



**Minutes of Wotton-under-Edge Town Council Meeting
held on Monday 20th April 2026 at 7.00pm in the Civic Centre**

Present: Cllrs R Halpin (Deputy Chair), M Tucker, J Cordwell, D Thomas, B Britton-Griffiths, E Edwards, R Greenup, M Jeffery, P Underwood, J Lewis

In attendance: A Durn (Town Clerk), P Wilson (Buildings and Facilities Manager); Stroud District Cllrs C Braun, G Kitchen and L Cohen; plus 13 members of the public

T.7745 To receive Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllrs L Hewish, F Hulls, and District Cllr C Braun would be late

T.7746 To receive Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

None received

T.7747 To approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16th March 2026 and the Extra Ordinary Town Council meeting of 30th March 2026

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Town Council meeting of 16th March 2026 with the following amendment from Cllr R Greenup that 6 Councillors received advice directly from the external employment Law Team. The Town Clerk advised that the Councillors' meeting with the Solicitor had been recorded in the February Minute T.7708. The Town Clerk reviewed the Minutes she took from the March 16th, 2026, meeting and advised that the amendment did not reflect the proceedings as recorded in her Minutes. It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Town Council meeting of 30th March 2026.

District Cllr C Braun joined the meeting

T.7748 Public Forum

A representative from the Wotton Twinning Society stated that there was a Twinning Civic Reception with members of the Beaumont le Roger Twinning Society on 22nd May 2026. They asked if the current Mayor, L Hewish, was unable to attend that the Deputy Mayor, R Halpin could attend and make a speech? Cllr Halpin agreed he was available and would be happy to attend.

A representative from the Heritage Centre requested that a meeting with the solicitor is arranged as soon as possible to resolve the lease negotiations. The Town Clerk stated that this was in progress and a date was to be confirmed.

Neighbours of the Symn Lane Play Area complained that young people were using the play area in the evenings and after dark and the neighbours felt their privacy was being decimated. They also felt the use of the tower equipment was intrusive. They asked if the gates could be locked at night and the security light turned off. Councillors asked the neighbours to report incidents to the Police and explained that there was a duty of care to the public but would review solutions.

9 members of the public left the meeting

T.7749 To receive reports from County Councillor and District Councillors

County Cllr L Cohen had circulated the following report:

News

Across the patch..

It's been another busy month; here is just some of the work done locally supporting the community:

- **Agreeing Grassroots fund applications** (see below) and arranging to showcase supported projects.
- **Support to Kingswood Parish Council (PC)** with questions to full council regarding installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), progress with TRO and consultation with PCs on proposed developments and highway mitigation. In principle agreement for TRO.
- **Query also from Stinchcombe** about VAS policy. Question raised with GCC director about lack of clear policy or definitive response. Guidelines to be issued in the new financial year.
- **Liaison with Highways** to address issue of potholes in Long Street. Work completed and done at 5am to avoid disruption to traders.
- **Taits Hill** – continue to support opposition to development. Email to GCC and Stroud District Council (SDC) officers strongly expressing concerns.
- **Youth provision** in Wotton and Kingswood ongoing work – liaison with senior cabinet member.
- **Arranged meeting with North Nibley** Councillor and Highways to look firsthand at road issues around North Nibley/Waterley Bottom following closure of Rushmire Hill. Positive response by Highways Manager and remedial works in hand.
- **Support for Stinchcombe Children's Day.** Half-term Not-So Secret Book Club attended by over 100 children at newly renovated village hall. Activities included making robots, snakes, glove puppets, bracelets and Mother's Day cards. Lots of paint, glue and inspiration, stories and books.
- **Coombe Road speed survey** arranged.
- **Support implementation of Kingswood section of Greenway** – ongoing.
- **Support for Early Learning Unit in Bloor Homes Kingswood planning application** – ongoing.
- **Progress Thornbury tip access** – ongoing discussions ongoing with PC to find solution
- **Visit all schools and local organisations** -arrangements being made.
- **Meet with each Parish and Town Council** - to review and set priorities. I regard these as important to structure my work with all the local councils and I will be monitoring progress regularly and discussing needs for ongoing support.

Grassroots fund projects supported so far

I have given my support for the following projects and will be arranging to visit and see them in action. There is still a small pot of money left for other projects, and I would encourage groups to think widely about possible ideas. Do feel free to speak to me directly if you think there is a local initiative that could benefit.

Synwell Playing Field Assn - Improve toddler area

Mens Shed - Fit out the remaining two containers and install solar energy power source
Allsorts - Keep the Hub open, safe and welcoming – covering essential costs while sustaining outreach sessions across the county
Wotton In Bloom - make the main streets of the town more attractive by installing containers of summer flowers.
Parent and Carer Alliance - Sensory play and support at the Vibe.
North Nibley – play area improvements
Inspire Therapeutic Services – mental health support services
JFMC Hopkins Hall – improvements to pavilion and changing facilities on village field

The Keepers – set up Creative Wellbeing Group
Wotton Town Council - Symn Lane playground project
Hillesley School – outdoor pre-school at Forest School
Stroud Area Community Energy Network - Fund a part-time Community Coordinator for local Community Energy Network
Wotton Pride – application pending
Hillesley Tennis Club – application pending

Council approves £698.4 million budget

Gloucestershire County Council has approved its ambitious £698.4 million budget for 2026/27. The spending plans for 2026/27 will see spending rise by more than £33.3 million on 2025/26 levels, to almost £700 million.

The £698.4 million proposed budget includes significant investment by the council to improve road safety, education for young people, and continued support for 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 improving road safety over the next two years.

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

Towards a total investment of £57 million, there will be £6.55 million committed next year towards the building of three new care homes in the county.

Household Waste Recycling Centres across the county will 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 has been approved following public consultation. This consultation saw 44 per cent of respondents support the proposals to increase Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept. The proposed increase reflects unavoidable pressures on the council and supports the continued delivery of essential services.

The budget proposes raising an additional £27.4 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 £1.61 each week.

The council is also looking at the way it works to generate more income, reduce costs and make its money go further. This will create £32.3 million in savings for the council's budget in 2026/27.

The Liberal Democrat administration welcomed input from all county councillors and groups, we believe in working collaboratively to achieve the very best outcomes with our very tight budgets. Several amendments to the budget were proposed by The Green Party and Labour and agreed and adopted as part of the council's spending plans.

- £10,000 to provide short-term flexible help for young people's travel costs
- £110,000 to fund a zebra crossing to link two sections of the Cam and Dursley 'Green Way'
- £80,000 to make improvements to Public Rights of Way
- £80,000 to sponsor two care leavers to undertake the Level 3 Youth Qualification for two years
- £100,000 to maintain the funding of the Community Climate Grant, to support community-led environmental projects
- £20,000 to fund Particulate Matter monitors in high-risk schools

Council welcomes government investment in specialist SEND support

Gloucestershire County Council has welcomed the Government's announcement of additional investment to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), recognising that the reforms build on strong foundations already in place locally.

The Government has said that every child with additional needs will benefit from better, more tailored support, backed by £4 billion of national investment to make every school more inclusive and improve outcomes for children with SEND.

Mainstream schools will receive a share of £1.6 billion over three years to boost inclusion, while a further £1.8 billion will help provide better access to external support.

Under the new plans, pupils' special educational needs will be met through a layered system of support. Education, health and care plans (EHCPs) will be reserved for children with the most complex needs, with schools creating Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for pupils with less complex needs. These will be guided by new national inclusion standards and a statutory duty for schools to set out their approach to inclusion. The ['Every Child Achieving and Thriving'](#) white paper and associated [SEND consultation](#) outline proposals expected to take effect from 2029.

Gloucestershire enters this next phase of SEND reform from a position of strength.

The county already has:

- A well-established Graduated Pathway
- A SEND & Education Inclusion Strategy which was extended to September 2026 to align with national reform
- A multi-agency SEND & Inclusion Local Area Partnership (SILAP) with active governance and a strong improvement plan

The reforms align with Gloucestershire's existing direction of travel – the partnership's approach which is embedded locally as best practice is becoming national policy. The county council is committed to continuing to ensure children

receive the help and support they need and will work with children, families, schools and partners to deliver these changes.

Love where you live

We all love our beautiful part of the country and are fortunate to live here. Everyone deserves to live in a clean environment.

The Great British Spring Clean will take place from **13 to 29 March 2026**. This is a great chance to encourage residents to get involved and tackle litter. Many Parish Councils will have their own days arranged for residents to get together and tidy up their streets and communities. As important, these can be a social event and build connections.

But it's not just about litter or one-off events. By taking care of the immediate area where you live, you can help improve your environment. This might be by keeping drains clear of leaves, tackling overgrown vegetation or tidying a verge. Small collective actions can make a big change and build relationships in local communities so everyone can feel good about where they live.

If anyone is interested in setting up a local group the following are worth contacting;

[Homepage | Keep Britain Tidy](#)
[cleanupuk | Home](#)

Safety of pre-school children and open windows

As the weather is improving, we start to open windows and enjoy more fresh air, however..

Parents often see falls from windows as 'freak' accidents, but the statistics belie that view. In fact, nationally, one child under ten is admitted to hospital every day after falling from a building – often from open windows but also from balconies. In the last six years, [16 children under 11 have died](#).

Why are pre-school children at particular risk?

Pre-school children are particularly susceptible to falls from a height:

- They are curious and want to see what's happening outside but have no real understanding of danger.
- They can take parents by surprise by a sudden breakthrough in their development. You think they don't climb but, before you know it, they can clamber up on furniture or haul their toy box across the floor and open a window. And accidents can happen very quickly, when your back is turned or you're distracted for a minute.
- Small children are built differently to adults – their heads are proportionally much bigger than ours, so they have a different centre of gravity. This means that, if they lean out of a window, they may topple out. And when they land, their head takes much of the impact.

Practical safety advice

- Keep low furniture away from windows so that children can't climb up and fall out – even on the ground floor
- If you can, install window restrictors (to limit how far they can open) or locks
- If you opt for a lock keep the keys somewhere you can find them in case there's a fire and you need to get out
- If your window won't lock or you need to open the window wider because of heat or cooking, don't leave young children alone in the room

- Keep young children away from balconies unless they are supervised and keep balcony doors locked when not in use.

Window locks and restrictors save lives. [Child Accident Prevention Trust | A safer world for all our children](#)

Celebrating over a year of Youth Hubs supporting young people across Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire County Council is celebrating over a year of impact from its commissioned Youth Hubs, delivered in partnership with three not-for-profit organisations working across the county.

Together, these services form the Gloucestershire Commissioned Youth Service (GCYS) which is a coordinated network that offers early help, prevention, and positive opportunities for young people aged 11 to 25.

GCYS launched in October 2024 to ensure young people feel safe, supported, and able to thrive within their local communities. Over the past year, delivery partners The Children's Society, Family Action, and Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, have created vibrant and welcoming youth spaces across the county.

Since opening, the Youth Hubs combined have welcomed over 14,000 visits from young people, supporting them with their mental health, education and learning new skills. They offer specialist youth support groups for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Youth Hubs are inclusive spaces where young people can build confidence, make connections and get support. They also provide holiday activities during the spring, summer and winter holidays with activities including sports, art and outdoor learning. Beyond the hub spaces, staff are also able to reach young people where they live and collaborate with local partners to provide support.

Youth Hubs will continue to expand their offer in 2026, with new programmes, more targeted support, training for young people and staff, and more opportunities to enable young people to shape services in their area.

New Gloucestershire Business Board launched to drive economic growth

A new Gloucestershire Business Board (GBB) has been established to give local businesses a stronger voice in shaping the county's economic future.

The Board replaces the previous Economic Growth Board and will take a more dynamic, business-led approach to supporting growth, investment and innovation. It will provide strategic oversight of Gloucestershire's economic development agenda, ensuring that business insight directly informs countywide policy and major investment decisions.

The GBB will be co-chaired by Cllr Julian Tooke, cabinet member for business, economic development, planning and infrastructure at Gloucestershire County Council, and Rob Stemp, an experienced cyber security leader, entrepreneur and board advisor.

Membership will include around 12 to 15 senior business leaders representing key sectors, alongside representatives from education, local government, and the voluntary and community sector.

The Board will oversee business engagement across the county, including the Growth Hub network, sector-specific business engagement, and Invest in Gloucestershire. It will also advise the City Region Board and Leadership Gloucestershire on strategic economic issues.

Funding allocated to local employers for apprenticeship training

Gloucestershire County Council is helping more local employers train and develop their staff by allocating a share of unused apprenticeship funding.

Large organisations such as GCC pay into a national Apprenticeship Levy, which can only be spent on apprenticeship training. If these funds are not used within two years, the money is taken back by the government.

To make sure this money stays in Gloucestershire, the county council chooses to transfer a share of its unused funds to local employers each year. This means smaller organisations, or those who have used up their own funding, can still take on apprentices or upskill their workforce at no extra training cost.

Since 2019, the council has transferred over £1.5 million to local employers. Most of this support has gone to adult social care and early years childcare – sectors that continue to face challenges recruiting and keeping staff. Apprenticeships in health, construction, engineering, education and, more recently, youth support services, have also been given support.

Demand has grown significantly, as between April 2025 and January 2026, more than 200 applications for support were received. That is expected to reach around 250 by the end of March.

Each year the county council publishes its funding pledge on the national apprenticeship website. Gloucestershire employers can apply online, and only organisations based in the county are eligible, ensuring the funding benefits local people and businesses.

Linda Cohen

Gloucestershire County Councillor – Wotton -under-Edge and Berkeley Vale Division

Tel: 07791110906 linda.cohen@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Cabinet Member for Education & Skills Gloucestershire County Council

There followed a discussion on the problem of dog faeces not being picked up by dog walkers in public areas and a possible campaign including signage to encourage people to take dog poo bags home and reporting to the Dog Warden; asking Town Councillors to get involved in the Wotton Lions Town Clean Up event on Sunday 17th May 2026 at 2pm to involve weeding around properties and businesses; speeding around the town and the 20mph campaign, flashing VAR, and Police support.

District Cllrs C Braun, G Kitchen, and L Cohen had circulated the following report:

Wotton-under-Edge, North Nibley & Stinchcombe

Along with residents' casework and in addition to council meetings at Ebley Mill and elsewhere, 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.

[Full Council - 19th February 2026](#)

Annual budget meeting, to agree the final SDC budget and also the council tax for 2026/27. Council tax comprises four elements - to pay for the county council, district council, Gloucestershire police, and the parish or town council services. Council tax rates vary from parish to parish, depending on the parish precept. The final council tax figures for Stroud district parishes can be found [here](#).

This budget will increase the council tax by 2.99% (£7.27pa) to £250.35 at Band D, an increase of under 14p per week for the services provided by Stroud District Council.

The budget identifies funding for priority initiatives as well as support or ongoing services and includes a commitment of £1.3million to community services, health and well-being and community safety initiatives.

Social and affordable rents for council houses will increase by 4.8% in line with national rent guidance limits. The Council will be investing a further £9.9million in new council homes for next year. Nationally, Stroud District is in the top 30 council house builders in the country, building more council homes than Manchester.

It was noted that the final local government financial settlement from the Government, announced only a few days before the budget was finalised, will mean reduced funding for the following two financial years from 2027.

The **Council Plan** which sets out the priorities for the Council, has undergone an annual review, and the updated version for 2025-2029 was approved ([link](#)).

The **Council Constitution** was updated to reflect some minor changes and councillors voted to change the rules for council meetings, to bring them in line with committee meetings, meaning that councillors will no longer be required to stand when they speak in the meeting.

Council agreed to support a national [letter](#) about **proposed planning reforms** to the Secretary of State, asking the Government to remove the proposed restriction which would prevent councils in their Local Plan from requiring developers to build new homes to net zero operational standards, higher than the national minimum standard.

The **Civic Timetable** setting all the dates for council and committee meetings in 2026/27 was approved ([link](#)). Meetings of the Development Control Committee which deals with planning applications, will henceforth be scheduled more frequently, on a monthly cycle.

Documents approved were:

- The General Fund Budget, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- The Council's Treasury Management & Investment Strategies for 2026/27.
- The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2026/27 - providing up to 100% support for vulnerable residents (currently over 5,000 households in the district benefit from this scheme).

- [Video recording](#)

Environment Committee - 26th February 2026

- **Contaminated Land** Inspection Strategy approved. SDC must survey and locate any potentially contaminated land then produce a strategy that explains how it will identify and assess those sites, carry out inspections, and secure remediation when required. To date, it is estimated that 450 of the 1746 sites currently identified have been investigated remediated or deemed suitable for use. The updated strategy details the complete procedure from detection through assessment to clean-up.
- **Climate & Nature Decision Tool.** A new tool was approved that will provide summary information about the impacts of any decision on aspects of climate, nature and the environment to inform significant decisions taken by the Council and its officers

Member Reports included:

- **Climate Leadership Gloucestershire.** Selected three of five grant applications (total £80k) for climate projects in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury and funding for the Gloucestershire Nature & Climate Fund. Work was noted on the climate impact and adaptation aspects of the new GCC Spatial Development Plan. The group also endorsed the letter opposing limits on local authorities setting net-zero standards for new buildings and referenced recent briefing notes by the group on Warm Homes and the National Planning Policy Framework consultation.
- **Gloucestershire Resource & Waste Partnership** This group takes a collaborative approach across district & county councils to share best practice, trial a range of initiatives & work towards more unified waste arrangements in preparation for unitarisation, retaining local specialisms where these are beneficial.
 - Communications will be focused on two recycling priorities to support the new 'Simpler Recycling' arrangements: food-waste and flexible plastics, leveraging national campaigns.
 - Reported steady reductions in household waste with just over half of waste now recycled, and this recycling rate is above the national average. Aim to further increase recycling, driven by carbon-metric targets and upcoming incineration taxes.
 - Explored improvements such as smaller bins, less-frequent collections, and differentiated regimes for flats, with benchmarking against top-performing regions like Wales (an exemplar through consistency & Govt. investment).
 - Piloting a “Fast Food litter” app (for rollout in spring), proposal for the voluntary code of practice for food-on-the-go to be mandatory, and a fuel-station plastic glove-removal trial by Tesco was successful and councils will request that it is rolled out nationally.
- **Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board**
 - Secured an additional £2m loan from the Public Works Loan Board for pump projects amid rising construction costs.
 - Highlighted ongoing works: 2,750 home residential development at Berkeley, land-owner enforcement at Tockington and drainage maintenance at Lydney.
 - Noted funding pressures after the Environment Agency ends its flood-defence maintenance program and rising electricity costs for pump operations.
 - Raised concerns with Ofgem over the volatility of electricity bills for drainage boards, emphasising limited progress from those discussions.
- **Minchinhampton & Rodborough Commons Advisory Committee**
 - Completed a visitor-journey audit of Rodborough Common (late 2025); identified need for dog-walker signage and cohesive visitor messaging.
 - Faced reduced National Trust funding, prompting greater reliance on volunteers and staff-led maintenance.
 - Launched a grazing-recruitment drive to replace retiring grazers and sustain ecological management.

- Scheduled a public talk, 7pm 18 March 2026 at Rodborough Community Hall, by Prof. Chris Short on environmental governance.
- Marking Day 2006 celebration on 16 May 2026 details to follow.
- [Video recording](#)

Other news

- **Council reorganisation** - Residents are encouraged to [share their views](#) about the three proposals to reorganise the district councils and county council in Gloucestershire before a Government consultation closes on 26 March.
 - **For info** - A majority of Stroud District Councillors (including the three Wotton ward councillors) voted to support a single unitary council for Gloucestershire. This is due to the disadvantages that would arise, for residents in Stroud district, if the county is split into two unitary councils for the East and West, and due to the extra cost, complexity and duplication that dividing county council services would cause.
- **Crowdfunding** Stroud District Council invites community groups to [explore crowdfunding support](#) with free workshops. There will be two free online workshops in early March to get ready for the Spring 2026 funding window on [Wednesday 4 March, 12–1pm](#) and [Thursday 5 March, 6–7pm](#) Project creators will need to have their crowdfunding page live on the Stroud Funding platform by 6 May 2026.
- **Canal clean-up** restores pride in Stroud's waterways. SDC has been carrying out a targeted clean-up operation along sections of the Stroudwater Navigation to remove graffiti and repaint areas where marks cannot be safely cleaned away. This work is helping to improve the look and feel of the area and is partly funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Gloucestershire. To report graffiti or damage in our district, please visit www.stroud.gov.uk/report-it

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

District Councillors gave an update on the Stroud Lido and the funding discussions in Stroud District Council to enable completion of emergency works balanced with the long-term viability of sustainable opening of the Lido.

District Cllr C Braun gave an update on the bin repairs/replacement programme which would include Holywell and Manor Lane and the monitoring of Symn Lane and Knapp Road. There was also an update on the Grden Waste collection service now able to include narrow lanes.

District Cllr Braun gave an update on Westridge Woods and the latest site meeting with the Forestry company contractor and Forestry Commission. There is a 5-year cyclical felling license and a Woodland Management Plan with the aim of long-term wood regeneration. A further site visit is planned for May 2026 and a community site visit to be arranged.

4 members of the public left the meeting

T.7750 Accounts

- a) The transfer of funds from Unity Trust Instant Access to Unity Trust Current Account was noted
- b) Cllrs D Thomas & J Lewis reported that the quarterly audit was satisfactory
- c) The Community Infrastructure Levy report was noted
- d) The date for Independent Internal Audit of 19th May 2026 was noted
- e) The date for all information to be submitted to the External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, of 30th June 2026 was noted.
- f) The Exercise of Public Rights to be 1st July to 11th August 2026 inclusive was noted.
- g) The Budget 2025/26 report was noted
- h) It was RESOLVED to approve Earmarked Reserves as at 31st March 2026
- i) It was RESOLVED to approve Tolsey Clock Honorarium of £400 to the Keeper of the Tolsey Clock
- j) It was RESOLVED to approve April 2026 accounts for payment

T.7751 Policies

The Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were deferred to the Finance & Special Purposes Committee

It was RESOLVED to approve the Safeguarding Policy

T.7752 Projects

- a) Youth Services
It was RESOLVED to agree to 4 Summer workshops from World Jungle including circus skills, bushcraft, graffiti and creative arts, music and dance
- b) Symn Lane Play Area Improvement Project
It was RESOLVED to approve progressing to Phase 2 of improvement of the play area for pre-school play equipment. No Councillors volunteered to be involved.
- c) Town Hall and Chipping Hall
It was RESOLVED to sign off the valuation certificate of payments and the approval of the invoice for the Town Hall & Chipping Hall project works
- d) Symn Lane Car Park
Cllr M Tucker and the Town Clerk had met with Redhand, CCTV contractor, and the Town Clerk had had discussions with GCC Lighting to discuss the electrical infrastructure of the car park and the requirements for lighting and CCTV. A lighting plan had been produced and there were investigations being carried out with the National Grid. An extra lighting column for the disabled area needed to be purchased, and Stroud District Council Planning sign off required. Regular meetings are being held with Stripe Consulting on the progress of the satisfactory completion of the car park by the developer.
- e) Welcome Home Swifts
It was RESOLVED to agree to installing nest boxes on the Civic Centre, Chipping Hall, and Town Hall and flying the Welcome Home Swifts flag during May 2026.

T.7753 Bolster Wotton

- a) An update was given on the Bolster Wotton businesses meeting of 14th April 2026 which focussed on Wotton events and how the events could benefit the town and involvement and engagement of businesses. There was a request the events

include all parts of the town including High Street, Market Street, and the Chipping and not just Long Street. It was a good meeting with constructive discussions and interaction.

b) To note the events being held in Wotton and agree involvement
A list of events is being compiled and will be circulated.

T.7754 Clerk's Report

This item was deferred

T.7755 Brief reports from Councillors

Cllr Halpin attended the KLB Japanese Exchange Farewell Party on behalf of the Mayor, Cllr L Hewish, and handed out certificates to the Japanese students. The event was well attended.

Cllr Halpin and Lewis attended the GALC Chairmanship Skills course.

Cllr E Edwards attended the Wotton Community Sports Foundation meeting. She reported that they appreciated she was there to represent on behalf of the Town Council and she found it an interesting and positive atmosphere with a strong sense of community and it was a great opportunity for greater collaboration and exchange of ideas and information.

Cllr Tucker reported that the Rural Services Network's Integrated Transport Strategy is to be published with a long-term vision shared with MPs. Meetings of the Rural Market Towns are planned on 29th April and 3rd June 2026. He reported that the WECA 3-year buses contract is being developed to go out to tender.

The meeting ended at 9pm

Signed:

Date: