MINUTES OF BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT BROOKTHORPE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2026 AT 7.45PM

Present:	Cllr John Hendry	(Chair)
	Cllr Paul Gaze	(Vice Chair)
	Cllr Eric Hibbert	
	Cllr Andrew Miller	
	Cllr Kirk Walton	
In attendance:	Tina Balgobin (Clerk)	Reporting
	Cllr John Patient (County Councillor)	
	5 Members of the Public	

PARISHONER QUESTIONS:

A member of the public raised concerns of HGV Lorries using Upton Lane to access the new development at Winnycroft. Contact will be made to Bromford Housing and Highways with regards to these concerns.
A member of the public advised that a show would be taking place at the Village Hall on Friday 6 November and appealed for support for attendance at the show.

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA:

There were no declarations.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026:

The minutes were approved and duly signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION REQUESTS:

There was none.

5. REPORTS:

(a) To receive a report from the County Councillor. The County Councillor discussed his report which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Cllr Miller questioned some errors in the County Councillor report to which he required clarification, and these were discussed.
The County Councillor recommended the members attend the Spatial Development Strategy meeting on the 16 November; this was discussed at length.

(b) To receive a report from the District Councillor. District Councillor Demelza Turner-Wilkes tendered her apologies and gave the following report which had been circulated to the members prior to the meeting, the key headlines are set out below:

- *Local Plan examination hearings are now expected from mid-October.*
- *Work on the replacement Local Plan continues alongside the current examination.*
- *A Government decision on Gloucestershire's future Spatial Development Strategy arrangements*

- *is expected this autumn.*
- *Preparations for the single Gloucestershire unitary council have entered a programme reset and service*
- *design phase.*
- *A new Youth Action Network is due to launch in November.*

Local Plan update: There has been little movement on the current draft Local Plan. The Council is still awaiting confirmation from the Planning Inspectors, but the remaining examination hearings are now expected to commence from mid-October onwards. At the same time, officers are progressing the replacement Local Plan by reviewing consultation responses and beginning preparation of the supporting evidence base.
What does this mean locally:-

- *Two planning processes are effectively running in parallel: the existing draft Local Plan must complete its examination while the next Local Plan is already being developed.*
- *Town and parish councils should continue monitoring both processes because future housing, employment, infrastructure and settlement policies may be affected.*

Spatial Development Strategy (SDS) - Gloucestershire is awaiting a Government decision, expected this autumn, on whether it will receive Foundation Strategic Authority status and be able to prepare its own SDS, or whether it will be required to work with neighbouring authorities. Gloucestershire has restated its preference for a strategic relationship with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA). The County Council is continuing preparatory work despite the absence of final regulations and confirmation
of the future geography. Proposed engagement: Subject to forthcoming legislation, a six-week informal engagement exercise is planned from 2 November to 14 December 2026. This is intended to seek views on the overarching vision and objectives for the SDS. Parish and town councils should prepare to identify strategic local priorities before the engagement opens. Particular attention should be given to housing growth, employment, transport, infrastructure and the relationship between strategic development and existing communities.

Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):
The revised NPPF contains significant national planning policy changes. Planning officers intend to provide member briefings and debrief sessions over the coming months on the implications for plan-making and development management.

- *Councillors involved in planning should prioritise the forthcoming briefings.*
- *Town and parish councils should consider how the revised national policy framework may affect their responses to planning applications and emerging local planning policy.*

Transport and infrastructure:
The Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan consultation undertaken during May and June showed strong support for the emerging vision and priorities. Key concerns raised included road conditions, bus services, rural transport and active travel. For future growth and housing delivery, officers highlighted the importance of infrastructure improvements around railway stations, M5 junctions and the surrounding road network. Future development must be considered alongside the infrastructure needed to support it. Parish and town councils should ensure that local highway, public transport and infrastructure constraints
are clearly evidenced and consistently raised.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - Below was the stance pre-central government announcement, it remains in this report, should the process start up imminently. In the meantime, the process is on HOLD. Following confirmation that Gloucestershire will move to a single unitary authority, the countywide LGR programme is in a reset phase. Consultants are reviewing workstreams, interdependencies, priorities and delivery requirements. Gloucestershire County Council will not be a 'preparing authority'. This means County Council staff will transfer to the new authority under TUPE arrangements, creating a substantial HR and workforce-planning exercise.
Current priorities:

- *Ensuring the new authority can operate successfully from Day One.*
- *Establishing the Shadow Council and appointing an interim Chief Executive and senior leadership team.*
- *Developing future service-design principles and subsequent organisational structures.*
- *A service-design event involving around 175 senior managers is scheduled for 22 September.*
- *An LGR Joint Scrutiny Panel is being established to scrutinise major decisions.*

Why parish and town councils should engage now? The design of the new authority will affect how local services, community engagement and relationships with town and parish councils operate in future. This is

therefore an important period for the sector to identify what should remain local, what could be devolved and how communities should access the new council."

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROPOSED WHADDON FIELDS DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL PLAN:

The Parish Council received an update on the above including changes to the NPPF that came into effect on the 17 August, changes to the policies and how this will affect TW application on the Whaddon Fields Development. They also received an update on the Local Plan.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ST SWITHUNS CHURCH:

The church remains closed, the preliminary enquiries have been completed, around £1.3mn spending is needed. It is hoped that the carol service can be held at the church, it was suggested that the Village Hall could be used if the church is not safe for the service.

8. PLANNING:

- Revised Consultation: S.26/0238/FUL - Land Adjacent to Rose Cottage, Stroud Road, Whaddon, Gloucester - 2no. replacement buildings (Use Class B8). The Parish Council objected to this application.
- S.26/1295/CPE - Brentlands Farm , Upton Lane, Brookthorpe, Gloucester - Certificate of Lawfulness to demonstrate use of land as residential garden (Class C3) The Parish Council did not comment on this application.

9. FINANCE:

(a) To approve the Accounts for payment as per the list circulated prior to the meeting. The following accounts were presented for payment:

Accounts for payment October 2026			
Payee	**Chq Number**	**Amount**	**Reason**
Mrs T Balgobin	1356	£ 550.70	Salary / Expenses (September 26)
HMRC	1357	£ 156.08	Tax / Employer NI (September 26)
PATA UK	1358	£ 40.35	Payroll Charges for July / August / September
David Cridland	1359	£ 504.00	Contractor Fees for verge cutting throughout the Parish
	Total	**£ 1,251.13**	

The Council unanimously agreed that the above payments be made.

10. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM SDC ON THE COMPLAINT RAISED:

The Clerk had circulated the response received from SDC today, this was discussed in detail, it was agreed that the District Council would be asked to speak with the Enforcement Officer with regards to enforcement of the outstanding breaches.

11. COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Walton gave an update on the recent Planning Meeting for the application at Land at Grange Road, Whaddon he attended.
Cllr Hibbert commented that the local PCSO had raised concerns on the number of cars on a patch of

highways owned land in Whaddon, it was agreed to add to the November agenda for further discussion.

12. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3 November 2026 at 7.45pm in the Brookthorpe Village Hall**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:50PM

Signed: …….. Dated: ……