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

Monday 12th October 2026 at 19:00, The Reiss Room, Old School, Station Road, Goring RG8 9HB

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all council meetings.
(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

Members Present:

Chair	Cllr T Thurston (TT)
Members:	Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)
	Cllr J Emerson (JE)
	Cllr R Williamson (RW)
	Cllr B Newman (BN)
	Cllr A Povey (AP)
	Cllr B Urbick (BU)
	Cllr B McKenzie (BM)
	Cllr D Bermingham (DB)

Officer Present:

Clerk S Edmunds

Public and Press: 1 Member of the Press

Meeting started 19.00

AGENDA

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

Apologies received from Cllr M Stares (MS)

26.31.2. 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)

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

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

26.31.3.1. Meeting held on 13th July 2026

Unanimously Approved

26.31.3.2. Meeting held on 14th September 2026

Unanimously Approved

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

None

9th November 2026

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.31.4. Chair's Report

None

26.31.5. To note reports from District and County Councillors

26.31.5.1. SODC leader & OCC Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers **Cllr Report**

None received prior to the meeting, the report has arrived post meeting and is uploaded on the website

26.31.6. To Receive Minutes of Committees

26.31.6.1. Planning Committee

- Meeting dated 11th July 2026 **Appendix A**
- Meeting dated 8th September 2026 **Appendix B**

Unanimously received

26.31.6.2. Travel & Transport Committee

- Meeting dated 18th August 2026 **Appendix C**

Unanimously received

26.31.6.3. Finance Committee

- Meeting dated 10th July 2026 **Appendix D**

Unanimously received

26.31.7. To approve any amendments to existing committees and working groups

Appendix E

26.31.7.1. To approve WHBG Committee TOR **Appendix F**

JE proposed Words changed from 5.4 spend from Natural burial ground

Vote - defeated

BU recommended amending the TOR :

A)The committee has delegated authority to spend from EMRs linked to the WHBG and the Natural BG project as well as any budgeted expenditure.

B)Remove the two lines regarding EMRs 347 380 385 410 – under Section 2 remove bullet points 3 & 4 and section 4.1 remove bullet points 4 & 5

Approved by Majority

26.31.7.2. To approve Janette Douglas as a member of the WHBG committee

Unanimously Approved

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

Where possible they should provide a written report and/or action list in advance of the meeting as per standing orders, NB.at the time this agenda is published, appendices have been allocated but maybe replaced with a verbal report instead.

26.31.8.1. Traffic & Transport Committee **Appendix G**

Unanimously Received

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.31.8.2. **Open Spaces Committee**

SL and DB met with a landowner regarding a potential site for the pump track. The working group is working on planning pre app and consultation document. Proludic needs to quote for installation of slide. Sheepcot tenders are opened on 14th Oct. Re Gardiner dog signs removed, general signs will be discussed at next OS meeting. Playground signs are designed & need costing. We will get a cut Christmas tree this year. CCTV – clerk to chase Enerveo. AP and Laura chase Proludic for chime replacement and book art. Further updates will come before Full Council for November

26.31.8.3. **Finance Committee** **Appendix H**

JE spoke to say 57% of the budget is left at half way through the year, reconciliations are signed off monthly, asked everyone to think about projects for next year and let the Finance Committee know ASAP as budget planning will commence. External audit report has come in

8.3.1 To approve a combined annually reviewed document covering the Statement of Internal Control and the Review of the Effectiveness of Internal Audit, prepared in accordance with the Practitioners' Guide (2026-2027). **Appendix H.1**

Unanimously Approved

26.31.8.4. **White Hills Burial Ground (WHBG) Committee** **Appendix i**

TT asked re digitisation – is there a timetable? – BU said no but he thinks he can photograph the burial register and import it to excel so that it can be uploaded to scribe. This is beneficial as scribe has no digital records and digitisation will allow updating, a new map and searching for records online.

Unanimously received

26.31.8.5. **Place & Assets WG** ~~**Appendix J**~~

AP said all bench plaques from replacements to go on the memorial wall in the shelter Saturday 7th November is the leaf clearing day. Contact Biffa / SODc re collecting the leaves. DIY phone box renovation is progressing well.

26.31.8.6. **Comms Working Group** ~~**Appendix K**~~

BN Chair of Comms WG said they agreed to seek to improve community engagement through an enhanced Mailchimp newsletter, asking current subscribers to reconfirm their interest. Mailchimp account access arrangements to be reviewed. Initial estimates for the website replacement/refresh have been received from three providers, with NM and BN exploring potential local support to address internal storage issues. For CCTV at Bourdillon, TT will consult parents familiar with the original vandalism concerns, while BN will discuss the need for a written CCTV policy with the Chair of Open Spaces. Communications about the phone booth will be developed at a later stage, potentially incorporating the Art Trail. Photos of the new benches will be used for a Facebook post, and BN will work with DB to prepare communications for Leaf Clearing Day – The Big Sweep - for GGN and Facebook

Unanimously received.

26.31.8.7. **Liaisons**

JE went to Helping in Hardship meeting.

RW- twinning committee- looking at a sign at the station, been chasing GWR , finally got a reply that the station signage will be updated including the twinning signs.

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.31.9. To approve part-funding the resurfacing of Bourdillon Path 8 with CIL funding in partnership with OCC **Appendix L**

TT spoke with OCC and they have section 106 funds to use on infrastructure. TT & RW showed them Path 8 which is in need of repair. It is an important access for the school, the playground, pushchairs and for mobility scooters. OCC had a shortfall of funds to complete the project so the proposal is to fund the balance from CIL for our part of the path crossing Bourdillon. JE said funds should come from 8370 Public Spaces Strategy EMR. Assignment as CIL would follow later.

Unanimously Approved

26.31.10. To approve updated wording to Standing Order 7 **Appendix M**

JE proposed we should maintain as much consistency with the NALC recommended version as possible, and that the points raised can be more simply dealt with by adding the following at the end of a, leaving b as it is: *Each councillor proposing a special motion should email the Proper Officer confirming their support for the special motion. Should any proposer withdraw their support before publication of the agenda they should email the Proper Office to confirm their withdrawal. If that withdrawal causes the number of proposers to drop below the number required the motion will not be put on the Agenda. Should any of the proposers withdraw their support after publication of the agenda the motion will remain on the Agenda."*

Unanimously Approved to update SO7 including JE proposal above, and the motions form to be available as a separate document.

26.31.11. To approve updated wording to Financial Regulations 11.3 **Appendix N**

Unanimously Approved

26.31.12. Clerk's Items for Approval

26.31.12.1. To note the arrangements for Remembrance Day – poppies on streetlights, camo net with crochet poppies mounted on the village sign, silhouettes on the Rectory Garden.

Date to be confirmed for the remembrance items installation, once the weather forecast is favourable.

26.31.12.2. To note the latest speed surveys have been booked in 5 locations, each for 7 days.

Noted that the cost of 5 @ £190each – total £950 is to come out of 8349 Traffic calming EMR

26.31.12.3. To approve a budget of £500 for repairing & refurbishing the phone box.

Suggest facilities look at the phone box done by hand at South Stoke, the initial work is wood replacement, door stays, glazing seals/clips etc

Unanimously Approved a budget of £675 from 8150 Public buildings EMR

26.31.12.4. To approve a budget of £95 for maintaining the planter on the High Street

Unanimously Approved from 6260 Village planting – recognizing it will be £325.61 overspent on its 5k budget

26.31.13. To note the receipt of the External Auditors report and that the Conclusion of Audit Notice was posted on all noticeboards and the website prior to 30th September **Appendix O**

Noted

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.31.14. To note the date and time of the next regular Full Council meeting 19:00 Monday 9th November at 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 30th October please

26.31.15. 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

Unanimously Approved

26.31.16. To approve a quote and appoint an internal auditor FY 2026/7 onwards.

Unanimously Approved April Skies as IA

26.31.17. > Motion without notice to exclude the Clerk

Unanimously approved.

The meeting was suspended at 8.15pm and resumed at 8.25pm, without the Clerk, but with Cllr Povey keeping notes.

At Chair's proposal, resolved to deal with item 18 first.

26.31.18. > To approve the updated contract for the Clerk

Resolved unanimously with one abstention; contract to be effective from 1 September 2026

26.31.19. . To consider and approve recommendations from the Staffing Committee.

26.31.19.1. Resolution 1: To approve a budget of up to £1500 to provide for occupational health assessment and to set up an Employee Assistance Programme with a third-party provider; and to delegate authority to progress these items to the Staffing Committee.

Resolved unanimously.

26.31.19.2. Resolution 2: To approve a budget of up to £1500 to pay for professional advice on payroll administration; and to delegate authority to progress this matter to the Staffing Committee.

Resolved unanimously with one abstention.

Meeting closed at 9.07pm

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council