



Minutes of Miserden Parish Council

Regular Meeting held 30 July 2026 at 6pm

Miserden Village Hall

Present: Cllr Laura Cobb (Chair), Cllr Martin Ractliffe (Vice-Chair), Cllr Sorrel Warwick, Cllr Claire Coles-Jones

Apologies: GCC & SDC Cllr Gary Luff

In attendance: Gwen Durland (Clerk/RFO), CNL Vol Warden Nick Mann, one member of the public.

26.7.1 Welcome by Chair

Chair Laura Cobb called the meeting to order at 6pm and welcomed those present.

26.7.2 To accept any apologies

Apologies were received from GCC & SDC Cllr Gary Luff.

26.7.3 To hear any declarations of interest and requests for dispensation

Cllr Ractliffe declared an interest in item 6 and stated that he would leave the meeting for the discussion and any decision.

26.7.4 To approve minutes from 25 June 2026 as previously circulated

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as circulated.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved.

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes to the website.

26.7.5 To receive questions/comments from members of the public

No questions or comments were received from members of the public.

26.7.7 To hear report regarding blind curve at Sudgrove junction

The Chair brought item 7 forward. The Clerk reported correspondence from a Sudgrove resident following a collision at the junction. No-one was injured, but the resident raised concerns about restricted visibility and vehicles approaching the bend at speed. The Clerk had forwarded the correspondence and photographs to GCC Highways Manager Paul Helbrow, requested replacement of the damaged road sign and sought advice on possible safety measures. Members discussed a possible convex mirror, reinstatement of the faded SLOW road marking and the need for verge strimming. Members agreed to monitor the situation pending a response from Highways.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Paul Helbrow, submit a FixMyStreet report regarding strimming, and keep the resident informed of any response or action.

26.7.8 To approve Kevin Drew estimate and to instruct work on verges in The Camp

Cllr Cobb reported that Kevin Drew had quoted £2,805 plus VAT for verge works, including approximately one week of temporary traffic lights. Following the site visit, concern had arisen about the practicality and safety of maintaining flower planters, particularly watering them beside the road during prolonged dry weather. Members discussed white gateway features as an alternative, or a combination of gates and planters. It was noted that gateway features may have a greater traffic-calming effect and would reduce ongoing maintenance. Cllr Cobb had not yet obtained the cost of the gateway features and therefore no decision was made on the quotation or final design. The matter was deferred to September so that comparative costings on gateways vs planters could be considered.

Action: Cllr Cobb to obtain costs for gateway features and bring comparative options to the September meeting.

26.7.9 To hear report on Swift box project

Cllr Cobb reported on a site visit with Gill Stacey from the local Swift Action Group. A healthy number of swifts had been observed in the village, including birds investigating the area around the installed boxes. A grant application of approximately £1,000 was proposed for additional swift boxes and callers. The Village Hall had agreed in principle to host boxes, and the possibility of the Miserden Estate assisting with installation would be explored.

Action: Cllr Cobb to prepare and circulate a draft grant application and discuss suitable locations and installation with the Estate and other potential hosts.

26.7.10 To hear report on Trees for Gloucestershire

Cllr Cobb reported strong interest in the scheme, with seven landowners/farmers expressing definite interest in trees and/or hedging. Requests ranged from hedging and orchards to copses and larger numbers of trees. Seth from Trees for Gloucestershire wished to visit the proposed sites and advise applicants on suitable planting. Delivery was expected between November and March, with more precise timings to follow once orders were confirmed. Trees would be delivered to

individual sites where practical, and recipients would be responsible for planting, watering and ongoing care. The proposed planting behind the school would not be pursued at present because of possible archaeological remains. Members also discussed whether planted sites are inspected after establishment.

Action: Cllr Cobb to arrange site visits with Trees for Gloucestershire and ask whether follow-up inspections are undertaken.

26.7.11 To approve bus shelter risk assessment quotation

The Clerk reported that obtaining an appropriate inspection of the parish's bus shelters had proved difficult because of their construction and, in particular, the Cotswold stone structure and roof at Wishanger. A structural engineer experienced in period buildings was likely to cost more than £500. An architect had offered to inspect the shelters informally and seek advice from a chartered surveyor. Members also discussed approaching the Miserden Estate's surveyor for a quotation. The condition of the Whiteway shelter was discussed, including overgrown ivy and the need for internal painting. No quotation was approved at this meeting.

Action: Cllr Cobb to approach the Estate surveyor independently regarding an inspection/quotation. An autumn work party to cut back ivy and assess maintenance at the Whiteway shelter to be considered.

26.7.12 To receive report from GCC & SDC Councillor Gary Luff

Cllr Luff was unable to attend but had provided a written report. Members noted the update regarding local government reorganisation and the Government's direction towards a 'One Gloucestershire' model. It was noted that further information on the implications for parish councils was awaited.

Members noted the report.

26.7.13 To receive update from Cotswold National Landscape Warden Nick Mann

CNL Vol Warden Nick Mann reported that a damaged stile on the path from Sudgrove Junction towards Huscombe Bottom had been repaired by a volunteer work party. He also reported that the crop obstructing paths near The Camp/Honeycombe had now been harvested and the paths were open again. A longstanding 'Private' sign on the route towards Honeycombe House remained in place despite previous assurances that it would be removed. Mr Mann intended to write again, giving a further short period for removal before referring the matter to Gloucestershire County Council. A separate concern was raised regarding a walker reportedly being prevented from using a public right of way near Dillay Farm and directed onto a permissive route. As the location lies another parish boundary, it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the appropriate CNL warden.

Action: CNL Warden Mann to follow up the 'Private' sign and escalate to GCC if it is not removed. Cllr Cobb to pass the Dillay Farm concern to the appropriate CNL contact.

18:35 Cllr Coles-Jones joined the meeting.

18:36 Cllr Ractliffe and one member of the public left the meeting while item 6 was discussed.

26.7.6 To hear report regarding farmland wildfires near Edgeworth

Cllr Cobb reported two recent fires in a field near the Edgeworth/Miserden boundary following waste burning on the land. On both occasions Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service attended. Members expressed serious concern about the risk of wildfire during the prolonged dry conditions, particularly given neighbouring fields, woodland, animals and public rights of way. It was noted that the precise nature of the material being burned and any licensing or permitting requirements were not known. The Clerk had drafted a joint letter from Miserden Parish Council and Edgeworth Parish Meeting asking the landowner to review the arrangements, ensure any burning complied with relevant requirements and consider ceasing burning while the fire risk remained high. Members approved the wording, subject to Edgeworth Parish Meeting also agreeing to the joint letter, and agreed that relevant agencies should be copied in.

That the joint letter be approved, subject to agreement by Edgeworth Parish Meeting, and sent to the landowner with copies to relevant agencies.

Action: Clerk/Chair to liaise with Edgeworth Parish Meeting and issue the agreed letter.

18:58 Cllr Ractliffe and one member of the public returned to the meeting.

26.7.14 To receive RFO report

a. Finance report

Report attached hereto. Bank balances were confirmed as £12,275.70 in the current account and £5,324.87 in the Business Select/reserves account.

b. Expenditures for approval

Members reviewed the payments presented, including Clerk/RFO expenses, salary/expenses and the accounting software direct debit.

RESOLVED: That the expenditures presented be approved.

c. Banking update

The RFO reported that the transfer from the Co-operative Bank to Lloyds was in progress. Cards and card readers had been received inconsistently by the authorised users and some correspondence appeared to identify individual signatories rather than the Council. The RFO would contact Lloyds to resolve the outstanding issues.

Action: RFO to contact Lloyds and complete the banking set-up.

26.7.15 To receive Clerk's Report

a. Grassroots Funding application

The Clerk presented details of a proposed wall-mounted noticeboard for inclusion in the Grassroots Funding application. Members discussed the proposed location on the Chair's property and noted that landowner consent and possible planning/listed-building considerations would need to be checked before proceeding. The Clerk also proposed purchasing replacement self-healing backing material for existing parish noticeboards at a modest cost.

Action: Clerk to seek the necessary consent/advice for the proposed noticeboard location and progress the funding application. Replacement backing material for existing noticeboards to be purchased.

b. Councillor training reminder

Members were reminded that councillor training would take place on Monday from 10:30am to 12:30pm. A planning application received too late for inclusion on this agenda would be considered at an Extraordinary Meeting called for 11:30am that day, allowing the application to be used as a practical planning exercise during the training.

c. Call for agenda items for September

- The Camp traffic-calming proposals and comparative costings were confirmed for the September agenda.
- Members signed thank-you cards for former councillors Kevin Allin, Vanessa Price and Tim Shields, and arrangements were made for their presentation.

Resolved: Council approved expenditure for 3 rose bushes for each outgoing councillor and one engraved silver box for the outgoing chair.

Action: Cllrs Cobb and Ractliffe to deliver rose bushes and silver box the following Monday.

Cllrs Cobb and Ractliffe to submit receipts for reimbursement.

Next meeting: 24 September 2026 at Whiteway Colony Hall.

Meeting closed: 7:18pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____