



Minutes of the regular meeting of Miserden Parish Council Held 24 February 2026 at 6pm in Miserden Village Hall

Members present: Chairman Cllr Kevin Allin, Vice-Chair Cllr Laura Cobb, Cllr Martin Ractliffe

GCC and CDC Cllr Gary Luff. In attendance: Gwen Durland (Clerk) Cotswold National Landscape Warden Nick Mann, and one member of the public.

- 26.02.1 **Welcome** The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting.
- 26.02.2 **To accept any apologies**
No apologies were given.
- 26.02.3 **To hear any declarations of interest and requests for dispensation**
No declarations of interest or requests for dispensation were given.
Noted.
- 26.02.4 **To receive Chair's comments / matters arising**
The Chair reported that actions from the previous meeting had largely been dealt with, except for measuring the road signs, which had not yet been completed.
Cllr Cobb asked whether the Council could consider making an additional £20 donation, originally intended for Cllr Allin, to a charity instead. It was agreed that this should be brought forward to the next meeting.
Resolved: The proposed £20 charitable donation to be placed on the next agenda.
- 26.02.5 **To approve the minutes of 5 February 2026**
The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2026 were considered.
Resolved: The minutes of 5 February 2026 were approved.
- 26.02.6 **To Receive Questions/comments from members of the public**
No questions or comments from members of the public were received.
Noted.
- 26.02.7 **The Camp / Whiteway traffic calming measures update**
The Clerk reported correspondence from Gloucestershire Highways Manager Paul Helbrow regarding a site meeting to discuss traffic calming issues at The Camp and Whiteway. A meeting was provisionally arranged for 24 March 2026 at 9.00am.
The Chair explained that a concurrent matter had been raised following concerns from parishioners regarding speeding through Whiteway, particularly from cyclists and through traffic. Possible measures were discussed, including painted road markings designed to create the appearance of speed tables/humps.
It was confirmed that the site meeting would initially focus on The Camp, including the proposed location of planters around signs, and would then also consider Whiteway.
Resolved: The site meeting with Paul Helbrow to proceed on 24 March 2026 at 9.00am.
Actions: Clerk to circulate the email details to councillors.
Chair to measure relevant areas/signs in advance if possible and seek clarification from Highways on whether "resources" refers to budget, staffing or both.
- 26.02.8 **Flooding in Wishanger – latest update**
Cllr Cobb reported that she had identified the legal owner of the field at The Camp crossroads believed to be contributing to significant water runoff and flooding issues. A letter had been sent to Elizabeth Holder, and also to a solicitor, to make her aware of the matter. No response had yet been received, although the letter allowed 30 days for reply.
Cllr Cobb further advised that the field currently has no tenant and no cover crop, which is contributing to runoff. It was noted that, in the absence of a tenant, responsibility currently rests with the landowner. Discussion followed regarding the severity of the runoff, including silty mud, gravel, erosion of the road edge and concern about possible failure of the bank or wall under continued pressure. It was also noted that clearance of the ditch on the opposite side of the road could help reduce the amount of water entering Wishanger, though this would not address the source of the problem.
It was suggested that photographs should be taken and sent to Paul Helbrow and/or reported via FixMyStreet. Cllr Gary Luff offered to take photographs.
Resolved: The Council to continue to pursue the matter with the landowner and Highways.
Action: Cllr Gary Luff to take photographs of the flooding/runoff area.
Action: Clerk to follow up with the solicitor's office if no response is received within the stated period.

26.02.9 **To Receive Biodiversity meeting report**

Cllr Cobb reported on a productive meeting with Leslie Green of Bisley-with-Lypiatt Parish Council regarding biodiversity and wildlife initiatives. Ideas discussed included swift boxes, bat boxes, tree planting, hedge planting, community wildlife events and working in partnership with the school, church, neighbouring parishes, landowners and farmers.

Cllr Cobb proposed establishing a small local wildlife group to help develop and deliver biodiversity projects within the parish and undertook to circulate ideas in writing.

Cllr Gary Luff advised that funding might be possible through the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund where projects could be linked to public health, wellbeing, community participation or environmental improvement.

Resolved: Cllr Cobb to continue developing biodiversity proposals for the parish.

Action: Cllr Cobb to circulate written notes/ideas to councillors. Biodiversity-related funding opportunities to be explored further.

26.02.10 **To receive report from GCC & SDC Cllr Gary Luff**

Cllr Gary Luff reported on recent County and District matters, including the County budget and additional highways funding; pressure on adult social care and children's services budgets; SEND/high needs block funding; the reduction in local Highways allocations from £30,000 to £10,000; the availability of the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund; additional funding for rights of way vegetation clearance and related green measures; support for care leavers to train as youth workers; and the Government consultation on local government reorganisation.

In relation to the two Swedish houses at The Camp, Cllr Luff advised that preliminary work had been undertaken and that it is hoped the properties can be included in a future social housing decarbonisation programme. Works such as external insulation and solar panels may help make the properties viable for use again.

The Council discussed local concern about the deteriorated condition of the houses and welcomed the update.

Resolved: Cllr Luff's report was received.

26.02.11 **To receive update from Cotswold National Landscape Warden**

Nick Mann reported on the Caring for the Cotswolds grant scheme, with grants of up to £5,000 available for projects benefiting landscape and communities.

He also updated the Council on the access/gate issue near Sudgrove House, noting that the "no access" signs had been removed and that the public footpath does not pass through the gate in question. It was noted separately that any access rights affecting Mr Buchanan would be a private legal matter rather than a public right of way issue.

Nick Mann also reported on a proposed work party concerning a stile and fallen tree near Parsons Hill, noting that vehicle access had proved difficult, although Cllr Ratcliffe had since indicated that he would deal with the matter.

Concerns were also raised about misleading signage at Honeycombe Farm/Honeycombe Manor, where a private sign appears to deter use of a public route. Cllr Cobb agreed to provide the landowner details so that a letter could be sent requesting that the sign be moved to the correct point.

Resolved: The Warden's report was received.

Action: Cllr Cobb to send Nick Mann the Honeycombe landowner details.

Action: Nick Mann to write owners regarding the Honeycombe signage.

26.02.12 **Co-option update**

The Clerk reported that no requests had been received for an election in respect of the current vacancies and that the Council was therefore free to proceed with co-option.

The Clerk advised that Claire Coles-Jones had been approached and was considering the role. Pete and Libby McCune had also been approached. Councillors discussed additional possible candidates, including Sarah Matthews, Alyssa Pearce and Ernest Nelson.

Cllr Allin undertook to approach Ernest Nelson. Cllr Ratcliffe undertook to approach Sarah Matthews.

Councillors agreed to continue making informal approaches to suitable candidates.

Resolved: Efforts to identify and approach suitable co-option candidates to continue.

Action: Cllr Ratcliffe to approach Sarah Matthews.

Action: Cllr Allin to approach Ernest Nelson.

26.02.13 **Parish Post update**

Cllr Ratcliffe reported that there was little new to report, but that David Harris would not be continuing as editor. The Chair undertook to speak to Russ Coles-Jones to see whether he might be willing to undertake the role on a one-off basis, to provide some breathing space.

It was confirmed that Cllr Ratcliffe would prepare the Parish Council contribution.

Resolved: Efforts to secure editorial support for the next edition of the Parish Post to continue.

Action: Cllr Allin to speak to Russ Coles-Jones. Cllr Ratcliffe to prepare the Parish Council contribution.

26.02.14 **To receive RFO report and approve expenditures**

As attached herein.

Resolved: The RFO report was received and expenditures approved.

26.02.15 **Clerk's report**

Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund: The Chair proposed establishing a regular community café / drop-in session at the Village Hall to reduce loneliness and social isolation. He advised that the Village Hall could provide the space free of charge and that Grassroots funding could potentially be used to support set-up costs and refreshments. He further stated that, if successful, the Village Hall Committee might support ongoing costs in future.

The Clerk also raised possible support for Nordic walking sessions being organised locally by Claire Coles-Jones, and possible training for volunteer listeners so that local volunteers could provide supportive listening within clear boundaries.

Cllr Gary Luff confirmed that all three ideas appeared capable of meeting the public health/community wellbeing criteria for the fund, subject to budget availability.

Resolved: *The Council to explore applications to the Grassroots Neighbourhood Fund for suitable local wellbeing projects.*

Training: The Clerk referred to the previously circulated Code of Conduct training materials from Stroud District Council and asked councillors to complete the video/slides before the next meeting where possible.

Resolved: *Councillors to complete the Code of Conduct training before the next meeting where possible.*

Annual Parish Meeting: The Council discussed ideas for the Annual Parish Meeting in May. Discussion centred on inviting a speaker to give a presentation, possibly on Gloucestershire/local history. The Chair indicated that he knew a speaker who gives presentations on the history of Gloucestershire.

Resolved: Planning for the Annual Parish Meeting to continue, with a preference for an engaging speaker/presentation format.

Action: Chair to follow up possible speaker(s).

26.02.16 **Items for next month's agenda**

Proposal to donate the additional £20 to a charity of the Council's choice; update on traffic calming/speeding in The Camp; update on the Swedish houses at The Camp; ongoing flooding matters as required; and biodiversity proposals as they progress.

Meeting adjourned at 19:07.

The next regular meeting scheduled for March 31 2006 in Miserden Village Hall at 6pm.

These minutes are a true and accurate record as signed by: _____

On this date: _____