

Iron Acton Parish Council
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Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Annual Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 18th May 2026 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman:

Councillors: Councillor J Wright (JW)
Councillor P Chapman (PC)
Councillor D Barker (DB)
Councillor R Lomas (RL)
Councillor A Edmonds (AE)
Councillor D Smith (DS)
Councillor R Brunswick (RB)

In Attendance:

4 members of the public.

01.05.2 6	<u>Election of Chair</u> Resolved to elect Cllr Catherine Spedding as Chair of the Council for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.
02.05.2 6	<u>Election of Deputy Chair</u> Resolved to elect Cllr Denise Smith as Deputy Chair for the Municipal Year 2026/2027.
03.05.2 6	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor C Spedding (CS) Councillor M Ford (MF) The apologies were noted. South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, David Godwin & Jon Lean.
04.05.2 6	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations received. No written requests for dispensations were received.

05.05.2 6	<u>Confidential Item</u> Agenda item 25.
06.05.2 6	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
07.05.2 6	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
08.05.2 6	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
09.05.2 6	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> Written report – South Glos Cllrs – Appendix A
10.05.2 6	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Network Rail – Proposed pedestrian access – Letter sent requesting a meeting. • Village sign return and future – Now complete. • Parish Meadows Masterplan. • MUGA Cleaning – Now complete and added to a yearly schedule of maintenance.

11.05.26 Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £24.00

Clerks Mileage – £4.80

TLT – Legal expenses - £4,140.00

South Glos Council – Localism Charge - £110.38

W Smith – Building of stone planter - £550.00

Skyline Softwash – MUGA cleaning - £2,268.00

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £26.40

I Selkirk – Internal Audit - £170.00

C Hunter – Pickleball equipment - £36.99

Barrett Garden Maintenance - £1060 & £190

Contracted Payments

EE Broadband / Phoneline - £40.99

Nest Pension Scheme - £71.56

Codex Absolute Payroll - £38.00

IAP UK - £76.56

Tesco Mobile - £8.00

Alison's websites - £12.00

Members noted the financial reports.

Members noted any payments made under the scheme of delegation.

12.05.26	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: P26/00888/HH Installation of 1no. new window to the side (east) elevation, and refurbishment of existing conservatory/garden room to include 2no. rooflights. Charlecombe High Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UG – No Comment P26/00889/LB Exterior works for the Installation of 1no. new window to the side (east) elevation, and refurbishment of existing conservatory/garden room to include 2no. rooflights, new french doors and replacement of roof with tiled roof. Charlecombe High Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UG – No Comment P26/01029/TRE Works to fell 1no. Pine (T1) and 1no. Conifer Tree (T2). Works to Crown lift 1no. Horse Chestnut Tree (T3) to 3.5-4 metres. Covered by Tree Preservation Order SGTPO 10/09 dated 9th September 2009. 336A North Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7LL – No Comment
13.05.26	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Contact South Glos for the repainting of the speed signs in the Parish.
14.05.26	<u>Friends of Chill Wood</u> Members noted the request from Friends of Chill Wood seeking amendment of the residency requirement within the Friends of Group Policy which will not be considered at this time.
15.05.26	<u>To Receive and Review the Internal Audit Report for 2025/26</u> Resolved: That the Council received and noted the Internal Audit Report for 2025/26 and confirms that no further action is required.
16.05.26	<u>To Consider and Approve Section 1 - 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26</u> Resolved: That the Council approves Section 1 – 10 of the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26, and authorises the Chair and Clerk to sign on behalf of the Council.

17.05.2 6	<u>To Consider and Approve Section 2 of the AGAR – Accounting Statements 2025/26</u> Resolved: That the Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2025/26 and authosed the Chair to sign Section 2 of the AGAR.
18.05.2 6	<u>To Confirm the Dates for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights</u> Resolved: That the Council confirms the period for the exercise of public rights as 22 June 2026 to 2 August 2026, with notice to be published on 21 June 2026.
19.05.2 6	<u>Conflict of Interest – BDO LLP</u> Members confirmed that there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

20.05.2 6	<u>South Gloucestershire Local Plan Examination in Public</u> Members considered and formally confirmed the Parish Council's participation in the Examination in Public hearing sessions and agreed to appoint Brian Hackland to represent the Parish Council.
21.05.2 6	<u>Wade Road – Repairs Required</u> To receive details regarding repair works required at Wade Road and consider any actions arising. <i>Further information is to be provided by Mike Ford.</i> Resolved: That members would report any required work for pot holes to South Glos Council, utilising the reporting system.
22.05.2 6	<u>St James the Less Churchyard – Review of Maintenance Responsibilities</u> Members considered correspondence received from the PCC regarding churchyard maintenance responsibilities and to confirmed the Parish Council's position based on the Council's recorded minutes. It was resolved that the Parish Council would continue to cut the grass at the churchyard and all other responsibilities would remain the responsibility of the Church.
23.05.2 6	<u>Tree Survey – Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd</u> Members considered and approved the quotation from Silverback Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd for a full arboricultural survey and survey report covering Dyers Pond, Latteridge Green, The Parish Meadows and The Village Green, at a total cost of £1,800 including VAT.
24.05.2 6	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents.
	<u>Confidential Item</u> In accordance with Standing Order 1(c) and Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council resolves that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

25.05.26	<u>Confidential Item</u> <u>Member Support and Attendance Process Update</u> Item Deferred.
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Meeting closed – 20.26

Date of next meeting –15th June 2026

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Monday 18th May 2026

Improvements Introduced at South Gloucestershire Council Car Park

Drivers will be able to use any space to park for free for 30 minutes in council car parks where charges were introduced last year, as part of a range of improvements to the scheme to be rolled out in June.

The change is among a number of measures that will make the scheme easier to use and promote the use of local High Streets.

The updates are being unveiled following a series of face-to-face meetings, which has provided helpful feedback from local stakeholders, including Chambers of Commerce, Town and Parish Councils as well as individual traders and residents.

The mix of long and short stay tariffs will also be simplified, based on a years’ worth of practical experience and user feedback.

Since being introduced in May 2025, the scheme has brought in more than £750,000 in funds for the council, which has helped to maintain vital services.

The changes, in detail, will mean that:

- The 30 minutes of free parking will apply in all bays, not just those previously marked. The changes do not affect disabled blue badge holders who will continue to be able to park for free for up to four hours.
- All drivers will be required to register their vehicle either at the machine or via the app, even if they only intend to park for a 30-minute free stay.
- Drivers will be able to extend their stay at the machine, or by using the app so they do not have to return to the car park. If they do so, the first hour from when they arrived will be charged at 80p under the new tariff, which was agreed as part of this year’s Council budget in February. Expanding the number of free spaces and giving drivers the chance to easily extend their

stay is a change that local traders and businesses were particularly keen to see.

- All car parks where both long and short stay rates and spaces have been in place, will move to a simpler, single tariff.
- Car parks which were previously designated as long stay only, such as Boultons Road in Kingswood and Kennedy Way in Yate, will allow shorter stays.
- Most short stay car parks will allow drivers to park for longer than before, except at Bank Road in Kingswood and St Mary Street in Thornbury where short stay availability is in high demand.
- The price of long stay, weekly and season ticket charges will be reduced to support workers.

Occupancy rates in the car parks where charging has been introduced has varied as drivers have adapted to the new system. For example, in Kingswood, the Bank Road, Cecil Road, South Road and Kings Chase shopping centre car parks have had higher usage than was projected, while Boultons Road has seen fewer users. In Thornbury, Castle Court and St Mary's Street car parks have been used more than projected, while Rock Street car park has been used less. In Yate, the Kennedy Way car park has been used less than predicted, while the Leisure Centre car park has had more use than estimated prior to the scheme being introduced.

The validation scheme, which allows visitors to park for free in car parks close to GP surgeries and the Minor Injuries Unit and Leisure Centre in Yate, has also been effective. More than 190,000 visits have been registered across the six sites since the scheme was implemented.

The changes will come into effect once signage in the car parks, the council's website and the MiPermit app have been updated. This is expected to be implemented in mid-June and the exact date will be announced in due course.

The following page shows the current and updated car parking tariffs for all the South Glos car parks where the scheme is in place. The changes will not come into effect until mid-June. [Updated car parking tariffs for June 2026](#)

New Crisis and Resilience Fund to Support Residents Facing Financial Difficulty

South Gloucestershire Council is launching a new way of supporting low income households in need of immediate or long-term support due to an unexpected change in their financial situation, following the introduction of the Government's Crisis and Resilience Fund.

The new fund is part of a national move towards a more joined up approach to help people recover from a crisis and build longer term financial resilience.

Unlike the previous Household Support Fund, payments from the Crisis and Resilience Fund will be more targeted to ensure the council helps those who need it most.

Emergency payments will still be available for eligible residents who experience an unexpected financial shock such as a job loss, bereavement, illness or a sudden essential cost. Applications will be carefully assessed and due to a change in policy, repeat or duplicate requests are unlikely to be approved.

For most people, however, support will be in the form of access to a wider range of advice and practical support including help to:

- maximise their income, including benefit checks
- manage debt and household bills
- improve budgeting and financial stability
- reduce energy costs and manage fuel poverty
- access food and community support with built in advice

Support is available through One Stop Shops, community venues, food banks and partner organisations across South Gloucestershire, with additional outreach planned for rural areas.

Residents seeking financial help through the Crisis and Resilience Fund will also be offered practical support and advice to help prevent future crises.

To apply visit www.southglos.gov.uk/crisis-and-resilience-fund and for wider support visit www.southglos.gov.uk/costofliving. Anyone unsure where to start can also visit a One Stop Shop in Kingswood, Patchway or Yate or call 0800 953 7778.

As a council, we have a strong track record of supporting residents in urgent need, and they are encouraged to get in touch to find out more about the financial help and other guidance provided by the council and our partners.

Last year, the council's One Stop Shops have provided real support to residents facing financial difficulties. More than £500,000 has been distributed through the Household Support Fund. This included more than £29,000 in same-day emergency awards to around 600 residents; around £11,000 to help families buy school uniforms; and around £120,000 for essential household items like white goods and furniture, for around 300 households. In addition, shopping vouchers worth over £315,000 were given to more than 1,600 households to help with the cost of living.

In the contact centre, staff have managed more than 200,000 calls, 20,000 emails, and more than 1,000 social media queries over the past year. The introduction of auto-enrolment for benefit-based Free School Meals has helped around 600 children receive support more quickly.

Investing in Communities, Climate and Nature (ICaN) Initiative Launched

South Gloucestershire Council has today launched the Investing in Communities, Climate and Nature (ICaN) initiative as part of its efforts to help tackle the climate and nature emergency.

ICaN helps connect local businesses and individuals with projects that require funding to deliver nature recovery, community value, and climate resilience. The

website <https://ican.southglos.gov.uk/> features information on a number of climate and nature projects across South Gloucestershire with options to donate to them individually or contribute to a general fund. There is also information on ways to volunteer or join community groups.

Donations to ICan will fund a range of locally based, practical, on-the-ground projects designed to address habitat and biodiversity loss, the health of rivers and streams, flood risks, and the moderation of temperatures. Elements of projects delivered through ICan will include habitat restoration, natural flood management, stormwater capture, carbon capture, and urban greening.

By contributing funding to ICan projects, and supporting these local solutions, businesses will help protect communities, minimise environmental risks to their operations, and sustain a growing local economy.

To ensure spaces and places work better for nature, people, and the local economy, ICan projects tackle three critical climate and nature goals:

- Delivering nature recovery and creating stronger more productive ecosystems
- Reducing the factors that contribute to climate change
- Making South Gloucestershire more resilient to the local impacts of climate change.

Nature across the UK is under increasing pressure, with many species in decline and natural habitats increasingly affected by extreme weather. ICan projects seek to change that, by accelerating local nature recovery and increasing resilience to a changing climate.

For more information and to view the current projects in need of funding visit <https://ican.southglos.gov.uk/>