconded Cllr Smith

24/494 Update on progress and matters arising from the minutes held on 4th February 2025:

Devolution update for County Council level – not much more information on this. There will be proposals put in around mid-March. September will be earliest solid update.

Banking – the signatories need to ensure they have their access with Unity. Signatories will need to call Unity bank themselves if they struggle to access. Cllr Matheson asked for the RFO to confirm the full amount of funds in the bank (total).

24/495 To receive reports from Parish, District and County Councillors.

Cllr Middleton – Trees – meeting was held regarding the Poplar trees along the Gosford link road that to be felled as they are deteriorating. Cllr Stayt and Cllr Wilson-Higgins attended this site meeting. It has been confirmed that some of the trees are dangerous and therefore this felling that has been requested is needed – it involves 2 trees.

Cllr Middleton – potholes on the link road further up from Bramley Close is continuously being filled but the repair work is not holding up. There is ongoing investigation.

Cllr Middleton – will follow up on yellow lines and sign board at Water Eaton Lane. The sign at WE Lane has been ordered by CDC for replacement.

Cllr Smith asked about simpler recycling. This initiative includes curb side glass recycling and separation of plastic and paper. Legally there are updated recycling

rules from April 2026. County Councillors advised that any updates on this will follow in due course.

Cllr Wilson-Higgins / Cllr Stayt – Existing dog bin along link road needs to be replaced. One near the Miller and Carter needs relocating to the road edge. Sainsburys roundabout, opposite cemetery and Miller & Carter bins to be replaced by general waste and any existing bins on that stretch should be removed. The clerk will liaise with CDC – GWEPC will pay for the bins.

Cllr Smith – parish name board as you come in from the North (before you get to Hebborns needs significant cut back). This will be reported on fix my street.

Cllr Stayt – 5 parishes area oversight group meeting later in March (27th – 4pm to 6pm). The council queried again why this meeting is not being clerked with an agenda and notes published. This has been flagged to the Chair of this group. This is a Chairs meeting primarily.

Cllr Simpson – Few trees removed / hedges clearance has taken place at the Gosford Hill entrance. Funding for the school is in place. December 2028 is likely completion.

24/496 To ask questions regarding the clerk's report and summary

No further questions or comments.

Bench – Cllr Middleton can assist to request via Sanctuary to see if we can place a bench on their land. He will email them.

APM date – to be confirmed 2nd or 3rd week May likely. The clerk is liaising with Edward Feild Primary School so the meeting can be in the parish.

24/497 Financial Matters

(24/497.01) To approve the financial reports. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the financial reports. There is budget for training and the clerk is going to look at costs of updating cilca training.

(24/497.02) To approve financial payments: It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as detailed in the clerk's report (detailed below). Payments are made via online banking with Unity bank.

Finance committee receive copies of the invoices to review ahead of the meeting.

Statutory payments were already authorised and have been paid via standing order.

Statutory salaries, HMRC, pensions already approved and set up – All to be made via online banking. These are set up by the RFO to be clicked in the approvals list.

For immediate payment:

OALC membership (annual) invoice - £300

West Kidlington venue March - £60

Clerk office expenses (Feb) - £52.75

Vision ICT - £161.26 – website hosting and support annual

CDC – SB Feb management fee - £966.18

CDC – SB management fee Jan - £966.18

CDC – SB management fee Mar - £966.18

CDC – landscape recharge Oct – Dec - £2754.20

Ady Podbery – 5216, litter and cutting back shrubs - £230.40

Direct debit to CIS £302.21 expected to be taken in March -approved budget for IT.

Noted there was a service charge in Feb of £6 on the bank account (expected). This is a monthly charge, every month for banking with Unity.

£confidential relates to payroll figures – these figures are shared with councillors. They are approved annually.

24/498 Planning: To consider all recent applications received from Cherwell District Council since the last meeting including any OUFC statements / updates for consideration.

To discuss and consider long term protection of Stratfield Brake – this is rolled over and will be discussed in the April meeting.

24/499 Items for information and next agenda only.

None

24/500 Date of the next full council meeting – 1st April 2025 – 7pm West Kidlington Primary School.

Meeting ends 8.30pm