



**Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 15th December 2025 at 7.00pm in the Civic Centre**

Present: Cllrs P Smith (Chair), R Claydon, D Thomas, J Cordwell, B Britton-Griffiths, P Underwood, E Edwards, R Greenup, R Halpin, F Hulls, J Lewis

In attendance: A Durn (Town Clerk); Stroud District Cllrs C Braun and G Kitchen; County and District Cllr L Cohen; plus the Chairman of the Wotton Under Edge and District Recreation Trust plus 1 member of the public

T.7646 To receive Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr L Hewish and from District Cllr C Braun who would be arriving late

T.7647 To receive Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

Cllrs P Smith and R Claydon declared an interest in the agenda item on the Wotton Under Edge and District Recreation Trust due to being Trustees of the Trust.

T.7648 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 17th November 2025 and Extraordinary Town Council meeting of 24th November 2025

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 17th November 2025 and the Extraordinary Town Council meeting of 24th November 2025

T.7649 Public Forum

Members of the public can make representations, raise questions, or submit comments

District Cllr G Kitchen made the following comments: It's regarding the Symn Lane Car Park DCC meeting earlier this month at Ebley Mill. A Wotton Town Council representative directed me not to speak against the planning variation S.23/2101/VAR. I chose to disregard that request. As an elected representative, I have a duty to voice the concerns of my constituents. Being told that I should have remained silent runs counter to the fundamental principles of open council debate and undermines the transparency that residents expect. Freedom of expression ensures that a range of perspectives is represented at council. I am deeply disappointed that the situation occurred. Raising the issue publicly here at Full Council, is my response. District Cllr G Kitchen also raised some queries on behalf of a resident on Abbey Surfacing and the Civic Centre lighting works and was satisfied with the responses.

There were no other queries from the public.

T.7650 Chairman's Announcements - to receive report from the Chairman.

The Chairman had circulated the following report:

1. Attended the Solar Working Party looking at the possibility of putting solar panels on the roof of the Civic Centre. Further meeting required to look at the possible payback time of installing panels.

2. Attended a meeting in North Nibley with Chairman and Vice Chairman and councillors from North Nibley, Kingswood, Alderley, Dursley, Hillesley and Tresham, and Stinchcombe Parish Councils. The meeting was called to discuss if there was an appetite to possibly take on extra responsibilities due to devolution, which there appeared to be, but what those extra duties may be was too early at the stage to say.

Another meeting will be set up sometime in the new year to discuss further, how it may be possible to work more closely together once we know what the Government's view is as far as devolution is concerned in Gloucestershire.

3. Attended what is likely to be the last meeting of the Wotton Recreation Trust and CIO meeting where it was decided to close down the Trust and ask the Wotton Town Council and Wotton Town Trust to take over the access of the Wotton Recreation Trust and CIO.

4. Led the parade with Father Christmas and Bluey for the Wotton Christmas under The Edge event. It was great to see so many people enjoying the event.

5. Attended the two meeting of the Budget Working Group to put together the Town Council's budget for 2026/27 and make recommendation to Council.

There were no comments.

T.7651 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County Cllr L Cohen had circulated the following report:

Christmas and New Year are almost here, I'd like to thank all the Parish Councils in Wotton and Berkeley Vale for all your hard work over the past year, trying to do the best for your residents. I know it can seem like a thankless task on occasion, but much is being done and progress being made on some great projects. It's important to look back and realise what has been achieved, even if negotiating local government processes can sometimes feel like wading through mud! I hope you have felt supported, and it is my aim to try and smooth the way where I can and get the wheels turning.

I'm particularly pleased to see a new cohort of Councillors join **Wotton Town Council**, I know they will strengthen the existing team and bring many new skills to bear. Speaking of bears it was good to work with the Council on the Bear Street roadworks and support businesses to ensure they could continue to function. In the summer, the Wotton Womble was well supported and fun, I hope it has encouraged residents to care even more about their beautiful town.

Kingswood (with Wotton) are working hard to set up youth services provision and making headway on important road safety initiatives and a school crossing patrol. I will continue to lobby for these important initiatives.

North Nibley is also working on road improvements, particularly the junction. I will support these and the new playground and will be meeting with Highways in the new year about the roads around Waterley Bottom.

Hillesley and Tresham are pushing ahead with their Community 20s project and looking at what measures can be easily put in place to address excess speed through the villages. See more later in my report on the budget for this.

Ham and Stone I am very mindful of how few amenities the residents enjoy and will be directing Grassroots funding towards play facilities and help for any children's groups. I am continuing to press for an answer on the use of Thornbury tip and hope

to have an update in the new year. I am also liaising about accessible housing, and this project will continue into the new year.

It was a particular pleasure to attend the opening of the **Stinchcombe** play area in September and see the new equipment in place. It will be a great asset to the community. I have used my local budget for road signage, and I hope this should be in place soon.

In **Alkington** work continues to look at making the Swanley junction safer and road speeds on the A38. I'm keen to foster a closer working relationship and would like to know if there are other local issues I can help with.

News

The Festive Season

Is not always a time for celebration. If you have an elderly, lonely or vulnerable neighbour please do check on them or maybe stop in or invite them for a cup of tea. This can also be a very difficult time for some families and children.

Locally the following organisations may offer a warm space or somewhere to enjoy some festivities

The Keepers Wotton, Symn Lane - Look for Christmas news and events on their website [The Keepers Community Hub](#)

The Keepers in Kingswood is the first satellite hub of The Keepers, Wotton Area Community Hub offering a **Drop-in Café** and a **Community Pantry** and **Information Point**. **DROP-IN CAFÉ** a safe and welcoming place to meet others and find help if you need it: Location: Lower Schoolroom, 1 The Walk, Kingswood, GL12 8RP **Opening Times: Tuesday: 2pm - 5pm Friday: 10am - 1pm**

Wotton Lunch club and Day Centre 01453 842004 – Thursdays Weekly 9.45am-1.45pm for lunch. Coombe Suite Civic Centre.

Local libraries and churches will all offer warm spaces as well as many local pubs, St Mary's Church Wotton has a very welcoming café.

During Christmas, **the Samaritans** provide vital support for individuals struggling with mental health issues, offering a listening ear and various initiatives to help those in need. They know the Christmas period can be particularly challenging for many and are committed to being available for anyone who needs to talk, especially when other services may be closed. Their helpline is open 24/7 on 116 123 or you can email, write or make a face to face appointment [Contact Us | Samaritans](#)

GCC Your Circle is an online directory maintained by Gloucestershire County Council with support from partners across the county. You can use Your Circle to:

- learn more about ways to stay independent for longer
- discover what's happening in your local community
- connect with people, places and activities in Gloucestershire
- find care and support services.

Free Travel for Young People

Any young person in the county can be referred (or self-refer) for a bus pass if they are in or leaving care, rurally isolated, not in education, employment or training and seeking to use the pass to attend appointments or youth provision. The pass can cover one week, one month or 10 return trips, and people can apply by using the QR code attached to the poster and filling out the referral form.

Grass Roots Neighbourhood Fund – a reminder

Applications are coming in, and I am pleased to have started allocating funds. *The grant scheme will run for 18 months, and I have up to £20,000 to support projects in Wotton and Berkeley Vale. There will be a lower limit of £250 and an upper limit of £5,000 per grant.*

This scheme is intended to support grassroots community organisations, ie: community and voluntary groups, registered charities, Community Interest Companies, Town and Parish Councils, sports groups, schools and academies and patient led groups. 'For profit' organisations are not eligible.

The Fund will use an online application process with automated features. To support both Councillors and applicants, we've created a clear, step-by-step guide available here: [How to apply | Gloucestershire County Council](#) . There will still be paper based options for those unable to access the online forms.

Local Government Reorganisation – Single Unitary Authority

A vote taken at the recent meeting of the county council marks a major step towards the biggest change in local government for more than 50 years.

County Councillors debated two proposals for the future structure of local government in the county that have been developed collaboratively by all seven councils:

- A single unitary council for the whole of Gloucestershire
- Two unitary councils: one covering the east (Cheltenham, Cotswold, Tewkesbury) and one covering the west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean, Stroud)

At the end of the debate, councillors were asked to indicate their preferred proposal. The result was:

- One unitary council – 38 votes
- Two unitary councils – 4 votes
- Abstentions – 10 votes

This is a significant milestone but was not the final decision. The non-binding vote was considered by Cabinet which agreed the single unitary proposal which was formally submitted to Government on 28 November.

The 'Greater Gloucester' proposal, developed by Gloucester City Council, was not debated because its business case was published too late to allow the same level of review and due diligence as had been carried out on the other two proposals.

The Government will consult early next year on all submitted proposals that meet its criteria and is expected to make a final decision in the summer.

GCC A Stronger Future 2025-29

This bold plan sets out the council's vision to create a county where everyone can thrive, belong, and be proud of where they live.

A summary of the four key themes included in the strategy and associated outcomes:

- Children & young people thrive: Ensuring every child has the best start in life, with excellent education and support for those with additional needs.
- Strong, healthy communities that care: Reducing inequalities, supporting vulnerable people, and building resilient, caring communities.
- A place to be proud of: Improving roads, investing in infrastructure, protecting the environment, and supporting the local economy to make Gloucestershire safer, greener, and more attractive.
- An open, fair and sustainable council: Leading with integrity, transparency, and innovation to deliver excellent services and empower communities.

You can learn more about the strategy at <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/Corporate-Strategy-2025-2029/>

GCC budget 26/27

The proposed spending plans for 2026/27 will see spending rise by more than £32.4 million on 2025/26 levels, to almost £700 million.

The council's Cabinet is set to approve a public consultation on the proposed budget when it meets.

The £697.5 million proposed budget includes significant investment by the council to improve road safety, education for young people, and continued support the most vulnerable people in the county.

An additional £15 million is proposed to be spent over the next three years on improving the quality and safety of the county's roads. In addition, £2 million will be spent on introducing 20mph speed limits over the next two years to improve road safety.

A total of £21.1 million will be spent on delivering the new special school in Gloucester, allowing more young people to can being educated closer to home. A further £2.7 million will be invested in the Special Educations Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services.

Towards a total investment of £57m, there will be £6.35 million committed next year towards the building of three new care homes in the county.

Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county will be benefit from improvements with £3.9 million set to be invested over the next four years.

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service will see £2.5 million spent on new frontline vehicles, £1.5 million towards a new training facility, and £1.3 million to make improvements to Cinderford Fire Station.

The budget proposes raising an additional £26.1 million to help fund services through a council tax increase of 2.99% and a further 2% increase in the adult social care precept, which will specifically support work with the most vulnerable adults in the county. Based on a band D property, residents would pay an additional £6.98 each month.

The council is also looking at the way it works to reduce costs and make its money go further. This includes reducing the reliance on consultants, stripping out duplication, and tackling inefficient practices. This will create £25.7 million in savings for the council's budget.

A public consultation will run from 4 December 2025 until 9 January 2026.

Other activity of note...

- Meeting with KLB Head
- Flooding issues in Holywell Road – local budget used to pay for camera to investigate blocked pipework. Remedial works to unblock and resolve flooding issues.
- Meet with Wotton and Kingswood Clerks to progress youth provision.
- Meeting to look at highways' issues around North Nibley/Waterley Bottom and agree resurfacing works.
- Arrangements being made to visit all schools and local organisations in my area
- Coombe Road speed survey being arranged
- Wotton Charfield Greenway

Linda Cohen

Gloucestershire County Councillor – Wotton -under-Edge and Berkeley Vale Division
Cabinet Member for Education & Skills

Gloucestershire County Council

c/o Democratic Services, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester,
GL1 2TG linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cllr L Cohen added the importance of using the local buses particularly the Y8 Wotton to Yate buses. She asked the Town Council to lobby WECA and Gloucestershire County Council to invest in the Y8 routes and encourage people to use them.

There were no comments.

Stroud District Councillors had circulated the following report:

Along with residents' casework and in addition to council and training meetings at Ebley Mill, Cllrs Kitchen, Braun & Cohen attended the regular council meetings at [North Nibley](#), [Stinchcombe](#) & [Wotton-under-Edge](#).

Council meetings

Link to meeting agenda and documents in the committee title.

Housing Committee - 4th Nov

- **Swedish Timber Houses Site, Stinchcombe.** An update to the Committee on highway safety and other key infrastructure considerations for the new scheme, before a planning application is submitted for this site, which was added to the Council's New Homes Programme in March 2024. Seventeen new energy efficient affordable homes are proposed (1 bed, 2 bed and 3 bed), on the site of 2 pairs of semi-detached Swedish Timber properties with large gardens. The concerns expressed by Stinchcombe residents in relation to housing density, a preference to upgrade existing buildings and other issues were referenced in the Committee papers.
- **Proposed redevelopment of 11 & 11A May Lane, Dursley.** Committee agreed to the proposal to develop land to the rear of Prospect Place just off May Lane, and to approve the submission of a planning application for the site using compulsory purchase powers if required. The proposed layout comprises 17 affordable homes with associated parking, that would be built to achieve EPC A rating. The May Lane properties are owned by Stroud District Council and comprise a derelict building in very poor condition with structural problems, which is proposed to be demolished.
- **Neighbourhoods & Communities Strategy** - a new SDC strategy was adopted in response to the Regulator of Social Housing's new framework. Following consultation with tenants and members the strategy will focus on partnership across services/agencies, tenants' involvement in service delivery, improved visibility of work, and data-led targeted activity, including tackling littering and wellbeing initiatives.
- **Updated Service Standards** for council housing services have been published. Performance against these standards will be reported regularly for tenant scrutiny and to Housing Committee.

- **New Homes & Regeneration Programme update** - further acquisitions of new affordable homes have been made by SDC in Cam (13 homes), Kingswood (16 homes) and Horsley (1 property) which are all due for completion by end of March. Construction is in progress at the new build council homes sites at Gloucester Street/Bradley Street in Wotton, Glebelands in Cam and Cambridge Avenue in Dursley. Four new homes to provide temporary accommodation for homeless families have been acquired at Great Oldbury.
- **Empty council homes** - work is underway to improve the process and turnaround time taken to bring council properties up to a lettable condition when they are returned to let. Minor voids are now dealt with by the internal Property Care team, which has helped to bring down the turnaround time to 72 days in quarter 1. A contractor deals with large scale repairs and whole house refurbishment works.
- **Damp and Mould** - update on work to implement Awaab's Law, which puts more responsibility on social landlords to provide proactive, tenant focused services for safe and healthy homes.
- [Video recording](#)

Audit & Standards - 11th Nov

- **Counter Fraud and Enforcement Unit**
 - **Duty of Local Authorities** - councils have a responsibility to promote and develop high standards for countering fraud and corruption in their organisations. The Council's Fraud Risk Strategy has been reviewed to ensure it meets current requirements. In a recent case, the Counter Fraud & Enforcement unit prosecuted an individual who had failed to disclose his multiple jobs and received salaries and other benefits totalling approximately £236,000. He was sentenced to 3 years for fraud (see [BBC report](#)).
 - **Multi Agency Approach to Fraud website:** The Counter Fraud & Enforcement Unit has now launched a new website to provide support for victims of scams in Gloucestershire: <https://cfeu.org.uk/glassjar/> This 'Glass Jar' webpage stands for Gloucestershire Against Scams Joint Agency Response, and it has been developed by the Multi-Agency Approach to Fraud group, which brings together key partners including Trading Standards, the Counter Fraud Team, Gloucestershire Constabulary's Economic Crime Team, Victim Support, the NHS, local councils and other agencies. By pooling expertise and intelligence, this group aims to disrupt scams and provide coordinated support for victims. The new Glass Jar website features alerts on current fraud trends and scams, advice for individuals and businesses, reporting tools and contact details, educational resources and campaign materials.
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy**
 - To provide a framework for the use of AI that can be used by the Council to define associated controls and procedures that will ensure on-going compliance.
- **Accounts and Audit** - Committee approved the Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 and reviewed the External Auditors' report. The Internal Audit Activity

Progress Report was also discussed.

- **Annual Code of Conduct Report** - over the previous year, the Monitoring Officer has received 14 Code of Conduct complaints related to the District, Town and Parish Councils. The outcome has been 'no breach' or 'informal resolution' in all cases, apart from five, which are 'ongoing'.
- [Video recording](#)

Strategy & Resources Committee - 13th Nov

- **Brimscombe Port Redevelopment - Next Steps**
 - Procurement - agreed that the Council will proceed to procure a new developer partner for the Brimscombe Port project, to regenerate the old port site, restore the canal basin and build up to 150 energy efficient homes. There has been a very positive response to the council's 'soft market testing' when developers were approached to ask whether in principle they would be interested in the opportunity to be involved in the project.
 - Engagement - a project board will now be set up to include community representation. Council officers are currently exploring possible 'meanwhile use' options for the site, given the site's numerous limitations.
 - Funding - £206k was allocated to fund costs to progress the project over the next four years, and it was agreed to continue to provide a grant fund to Stroud Valleys Canals Company of £67k per year.
- **Procurement and contract management**
 - The new Procurement Act came into effect in Feb 2025 and has been implemented across the council. The Council's new Social Value policy was recently approved to show how economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our area is considered in procurement activity. In terms of local spend - SDC spent £15.7m of its £40.9m total spend on suppliers with a GL postcode in 2024/25.
- **Community Wealth Building**
 - The council is advancing Community Wealth Building across five pillars; procurement, employment, land & assets, finance, and ownership.
 - Work includes, a new Social Value procurement policy, support for local energy co-ops and other projects, with oversight by a cross-department Officer Working Group coordinated with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES).
 - A second community workshop was held on 26 Nov 2025 to continue development.
- **Member / Officer report summaries**
 - Regeneration and Investment Board
 - Stroud Station Quarter (progressing) updates expected in April 2026.
 - Tourism and market-town initiative reviewed. Refreshed Tourism USP report due March 2026 and the allocation of remaining Market Town Vitality Fund resources (£55 k) toward equal grants to town councils, promotional films, and potential signage or shop-front grants.

- Several broader regional updates were noted: the final Local Growth Plan submission, advanced engineering/manufacturing studies, green-skills development, secured canal lottery funding, and pending decisions on Great British Nuclear and other pipeline projects.
- Canal Update
 - [NHLF](#) boosted the canal grant to £15.4 m plus £4 m from partners, enabling full project completion and reconnection at Saul Junction.
 - Key 2025 milestones: Fromebridge opening, Bonds Mill lift bridge installation, and community/heritage outreach events.

- [Video recording](#)

Full Council - 20th Nov

- **Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire**

- Stroud District Council formally supported the proposal to create a single unitary authority for the whole of Gloucestershire, joining the county and district councils into one body. Concern was expressed about the local government reorganisation process, removal of district level decision making, and the likely financial and service disadvantages for Stroud district residents if the East/West two unitary option was adopted.
- The council considered three options: a single county-wide authority, two regional unitary authorities (East & West), or a “Greater Gloucester” authority plus a separate unitary for the rest of the county.
- After debate and a vote the single-council option received the council’s resolution which was submitted to the government by the deadline. The next step will be a Government consultation on the option, then a decision by the Minister on which option will be taken forward, which is expected next summer.
- Council leaders emphasised that the focus now shifts to working with partner councils to prepare for the upcoming changes and to keep Stroud residents at the centre of planning.
- All the other six upper tier councils in Gloucestershire have also sent in their preferences: four voted for one unitary council for the county (Stroud DC, Tewkesbury BC, Cotswold DC and Gloucestershire CC), Cheltenham BC voted for the East/West two unitaries, Gloucester City Council voted for the 'Greater Gloucester' two unitaries, and the Forest of Dean voted for 'none of the above' to express their frustration with the process. ([BBC report](#))
- Further information on the proposals:
<https://futuregloucestershire.org.uk/>

- [Video recording](#)

Other news

- Leaders unite in call for community harmony. "[We champion equality, diversity, inclusion and equity in all that we do.](#)"
- The National Lottery Heritage Fund awards [£6.4m to reconnect Stroud's historic canal](#) with the UK's waterways.
- Disappointment at [rejection of new evidence](#) for the draft Local Plan by

Planning Inspectors.

- [Poppies to Paddington](#)
- Local Government Reorganisation: Stroud District Council supports [single council for Gloucestershire](#)
- Help us build a safer district by sharing [organisations supporting women and girls](#)
- Brimscombe Port redevelopment moves forward with [new developer search](#)

Prepared by [Cllr Catherine Braun](#) (Green) and [Cllr Gareth Kitchen](#) (Green) based on councillor activity in **November** with updates from [Cllr Linda Cohen](#) (Lib Dem).

There were no comments or queries.

The County and District Councillors were thanked for their reports.

T.7652 Accounts

- a) It was RESOLVED to note increase in bank charges with effect from 1st February 2026.
- b) It was RESOLVED to note receipt of M&G Dividend of £417.34.
- c) It was RESOLVED to agree replacement of the office fridge
- d) The quotes for lighting works at the Civic Centre were discussed with the Buildings and Facilities Manager who explained that some lights were not adequate, not working, and the old fittings were no longer available. He had brought the quotes to Council to enable the lighting to be brought up to standard. The quotes were reviewed and it was RESOLVED to award the contract to Bristol Electrical Ltd.
- e) The quotes for repairs to potholes in St Mary's Church driveway were considered. It was RESOLVED to award the contract to Cheltenham Surfacing Ltd.
- f) It was RESOLVED to agree membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks for the Town Clerk of £442
- g) It was RESOLVED to agree to delegate the recruitment of locum cover for the Deputy Clerk post to the Town Clerk
- h) It was RESOLVED to agree the renewal of membership of the Open Spaces Society of £45
- i) The request for support from the Open Spaces Society for legal advice was considered and deferred to the next Town Council meeting
- j) It was RESOLVED to note the 2025/26 budget report
- k) It was RESOLVED to approve December accounts for payment

Cllrs P Smith and R Claydon left the meeting

Cllr J Cordwell took the Chair

T.7653 Dissolution of Wotton Under Edge and District Recreational Trust

The Chairman of the Wotton Under Edge and District Recreational Trust was invited to present the case for dissolution and request to the Town Council. He explained that the number of Trustees were not going to be viable for the Trust to continue. The Trust had discussed the situation and the requirement that the charity could only transfer to another charity and therefore felt that the Town Trust was the best

organisation to transfer the assets to. The assets were Streamsfield and the Bowling Club land.

Cllr Cordwell gave the background to the setting up of the Recreation Trust and the condition that if the land was obtained from Stroud District Council with the condition that if the Bowling Club was to cease, the land had to be transferred back for sheltered housing. The legal fees for arranging the transfer from the Recreation Trust to the Town Council would be £1450 plus VAT.

Cllr R Greenup left the meeting

There followed a discussion on possible options for each asset and the lack of capacity and resources. It was RESOLVED to agree to a transfer of the assets of the Wotton Under Edge and District Recreation Trust and to the quote for commissioning the solicitor to arrange the transfer.

The Chair thanked the Chair of the Wotton Under Edge and District Recreation Trust for his work and attending the meeting and answering Councillor queries.

County and District Cllr L Cohen left the meeting

The Chair of the Wotton Under Edge and District Recreation Trust left the meeting

Cllrs P Smith and R Claydon joined the meeting

Cllr J Cordwell passed the Chair over to Cllr P Smith

T.7654 Carbon Literary Trust Training

It was RESOLVED to purchase 2 spaces on the training courses at a cost of £190 per person

T.7655 Public Works Loan

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had raised some queries on the loan application and evidence detail had been provided. MHCLG were considering the application, and a response is expected imminently.

T.7656 Play Area Improvement Project

The Stroudfunding platform deadline is on 29th December 2025 and there may be a shortfall of £5275 of the target. Stroud District Council would take back their pledge of £9500 if the target was not met. It was RESOLVED to pledge the balance to ensure the target is realised and not lose the pledge from Stroud District Council.

T.7657 Solar Panel Project for Civic Centre

There was a lengthy discussion on the Solar Panel Project which included discussions on use of investments and implications, structural survey, costs and payback, type of works, ethical investments, investment appraisal. It was RESOLVED to call further Working Group meetings to discuss and to obtain a quote from a qualified building surveyor and bring back to Council.

T.7658 Markets Town Vitality Fund

The Christmas lights infrastructure works had been completed and the Christmas trees and lights installed. Many compliments had been received from businesses and the public. There was further work to do to complete for the future. The staff were thanked for all their hard work on the project.

T.7659 Brief reports from Councillors

Cllr R Claydon reported on the Westridge Woods Ash dieback works site meeting with the forestry contractor.

Cllr P Smith reported on the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils which approved the accounts and voted for the organisation to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Cllr P Smith reported on the Beaumont-le-Roger Twinning Society meeting.

Representatives from Beaumon-le-Roger, France will be visiting Wotton Under Edge in May 2026. They will be visiting Bowood House, Chippenham and holding a Hog Roast in Kingswood Village Hall. The Society would like to hold a civic reception in the Coombe Suite, Civic Centre to include drinks and Mayoral speeches on 22nd May 2026. The next Twinning Society AGM is on 30th January 2026 in the Baptist Church.

T.7660 EXEMPT: Prior to consideration of the following agenda items, councillors are invited to pass the following resolution: Pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by S100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that its consideration would involve the disclosure of exempt information

It was RESOLVED for the Public and Press to leave the meeting

Buildings & Facilities Manager, District Cllr G Kitchen, and 1 member of the public left the meeting

T.7661 Staffing Report

It was RESOLVED to commission the employment lawyer at £200/hour plus expenses.

Cllr R Claydon said he wanted to send his personal views to the employment lawyer in advance of the meeting. The Chairman said that anyone else could do the same.

The meeting ended at 08.55pm

Signed:

Date: