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

Monday 14th September 2026 at 18:30, 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 M Stares (MS)
	Cllr B McKenzie (BM)

Officers Present:

Clerk S Edmunds

Public and Press: 3 Members of the Public

Meeting started 18.30

MoP1: Re 26.24.9 they are the Chiltern Society representative attending to answer any questions re the grant application for three new footpath gates
MoP2: Re 26.24.12.4 the proposed practice goal on the Gardiner, they asked the council to consult with neighbours prior to placing the any equipment
MoP3: Re 26.24.10 John Boler (JB) as a trustee of the CC attending to hear the discussion and answer any questions

AGENDA

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

Apologies received from Cllrs B Urbick & D Bermingham

26.24.2. 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)

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

None

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

3.1. Meeting held on 13th July 2026

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

Minutes are held for the October meeting pending clarification of the OCC Cllr report

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.24.4. Chair's Report

- Noted lots of activity in Open Spaces, Travel & Transport and PAWG
- Thanked the Clerk/Facilities Team for their efforts over the summer with the weedripper, trees and general cleaning over the summer
- Any members of the public are welcome to report things on fixmystreet but we do now have a dedicated email Report@goringparishcouncil.gov.uk for reporting any issues in the village
- TT and SL met with Thames Valley Police and the SODC Community Safety Officer to review antisocial behaviour at the Bourdillon and The Arcade. Useful contacts were made, but no formal actions are planned. A watching brief remains in place. Members of the public are encouraged to report incidents via 101 and inform both the Council and police. Resolution services are available if disputes arise from anti-social behaviour.
- • Reminder to all that Council decisions are made collectively as a corporate body. Once a resolution is passed, councillors have a general duty to support it publicly (with limited exceptions). the social media policy sums it up nicely, support things agreed or stay silent, if posting on a personal account be clear you are not posting as a Cllr and note that decisions may be revisited after six months.

26.24.5. To note reports from District and County Councillors

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

The two reports were noted.

26.24.6. To Receive Minutes of Committees

6.1. Planning Committee

- Meeting dated 30th June 2026 **Appendix A**
- Meeting dated 21st July 2026 **Appendix B**

The Planning Committee minutes were received

6.2. Travel & Transport Committee

- Meeting dated 23rd June 2026 **Appendix C**

Travel & Transport Committee minutes were received

6.3. Open Spaces Committee

- Meeting dated 2nd June 2026 **Appendix D**

Agreed to name WG attendees at the top of each report and then use initials in the body of text for clarity

The Open Spaces Committee minutes were received

26.24.7. To approve any amendments to existing committees and working groups Appendix E

7.1. To note the disbanding of the OJFS Working Group

Noted

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.24.8. 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.

8.1. Traffic & Transport Committee **Appendix F**

RW spoke re the quiet lane project, there will be a widespread village consultation on paper and online and the findings brought back to full council, it is anticipated this will take two to three months.

8.2. Open Spaces Committee **Report 8.2 uploaded to website**

SL gave the attached report

8.3. Finance Committee **Appendix G**

JE spoke to say we are on track with spending against budget. We have made provision EMR330 playground renewals of £10k this year and endeavour adding £10k per year over the next 27 years

~~8.3.1 To approve the Statement for Internal Controls~~

~~8.3.2 To approve the Effectiveness of the Internal Audit~~

8.4. Place & Assets WG **Appendix H**

AP spoke and highlighted the next leaf clearing day Saturday 7th November

8.5. Comms Working Group **Appendix H.1**

BN said they are continuing to look at new providers for the website, and community engagement; comms for quiet lanes; CCTV at Bourdillon-they will engage with the school; good media coverage of the sale of the OJFS.

8.6. OJFS sale Working Group **Report 8.6 uploaded to website**

Clerk gave the attached report

8.7. Liaisons Verbal Report

None

26.24.9. To consider and if agreed, approve a grant application to replace three kissing gates in Goring **Appendix i**

Unanimously approved the grant of £2250 using cost code 4090

26.24.10. The Parish Council would like to ensure that the Community Centre continues to provide services and benefits to the village and the surrounding area.

10.1. To approve if the Community Centre should be offered for sale by the County Council, the Parish Council would be interested in acquiring it, subject to a satisfactory agreement of a purchase arrangement; a satisfactory survey to determine the costs of future maintenance and other liabilities; and satisfactory agreements with the Trust that currently holds the lease and other tenants.

Cllr MFR reported a meeting with OCC regarding assets, noting GoTPC's interest. JB, on behalf of the trustees, confirmed the toilet refurbishment is nearing completion and advised that OCC could sell to any third party and should GoTPC acquire the site, it would secure it for the village. The Trustees would expect

any sale to include a covenant protecting their interests until the lease ends. It was also noted that any formal proposal to acquire the CC would require public consultation.

Unanimously Approved for GoTPC to express interest

10.2. The Council appoints three Councillors, supported by one Officer, to act as a Working Group to investigate the possible acquisition of the Community Centre, to negotiate with the County Council, and to negotiate with the existing lease holders and tenants. The Working Group are to draw up terms of reference and present them to Council for approval. The Working Group should report to Council at all Full Council meetings.

Unanimously Approved to appoint Cllrs DB, TT & BM to work with the Clerk on the possible acquisition of the Community Centre.

26.24.11. To approve the New Councillor Pack for use **Appendix J**

Reapproval period- annually (Clerk to review when a vacancy occurs) add to website

Unanimously Approved

26.24.12. Clerk's Items for Approval **Appendix K**

12.1. Christmas Trees: To approve purchasing 13 x 1m High Street trees and either a 5m tree OR a permanent planted tree for Rectory Garden – total budget £425

Approved by Majority to approve purchasing cut trees from cost code 6270 , any permanent options are subject to coming back to full council.

12.2. To note the NALC/ Local Government Service Pay Agreement from 1st April 2026-31st March 2027 has been approved nationally.

The value of the scale point has increased. The Council operates an NJC contract, and this is a contractual obligation. Backpay to 1st April 2026 will be applied to all employed during the applicable period

Noted

12.3. To approve permitting the Cricket Club to install a glass washer and a fridge/freezer at the Gardiner Pavilion.

Unanimously Approved, with the provision that the Cricket Club dispose of the old fridge.

12.4. To approve investigating installing a permanent practice football goal at Sheepcot and Gardiner Recreation Grounds delegating to OS Committee

Delegated to the OS Committee to discuss location and budgets.

Unanimously Approved to delegate investigation to the OS Committee

12.5. To note tree surgery & hedge trimming works to be performed on the WHBG shared boundary at the requesters cost.

Noted

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.24.13. **Motion Received: To approve that as soon as any press release has been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council the submitter shall copy it to all Councillors for information.**

This avoids Cllrs looking out of touch when others have seen a release that they were not aware of, and, should a Cllr notice anything wrong, they can contact the submitter pointing out the issue.

Proposed by JE, seconded by AP

Unanimously Approved to add press releases to the website & notify Cllrs.

26.24.14. Motion Received: To approve withdrawing the application to OCC to designate Battle Road as part of the 'Quiet Lanes' pilot scheme **Appendix L**

TT: The motion is a SO 7 Special Motion because the matter was discussed and resolved on in June which is within six months. And a Special Motion requires four signatures to be allowed. Clerk's advice is that wet signatures are not required and that four email confirmations of support are acceptable. When the motion was received, the proposer had the required email confirmations from three other supporters, so the Clerk included it in the agenda. Even though two of the original supporters have now withdrawn their support, it has been accepted so it needs to stay on the agenda.

JE proposed the motion AP seconded.

Approved by majority to put the motion to a vote

Approved by majority to withdraw the application (OCC received it as an expression of interest)

Motion without notice to extend the meeting by 15 minutes

Unanimously Approved

26.24.15. To note the date and time of the next regular Full Council meeting at the new time of 19:00 Monday 12th October 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 2nd October please

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council

26.24.16. 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

26.24.17. To require the Clerk to ensure appropriate cover for duties affected by a staff member's sick leave –

Unanimously Approved to require the Clerk to arrange cover

26.24.18. To approve a quote and select the insurance provider for the Council.

Unanimously Approved to delegate to the Clerk in consultation with Finance Committee to arrange insurance cover prior to the 30 September.

~~26.24.19. To approve a quote and appoint an internal auditor FY 2026/7 onwards~~

Hold awaiting more quotes

Meeting closed:20:28

Cllr T Thurston
Chair of the Council