



**MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 10th MARCH 2026.**

Present: Cllr Harrison Cllr Tyrer Cllr Baker Cllr Akala
Cllr Hersom Cllr Shankland Cllr Roberts Cllr Rymer,
Cllr Darley Cllr O'Connell Cllr Goldstone

In attendance: Vanessa Lawrence, Roz Morton (Clerks) District Cllr Vann

- 243 25/26 To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies received from District Cllrs Wilkinson & County Cllr Morris
- 244 25/26 Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda**
Cllr Tyrer declared a personal interest in item 261
- 245 25/26 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 10th February 2026, as a true and accurate record of the proceedings. Proposed Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Tyrer – 6 7 in favour, 4 abstentions.
- 246 25/26 To accept Declaration of Acceptance of Office from Justin Goldstone, recently elected uncontested.**
Cllr Goldstone's Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly accepted.
- 247 25/26 To consider and agree appointment of new Cllr to committee/s - vacancies on the following committees:- Planning, Finance, Works & Events, Staffing & Procedures.**
The following additional appointments were made:
Procedures Committee: Cllrs Goldstone, Akala & Darley
Finance Committee: Cllr Goldstone
Staffing: Cllr Rymer
Grants subcommittee: Cllr Roberts
Representatives:
ECT - Cllrs Hersom & Harrison
FCC & Trustees – Cllrs Tyrer & Hersom
PPG – Cllr Darley
FEAG – Cllr Darley
Police Liaison – Cllr Goldstone
Multiuse Path – Cllr Goldstone

Proposed Cllr Harrison, seconded Cllr Akala, all in favour.

ACTION: Clerk to issue new Committee Structure list and Councillor contact details.

- 248 25/26 Clerks'/Chairman's report**
The Clerks report covered the following:
Christmas decorations - Glos Streetlighting have informed us that we can no longer attach our Christmas blizzards to the bottom of the streetlights. We are looking at alternatives

Highways matters

Installation of new electricity supply box on the High Street – We have arranged for a planning application to be made for this installation.

Bus Shelter (Milton Street)

Work to the bus shelter roof has been completed.

Councillor mailboxes and cyber security

A report will be prepared for presentation to the Council. Cyber security training is being arranged for Council staff and Councillors.

Resignations

Further resignations have been received from Colin Foxall and Phil Braiden, which follows the resignation of Derek Thornhill. My thanks to all the Councillors especially Colin who has been with the Council for 9 years and has stood in as Deputy Mayor and chaired several Committees and to Derek who was with the Council for 7 years and took the lead role relating to the Multi-Use path. In the short time that Phil has been Councillor he has been extremely supportive and helpful with all the work that the Council does, particularly with the grants.

Martin Harwood

We have recently been notified that former Councillor Martin Harwood has recently passed away. Martin was with the Council for many years and was the lead in work preparing the original Town Plan and creating 'Fairford Forward'. Our condolences to his family.

The Chairs Report covered the following:

Middle East War – We have raised a couple of questions re local security with the relevant authorities (given that the National terrorist threat level is currently 'Substantial') and received acknowledgement of these.

A417 Diversion and Potholes – As you will be aware, there have been various issues with the adequacy of diversion signage and speeding through the town as well as the potholes which have been rapidly growing on the diversion route. Many people have suffered damaged tyres and wheels. Some fixing of the worst areas is at last taking place (yesterday and today). It appears the gas main replacement is to be suspended after this week and completed next January

Local Government Reorganisation – We are responding to the Government consultation on the Local Government Reorganisation options put forward for Gloucestershire

Resignations - We are sad to lose 2 more Councillors (Colin and Phil). Both, particularly Colin, have made significant contributions to the work of the Council over the years they have been involved with the council, and have helped to move things in a positive direction, and we thank them for this. We wish them well in the future.

249 25/26 **To agree to adjourn the meeting for Public Participation – there is a 10-minute time limit) if members of the public are present. N/A**

250 25/26 **To agree to reconvene the meeting following Public Participation, if applicable. N/A**

251 25/26 **Chairman's Announcements - None**

252 25/26 **To consider correspondence received (for information only emailed).**
An email has been received from the Coln River Guardians requesting a meeting to discuss a public event to raise awareness around the sewage pollution in the Coln River. It was agreed that further information regarding the role that they want FTC to play in this was required before committing to any event.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Debbie Campbell to discuss this further before any decision is made.

- 253 25/26 To receive reports from meetings attended.**
Cllr Shankland attended a meeting with Fairford Primary School. The school would like support with their sustainable travel goals and litter picking efforts. The Council is happy to support these efforts. Cllr Shankland will reengage with the school in May/June time.
- 254 25/26 To receive report from District Councillor/County Councillors (e-mailed) –**
Cllr Vann reported on the following:
All Weather pitch at Farmor’s School:
BBC Points West filmed at Farmor’s School on 4 March to do report on all-weather pitch.
Farmor’s School is close to submitting its planning application when the matter can be reviewed further.
Application 26/00229/PLP- The Folly, Welsh Way:
As you know the applicant is seeking Permission in Principle. I have spoken to Andrew Moody concerning the application. As it is an “in principle” application it is difficult to reject it as the present single property is on a large lot.
Application 26/00522/FUL Padel Court. Milton Farm:
This application has the support of the freeholder ECT.
Application 25/03214/OUT Park Close:
The planning officer Ceri Porter is reviewing what has been received with colleagues in the hope that good planning reasons can be given to refuse the application
International Women’s Day (8 March) and the Cotswolds:
There are two very recent awards.
Helen Martin, Director of Communities and Place at CDC has been recognised by The Planner magazine as one of its Women of Influence 2026 for her work in planning and community development.
Emma Cathcart heads up the Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit at CDC. She was Female Pioneer of the Year at recent Public Sector Counter Fraud Awards
- 255 25/26 To receive reports from Project Groups:**
- **Transport Plan/TRO** - Some pot hole filling has been carried out on The Croft & Lower Croft. More is required.
 - **Multi-use Path** – no update.
- Cllr Roberts requested that the CHS Community Building project group is reformed. It was agreed to take this to W & E in the first instance.

ACTION: Clerk to add to W & E Agenda for discussion.

FINANCE

- 256 25/26 To receive report from Chair of Finance** - no report available.
- 257 25/26 To approve retrospectively payments to end of February 2026**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the payments as presented. Proposed Cllr Rymer, seconded Cllr O’Connell, all in favour.
- 258 25/26 To receive Income & Expenditure Figures against budget at end of February 2026**
Received without comment.
- 259 25/26 To consider and agree cashbook for February 2026**
It was **RESOLVED** to agree the cashbook as presented, proposed Cllr Akala, seconded Cllr Shankland, all in favour.

- 260 25/26 To consider and agree Reconciliation Report end of February 2026**
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the reconciliation statement as presented. Proposed Cllr Rymer, seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour.

- 261 25/26 To consider and agree recommendation from Grant Awarding Sub-Committee for recipients of grant funds from Community Projects Grants.**
Discussion took place. It was **RESOLVED** to award the following Grants:
Community Capital Grants:

Organization	Project	Cost of the project	Total requested	Approved grant from Community Grant Scheme
Fairford Tennis Club	New club house & fencing	£48,000	£5000	£2871
Fairford Cricket Club	New roof for the pavilion	£12,250	£5000	£2871
Fairford & District Choral Society	Tiered staging	£4500	£4307	£3230
1 st Fairford Scout Group	Equipment for camps	£1368.92	£1369	£1027

End of year small grants:

Applicant	For	Amount requested	Approved Grant awarded
South Cotswold Team Ministry	To subsidize residential	£500	£500
Meysey Hampton Guides	Uniform	£403.55	£403.55
CAB	Delivery of services	£494	£494
Coln River Guardians	River quality testing kits	£425	£425
Fairford Bowls Club	Accessibility improvements	£500	£500

Proposed Cllr O'Connell, seconded Cllr Goldstone, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

ACTION: Clerk to contact all applicants and arrange for payments to be made.

PLANNING

- 262 25/26 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 17th February and 3rd March (unapproved).**
Received without comment.

- 263 25/26 To receive report from Chair of Planning**
A report was circulated and received without comment.

WORKS & EVENTS

- 264 25/26 To receive Minutes of the Works & Events Committee meeting held on the 24th February 2026 (unapproved).**
There was no meeting, so no minutes were recorded.

- 265 25/26 To receive report from Chair of Works & Events Committee**
Cllr O'Connell reported that Fairford Park Run will be starting in Spring (May) and would like to encourage as many Councillors as possible to attend to support the event.

OTHER MATTERS

266 25/26 To approve Annual Policy documents for 2025/26

- **Financial Regulations**
- **Financial Risk Register**
- **Effectiveness of Internal Audit**
- **Grant Awarding Policy**
- **Financial Reserves Policy**
- **IT Policy**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the policies with the proviso that the Procedures Committee meet in March to consider them further.
Proposed Cllr Goldstone, seconded Cllr Tyrer, all in favour. Cllr Goldstone noted that the existing policies are good but could be improved and that as living documents they need to be reassessed regularly.
Cllr Hersom noted that the current Financial Regulations do not include a provision for the Deputy Clerk to deputise as RFO in the absence of the Clerk.

ACTION: Procedures Committee to meet at 6.00pm on Tuesday 31st March.

267 25/26 To discuss response to MHCLG consultation to Local Government Re-organisation in Gloucestershire

Cllr Harrison presented his thoughts on the LGR in Gloucestershire. He believes that the options currently being consulted on do not benefit Fairford and this area and that alternative options that consider a more economically strategic approach that crosses county borders should be considered.

Discussion took place. Cllr Vann agreed that FTC should submit a robust response to the consultation.

Whether the general public should be asked for their views was mooted, but as it's quite a nebulous subject and FTC can't offer any clearly defined and evidence based alternative options at this time, it was agreed that it would not be particularly useful. Cirencester Town Council is hosting an event for Councillors on 26th March to discuss this consultation. It was agreed that Cllr Harrison should attend.

Cllr Harrison will draft the final response to the consultation in due course.

268 25/26 Anything the Chair considers urgent – Nil of note.

269 25/26 Date of next meeting – 14th April 2026

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Chairman.....

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