GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Monday 9th November 2026 at 19:00, The Reiss Room, Old School, Station Road, Goring RG8 9HB

All Councillors are summoned to a Meeting of Goring-on-Thames Parish Council.
Members of the public and press are invited to attend all council meetings.
(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)
Prior to the start of the meeting; Questions and comments from members of the public (limited to 10 minutes in total)

Members Present:

Chair	Cllr T Thurston (TT)
Members:	Cllr J Emerson (JE) Cllr R Williamson (RW) Cllr B Newman (BN) Cllr A Povey(AP) Cllr M Stares (MS) Cllr B McKenzie (BM)

Officers Present:

Clerk	S Edmunds
Public and Press:	Mr H Beattie of the Henley Standard. No members of the public.

Meeting started 19.02

AGENDA

26.37.1. To receive apologies for absence. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Apologies received from Cllr B Urbick, S Lofthouse and D Bermingham

26.37.2. To Receive any Declarations of Interests for items on this agenda [LA 2011 s31]

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

26.37.2.1. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]

None

26.37.3. To approve the minutes of previous council meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para 41(1)]

26.37.3.1. Meeting held on 12th October 2026

Unanimously Approved

26.37.3.2. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

None

26.37.4. Chair's business

1. The SODC Community Governance Review was completed in October 2026, and our application for an increased number of Councillors was rejected, because they did not have enough time to do the necessary consultation and research, which was because we missed the deadline to apply. The reviews are done on a four yearly cycle, so the next review will start in 2029. The Council should be sure to apply in good time for an increase in Councillors if that is still appropriate; until then we will contine to have 10 Councillors.

2. The resurfacing to make the path across the Ferry Lane open space more accessible has been completed. The Council thanks Cllr Filipova-Rivers in her role as leader of SODC for her assistance in resolving the planning application issues. The Council also thanks the Mend the Gap organization for their generous financial support. The Open Spaces committee will be planning a range of enhancements to make the Ferry Lane open space more accessible to visitors and villagers.

3. The Big Sweep took place on Sat 7 November. Thanks the organizers and to the villagers who volunteered. 74 bags of leaves were collected, and OCC have booked their contractor to collect them. It was noted that it would be helpful to purchase rakes for next year, and that the leaf grabbers should be available on loan for residents who want to continue the good work.

4. The resurfacing of footpath 8 from Milldown Road to Elvendon Road is likely to start before the end of November. The work is to be done by OCC, but their available funds are not quite enough for the project. The Council has agreed to fund the balance. We now know the final amount required. (See Finance below).

5. One of the picnic benches at the Bourdillon playground has been vandalised by arson – residents asked to email report@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk if they have any information. Facilities to organize repair.

6. The cricket club have informed us that they have applied for planning permission to replace the nets on the Gardiner on the same site.

7. Cllr D Bermingham has resigned from the Council, but he is willing to remain as a co-opted member of the Open Spaces Committee if required

Mrs S Edmunds
Clerk to the Council

26.37.5. To note reports from District and County Councillors

26.37.5.1. SODC leader & OCC Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers **2 x Cllr Report**

Cllr Filipova-Rivers discussed the contents of the attached reports.

26.37.6. To Receive Minutes of Committees

26.37.6.1. Planning Committee

- Meeting dated 29th September 2026 **Appendix A**

Unanimously Approved

26.37.6.2. Travel & Transport Committee

- Meeting dated 22nd September 2026 **Appendix B**

Unanimously Approved

26.37.6.3. Finance Committee

- Meeting dated 10th September 2026 **Appendix C**

Unanimously Approved

26.37.7. To approve any amendments to existing committees and working groups Appendix D

Updated in the meeting and the revised appendix has been uploaded to the website.

It was noted that the Planning Committee was not quorate at the last meeting; it was agreed that the Committee should temporarily revert to last year's membership and meet to consider alternative arrangements, including possibly dissolving the committee and dealing with Planning at Full Council.

26.37.8. To receive reports from each of the Committees, Working Groups or Village Liaisons:

26.37.8.1. Traffic & Transport Committee **Appendix E**

RW spoke to thank TT, Nick and BU for their assistance to get the work on Ferry Lane done so quickly. The upcoming improvements to Path 8 at Bourdillon will make a big difference. The Goring-Wallingford greenway is progressing; there is still one landowner to get consent from (not in Goring section)

The report was unanimously received.

26.37.8.2. Open Spaces Committee

MS spoke to say the Sheepcot tenders will be considered later this week, and the SODC Grants Committee have us in the top 4 projects

Mrs S Edmunds
Clerk to the Council

DRAFT

26.37.8.3. Finance Committee **Appendix F**

JE spoke, the report highlights which codes are overspent or about to go over but the budget is still overall on track monitored by monthly reconciliations. Working on next year's budget, just waiting on further figures from the Staffing and WHBG committees.

The final figure required for Footpath 8 at Bourdillon has been received from OCC. After a site meeting, it was agreed that the path should be wider across the Bourdillion field. This will increase the cost.

Motion without Notice – To approve increasing the path 8 budget to £7743.10
Unanimously Approved

26.37.8.4. White Hills Burial Ground (WHBG) Committee — none

26.37.8.5. Place & Assets WG — none

26.37.8.6. Comms Working Group

Looking at updating Mailchimp and the website, working with a contractor - more info will be shared in December

26.37.8.7. Liaisons

Twinning - RW spoke to say the station refurbishment includes four new signs mentioning our twinning with Bellême

26.37.9. To approve purchasing 5 cycle stands for the Sheepcot Pavilion Car park Appendix G

at the cost of £730+VAT

Unanimously Approved to purchase the bike stands but a further motion is to be put before December Full Council with costs for installation and appropriate hard-standing

26.37.10. To approve spending £2,751.79 on the installation of an additional slide at Bourdillon Playing Ground Appendix H

The cost of purchasing the slide is covered by the Proludic voucher

Unanimously Approved the installation costs of £2751.79 from Public Open Spaces EMR 370

26.37.11. To note the date and time of the next regular Full Council meeting
Tuesday 15th December at 19:00 in the Reiss Room, Community Centre, Station Road

NOTE: Proposals of Motion and Committee / Working Group reports to be received by the Clerk no later than 4 December please

Mrs S Edmunds
Clerk to the Council

DRAFT

26.37.12. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they will be instructed to withdraw. By reason of confidential business relating to employment. Confidential Papers

Meeting suspended at 20:01 while the press withdrew. Meeting resumed at 20:05.

Motion without notice to exclude the clerk

Unanimously approved (Clerk had left during the short break).

26.37.12.1. To receive a report from the external investigation into payroll management

TT outlined the key findings, and the planned remedial actions. The report was received unanimously.

26.37.12.2. To consider recommendations from the Staffing Committee relating to employment arrangements

MS, as Chair of Staffing, outlined the recommendations, and Council considered how to implement them. The Council accepted the recommendations, agreed a budget, and delegated authority to the Staffing Committee to make the changes relating to employment arrangements.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting closed at 20:43

DRAFT

Mrs S Edmunds
Clerk to the Council