



**MINUTES OF STOW-ON-THE-WOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S PARKS & SQUARE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JULY 2026, AT STOW YOUTH CENTRE, FOSSEWAY, STOW-ON-THE-
WOLD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL54 1DW AT 7.00 PM**

PRESENT: Councillors: S Clarke (Chair), A Tighe (Chair of Council), J Scarsbrook, J Davies, V Davies and S Woods

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Miss M Pawley, Clerk/RFO of Council and 1 x Member of the Public

1. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIR TO HOLD OFFICE UNTIL MAY 2027.

RESOLVED Members agreed not to elect a Vice Chair, and in the absence of the Chair, a volunteer Councillor will step up for the meeting in question. **Motion carried.**

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs B Eddolls & M Stracey and Advisor N Surman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Members were reminded to declare any interests in items on the agenda as the meeting progressed.

4. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC*

Members of the Public were given the opportunity to speak as the meeting progressed.

5. MINUTES – TO CONFIRM AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd JUNE 2026.

RESOLVED to sign the minutes as a correct record. **Motion carried.**

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Clarke mentioned that he has watered the plant troughs on Wraggs Row Green, as they were very dried out.

It was suggested that the troughs could be planted with geraniums in the summer and winter pansies in the winter, as these would add a nice pop of colour and be relatively hardy.

7. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd JUNE 2026.

Council hasn't yet received the percentage of takings from last year's bonfire pig roast. Would members like to consider a change of catering for this year's event.

Members agreed to stay with the pig roast.

Can Council confirm, when it was decided to replace deteriorated bins in the town, with smarter ones, were dog poo bins also included in that decision.

Members confirmed that dog poo bins were not included in the decision.

The Clerk has contacted the CDC waste Co-Ordinator to determine the bin emptying roster. All town centre bins are emptied daily between 6am & 9am. Other bins are emptied weekly, on a Thursday. However, the bin at the Wells has been reported several times as being overflowing, so a second collection has been arranged for a Monday.

If the bins do overflow, and Cllrs notice them, the Clerk has requested that evidence be provided, so that it can be forwarded to Cotswolds District Council.

The Clerk has obtained a quote of £2,850 to repair the Council container, cut back the surrounding hedge and then prep & paint. No VAT to be added. 2 x other quote requests received no response. The Council has a budget of £5,000 set aside for this job, do members wish to proceed.

Councillors approved the quote and asked that a guarantee be provided.

8. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WATER SITUATION AT THE ALLOTMENTS FROM THE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION CHAIR.**
The Allotment Association Chair spoke about the current water situation and explained that hosepipes are not permitted on the allotments as standard, so the forthcoming ban will not affect plot holders. He explained that using buckets will still be allowed. Currently, there are 2 x vacant plots.
9. **TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO INCREASE ALLOTMENT RENT BY £1.00, TO £36.00 PER ANNUM.**
RESOLVED to approve an annual increase of £1.00, to £36.00 **Motion carried.**
10. **TO APPROVE THE CHANGE TO ALLOTMENT BONFIRE DATES FROM OCTOBER–MARCH TO OCTOBER–APRIL.**
RESOLVED to approve an increase of 1 x month to the allotment bonfire dates. **Motion carried.**
11. **TO APPROVE PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT.**
RESOLVED to approve changes. **Motion carried.**
12. **TO APPROVE A QUOTE OF £2,800 + VAT FOR A REPLACEMENT METAL MEMORIAL TREE SEAT BENCH ON THE SHRUBBERY.**
RESOLVED to approve the quote as detailed above. **Motion carried.**
13. **TO APPROVE A QUOTE OF £2,064 + VAT FOR 2 X ADDITIONAL METAL BENCHES FOR THE SHRUBBERY.**
RESOLVED to approve the quote as detailed above. **Motion carried.**
14. **TO NOTE THAT THE CLERK HAS ARRANGED FOR THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE ‘UNPAID WORK TEAM’ AND THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM LATE AUGUST, AFTER THE SUPERVISORS HAVE UNDERGONE THE REQUIRED TRAINING.**
Members noted.
15. **TO NOTE THAT THE WOODEN BENCH REMOVED FROM THE SHRUBBERY WILL BE INSTALLED ON STOCKS GREEN IN THE SPARE SPACE, BUT DUE TO A SLIGHT SIZE DIFFERENCE, THE FOOTPRINT WILL NEED TO BE INCREASED.**
Members noted.
16. **TO AGREE THE ULLSWATER 90L CLASSIC HERITAGE BIN, AS REPLACEMENTS, WHEN REQUIRED.**
Members agreed that the above bin will replace all town bins as required, except the ones in the Square, which will be a smarter, square metal bin.
17. **TO NOTE THAT STOW PRIMARY HAS AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED DATE OF 11th DECEMBER 2026 FOR THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT, WITH ST EDWARDS HALL BOOKED AS A CONTINGENCY FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER.**
Members noted.
18. **THE CLERK HAS BEEN MADE AWARE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF CYCLISTS AND MOTORCYCLISTS USING THE SHELTER OF THE TREES ON STOCKS GREEN TO GATHER ON THE GRASS AND PARK THEIR BIKES FOR LONG PERIODS. IS THIS ACCEPTABLE TO MEMBERS?**
Members did not raise any objections and commented that extra bike parks were required.
19. **TO NOTE THAT COUNCIL’S GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTOR HAS REPLANTED THE TROUGHS ON WRAGGS ROW GREEN.**
Members noted.

20. TO NOTE THAT THE CLERK HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE BELL PUBLIC HOUSE AND THEIR BREWERY ABOUT THE PEPPERCORN RENT BUT HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. FURTHER INVESTIGATION HAS PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- a) A PEPPERCORN RENT IS A *SYMBOLIC* AMOUNT OF TYPICALLY, £1.00 PER ANNUM. IT IS A WAY OF FORMING A LEGALLY BINDING LEASE CONTRACT AND CREATING A LEGAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LANDLORD AND TENANT.**
- b) IN PRACTICE A PEPPERCORN RENT DOES *NOT* HAVE TO BE PAID, NOR CAN IT BE COLLECTED, DUE TO ITS SMALL SIZE.**
- c) THE FACT THAT A PEPPERCORN RENT IS NOT PAID DOES NOT AFFECT THE LEGALITY OF THE ACTUAL AGREEMENT IT COVERS.**

Members noted but requested that an acknowledgement be sought from the tenants to confirm that they still wish to continue with the agreement as it currently stands.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 9th September 2026

22. MEETING CLOSED – 7.54pm

Signed: _____ Chair Dated: _____