

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT Minutes of a meeting of Gotherington Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th July 2026, commencing at 7pm

Members Present: Cllrs J. Nicolson (Chair), T. Lidington, B. Osborne, D. Rees, C. Webber

In attendance: M. Humphries (Proper Officer), 19 members of the public

26.07.14.01 To receive and approve apologies for absence and confirm the meeting is quorate

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs T. Fawke, O. Paton, S. Neighbour and H. Samuels. Clerk confirmed the meeting was quorate.

26.07.14.02 To approve the draft minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 23 June 2026

Approval **DEFERRED** as there was not a quorum of councillors present who had attended the meeting.

26.07.14.03 To receive the Borough and County Councillors' Reports

Cllr Adcock's report was noted.

26.07.14.04 Public Session

To provide members of the public/press with the opportunity to comment on items on the Agenda or raise items for future consideration. In accordance with Standing Orders, this will not exceed 15 minutes in total and three minutes per person.

The following issues were raised:

- Written comments submitted for Council consideration.
- Footpath overgrowth and brambles reported; item noted as appearing on the agenda.
- Concerns raised regarding flooding and tree roots affecting the stream.
- Playground vegetation overgrown and becoming hazardous; clarification sought on responsibility and contract arrangements.
- Request for the Parish Council to review funding request from Friends of Gotherington School.
- Concern expressed that Freeman Field, purchased for sport/recreation and referenced in the NDP as green space, may not be suitable for leasing to Gotherington Men's Shed.
- Representative of Gotherington Men's Shed responded to comments made on social media, clarified funding intentions and offered an open morning for residents.
- Issues reported via FixMyStreet: chicane grass cut poorly; sinkhole outside 3 Gretton Road remains unresolved (approx. 18 inches deep).
- Further concerns raised regarding the same sinkhole and possible Severn Trent pipework involvement.

26.07.14.05 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

The Clerk advised that three councillors had declared non-financial prejudicial interests in items 6.1 and 6.2 under the Code of Conduct. Advice had been sought from the Monitoring Officer and Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils, who had both confirmed that the Council should use its dispensation provisions.

The Clerk confirmed that the parish council's dispensation provisions were that the council votes on whether to grant dispensations. She advised that lack of quorum alone is not sufficient grounds for granting a dispensation and recommended against the council granting dispensations.

The Council considered each dispensation request individually as follows:

Dispensation request for Cllr Lidington Vote: For 3 Against 1 Abstentions 1
Decision: Dispensation granted.

Dispensation request – Cllr Rees Vote: For 2 Against 1 Abstentions 2
Decision: Dispensation granted.

Dispensation request: Cllr Webber Vote: For 3 Against 1 Abstentions 2
Decision: Dispensation granted.

As a result of the votes the Clerk confirmed that the meeting would be quorate for items 6.1 and 6.2.

26.07.14.06 Land, Assets and Buildings

6.1 To consider a request from Gotherington Men's Shed for a 25-year Lease in Principle (LIP) on land west of the John Woolley Pavilion

The Chair clarified the nature of a Lease in Principle as not committing the council to any significant actions or expenditure. Members discussed funding requirements, alternative locations, implications of the cesspit and the original purpose of Freeman Field.

Key points included:

- Concerns raised regarding suitability of the location and future control of any building.
- Noting Freeman Field's original purpose as recreation ground.
- Noting that GMS had expressed willingness to gift any building to the Parish Council if the group dissolved.

Vote: In favour: 3 Against: 2 Abstentions: 0

COUNCIL RESOLVED to grant the Lease in Principle.

6.2 To agree hire rates for Gotherington Men's Shed

Proposal: £10 per hour for all bookings, in line with standard hire rates, using the Scribe booking system. Proposed by Cllr Nicolson, seconded by Cllr Osborne.

Vote: For 4 Against 1

COUNCIL AGREED the hire rate.

6.3 War Memorial: To receive an update on repairs

The Clerk confirmed that the company whose vehicle had damaged the war memorial was progressing the matter through its insurer and had requested a repair quote, which had now been provided.

6.4 To consider grass-cutting arrangements for the remainder of 2026

Footpaths noted as overgrown following contractor unavailability. It was noted that Laurence's Meadow will not be cut until August; scythe training planned; it was noted that vegetation was encroaching into gardens.

6.5 To receive an update on the cesspit on Freeman Field

Deferred as Cllr Samuels was not present.

6.7 To consider obtaining quotes for a condition report on the Rex Rhodes Building

Proposal to obtain a condition report following strong support in the Community Survey. Budget of £2,000 proposed by Cllr Webber and seconded by Cllr Nicolson.

COUNCIL AGREED unanimously.

26.07.14.07 Council Operations

7.1 To receive the Clerk's Report

Noted.

7.2 To note the CIL annual report submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council

Noted.

7.3 To consider and approve the CIL Spending Policy

The Clerk had circulated the draft policy in advance. Proposal for quarterly application cycles. Clerk email address to be updated on the policy.

COUNCIL AGREED unanimously to adopt the CIL Spending Policy with necessary changes made to reflect quarterly applications and updated Clerk email address.

7.4 To consider and approve the IT Policy

DEFERRED to August pending completion of the draft policy.

7.5 To ratify Clerk overtime to date and agree maximum weekly overtime and review date

The Clerk had circulated details of overtime to date and a short-term forecast. Council noted that Cllrs Neighbour and Nicolson will continue oversight of overtime in liaison with the Clerk.

7.6 To agree access arrangements for Scribe Bookings and the new website

Council discussed access requirements. No formal resolution.

7.7 To receive an update on the bookings system

The Clerk advised that she was progressing the new booking system setup.

7.8 To receive update on email and website migration

The Clerk advised that unresolved technical issues with IONOS had prevented successful email migration. She confirmed that all documents from the old website had been saved, enabling the planned closure of the old site to proceed.

26.07.14.08 Development and Improvements

8.1 To consider approving the letter of support for Atlas to landowners

The Clerk had circulated a letter drafted by Cllr Webber in advance. Letter to be used by Atlas as part of an approach to local landowners with potentially suitable land for a mobile mast.

Cllr Nicolson proposed that the council approve the letter wording with the addition of an additional paragraph offering contact details for further discussion. Seconded by Cllr Osborne; **COUNCIL AGREED** unanimously.

8.2 To consider commissioning a condition report on the Rex Rhodes Building

Item is an unintentional duplicate of 6.7; no further action.

8.3 Community Survey: To receive any updates

Funding interest received for RRB improvements. Progress will follow completion of the CIL form. Concern raised regarding the circular path; suggestion made to form a working group. No decision taken.

26.07.14.09 Planning

9.1 To note new planning decisions issued by Tewkesbury Borough Council

Noted as per list circulated in the Clerk's Report.

9.2 To consider the following planning applications and agree response

24/00687/FTP – Notice of diversion of footpath AGO9

Council raised no comments or objections.

9.3 To discuss any urgent planning applications received since publication of the agenda

None received.

26.07.14.10 Finances (Documents circulated prior to meeting)

10.1 To approve the July payment list, note those paid between meetings under delegated authority and to note receipts (Appendix A)

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

Standing Orders were suspended from 8.41pm to 8.43pm while Cllr Lidington briefly left the room.

10.2 To receive and consider Financial Working Group recommendations

- Council **AGREED** to open a new savings account with CCLA.
- Council **AGREED** to retain £10,000 in the Unity current account and place remaining funds in the Unity savings account.

10.3 To approve the bank reconciliation

Deferred to August pending completion of the bank reconciliation.

10.4 To receive financial update (budget vs expenditure) to 31 May 2026

The Clerk had circulated the report prior to the meeting but highlighted that some elements appeared misaligned with the agreed budget. Council noted significant increases in office/admin, utilities and insurance costs. Members to email any queries to the Clerk for investigation and explanations. Therefore the report was not accepted as a true reflection.

26.07.14.11 To consider matters for the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting

Cllr Osborne requested that consideration of waiving field hire costs for Trek26; to be added to the August agenda.

26.07.14.12 To confirm the date of the next Council Meeting as Tuesday 11 August 2026 at 7pm
Noted.

26.07.14.13 Confidential Session: To approve the employment contract and pension arrangements for the Clerk.

Council **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the public and press to progress matters of a confidential nature. Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings Act) 1960; Local Government Act 1972 ss.100 and 102.

Item **DEFERRED** pending further factfinding.

Meeting closed at 8.59pm

APPENDIX A: Payments List – July 2026

PAYMENT LIST - July 2026				
Payee	Invoice	Date of Invoice	Details	Total
FOR NOTING AND RATIFICATION ONLY				
IONOS	203055568056	25/05/2026	Email hosting	£10.80
IONOS	203055449898	29/05/2026	Web hosting	£20.39
Starboard Systems Ltd			Scribe Bookings	£21.60
Starboard Systems Ltd			Scribe Accounting Software	£37.20
Octopus Energy	KI-4AE20250-0011	08/06/2026	Energy bill	£219.39
Unity Bank	N/A	N/A	Monthly service charge	£7.00
Everflow			Water Charges - RRB	£145.06
Cllr H Samuels	N/A	17/06/2026	Reimbursement for new toilet seat for RRB to replace broken	£17.81
R Waller	N/A	N/A	Clerk salary May-June 2026	
M Humphries	N/A	N/A	Clerk salary June 2026	
FOR APPROVAL AND PAYMENT				
Andy Burlow	117	31/05/2026	Cleaning of RRB and JWP May 2026	£180.00
Chris Arnold Tree Surgery	8051	09/07/2026	Removal of silver birch trees on Freeman Field 7/7/26	£840.00
PATA Payroll	251337PPS	03/07/2026	Q1 26-27 payroll services / new employee setup	£59.40
Ground Up	4020	25/06/2026	Grass cutting / strimming / weed clearance in June	£180.00
Ground Up	4070	08/07/2026	Routine grasscutting 7/7/26	£66.00
HMRC	N/A	05/07/2026	PAYE/NI June 2026	£138.58
				£1,943.23