

DRAFT

Goring Heath Parish Council Meeting Minutes – 8th September 2026

Councillors Present

- Mark Skidmore (MS)
- Peter Burdon (PB)
- Liz Collas (LC)
- Mike Holland (MH)
- Peter Dragonetti (PD)

Clerk

- Sarah Edmunds

Members of Public: one

Meeting Opened: 20:01

2026.9.1. Apologies for Absence

- To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Martin Wise

2026.9.2. Declaration of Interests

- To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interest from Councillors regarding items on this agenda.

None

2026.9.3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- To approve and sign the minutes of the previous meeting.

Unanimously Approved to sign the minutes

2026.9.4. Public Forum / Correspondence

2026.9.4.1 Anti-Social Behaviour in Long Toll Woods: To discuss an email from a member of the public regarding the recurring evening use of motorbikes and dirt bikes within the woods

Action- GHPC to approach the landowner to discuss options.

2026.9.4.2 E mail from Cllr Jim Donoghue regarding the condition of the B471 and speed reduction at Penny Royal.

Re the B471- He attended a surgery with MP Freddie Van Mierlo & Cllr Maggie Filipova Rivers, discussed the poor condition of the road and the danger to cyclists.

Re the proposed speed reduction at Penny Royal-Jon Beale at OCCH has indicated there is a separate team now coordinating speed limits.

Noted the poor parking at Deadmans Lane and the Long Toll Junction.

Action- MS & MH to investigate fixmystreet.com superuser status, traffic liaison and ask Jim where to find information about future surgeries.

2026.9.4.3 Noted that Tillys Wood has applied for certificate of lawful development under the 10 year rule.

Action- Cllrs to check whether it was on wheels during that period.

2026.9.5. Clerk's Report and Administration

- Resignation of Clerk: To formally note the resignation of Emma Burdon as Parish Clerk.
- Appointment of Locum Clerk: To note and welcome the appointment of the Locum Clerk, Sarah Edmunds

2026.9.6. Planning Applications

- Application Reference: P26/S3179/HH
- Location: Querns, Collins End, Goring Heath, Reading
- Update: Cllr Liz Collas to report on her findings – LC reported it was mainly internal work in the more modern areas

Unanimously Approved to submit the comment “ No Strong Objection”

2026.9.7 Goring Heath Maintenance

2026.9.7.1 Grass Cutting:

Noted that due to the recent drought and heatwave, Wayne only carried out grass cutting once this month. Consequently, the invoice has been halved.

2026.9.7.2 Footpaths and Rights of Way: To receive updates regarding local footpaths.

Noted the laurels are not currently overgrowing Whitchurch Hill footpath opposite The Sun

2026.9.7.3 Playgrounds: To receive and consider the recent playground safety inspection report completed by RoSPA.

Action-The RoSPA report has been circulated, PB will read and produce a report for October Full Council meeting.

Action- The basketball court surface is still under investigation with quotes being sought for the work. PB is aiming to bring this back to Full Council in October

2026.9.8 Finance & Grants

Noted to monitor any S137 spend and record accordingly. The current rate is 11.60 per elector

Noted that the Co-op Mandate has been signed with PD, MS and Clerk Sarah Edmunds replacing Emma Burdon.

2026.9.8.1 Financial Summary: To receive and approve monthly accounts for payment.

Unanimously Approved signing the accounts

2026.9.8.2 Membership Request: To consider a request for membership from The Open Spaces Society.

Unanimously Approved to renew the membership of The Open Spaces Society

2026.9.8.3 Fete Profit Distribution: To consider a formal request received by Cllr Peter Burdon for a donation from the fete profits (regarding ongoing discussions to fund a new fun run at The Oratory Prep School).

Noted the profit of 1700 for distribution, also noted that these are not funds raised from GHPC activities.

2026.9.9 Newsletter Updates

- A new advertiser- The Bathroom Studio.
- Two new distributors have volunteered.
- The Sun has requested 20 copies.
- Consider looking further afield for advertisers.

Copy deadline - 11 September

Publication date - 01 October

Remembrance Day -Sunday 8th November (Clerk to make road closure application in conjunction with Whitchurch)

2026.9.10 The Parish Hall

PD gave a report- The Parish Hall bookings are down; the only regular ones are GHPC and the History Society. Many clubs/groups/classes have set up but do not continue. Glis glis control cost 800. The quiz is confirmed as 6th March 2027

2026.9.11 County and District Councillors' Reports

- To receive and consider the report from the County Councillor.
- To receive and consider the report from the District Councillor.

PD gave a report, no report received from Cllr Filipova Rivers.

2026.9.12 Date of Next Meeting

- The next scheduled meeting will take place on Tuesday, 13th October 2026 at 8:00 PM.

Meeting closed: 21:01