

LITTLE RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Contact: Clerk@littlerissington.net

Henry

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 10th March 2024 at 6.30 p.m.
in Little Rissington Village Hall.

Members of the Council present were:

Cllr Cole (Chairman), Cllr Elkington (Vice Chairman), Cllr Whittington, Cllr Wilks, Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington, Parish Clerk Maxi Freeman.

54. **Welcome and Apologies.** Cllr Cole welcomed Councillors and members of the public.
55. **Declaration of interests.** None.
56. **Representations from the Public.** Members of the public requested further information about repairs to the village hall and broadband in the village hall (agenda item 62); rabbits at the allotments (agenda item 67); highways engineering survey plus flooding and drain blockages (agenda item 64).
57. **Receive the County Councillor's report.** Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington reported that the temporary traffic lights at Moreton in Marsh had been removed and traffic flows should now improve.
 - a. The devolution of English councils meant that District Councils would be dissolved. All unitary authorities, in this Case Gloucestershire, must have ½ million residents and Gloucestershire has 650k. A mayoral system requires a minimum of 1 ½ million so Gloucestershire would have to merge with another county with a similar profile (rural but with high technical expertise). Most mayoral systems are metropolitan. The deadline for GCC to present its proposal to central government is 21st March.
 - b. Social services and adult care take up 65% of GCC's funds (£450 – 500 million). A unitary authority may mean cost savings due to scale.
 - c. The North Cotswolds is the safest part of Gloucestershire, which is one of the safest counties in England.
 - d. 100 miles of mainly A and B class roads have been resurfaced. The focus is now on rural and minor roads.
 - e. 'Made in Gloucestershire' is being launched celebrating local produce. GCC Estates plans to retain its land for use by local young farmers.
 - f. Elections for County Councillors will take place on 1st May. Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington will not be standing again.
58. **Receive the Ward Councillor's Report.** Cllr McLean reported that CDC is currently solvent but that this could change in the next 2 or 3 years. Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provisions are statutory and take a large proportion of the budget.
 - a. The Rissingtons have won another 'Unsung Hero' award, this time going to Upper Rissington for their first aid trainer and responder.
 - b. New government planning regulations have required CDC to treble the target number of houses to be built every year. Locations are restricted to those labelled 'sustainable' i.e. with services such as public transport, medical centres, schools and shops. Developments are also restricted to outside the Cotswold National Landscape area



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except for Rural Exception Sites which allow affordable and/or social housing to be built in certain circumstances.¹

59. **Minutes.** Councillors approved the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2024 and the Chairman agreed to sign them. **Action: Clerk to post to website and noticeboard.**
60. **Planning applications.** No new planning applications had been received since the last meeting.
- b. Councillors approved the 'no objections' comment posted between meetings for application 25/00427/FUL regarding variations to the design of an outbuilding at Hill Farm.
- c. Unregistered land in the village. **Action: Clerk to research registering two small pieces of land in the village which are currently unregistered but maintained and preserved for the village.**

61. Finances

- c. Cllr Wilks proposed and Cllr Wittington seconded that the Council approve the following:

PAYEE	DETAILS	INVOICE NO.	INVOICE TOTAL
Little Rissington Village Hall	Hall hire for March meeting		£24.00
Maxi Freeman	Clerk Administration December/January	See PATA payslips	£XXX.xx
Nick Cole	Expenses Monthly renewal – Duda web manager 1.1.25	3442933164	£16.79
Nick Cole	Expenses Monthly renewal – Duda web manager 1.2.25	3386271856	£16.79
Nick Cole	Expenses Monthly renewal – Duda web manager 1.3.25	3329022538	£16.79
PATA	Qly payroll services Q3 2024 and Q1	23.95 and 28.80	£52.75
ICO	Annual registration with Information Commissioner's Office	t.b.d.	£52.00
Maxi Freeman	Refund of donation from Stuart Perry to Fountain Fund		£300

Action: Clerk to arrange payments

62. Village Hall.

- a. Cllr Cole explained that a suitable builder had been chosen for the ceiling repair work but that, as the repairs were only a small job, they would have to fit in with other work. **Action: Clerk to chase builder regularly for start date.**

¹ 'Affordable' = 80% of market cost; social = council or Housing Association owned.



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- b. The village survey had shown that residents would like broadband at the village hall as part of a comprehensive update of the facilities and could mean that the hall would be used as a community facility more during the day as well as by groups at night. The cost would be around £40 per month. Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington said that Little Rissington was the last of 2 village halls in the ^{How Division} county not to have broadband access. x

Action: Clerk to organise a meeting for the Village Hall Trustees and Councillors to discuss the refurbishment, potential costs and how to increase use of the hall, including activities mentioned by residents in the survey.

63. **Code of Conduct.** Councillors approved the Code of Conduct unanimously. **Action:** Clerk to update current version and load to website.

64. **Roads.** Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington reported that:

- a. **Road closures.** No further road closures were currently scheduled for Little Rissington. The engineering assessment on the slippage at Henever Copse was scheduled to take place over a 6-month period and would assess the degree of slippage of the road, its causes and remedies. GCC Highways could not resurface the road until the survey was complete and any remedial work had been completed.
- b. **VAS and speeding.** GCC Highways had requested dates when they could see the proposed locations for the VAS (Vehicle Activated Speed) equipment. Cllr Elkington offered any afternoon. **Action:** Clerk to request dates from Rhodri Grey (Highways Officer). The speed survey was in place and would be removed the following week. GCC Highways would then provide the PC with the results. **Action:** Clerk to request results from GCC.
- c. **Flooding and Riparian owners' responsibilities.** The list of responsibilities of riparian owners had been included in the recent newsletter. Councillors decided that a community drain clearance event should take place in autumn, when leaves had fallen. Leaves are a major contributor to blockages. Riparian owners were responsible for clearing their ditches and could be liable for damage caused to properties flooded as a result of failure to keep the ditches clear.
- d. **Drain clearance.** On a recent tour of the village with GCC Highways Cllr Cole had highlighted the need to clear drains more frequently and to uncover drains which had previously been overgrown. Highways has now revealed those drains so they should be included in future clearances.
Councillors recommended that residents should report any issues with roads, including blocked drains and potholes, to GCC direct using the 'Fix my Street' system on the GCC website <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk>.
- e. **Fallen tree.** A tree which fell across the road close to Sandy Lane had been cleared, but branches from the tree had been left beside the road. **Action:** Clerk to email the owner of the tree to ask them to remove the branches.

65. **Bus shelter.** Cllr Elkington reported that the roof works had started.

66. **Website.** Cllr Cole reported that the new website www.littlerissington-PC.gov.uk was up and running in parallel with the old site. Many documents had been uploaded but others



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were outstanding. New email addresses for Councillors had been set up with the same domain. A secure app for emails is included. It also includes a calendar function for arranging meetings. **Action: Councillors and Clerk to review current website and suggest further additions or changes.** Cllr Wittington suggested a section for booking the village hall. Cllr Cole agreed to investigate. **All councillors should log on to confirm their new email addresses and let Cllr Cole know when that had been done.**

67. **Allotments.** A member of the public raised the issue of large numbers of rabbits infesting the lower allotments and the effect this would have on allotment holders' crops. **Action: Clerk to research the price of possible fencing, to include digging the fence down into the ground.**
68. **Chairmans matters.** None.

There being no further business to discuss. the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 p.m.

Notice of Forthcoming Meeting Dates: Tuesday 13th May 2025

Chairman's Signature..........

Date: 13th May 2025