

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Annual Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 19th May 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman:
Councillors: Councillor D Smith (DS)
Councillor P Chapman (PC)
Councillor A Edmonds (AE)
Councillor J Wright (JW)

In Attendance:

7 members of the public.

01.05.2 5	<u>Election of a Chairman</u> Members resolved to elect Cllr C Spedding as Chairman for the municipal year 2025/26.
02.05.2 5	<u>Election of a Vice Chairman</u> Members resolved to elect Cllr D Smith as Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2025/26.
03.05.2 5	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> • Councillor C Spedding (CS) • Councillor R Brunswick (RB) • Councillor D Barker (DB) • Councillor R Lomas (RL) South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, Jon Lean & David Goodwin The apologies were noted.
04.05.2 5	<u>Declarations of interest</u> Nothing to declare.
05.05.2 5	<u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u> N/A

06.05.2 5	<u>Minutes</u> Resolved to confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held on 28th April 2025.
07.05.2 5	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
08.05.2 5	<u>Clerks Report</u> Members noted the Clerk's report.
09.05.2 5	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> Written report received from South Glos Councillor TC – Appendix A.
10.05.2 5	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan – The surveying will be completed on the 29th May • Village sign return and future – Plans submitted • PWLB – Woodland Area – Engine Common – Issues relating to the access, being investigated by the solicitors • Parish Meadows Masterplan – Agenda Item 13 • Drone Filming – Item deferred • Chill Wood – AE reported that work has been completed to the steps in Chill Wood and some areas had been blocked off which is not something that has been commissioned by the PC • Allotment Association agreement – No further correspondence received • MUGA – Tennis competitions and coaching sessions agreed, these will be funded from the Sport England grant

11.05.25 Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £18.00

Clerks Mileage – £7.20

South Glos Council – Bin charges - £102.82

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £26.40

Zurich – Insurance - £1,598.86

N Webber – Tennis Balls – Coaching - £54.99

T Saunders – Pickleball - £50.00

Barrett Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance - £660 & £1,015

Contracted Payments

EE Broadband / Phoneline - £40.99

Nest Pension Scheme - £71.56

Codex Absolute Payroll - £38.00

IAP UK - £76.56

Tesco Mobile - £16.99

Alison's websites - £12.00

Members noted the financial reports.

Members confirmed that there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

Members noted any payments made under the scheme of delegation.

12.05.2 5	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: P25/00979/RVC Removal of condition 3 and variation of conditions 2,5,7,8,9,12 and 14 attached to P23/01616/F to require compliance with approved documents. Extension to existing battery storage facility with ancillary development. Land East Of Larks Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire – No comment P25/01020/CLP Erection of outbuilding incidental to the main dwelling. Brake Farm Frampton End Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TD - No comment P25/01104/RVC Variation of condition 4 attached to permission P23/01696/HH to amend the approved plans. Erection of first floor side and two storey side extensions to provide additional living accommodation. Lawn Cottage Latteridge Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TJ - No comment
13.05.2 5	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Request made for considerations for any work required by the South Glos team to be submitted to the Clerk.
14.05.2 5	<u>Parish Meadows Master Plan</u> Members considered the Parish Meadows Master Plan and recommendations from the working group. Agreed that pre-planning advice would be sought for the erection of a temporary toilet at the Parish Meadows.
15.05.2 5	<u>Approval of 'Friends of' Policy</u> Deferred by resolution at the meeting. No decisions or approvals made at this time. Support in principle was expressed, subject to adoption of the 'Friends of' policy and formal recognition of the group.
16.05.2 5	<u>Consideration of Proposals from Prospective Friends of Chill Wood Group</u> Deferred by resolution at the meeting. No decisions or approvals made at this time. Support in principle was expressed, subject to adoption of the 'Friends of' policy and formal recognition of the group.

17.05.25	<u>Request for Permission for the Parish Meadows</u> Members approved a request for the use of the Parish Meadows from Acton Aid. Bonfire and Fireworks - Sat 08 Nov 25
18.05.25	<u>Insurance Renewal</u> Members reviewed and approved the annual insurance schedule.
19.05.25	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents. No further communication required.

Meeting closed – 21:05

Date of next meeting –16th June 2025

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report **Monday 19th April 2025**

Expressions of Interest Invited for Operating Grimsbury Community Farm

After reviewing the different options for the future of Grimsbury Community Farm, South Gloucestershire Council has recognised that there are organisations better placed to partner with it to run the farm in a way which delivers the broadest benefits to the community.

SGC are therefore seeking a charitable or not-for-profit organisation with the background, resources and infrastructure to partner with us in running the farm in a way which supports its ethos of maintaining access to nature and the countryside for the local community.

SGC believe there are multiple organisations who would be interested in taking on the farm.

A formal Expression of Interest process is now underway until 28th May 2025. The opportunity is being advertised to charities, community and other suitable not-for-profit organisations who could take on the role of running this community asset together with the council. This will include managing all aspects of the facility, operating the food and drink facilities, as well as looking after the animals on the farm.

Potential operators can visit the site and receive advice and information from the council, so they understand the costs and community-focused requirements of taking it on.

The council will scrutinise potential operators' business plans to ensure they can provide stable management for the benefit of the local community. It is expected that a decision will be taken in June 2025 to appoint a new operator, based on these assessments.

Programme to Create New School Places Announced

A new primary school will be built at Ladden Garden Village in Yate, and the primary school at Charfield will benefit from a significant expansion, through South Gloucestershire Council's capital investment programme.

These new investments in education infrastructure are required for families moving into the communities to the new homes being built in the area.

In the case of Ladden Garden Village, the council is delivering on a promise made to local people when the construction of the new estate was first proposed. In Charfield, the expansion of the existing school is to meet increased need for school places arising from the new homes planned in the area.

A £12.6 million extension to the existing Charfield Primary school, operated by CSET (Castle School Education Trust), will provide an additional 217 places for primary-aged children. Building work is expected to begin in Summer 2027 and be complete, with the extra capacity available for pupils joining the school from September 2029.

The expansion of Charfield, coupled with the expansion of Manorbrook Primary in Thornbury, which was approved by the council in April, will mean children can access school places in their local area.

In Ladden Garden Village, a brand-new primary school will be built that can accommodate a single form entry, but designed to enable expansion to two forms of entry if more places are required in the future.

Over the next year, design and planning work will continue to progress the project for a new school at Ladden Garden, including securing the land identified for the buildings, obtaining planning consents, and for the Department for Education (DfE) to identify the Academy Trust to run the school.

An update on progress will be brought to Cabinet in the next year, seeking approval for building work to commence on site in February 2027, to deliver the new school to open in September 2028. In planning and development terms, this is a relatively short timeframe, so an alternate timetable, which would see the new school open in September 2029 has also been produced. This would avoid any need for children to be taught in temporary classrooms, for example, if there are delays to the initial plans before construction begins.

Cabinet will make a final decision on the construction and delivery timetable for the new Ladden Garden Village primary school later this year.

All new buildings will be designed to be net zero in terms of carbon emissions, making them more efficient to run, in line with the council's commitment to using its powers in planning and to invest to make a positive impact on our local environment.

Funding for the projects will come from Section 106 contributions, which housing developers are required to make to support local communities where they build to make improvements to infrastructure in the area they build new homes. Additional funding will come from the Government, through the Basic Need Grant from the DfE, and from the council budget.

South Gloucestershire Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for Schools,
Councillor

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on Monday 16th June 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

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

In Attendance:

1 member of the public.

01.06.25	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor D Barker (DB) South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, Jon Lean & David Goodwin The apologies were noted.
02.06.25	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations of interest were made. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.06.25	<u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u> No items were deemed necessary for exclusion under Standing Order 1.2
04.06.25	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
05.06.25	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.

06.06.2 5	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.06.2 5	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> No verbal reports. Written report received from South Glos Councillor TC – Appendix A.
08.06.2 5	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> Cemetery Tree Work & Digital Records – Work has been undertaken, awaiting for the report. Return and future of the Village Sign – Due to be completed by July PWLB application for Engine Common woodland area – Awaiting responses from Solicitors Parish Meadows Master Plan – considered under Item 12 Drone Filming – No further action – remove from agenda Chill Wood – covered under Items 14–20 Allotment Association Agreement – under review MUGA Tennis Competitions – now completed Defibrillator Project – Awaiting an update from the working group

09.06.25	<u>Accounts for Payment</u> Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments. Clerk Salary Clerks Expenses – £24.00 Clerks Mileage – £4.80 Claire Nutt – Tennis Coaching - £210.00 & £90 Barrett Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance - £1,225 & £310 <u>Contracted Payments</u> EE Broadband / Phoneline - £40.99 Nest Pension Scheme - £71.56 Codex Absolute Payroll - £38.00 IAP UK - £76.56 Tesco Mobile - £16.99 Alison’s websites - £12.00 Members noted the financial reports. Members noted any payments made under the scheme of delegation.
10.06.25	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: • P25/01185/HH – <i>Little Orchard, The British</i>: No comment. • P25/01300/PNA – <i>Two Pools Farm</i>: No comment.
11.06.25	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Resolved that the priority for South Glos Street Care would be: • Weed and Vegetation: Park Street, Holly Hill, High Street, Wootton Road signage. • Completion of hedge and path clearance on Station Road and bypass. • Pavement/kerb clearance: High Street, Park Street, Station Road corner, Nibley Lane, Chillwood Close, Algar's Drive, Wootton Road, Holly Hill. • Sign washing: All village and speed signs. • Refurbishment or repair of local play equipment

11.06.25	<u>Parish Meadows Master Plan</u> Council approved the recommendations of the working group and resolved to proceed with the next stage of the master plan.
13.06.25	<u>Approval of 'Friends of' Policy</u> Council resolved to adopt the 'Friends of' Policy to support community-led groups.
14.06.25	<u>Application for Recognition – Friends of Chill Wood</u> Council approved the application and formally recognised Friends of Chill Wood as a supported group under the new policy.
15.06.25	<u>Grant Application – Public Liability Insurance</u> Council approved a one-year grant of £100.80 for public and employer's liability insurance for Friends of Chill Wood.
16.06.25	<u>Permission for Bat Survey</u> Council granted permission for a bat survey to be conducted on 12 July 2025 using the Nightwatch Bat Survey Box.
17.06.25	<u>Establishment of Chill Wood Working Group</u> Council resolved not to establish a working group for Chill Wood.
18.06.25	<u>Terms of Reference – Chill Wood Working Group</u> No longer required as no working group being set up.
19.06.25	<u>Damage by Unauthorised Vehicles in Chill Wood</u> Council noted the recent damage and agreed to ask the friends of group to investigate deterrent measures, including additional fencing and signage.

20.06.25	<u>Unauthorised Works in Chill Wood</u> Following a review of submitted images, Council expressed concern over potential ecological and safety risks. It was agreed to: • Investigate any liability implications with the insurance company • Obtain advice from Silverback in relation to the steps and if any work is required • Report findings at the next meeting.
21.06.25	<u>Internal Audit Report 2024/25</u> Council received and noted the Internal Audit Report. No further action was required.
22.06.25	<u>Annual Governance Statement 2024/25</u> Council reviewed the governance assertions and approved Section 1 of the AGAR. The Chair and Clerk were authorised to sign the statement.
23.06.25	<u>Accounting Statements 2024/25</u> Council approved Section 2 – Accounting Statements of the AGAR. The Chair was authorised to sign on behalf of the Council.
24.06.25	<u>Period for the Exercise of Public Rights</u> Council confirmed the period as 22 June to 2 August 2025, with the notice to be published on 21 June 2025.
25.06.25	<u>A38 Rudgeway Lights & No Left Turn</u> Council noted resident concerns and agreed to write to South Gloucestershire Council for clarity as to why the decision was taken and can the left turn be reinstated.

26.06.25	<u>Cycle and Pedestrian Link to Nibley Lane</u> Council supported the proposal in principle and agreed to begin informal enquiries South Gloucestershire Council regarding feasibility and route alignment.
27.06.25	<u>Communications</u> It was agreed that only the Vice Chair in conjunction with the Clerk may post on the social media on behalf of the Parish Council, with agreed messaging. Other Councillors may suggest content for approval.

Meeting closed – 21:17

Date of next meeting –21st July 2025

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Monday 16th June 2025

Residents Warned of Scam QR Codes at Council Car Parks

With the launch of the off-street parking payment scheme in South Gloucestershire, motorists are being warned to be careful of scams linked to fraudulent QR codes being placed on parking payment machines and signage that has been installed in some car parks in the district.

South Gloucestershire Council’s parking scheme does not use QR codes. Payment can be made safely and securely by using the MiPermit app, MiPermit website or via the automated payment line on 0345 520 7007.

Unfortunately, it is a well-known scam that fraudsters use to direct members of the public to often cloned websites which request credit or payment card details and other personal data. Car park operators across the country have seen these attempts made by criminals to obtain money and personal information.

A small number of suspect stickers have already been found on the new machines and signs that have been installed in the 22 car parks where charging has been introduced. These have been removed by council officers and the team will continue to be vigilant in looking for and removing them if they appear as they visit the districts car parks, in order to protect the public.

People using the car parks are being asked to remember to only use the approved payment methods and to never scan a QR code if they see one in a council car park.

There are a number of ways you can pay for your parking:

- by card or contactless at the machine in the car park
- download the MiPermit app
- visit the MiPermit website (<https://secure.mipermit.com/southgloucestershire/application/home.aspx>)
- call the MiPermit automated payment line 0345 520 7007.

Three Children’s Homes Set to Open

Three new homes for children in the care of South Gloucestershire Council will open over the summer, providing homes and live-in, wrap-around support for some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

The council has purchased the three houses over the course of the past year and worked with its partner, Phoenix Learning and Care, who will manage and staff the homes with trained carers, to get them ready for young people to move into.

The council has a responsibility to support vulnerable children and young people in our area who need it. Children and young people may not be able to live with their families for various reasons, and as their corporate parents, the council needs to provide them with a stable home and appropriate help so that they get the best possible start in life.

The evidence demonstrates that if children and young people can stay local, even after family breakdown, they will do much better in school and with building and maintaining relationships.

There is not currently enough capacity and properties to look after all of the children in the council's care in the district. Too often this means they are sent to placements miles from their communities, friends, schools, and everything else that is familiar to them. This can make rebuilding their lives much harder and the new homes will allow children to move back to their own areas or not be placed so far away.

Placements with private providers outside the district are also more expensive to the council, so we want to do better for the young people we care for, and to get better value for money by spending it locally.

Each home has been prepared to offer a nurturing, warm, welcoming space for up to three young people from South Gloucestershire aged between 8 – 17 years old.

The council believe the children deserve to live in well-developed community areas, with access to good resources such as parks and recreational areas. The children will be encouraged to use local youth groups, such as Scouts or Guides for example, to make local connections in the area. The children and staff at the homes will be encouraged to make positive connections with their neighbours and hope that they would be welcomed and included into these existing communities.

A video introducing and showcasing the new homes is available on the council's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/SHEu3mfeGNY>.

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on Monday 21st July 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

Councillors: Councillor P Chapman (PC)
Councillor A Edmonds (AE)
Councillor D Barker (DB)

In Attendance:

3 members of the public.

01.07.25	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> • Councillor R Brunswick (RB) • Councillor J Wright (JW) • Councillor D Smith (DS) • Councillor R Lomas (RL) South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, Jon Lean & David Goodwin The apologies were noted.
02.07.25	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations of interest were made. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.07.25	<u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u> No items were deemed necessary for exclusion under Standing Order 10.
04.07.25	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
05.07.25	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.

06.07.2 5	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.07.2 5	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> No verbal reports. No written report received from South Glos Councillors. No appointment has been made for the Parish Hall Committee Representative.
08.07.2 5	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan – surveys undertaken, awaiting final report. • Village sign return and future – Sign now refurbished with completion in the next two weeks. Request to be made to Acton Aid for assistance with the base for sighting the sign. • PWLB – Woodland Area – Engine Common – Members approved the spend of £1,080 for additional advice for solicitor's costs and delegated authority given to the Clerk for another £1,000 if required. • Parish Meadows Masterplan – Agreed to the additional costs for professional and consultancy costs if required. Pre planning enquiry submitted for the temporary toilet. • Chill Wood – Agenda item 12. • Allotment Association agreement – No further action undertaken. • MUGA – Tennis competitions going ahead with positive feedback received. • Defib project – No meeting has been undertaken by the working group.

09.07.25	<u>Accounts for Payment</u> Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments. Clerk Salary Clerks Expenses – £30.00 Clerks Mileage – £4.80 Claire Nutt – Tennis coaching - £90.00 Parish Hall – Room Booking - £26.40 & £10 & £33 Pear Technology – Cemetery surveys - £840 I Selkirk – Internal Audit - £150 C Hunter – Pickleball equipment - £59.98 Barret Garden Maintenance - £300 & £1,366 <u>Contracted Payments</u> EE Broadband / Phoneline - £40.99 Nest Pension Scheme - £71.56 Codex Absolute Payroll - £38.00 IAP UK - £76.56 Tesco Mobile - £16.99 Alison’s websites - £12.00 Members noted the financial reports. Members noted any payments made under the scheme of delegation.
10.07.25	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: P25/01493/F Erection of roof over existing silage clamps. Two Pools Farm Wotton Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire – No comment. P25/01518/F Erection of a 66no. bedroom care home (Class C2) for the elderly with associated access, parking, landscaping and ancillary buildings. Land To The North Of Broad Lane Yate South
11.07.25	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. None required.

12.07.2 5	<u>Chill Wood</u> Friends of Chill Wood's update to the schedule of works from the Chill Wood Management Plan (2021) – Update to be presented in September. Members and agreed in principle for flora and fauna surveys to be carried out in Chill Wood at the required time. Members approved the low-impact invertebrate surveys to be
13.07.2 5	<u>Communications</u> Communication required for the village sign and future.

Meeting closed – 20.07

Date of next meeting –15th September 2025

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Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 15th September 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

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

In Attendance:

members of the public.

01.09.25	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, Jon Lean & David Goodwin The apologies were noted.
02.09.25	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations of interest were made. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.09.25	<u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u> No items were deemed necessary for exclusion under Standing Order 1.2
04.09.25	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
05.09.25	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.09.25	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.

07.09.2 5	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> No verbal reports. No written report received from South Glos Councillors.
08.09.2 5	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan • Village sign return and future • PWLB – Woodland Area – Engine Common – Members briefing note • Parish Meadows Masterplan • Chill Wood – Risk Assessment update • Allotment Association agreement – Agenda item 14 • Defib project

09.09.2 5	<u>Accounts for Payment</u> Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments. Clerk Salary Clerks Expenses – £48.00 Clerks Mileage – £4.80 Claire Nutt – Tennis coaching - £390.00 & £360.00 Parish Hall – Room Booking - £26.40 & £42.00 (Defib training) South Glos Council – Localism charge - £102.82 C Spedding – Basketball nets - £10.38 & £39.44 H McCabe – Village sign - £556.80 Barrett Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance £1060.00 & £175 BDO – External Audit - £504.00 Cloudy IT – Gov assist - £765.00 Sign Express – Parish Meadows/MUGA signs - £102.00 Barrett Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance - £350 & £1,060.00 <u>Contracted Payments</u> 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.
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10.09.25	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: P25/01957/O Erection of 6no. dwellings (Outline) with access and layout to be determined, all other matters reserved. Land At Lodge Road Yate South Gloucestershire P25/01983/RVC Variation of condition 12 (list of approved plans) and consequentially conditions 6 and 7 attached to planning permission P22/03743/F to amend the BESS layout to enable the development to produce a greater amount of renewable energy, accelerating the transition to net zero - Installation of Batte... Land At Lower Larks Farm Larks Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TX P25/01355/F Erection of 1no. self build dwelling with associated works. Land At The Elms 398 North Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7LW P25/02048/F Change of use of land to gypsy and traveller caravan site to facilitate the stationing of 1no. touring caravan and associated works. Land At Hope Road Yate South Gloucestershire P25/02064/PIP Permission in principle for the erection of a minimum of 4no. dwellings up to a maximum of 6no. dwellings. Land At Ivy Cottage Mission Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XR P25/02083/O Erection of 1no. detached dwelling (Outline) with access and layout to be determined, all other matters reserved. Land At The Cottage Dyers Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XT P25/01948/F Installation of an underground cable. Land At Lower Larks Farm Larks Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire
11.09.25	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. None required.

12.07.2
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Chill Wood

Friends of Chill Wood (FOCW) – Update

- The Council noted that FOCW are not seeking amendments to the *Chill Wood Management Plan (2021)* and will continue supporting the delivery of Year 4 works.
- FOCW provided a brief update on recent bat and insect surveys undertaken in the wood.
- The Council noted FOCW's recommendations on reducing bike and motor-assisted vehicle use within the site, including mapping routes, establishing barrier zones, and issuing public communications.
- Members agreed that the issue of enforcement and potential fines relating to damage to protected trees should be considered under a separate agenda item at a future meeting.

Contracted Works in Chill Wood

- The Council considered proposals for contracted works, including:
 - Processing limbs of a fallen oak in *Area 2* for reuse as natural barriers.
 - Removal of additional understory holly in *Area 4*.
 - Undertaking tasks to deter bike usage, subject to Council agreement.
- Supporting photographs were provided (fallen oak, holly, tree damage, bike jumps).
- Costs for the proposed works are not yet known.
- **Decision:** Members agreed that further costings should be obtained before a decision can be confirmed.

Volunteer Workday Proposal – 5 October 2025

- The Council considered a proposal from FOCW to run a volunteer workday in *Area 1* of Chill Wood.
- Purpose: clearing invasive brambles to protect young saplings, consistent with Year 4 objectives of the management plan.
- The proposal included risk assessments, a works plan, and estimated costs of **£132.13** (equipment and safety supplies).
- An extended version of the plan provided detailed logistics covering:
 - Objectives (sapling recovery, bramble removal, traffic management using barriers).
 - Equipment requests (£132.13).
 - Risk management, first aid provision, and environmental considerations.

13.09.25	<u>External Audit 2024/25</u> Members noted the external audit report for 2024/25 with no matters arising.
14.09.25	<u>Allotments</u> Members considered rental increases for the allotments and the contract with the Allotment Association. Nibley Lane Allotments The Clerk reported that despite repeated requests the Iron Acton Community Allotments Association had not signed the new five-year Agreement (commencing 1 January 2025). The Agreement sets rent at 30p per square metre, with the Association remitting the gross income to the Council less a management allowance, and provides for an annual September review of charges and accounts. The Clerk confirmed that a formal letter had been sent to the Association on [insert date sent], requiring the signed Agreement and supporting documents by 8th September 2025 in order for the Council to consider any proposed rent changes at this meeting. Council noted that until the Agreement is signed, no contractual mechanism exists to review or increase charges, and any proposals from the Association cannot be considered. Station Road Allotments Members reviewed current rents (£25/£15 parishioner; £35/£20 non-parishioner), last increased on 1 April 2012. Benchmarking showed these rates remain significantly below those of neighbouring councils. It was noted that income does not cover running costs and that any increase requires 12 months' statutory notice under the Allotments Act 1950, meaning the earliest implementation date would be 1 April 2027. Council considered the options presented in the Clerk's report, including no change, an inflationary increase, alignment with local averages, or staged increases. Resolved: 1. That the Council reaffirms its requirement for the Allotment Association to return a signed Agreement without delay and notes that no rent changes can be agreed until this is in place. 2. That the Council [insert chosen option] for Station Road allotments, with new charges to take effect from 1 April 2027, and instructs the Clerk to issue statutory notices to tenants

15.09.2 5	<u>Noticeboard at the bus stop outside the school</u> Members considered a request to install a Parish noticeboard at the bus stop outside the school. It was confirmed that the Parish Council owns the bus shelter and therefore no third-party permissions are required. It was RESOLVED to defer a final decision until quotations and design options had been obtained. Members expressed a preference for a durable, lockable noticeboard that is accessible and proportionate to the size of the bus shelter.
16.09.2 5	<u>MUGA</u> The Clerk reported that funding had been secured through Sport England to support the delivery of a community basketball coaching programme on the parish Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). A local resident, qualified with a Level 3 BTEC in Sports Coaching and Development, had expressed an interest in delivering weekly coaching sessions under a short-term Service Agreement with the Council. Members considered the outline proposal, including: • A two-month pilot programme with payment made via invoice. • Safeguarding requirements, including an Enhanced DBS check, safeguarding training, and First Aid provision. • The need for a risk assessment of the MUGA and basketball activity prior to commencement. • Insurance considerations, with clarification to be sought from the Council's insurers regarding liability cover. • Monitoring and reporting requirements linked to the funding conditions, including participant registers and feedback. • Promotion through local communication channels and the requirement for consent forms for under-18s. • Legacy considerations, including the potential for extending the programme or supporting the coach towards formal Basketball England accreditation if successful. RESOLVED: That the Council approve in principle the engagement of the coach under a short-term Service Agreement for the delivery of the basketball coaching programme, subject to: 1. Confirmation of insurance cover from the Council's insurers, or the coach obtaining appropriate personal cover if required. 2. Completion of safeguarding, First Aid, and risk assessment requirements prior to the start of sessions.

17.09.2 5	<u>WERN Village Agent Representative – WREN Steering Group</u> Members considered the appointment of a representative to serve on the WERN (West of England Rural Network) Steering Group. The purpose of the group is to support the work of the Village Agent and to provide a local voice in the development of services within the parish. Resolved: That <i>[insert councillor's name]</i> be appointed as the Parish Council's representative to the WERN Steering Group
18.09.2 5	<u>Communications</u>
19.09.2 5	<u>Confidential Item</u> Members noted the National Joint Council (NJC) pay scales for the financial year 2025/26. It was agreed that the revised scales, as issued nationally, would be adopted by the Council. It was further resolved that the required back payment, effective from April 2025, be approved and processed in accordance with the national agreement.

Meeting closed – 20.07

Date of next meeting –20th October 2025

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 20th October 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

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

In Attendance:

South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark & David Goodwin

4 members of the public.

01.10.2 5	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor R Brunswick (RB) The apologies were noted. South Glos Cllr Jon Lean sent apologies.
02.10.2 5	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations of interest were made. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.10.2 5	<u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u> N/A
04.10.2 5	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
05.10.2 5	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.

06.10.2 5	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.10.2 5	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> DB – Met with the Parish Rep from WREN PC – Tytherington quarry meeting Written report – South Glos Cllrs – Appendix A
08.10.2 5	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan – Ongoing. • Village sign return and future – Waiting for the sign to be installed. • PWLB – Woodland Area – Engine Common – Waiting for details on the Statutory declaration, solicitors chased. • Parish Meadows Masterplan – Work ongoing - SLR Consulting appointed as the civil engineer for the Meadows Master Plan. Temporary Toilet – On order, will be sited for 6 months. • Allotment Association agreement – New chair appointed for AA a request has been made for the signed agreement. • Defib project to be added to the Parish Meadows working meetings. • Noticeboard at the bus stop outside the school – AE has

**09.10.2
5**

Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £30.00

Clerks Mileage – £4.80

Claire Nutt – Tennis coaching - £390 & £190

Royal Mail – PO Box - £246.40

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £10.00 & £26.40

Barrett Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance - £1,060, £350, £1,280 & £600

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.

10.10.2 5	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: P25/02115/PIP Permission in principle for the erection of 1no dwelling. Land At 28 Engine Common Lane Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7PX – No comment. P25/01915/TCA Works to 1no. Maple Crimson King to remove 1no. dead stem and crown the rest of canopy by 10% and Works to fell a group of Elms all situated in the Iron Acton Conservation Area. The Gables Park Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UJ– No comment. P25/02256/CLE Continued use of land as residential (Class C3). 2 Barton Cottages Chaingate Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XL– No comment. P25/02017/F Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage. Building And Land West Of 10 Engine Common Lane Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7PX – No comment. P25/02289/TRE Works to fell 6no Common Ash (T4,T5,T6,T8,T11,T12) Trees covered by Tree Preservation Order TPO 399 dated 31/05/1989. Yate Town Football Club Lodge Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7LE – No comment. P25/02327/HH Erection of a single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation. Sunnyside Well Chaingate Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XN– No comment. P25/02317/RVC Removal of condition 3, and variation of conditions 4 and 5 attached to permission P24/02020/RVC (Previously P20/00717/F Appeal decision APP/P0119/C/20/3264071)Demolition of existing buildings. Change of use of land from agricultural to Sui Generis land for grazing of horses and siting for trave... Willows Latteridge Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire – Object, the conditions should be imposed as this was part of the planning application and the conditions were set for a reason.
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11.10.25	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Tree trimming on the Latteridge Road side of the village green which has now encroached on the footpath. Additional signage required to advise that dogs are to be kept on a lead in the Parish Meadows.
12.10.25	<u>Chill Wood</u> Friends of Chill Wood (FOCW) – Report update received regarding the volunteer clearance day.
13.10.25	<u>Grant Application – Green Community Travel</u> Members deferred the grant request for £165.64/£133.32 from Green Community Travel whilst establishing how many residents from Iron Acton Parish use the service.
14.10.25	<u>Communications</u> Planning applications to be added to the website.

Meeting closed – 20.52

Date of next meeting –17th November 2025

Monday 20th October 2025

South Glos Council Issues Statement on Flag Protests

On Thursday 25th September Cllr Maggie Tyrrell (Leader of Council) and Cllr Ian Boulton (Co-Leader of Council) issued the following joint statement on recent flag protests:

“We are continuing to see an increase in the number of St George and Union flags appearing in public spaces across South Gloucestershire, including on roundabouts and lampposts and other infrastructure. We recognise that national flags can bring vibrancy, pride and a sense of unity to our communities – especially during major events and periods of national celebration. The Union Flag and the St George’s Cross are symbols that belong to everyone. However, their placement in unauthorised locations and recent campaigns and behaviours linked to the unauthorised display of flags have caused genuine concern among many residents.

While most people display flags respectfully, we have received reports that a small number of individuals have used them in ways that feel intimidating or divisive. This behaviour is not representative of the values we share in South Gloucestershire; we believe that everyone deserves to feel safe, respected, and included in their community.

In addition, as we enter autumn and approach the time of year when clocks go back, weather conditions such as high winds pose a greater risk of damage to flags and the structures they are attached to. Flags on lampposts and other infrastructure can become loose or torn, creating hazards for road users and pedestrians. Additionally, they can obscure essential street lighting, CCTV and road signage, compromising visibility and public safety.

To protect public safety and support community cohesion, we will be removing unauthorised flags and graffiti from public spaces. This action is not about discouraging pride or celebration, but about ensuring that our shared spaces remain safe, welcoming, and respectful for all.

As a council, we are proud of our values that we care about all our residents and communities and work together in respectful and inclusive ways. We remain committed to creating a strong, safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for everyone. We want every resident to feel part of a community that values respect, safety, and cohesion – this is vital in improving social and economic prosperity for all residents, businesses and the district as a whole.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we work to maintain public spaces that reflect the values of South Gloucestershire”.

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South Gloucestershire Council also worked with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset and local authority partners on this statement

<https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/news/2025/09/joint-statement-from-the-police-and-crime-commissioner-and-council-leaders-of-avon-and-somerset/>.

Civic Reception Held for World Eventing Number One

South Gloucestershire Council hosted a special reception at Kingswood Civic Centre on Thursday 2nd October to honour the outstanding achievements of West Littleton resident Harry Meade, who recently became the FEI Eventing World Number One.

The reception was led by Chair of South Gloucestershire Council, Councillor Katie Cooper, who brought together councillors, honorary aldermen, council staff, and members of Harry's family and close-knit team to celebrate his remarkable success and inspiration to others.

Also welcomed were residents of South Gloucestershire with a passion for equestrian sports, reflecting the district's strong local ties to the world-renowned Badminton Horse Trials. During the evening guests experienced a unique opportunity to meet Harry and his team and hear about his journey to the pinnacle of his sport.

Harry Meade was presented with a framed certificate in recognition of outstanding sporting achievement. He said: "I'm very grateful to South Gloucestershire Council for the warm reception and recognition for becoming the world number one.

"The support from the local community has meant a great deal to us throughout the past twenty years. I've lived here my whole life and am proud to fly the flag around the world for South Gloucestershire. To be recognised by the council is hugely rewarding for the wider team behind me that contribute to our success; it was a lovely surprise and very humbling."

For more information about Harry Meade and his career, visit www.harrymeade.com

Celebrating Children of Foster Carers Week

Growing up in a fostering household can be a rewarding experience – but it can also bring challenges, especially for the children already living in the home. Children of Foster Carers Week (13th – 19th October) is a national campaign that recognises and celebrates the vital role these young people play in fostering families. It's also a chance to highlight the support that helps them navigate the unique experiences that come with fostering.

Megan, a birth child in a fostering family in South Gloucestershire, received support from the council's WAYPOINT team to help her adjust to life in a fostering household and manage her anxiety. Now a published poet, she shares her experiences and how this support helped her find a creative outlet through poetry.

Megan was 11 when her family began fostering. Over the years, they welcomed around 20 children into their home. While Megan enjoyed being part of a fostering family, the changes at home and the emotional impact of placements ending unexpectedly sometimes left her feeling anxious and overwhelmed. That's when she began working with Charlotte, a Support Worker in the WAYPOINT team. Charlotte

supported Megan over several years, helping her understand her anxiety, adjust to changes at home, and find ways to manage how she was feeling.

“Charlotte really helped me understand what I was going through,” Megan says. “She was someone I could talk to who just got it. I don’t think I’d have found my way into writing without her support.”

Through that support, Megan discovered poetry as a way to express herself and process her emotions. What started as a way to get her thoughts down on paper during college turned into something bigger – this summer, Megan published her first poetry collection, *Pieces of Me*, and she’s now working on a second.

Now studying music production at university in Liverpool, Megan continues to write and hopes to publish more work in the future. “I’ve always wanted to write a book. Now I’ve done it, I want to keep going.”

Councillor Simon Johnson, cabinet member with responsibility for children and young people at South Gloucestershire Council, said: “Megan’s story is just one example of the many children of foster carers who quietly make a difference every day. Children of Foster Carers Week is about recognising their experiences, listening to their voices, and making sure they feel supported too.

“If you want to find out more about fostering in South Gloucestershire please visit our website <https://fostersouthglos.org.uk>. Local authority foster carers receive comprehensive training, substantial financial support, a dedicated social worker, an out-of-hours phone line and peer mentoring.”

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
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Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 17th November 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

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

In Attendance:

South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark & Jon Lean

11 members of the public.

PC Finbar Simmons – Report submitted

01.11.25	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor R Brunswick (RB) The apologies were noted. South Glos Cllr David Goodwin sent apologies.
02.11.25	<u>Declarations of interest</u> AE – Agenda item 18 - Grant Request – Friends of Iron Acton School. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.11.25	<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 agenda item 20, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

04.11.25	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
05.11.25	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.11.25	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.11.25	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> PC – Network Rail correspondence. Written report – South Glos Cllrs – Appendix A
08.11.25	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan – Draft plan received, awaiting due diligence check from Cllr DB • Village sign return and future – progress has been made on the plans for the base • PWLB – Woodland Area – Engine Common – Agenda Item 19 • Parish Meadows Masterplan – All documents circulated awaiting a further update from the working group after the New Year • Allotment Association agreement – Agreement still outstanding • Defib project – Meeting to take place with the working group with a recommendation to come to Council for the December meeting • Noticeboard at the bus stop outside the school – No further updates

09.11.25	<u>Accounts for Payment</u> Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments. Clerk Salary Clerks Expenses – £24.00 Clerks Mileage – £4.80 South Glos Council – Localism charge - £102.82 Iron Acton Parish Hall – Room Hire - £26.40 GB sport and leisure – Play Inspection Tuesdat 25th at 10am - £189.00 Andyloos – Toilet - £295.20 TLT – Solicitors, land acquisition - £1,296.00 Barret Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance - £570.00 <u>Contracted Payments</u> 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.
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10.10.2 5	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: Ref. No: P25/02565/TRE Works to crown reduce 1no Apple tree by 2 metres to leave a finished height of 5 metres and a radial spread of 3.5 metres and remove epicormic growth from stem covered by Tree Preservation Order 0879 dated 24th March 2015. Canary Cottage Wotton Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UZ No comment Ref. No: P25/02567/TCA Works to coppice Elder, Hazel and Viburnum shrubs by 2 metres to provide clearance to boundary wall. Works to remove lower limbs of 1.no Goat Willow Tree by 3 metres. Situated within the Iron Acton Conservation Area. Canary Cottage Wotton Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UZ No comment Ref. No: DOC25/00345 Discharge of Condition 7 (Ecological enhancements) attached to planning permission P24/02748/F Erection of 1no. self build dwelling with associated works. Land At Avenue House High Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UH No comment Ref. No: P25/02498/TCA Works to reduce back to previous hedge height 2.no Sycamore and 1.no Purple Plum Tree situated within Iron Acton Conservation Area. Hall High Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UH No comment Ref. No: P25/02448/LB External conservation repair to the entrance Georgian Canopy above external door on north east elevation. Latteridge House Latteridge Green Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TS No comment Ref. No: DOC25/00348 Discharge of condition 2c (Contamination) attached to planning permission P21/07136/F. Partial demolition of 1 no. dog kennel building (building no. 4) to facilitate its conversion into 1 no. dwelling. Demolition of 1 no. garage building (building no. 6) to facilitate the conversion of 1 no. form The Old Corn Mill Bristol Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TF No comment
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11.11.25	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Latteridge Green – Willow Tree needs crown lifting
12.10.25	<u>Chill Wood</u> Resolved: • To adopt the Framework Agreement between Friends of Chill Wood and Iron Acton Parish Council. • Volunteer Day and Proposals for Further Activity Resolved: 1. To note the progress of the volunteer day held at Chill Wood on 5 October 2025 to clear low-level vegetation, as organised by Friends of Chill Wood. 2. Permission agreed for further low-level vegetation clearance sessions in Chill Wood, to be organised by Friends of Chill Wood. 3. Permission agreed for Friends of Chill Wood to undertake the mapping of ancient trees within Chill Wood for submission to the Woodland Trust's <i>Ancient Tree Inventory</i>. • Contractor quotations received for the removal of a fallen ash tree from Chill Wood. Friends of Chill Wood obtained quotations for the removal of an ash tree that has fallen across the stream and onto adjacent private land. The group has offered to coordinate the work once funding is agreed and to make use of the processed timber within Chill Wood for the creation of dead hedges to define permissive paths and improve wildlife habitats. Councillors are resolved to:
13.11.25	<u>Grant Application – Green Community Travel</u> Members approved the grant request for £165.68 from Green Community Travel.
14.11.25	<u>Co-Option – East Ward</u> Members approved the application received from Mr Mike Ford for co-option to fill the current vacancy at Iron Acton Parish Council (East Ward) and resolved to appoint.

15.11.25	<u>Annual Playground Inspection Report 2025</u> Members received and noted the 2025 annual RoSPA inspection report for the Park Street play area and considered any required maintenance actions arising from the findings. The inspection, undertaken in November 2025, confirmed the site is in generally good condition with overall low to very low risk ratings. No high-risk items were identified. Minor maintenance is advised, including installation of signage for the outdoor fitness equipment, repair of worn surfacing, and moderate repairs to benches and the play boat which will be undertaken by the maintenance contractor.
16.11.25	<u>Nibley Lane Closure Consultation</u> Members considered correspondence from residents regarding the potential permanent closure of Nibley Lane following the reopening of the M4 bridge in 2026 and agreed to submit a request to South Glos Council for a formal consultation.
17.11.25	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents. Annual Parish Meeting 23rd March 7:30pm PC report submitted by PC Simmons to go on the website
18.11.25	<u>Grant Request – Friends of Iron Acton School</u> AE – Left the meeting for this agenda item Members approved a grant request for £1000 from the Friends of Iron Acton School towards the cost of an additional modular classroom (“Edpod”) at Iron Acton C of E Primary School. AE returned to the meeting
19.11.25	<u>Land Acquisition – Future Direction and Cost Approval (TLT LLP)</u> Members consider correspondence from the Council’s solicitors, TLT LLP, seeking instructions on whether to proceed with further planning advice at a quoted cost of £1,355 plus VAT, and to review the overall viability of continuing with the proposed land acquisition in light of ongoing uncertainty over vehicular access, the likely requirement for planning permission for change of use, rising professional costs, and the expiry of the Public Works Loan Board loan approval. Resolved: That unless all 4 Full statutory declarations are received by 15th December then the PC will withdraw from the sale, no further legal costs are to be expended at this current time.

20.11.25	<u>Confidential Item - Member Support and Attendance Consideration</u> The Council considered professional advice regarding member support arrangements and attendance requirements and determined the next steps. Resolved: 1. To note the professional and legal advice received regarding member support and attendance. 2. To commission an independent Occupational Health or equivalent assessment to identify reasonable adjustments. 3. To pause the six-month attendance calculation for the councillor concerned until the end of the week of the February 2026 meeting. 4. To establish a support framework comprising the Chair, Clerk, and an ALCA representative to manage the referral and ensure confidentiality. 5. To defer consideration of mediation until the independent assessment has concluded and a Support and Adjustments Plan
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Meeting closed – 21.06

Date of next meeting –15th December 2025

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Monday 17th November 2025

South Gloucestershire Draft Local Plan Submitted to Government

The draft new Local Plan for South Gloucestershire has now been formally submitted to the Government’s planning inspectors. This administrative milestone will allow them to look at the plan and supporting evidence in detail and firstly determine that it meets the requirements of current planning laws and guidance.

Once the appointed planning inspectors are satisfied that it is compliant, they will run a process called an Examination In Public (EIP). This involves the council and some of those stakeholders and residents who made submissions to the consultation process earlier this year, being called to give evidence at public meetings that are expected to take place in Spring 2026. Assuming the Planning Inspectorate find the Plan to be sound, the council will be able to formally adopt it as their overarching planning policy for the coming 15 years.

The draft Plan has been submitted to inspectors alongside extensive supporting documentation, as well as the feedback received from the public and other stakeholders in the statutory Regulation 19 consultation, which ran from February to April this year.

The Planning Inspectorate will manage the EIP process and will determine which organisations and individuals are called to give evidence next year.

Copies of the draft Plan, the supporting documents and the consultation responses that were submitted are available to view online on the council website:
www.southglos.gov.uk/LPexamination.

Developing the new Local Plan has been a priority for the council, in order, once adopted, to bring the building of new homes and supporting infrastructure back under local control. Underpinning this is the commitment to achieve a democratically

agreed spatial strategy and planning policies decided by the council's elected members, rather than seeing decisions taken through the planning appeal process.

Having a robust Local Plan also means that South Gloucestershire can maintain and sustain both its immediate housing land supply requirements, as well as a longer-term supply of genuinely affordable allocated housing sites, which will giving certainty to our communities and the housing development industry.

In recent weeks, the supporting evidence that has been submitted alongside the Plan itself has been updated, to account for new information as it emerges, however it is fundamentally the same Plan that was the subject to the consultation earlier this year.

The Government has recently announced that South Gloucestershire has been selected as one of the 12 potential New Towns locations, in relation to the development underway on the former Filton Airfield, and we have provided an updated assessment of the Plan in light of this.

South Gloucestershire Council launches Budget Consultation process

South Gloucestershire Council has launched its annual budget consultation process with residents, to update them on the authority's financial position and its plans for the years ahead.

The consultation sets out the impacts on the council of continued underfunding of local authorities across the country, at the same time as costs and demand for some of the most expensive services it delivers are surging.

It outlines measures that will be required to balance the books next year and into the future, and asks residents in turn to share their views on the potential impacts of those changes. The council wants to use that feedback to help minimise and mitigate those effects where possible, while continuing to focus on the most important support that local people rely upon for their quality of life.

Planning ahead is more complicated this year, because while the Government has indicated that it wants to overhaul the way it funds councils, it has not yet provided full details. Assessing the information that is available, however, suggests that South Gloucestershire is likely to receive less money next year.

To meet these challenges, the consultation sets out a systemic approach to make the best use of every pound, building on work that has saved more than £90 million over the past ten years. It will:

- Continue to review internal costs
- Find the most efficient ways to achieve the best outcomes for residents
- Invest in preventing people falling into crisis, to reduce the demand for the most expensive support
- Raise the money it needs to deliver services in the fairest ways possible for local people

- Prioritise services and support, with a focus on the things it has a legal and moral responsibility to provide, with some services identified as potentially needing to be stopped or cut back.

The draft budget assumes an increase in Council Tax next year of 4.99%. The Government assumes councils will raise their taxes by this amount each year, and each 1% increase is expected to bring in around £1.9 million in extra funding. Any increase less than 4.99% would mean the council has to make further cuts to its spending.

Many of the actions the council is planning to take will be behind the scenes, as it looks for new ways to work more effectively and efficiently internally and with partners. In some areas, however, the impact of changes will be more noticeable for staff and for local people.

The pressure to focus on support and services that there is a legal and moral duty to deliver can lead to better lives for more people. For example, investing in earlier interventions, informing and supporting individuals and families to manage health issues before they require more costly and intensive help later on, can save money and lead to people living better, more fulfilled and independent lives.

There are services, such as the HandyVan, Community Meals and Pest Control, for example, which although they are highly valued, the council is not legally required to provide. Currently they are effectively being subsidised by council taxpayers, so options will have to be considered to make those services cover their own costs, or to stop providing them.

The consultation process will run from Monday 27th October until Sunday 21st December. Full details and background information is available on the Council website at www.southglos.gov.uk/budget.

Feedback from local residents and businesses, town and parish councils, and community groups and organisations will be considered by Councillors when they finalise the Budget for 2026/27 in February next year.

South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards 2026

Would you like to thank an unsung hero who helps make your community special? Nominations are now open for South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards 2026.

The annual awards recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution that local, unpaid volunteers and community groups make to life in South Gloucestershire. The next celebration of community work and volunteering takes place in January, and you have until 5 December to nominate your local 'community heroes'.

We're looking for individuals or groups of unpaid volunteers whose efforts reflect our vision of a fairer, greener future for South Gloucestershire. The award categories include:

Climate and Nature Champions – for those protecting our environment, promoting sustainability, restoring nature, or helping communities adapt to climate change

Reducing Inequalities – for volunteers tackling poverty, improving access to services, supporting disadvantaged communities, or promoting equality and inclusion

Supporting Children and Young People – for those helping young people thrive through education, mentoring, youth activities, early years support, or working with vulnerable children

Wellbeing and Independence – for volunteers supporting older people, carers, those with disabilities, mental health initiatives, or helping people live independently

Building Better Communities – for those strengthening our towns and villages through community development, being a good neighbour, arts, sports, or bringing people together.

You can nominate your community hero at www.southglos.gov.uk/communityawards or email communityawards@southglos.gov.uk.

If you are unable to access the internet or have any questions, please call 01454 863019.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 5th December 2025. Award winners will be invited to a presentation awards ceremony in January 2026.

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 15th December 2025 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman:

Councillors: Councillor P Chapman (PC)
Councillor A Edmonds (AE)
Councillor D Barker (DB)
Councillor J Wright (JW)
Councillor D Smith (DS) Acting Chair
Councillor M Ford (MF)
Councillor R Lomas (RL)

In Attendance:

7 members of the public.

01.12.2 5	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor R Brunswick (RB) Councillor C Spedding (CS) South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, David Godwin & Jon Lean The apologies were noted.
02.12.2 5	<u>Declarations of interest</u> None received. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.12.2 5	<u>Confidential Item</u> N/A
04.12.2 5	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.12.2 5	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.12.2 5	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.12.2 5	<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
08.12.2 5	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> Cemetery tree work and digital records – work to continue on receipt of the hard copy of the plan. Village sign – return arranged; future options to be reviewed. PWLB Woodland Area – addressed under item 14. Parish Meadows masterplan – draft awaited. Allotment Association agreement – Now signed by the Allotment Association. Defibrillator project – addressed under item 13. Noticeboard at bus stop – contractor availability delayed installation.

09.12.2
5

Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £24.00

Clerks Mileage – £4.80

TLT – Solicitors - £4,729.57

Denise Smith – Website - £99.00

Claire Nutt – Tennis Coaching - £120.00 & £60

Sign Express – Parish Meadows - £102.00

Barret Garden Maintenance - £525 & £244

The White Hart – Christmas Meal - £307.75

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £26.40

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.

10.12.25	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: Ref. No: P25/02675/F Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of a rear/side extension with balcony and a detached, annexe ancillary to the host dwelling Cograh. Chaingate Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XN No Comment Ref. No: P25/02567/TCA Works to coppice Elder, Hazel and Viburnum shrubs by 2 meters to provide clearance to boundary wall. Works to remove lower limbs of 1.no Goat Willow Tree by 3 meters. Situated within the Iron Acton Conservation Area. Canary Cottage Wotton Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UZ No Comment Ref. No: P25/02498/TCA Works to reduce back to previous hedge height 2.no Sycamore and 1.no Purple Plum Tree situated within Iron Acton Conservation Area. Hall High Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UH
11.12.25	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered any maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Trimming of the willow tree at Latteridge Green which is overhanging the paths.
12.12.25	<u>Friends of Chill Wood – Tree Planting Proposal</u> The Council reviewed the submitted planting scheme, risk assessment and insurance documents. RESOLVED: To approve the works subject to: • prior notification of planting dates, • adherence to the risk assessment, • verification of public liability insurance.

13.12.25	<u>Defibrillator Network Project – Working Group Recommendations</u> Council accepted the Working Group's conclusion that establishing and managing a parish-wide defibrillator network is not within the proper remit of the Parish Council. RESOLVED: • To adopt the recommendation not to progress a Council-run network. • To support any constituted community group wishing to lead such a project.
14.12.25	<u>Land Acquisition</u> Council noted the non-receipt of the statutory declarations by the deadline of 15 December. RESOLVED: To review the late amended statutory declaration and defer the decision to the January meeting, instruct the solicitor to review the document received at a maximum cost of £500 and advise accordingly.
15.12.25	<u>MUGA</u> Members noted the update for the upcoming year, including funding considerations and maintenance requirements.
16.12.25	<u>Request for Reservation of Burial Plot</u> Council approved the request from Ms Sandra Sparkes for the reservation of a burial plot for seventy-five years at the parishioner rate of £150.00.
17.11.25	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents.

Meeting closed – 21.08

Date of next meeting –19th January 2026

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors' Report

Monday 15th December 2025

Help Available to Eat Well and Stay Warm This Winter

Support is available to make sure everyone in South Gloucestershire can eat well and keep warm over the coming colder months. South Gloucestershire Council is launching its annual winter support package, which this year focuses on food and warmth which are key to staying well during winter.

Getting enough to eat and being able to stay warm are essential to stay well and in South Gloucestershire, the council and its partners are committed to making sure no one has to choose between food and heating their homes. This is especially important for vulnerable people including older residents, those with health conditions, and very young children.

The Eat and Heat campaign will provide information and advice and additional help for those struggling to feed their household or heat their home, bringing support to the people who need it most with a series of roadshows in community venues.

The campaign will deliver food support including tips to make meals go further and store food for longer, free cookery classes for eligible older residents through our partner Age UK South Gloucestershire, and for families with Cook Stars, and supermarket vouchers for those who need emergency help.

To stay warm, the council will be giving 1,000 free warm packs to residents who are struggling with energy bills and cannot afford to turn their heating on regularly. Funded by the government's Household Support Fund, the packs include a hot water bottle, thermal flask, reusable hand warmers, soup, hats, socks, gloves and a blanket. Family packs are also available which include hats, socks and gloves for two adults and two children. The packs will be available to South Gloucestershire residents, subject to a few eligibility questions, from One Stop Shops and some of our partner organisations. Further information can be found at <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/seasonal-support/>.

The campaign will also provide advice for everyone on conserving heat by reducing draughts and using less energy and how to access grants and subsidies from Severn Wye's Warm & Well service to make homes more energy efficient.

Community Welcome Spaces will also be open over the winter offering a warm place to enjoy a hot drink, meet new people or just enjoy a hobby. You can find your nearest welcome space at www.southglos.gov.uk/community-welcome-spaces

Mark Flower, chief executive of Age UK South Gloucestershire, said: "We are very pleased to be partnering South Gloucestershire Council for the Eat and Heat campaign this winter.

"Sadly, we see so many older people who can't afford to keep warm or eat well. We don't think that is acceptable in 2025 and together with the council, we are doing everything we can to help people.

“We will be delivering some of the warm packs, oil fired radiators and heated blankets as well as offering our full range of services – from 1-2-1 cooking classes, coffee mornings and digital support sessions. If you or someone you know are struggling this winter, please contact us.”

If you are struggling financially, including difficulty to buy enough food or heat your home, get in touch by visiting a One Stop Shop or calling 0800 953 7778. You will be treated with respect and everything discussed is in complete confidence.

For help with debt and budgeting, North Bristol Advice Centre offer drop-in sessions and bookable appointments at Kingswood One Stop Shop every Monday (2 – 4 p.m.).

For more information visit www.southglos.gov.uk/costofliving

First Trees Planted in Pucklechurch Wood

A major milestone towards creating the UK’s first new national forest in more than three decades is underway as the first trees are planted in the new Pucklechurch Wood, part of the Western Forest, which is working with partners and communities to increase trees and woodlands from the Cotswolds to the Mendips.

Located on South Gloucestershire Council-owned land, the 30-hectare Pucklechurch site – equivalent to around 42 football pitches – lays the foundation for a future woodland which will evolve into a vibrant green space for people and nature for generations to come.

Between the end of November 2025 and March 2026, 22,000 native and climate-resilient trees will be planted by volunteers, with a further 22,000 the following November to March. In 10-15 years, the young trees will be recognisable woodland, with some trees reaching up to 10 metres in height.

Tree species were carefully selected to ensure climate resilience, combining native trees like the English oak, with a small range of non-native species including the sweet chestnut, also known as the European chestnut, that can withstand warmer, drier conditions.

Pucklechurch Wood is being created thanks to South Gloucestershire Council providing the land, the Government’s Trees for Climate funding through the Forest of Avon, and funding from Pucklechurch Parish Council. The site will be managed by South Gloucestershire Council, supported by Pucklechurch Parish Council, the Forest of Avon and volunteers. Pond and wetland scrape features will be integral to the new woodland, thanks to funding from West of England Combined Authority (WECA) as part of the Common Connections project.

Pucklechurch Wood is part of the UK’s new Western Forest, stretching across Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and the West of England (Bristol, Bath & NE Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset). It aims to restore and connect wildlife and habitats whilst creating new opportunities for communities and the economy.

In Western Forest's first five years, 2,500 hectares of new woodland and other tree habitats will be planted, with 20 million trees in the ground by 2050.

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
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Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 19th January 2026 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

Councillors: Councillor A Edmonds (AE)
Councillor J Wright (JW)
Councillor D Smith (DS)
Councillor M Ford (MF)

In Attendance:

6 members of the public.

01.01.2 6	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor R Brunswick (RB) Councillor P Chapman (PC) Councillor D Barker (DB) Councillor R Lomas (RL) South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, David Godwin & Jon Lean The apologies were noted.
02.01.2 6	<u>Declarations of interest</u> CS - Ref. No: DOC26/00008 MF - Ref. No: P25/02860/F No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.01.2 6	<u>Confidential Item</u> N/A
04.01.2 6	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.01.2 6	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.01.2 6	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.01.2 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
08.01.2 6	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> Cemetery tree work and digital records – work to continue on receipt of the hard copy of the plan. Village sign – return arranged, the posts have now been installed. PWLB Woodland Area – Waiting for further advice from the solicitors. Parish Meadows masterplan – draft awaited which will be considered at the working group to be held on the 26th January. Agreed to have the temporary toilet removed and tested again at the agreed location, later in the year. Noticeboard at bus stop – contractor availability delayed installation.

09.01.2
6

Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £30.00

Clerks Mileage – £4.80

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £10.00 & £26.40

Treemendousgarden – Tree work Chill Wood - £700.00

Denise Smith – Key safe - £14.99 & £14.99

Barret Garden Maintenance – Parish maintenance - £440

Cloudy IT – Gov Assist annual subscription - £432

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.

10.01.2 6	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: CS left the meeting for this agenda item Sunnyridge Holly Hill Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XZ Ref. No: DOC26/00008 Discharge of condition 2 (Material Sample) attached to Planning Permission P25/00543/RM. Erection of 1no. dwelling and detached garage with associated access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale to be determined. No comment. CS returned to the meeting. The Rectory High Street Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UQ Ref. No: P25/02950/HH Erection of 1no. attached garage (part resubmission of P25/00813/HH) No comment. North Barn Cottage Wotton Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XD Ref. No: DOC25/00422 Discharge of conditions 3(Landscaping), 6 (PWMS), 7 (HMMP) and 9 (Drainage) attached to planning permission P24/02184/F. Erection of an agricultural building and associated access track. No comment. Wistaria Lodge Yate Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XY Ref. No: DOC25/00417 Discharge of condition 5a (Rooflights) and 5d (Eaves) attached to listed building consent P24/00627/LB. Internal and external alterations to existing barn to facilitate conversion to annexe. No comment. MF left the meeting for this agenda item Land South East Of Pinewood Cottage Dyers Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XT Ref. No: P25/02860/F Change of use of agricultural land to residential amenity space (Class C3) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) No comment. MF returned to the meeting.
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11.01.26	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. MUGA surface cleaned – contact suppliers to ask for recommendations on how it should be cleaned.
12.01.26	<u>Friends of Chill Wood</u> The Council received and considered the report from Friends of Chill Wood regarding the committee planting day held on 4 January 2026 and the proposed planting of Wild Service Trees within Chill Wood. Members noted the successful completion of the January planting activity, the discovery of established Wild Service Trees within the woodland, and the alignment of the proposal with the Chill Wood Management Plan and advice received from ecological and tree planting specialists. RESOLVED: That the Parish Council approves the proposed planting of ten 3-litre pot-grown Wild Service Trees in Area 4 of Chill Wood and agrees to allocate funding of £220 for the purchase of the saplings, as detailed in
13.01.26	<u>Budget 2026/27</u> The Council considered the Budget and Precept Report 2026/27 and the supporting budget spreadsheet. The Clerk outlined the proposed revenue budget, the assumptions used in its preparation, and confirmed that the budget had been set as a balanced budget without reliance on Community Infrastructure Levy, grant income, or reserves. RESOLVED: That the Council approves the revenue budget for the financial year 2026/27 as presented.
14.01.26	<u>Precept Requirement 2026/27</u> The Council considered the proposed parish precept for 2026/27 and the impact on the parish council tax. It was noted that the indicative council tax base for 2026/27 is 754.0 Band D equivalent properties and that the proposed precept would result in a Band D parish council tax of £128.19. RESOLVED: That the Council sets the parish precept for the financial year 2026/27 at £97,094.
15.01.26	<u>South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Examination in Public</u> Members noted the briefing document and resolved that members would make oral representation at the examination in public.

16.01.26	<u>MUGA Security</u> Members considered any security arrangements required for the MUGA and resolved to purchase a combination lock for the storage cupboard.
17.01.26	<u>Tennis Competition – May – MUGA</u> Members considered and approved a request to hold a tennis competition at the MUGA in May 2026.
18.01.26	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents.

Meeting closed – 21.02

Date of next meeting –16th February 2026

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Monday 19th January 2026

New Hygiene and Nappy Waste Collection Service to be Introduced

From May 2026 South Gloucestershire Council will be offering a new, free fortnightly collection for adult hygiene waste and children’s disposable nappies. This is to help residents manage their waste when we move to three-weekly black bin collections.

The new service can be used for disposable nappies and incontinence products including stoma and colostomy bags. It is not suitable for menstrual products. South Gloucestershire Council will continue to offer separate collections for infectious or potentially infectious clinical waste.

Residents will need to register to receive the new service. Once approved, the council will send you a fortnightly collection calendar and a pack of special hygiene and nappy collection sacks to use. You will also be able to check your collection dates via our app and website.

To express your interest in the new service, [complete the online form](#). For further information about our recycling and waste services visit www.southglos.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling

NHS Offers Precautionary Advice on Flu Season

NHS and public health leaders across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire are urging everyone to take a few small steps to help prevent the spread of winter illnesses following a sharp increase in the number of people being admitted to hospital with flu over recent weeks.

Monitoring from the UK Health Security Agency showed flu and RSV are both circulating at medium levels with local data showing that 96 local hospital beds are currently occupied by people with flu and further community hospital beds also occupied by people with flu.

Dr Joanne Medhurst, Chief Medical Officer at NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, said:

“We are seeing a significant rise in flu cases locally, and this is now translating into more people needing hospital care. Flu can be extremely serious, particularly for older people, pregnant women and those with long-term health conditions.

“Getting vaccinated is the best line of defence, but by taking a few simple steps we can all play a big role in reducing the spread of infections. By washing hands regularly, catching coughs and sneezes in tissues and knowing when to stay off work or keep children off school, you can help protect yourself and your community this winter.”

Professor Steve Hams, Group Chief Nursing and Improvement Officer at Bristol NHS Group, said:

“Winter pressures are already being felt across our local NHS, and, like many areas across the country, we are seeing a rise in people testing positive for flu in hospitals and communities. We understand this is a challenging time for everyone, and we are grateful to people for the steps they are taking to keep themselves and others well.

“As always, we urge people to attend our emergency departments only for serious injuries or life-threatening emergencies. Most respiratory viruses can be safely managed at home, and local pharmacists can provide advice, treatment, and reassurance. NHS 111 is also available to guide people to the right care.

“We also ask that anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms – even if mild – avoid visiting loved ones in hospital. This helps protect vulnerable patients and eases pressure on already busy services.

“By making these small but important choices, we can reduce the spread of flu and other winter illnesses, ensuring hospital care remains available for those who need it most.”

A joint statement from Christina Gray, Director of Public Health at Bristol City Council; Matt Lenny, Director of Public Health at North Somerset Council; and Sarah Weld, Director of Public Health at South Gloucestershire Council, said:

“Cases of flu are rapidly rising across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire so please help prevent the spread through practising good hygiene (such as regular hand washing, using a tissue when you cough or sneeze) and by people, including children, staying at home when they are unwell. This is particularly important as the days get colder, and people are gathering together indoors more which can spread viruses and respiratory infections more easily.

“If you are in one of the priority groups for flu vaccinations such as people in a clinical risk group, if you are pregnant, a carer or over 65, having the vaccine will provide you with the most protection against serious illness. If you are eligible, book your free NHS vaccination online today. It is safe and it will make a difference to both you and the people around you.”

Five simple steps to reduce the spread of winter illnesses

1. If eligible, take up the offer of a free [NHS flu vaccination](#).
2. Wash your hands regularly for 15-20 seconds with soap and water.
3. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough and sneeze, bin the tissue, and wash your hands.
4. Let fresh air in when you can. Even opening windows for a short time can help remove stale air that contains virus particles and prevent the spread of illnesses.
5. Tempting as it is to head out or go into the office for work, consider staying at home if you're feeling unwell – to give yourself time to recover and to prevent passing on germs. The Department for Education also [provide a useful guide](#) on when to keep children home from school.

Free flu vaccinations are still available across many local pharmacies in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. They can also be given at local GP practices and walk-in clinics. [Find out more information about flu vaccine eligibility and local walk-in clinics.](#)

Residents Asked to Help Combat Loneliness in South Gloucestershire

South Gloucestershire Council and Age UK South Gloucestershire are urging residents to be good neighbours this winter by checking in on vulnerable and isolated neighbours.

The ‘Good Neighbours’ campaign first ran earlier this year with a series of videos showing how support and social groups help older people feel more connected and part of their community. Widowers and carers for their partners with dementia were among those who explained how having regular events to go to, one on one visits at home and tailored help, has given them hope and helped their own mental health.

This winter, South Gloucestershire residents are being asked to do their part by checking in on elderly neighbours especially those who live alone.

Chief executive of age UK South Gloucestershire, Mark Flower, said: “Loneliness is one of the most common things our clients face. It is heartbreaking, some people come to our office every week because that is the only social interaction they have.

“We wouldn’t want our parents or grandparents to sit outside their homes waiting, hoping that someone will talk to them but that is something we have seen happening in South Gloucestershire in 2025.

“We are proud to be working with South Gloucestershire Council to tackle loneliness.”

Councillor John O’Neill, South Gloucestershire Council’s cabinet member responsible for adults and housing, said: “We can all be a good neighbour. Just saying hello can really make someone’s day but you may also find that you forge new friendships and connections yourself.

“The Good Neighbours scheme gives us all an opportunity to do something for our older residents, and we are very grateful to Age UK South Gloucestershire for all the work they already do to support our elderly population.”

You can be a good neighbour and help someone who is struggling or is lonely:

- Drop in for a cup of tea and a chat
- Ask if they would like help mowing the lawn or mending simple things at home
- Offer to pick up some groceries or prescriptions
- See if they need a lift to a medical appointment or to one of our Community Welcome Spaces to meet other people
- Help them set up a video call with their family
- Brighten their day with some flowers or a tasty treat
- Leave a note if they don’t seem comfortable with face-to-face conversations.

You can find out more about our Good Neighbours campaign by watching our videos on South Gloucestershire Council’s [Facebook](#) page.

If you are concerned about someone who could benefit from Age UK South Gloucestershire’s help call 01454 411707 or email info@ageuksouthglos.org.uk

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 16th February 2026 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

Councillors: Councillor J Wright (JW)
Councillor D Smith (DS)
Councillor M Ford (MF)
Councillor R Brunswick (RB)
Councillor P Chapman (PC)
Councillor D Barker (DB)
Councillor R Lomas (RL)

In Attendance:

4 members of the public.

01.02.26	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor A Edmonds (AE) South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark, David Godwin & Jon Lean The apologies were noted.
02.02.26	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations received. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.02.26	<u>Confidential Item</u> Agenda item 19
04.02.26	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.02.2 6	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.02.2 6	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.02.2 6	<u>To hear Reports from Councillors attending Meetings of Outside Bodies / Working Groups and South Gloucestershire Councillors</u> DB – May Day Committee Written report – South Glos Cllrs – Appendix A
08.02.2 6	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan – draft 3 of the map to be verified. • Village sign return and future – Quote received for the base installation at a cost of £700. • PWLB – Woodland Area – Engine Common – Agenda item 13. • Parish Meadows Masterplan update received from DS. • Noticeboard at the bus stop outside the school – No further update

09.02.2 6	<u>Accounts for Payment</u> Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments. Clerk Salary Clerks Expenses – £24.00 Clerks Mileage – £4.80 South Glos Council – Localism charge - £102.82 SLR – Parish Meadows project - £2,418.00 Parish Hall – Room Hire - £26.40 Barrett Garden Maintenance – Parish Maintenance - £490 & £350 <u>Contracted Payments</u> 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.
10.02.2 6	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: Hillside Holly Hill Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9UN Ref. No: DOC26/00037 Discharge of condition 5 (Sample Cladding) and 6 (More Details) attached to permission P24/01866/HH Erection of 1no. detached garden studio building. Erection of 2m boundary fence. No comment. Unit 2 Danbury House Armstrong Way Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 5NG Ref. No: P26/00128/F Change of Use from mixed use (Classes B1, B2 & B8) to indoor sports (Class E(d)) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). No comment.

11.02.26	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Drains down the high street, and Lodge Road need clearing – write to South Glos to request the work to be completed.
12.02.26	<u>Friends of Chill Wood</u> Members considered a request from Friends of Chill Wood to plant eight locally grown oak trees within Chill Wood. Resolved: To approve the request to plant the eight locally grown oak trees within Chill Wood.
13.02.26	<u>Land Acquisition: Access and Change of Use</u> Members consider the position regarding access to the land and the requirement for any change of use, noting the advice received from the Council's solicitor, and to determine whether the Parish Council wishes to proceed with or withdraw from the proposed purchase should satisfactory access and change of use not be provided by the seller. Resolved: That the Parish Council will proceed with the proposed purchase of the land, subject to the seller providing lawful access and securing any necessary change of use, and that no further costs in relation to access or planning matters will be met by the Parish Council.
14.02.26	<u>AGAR Assertion 10 (Digital and Data Compliance)</u> Members received and noted a briefing on the new AGAR Assertion 10 (Digital and Data Compliance)
15.02.26	<u>Information Technology Policy and updated Data Protection Policy</u> Members considered and adopted the Information Technology Policy and the updated Data Protection Policy.

16.02.2 6	<u>Pedestrian crossing request – North Road</u> A resident request for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on North Road, near the new housing development, was considered. Members noted the concerns raised regarding pedestrian safety, including reported near-misses, increased traffic associated with recent and forthcoming housing development, and the impact on children travelling to and from school. It was further noted that responsibility for highways and pedestrian crossings rests with South Gloucestershire Council as the Highway Authority. Resolved: That Iron Acton Parish Council writes to South Gloucestershire Council requesting that a highway safety assessment and feasibility study be undertaken to consider the installation of a pedestrian crossing on North Road at the location identified; and that the Parish Council indicates its willingness to explore, in principle, the potential use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds as a contribution towards any scheme supported by the Highway Authority.
17.02.2 6	<u>Request for Permission to use the Parish Meadows.</u> Members considered applications from Acton Aid for permission to hold the following events on the Parish Meadow: 1. <i>Mash in the Meadows</i> – Friday 3 July 2026 2. <i>Bonfire Night</i> – Saturday 7 November 2026 Resolved: That the Parish Council grants permission for both events, subject to: • Compliance with the Council’s standard terms and conditions • Submission of evidence of insurance and risk assessments prior to the events.
18.02.2 6	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents. Nibley Lane consultation.
	<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.

19.02.26	<u>Confidential Item – Member Support and Attendance: Review Update</u> The Council considered a confidential report and noted progress in relation to the agreed process. Resolved: To note the update and confirm that the agreed process remains ongoing.
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Meeting closed – 20.43

Date of next meeting –16th March 2026

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors’ Report

Monday 19th January 2026

Consultation to Make the Closure of Nibley Lane to Traffic Permanent

South Gloucestershire Council has opened a public consultation to make the temporary closure of Nibley Lane to traffic permanent. The closure was originally implemented under a temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and funded by National Highways as part of the mitigation measures for the A432 overbridge.

Ordinarily temporary TRO lapse when the reasons for them are no longer valid. This would have occurred when the reconstructed A432 overbridge is opened in the Spring of this year. There was, however, already a highways improvement scheme request proposing to close Nibley Lane to motor vehicles that was submitted to South Gloucestershire Council by Claire Young during her time as ward councillor for Frampton Cotterell. This happened during the Covid pandemic. Cllrs Young and Clark previously walked Nibley Lane with members of Iron Acton Parish Council and residents of Nibley to gain an understanding of their road safety concerns.

The public consultation opened on Wednesday 4th February and closes on Wednesday 25th February. More information on the consultation and instructions on how to submit comments on it can be found at https://consultations.southglos.gov.uk/T414_251_NibleyLn_PMV/.

New Recycling Bags Roll Out

South Gloucestershire Council will begin introducing new recycling bags from mid-February to help residents adapt to three-weekly black bin collections.

Two types of recycling bag will be provided to all households in South Gloucestershire:

- A white reusable recycling bag for plastic, cans and foil
- A pack of blue bags for soft plastics.

Plastic, cans and foil bags are being introduced to expand the capacity for these materials and make separating items easier for residents. The reusable bags chosen seal fully to help prevent litter, are weighted so they are less likely to blow away and are made of a durable material.

Soft plastics currently take up around 29% of the average black bin by volume, so moving these items to the weekly recycling means that most people should be able to accommodate three-weekly black bin collections.

Residents that were part of the soft plastic trial will receive their reusable recycling bags first. Other residents will start to receive both types of bags at the same time. All households should receive the new bags by May and can start using them straight away. There will also be a leaflet delivered with the bags with more information.

For more information about recycling in South Gloucestershire visit www.southglos.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling.

South Glos Council Adopts Balanced Budget for 2026/27

South Gloucestershire Council will be able to balance its budget for the next two years by continuing to make more efficiencies and using its reserves. Despite the financial difficulties facing the authority, there will also be continued investment in the council's priorities, but leaders were clear about the ongoing and significant pressures facing local government and the need for longer-term solutions to avoid further cuts to services.

The Full Council considered and set its budget for 2026/27 at the meeting on Wednesday 11th February based upon the latest information from government and feedback provided by residents through the consultation last year.

Councils across the country continue to face rising demand for statutory services, with costs increasing faster than inflation, faster than government funding, and faster than it is reasonable or sustainable to raise council tax. Increasing numbers of children, families and older residents need care and support, while the cost of maintaining roads and other infrastructure continues to rise as materials become more expensive and extreme weather conditions place greater strain on ageing assets.

To balance the budget, the council is taking a responsible and planned approach, using its reserves alongside making further efficiencies, changing the way that some services are delivered, and longer-term financial planning.

Local people were invited to comment on the draft budget last autumn and many expressed frustrations that the burden of meeting increasing costs was being passed to householders through council tax. However, even where the latest Government grants to councils have increased, they have not addressed the underlying budget gap for most, including South Gloucestershire, and Westminster forecasts on council spending power assume that all local authorities will continue to raise council taxes by 4.99% each year.

Feedback from residents during the budget consultation has directly influenced proposals. Following strong support from residents, the council will continue to invest in occupational therapy and related support services that help older and disabled residents adapt their homes and live independently for as long as possible. Changes will focus on updating charges and delivery models, so these services remain sustainable in the long term, after many years in which costs have been kept artificially low.

Despite the difficult financial context, the draft budget includes targeted investment where it can make the greatest difference. The administration will continue to invest in South Gloucestershire as a place. The council has invested record levels in improving travel infrastructure, leading nationally in the delivery of homes for social rent, and continue to have excellent recycling rates thanks to the efforts of residents, supported by our new waste contract.

The council has also opened three new children's homes in the district over the past year, improving outcomes for young people in care, while reducing reliance on expensive out-of-area placements. Continued investment is being made in schools, including expanding special school provision so more children can be educated closer to home.

South Gloucestershire Council Leader, Cllr Maggie Tyrrell, said: "I am pleased that we can present a balanced budget, thanks to the commitment and dedication of the public servants who work for the council who do so much for local people. I am also pleased that we will be able to make investments and prioritise spending according to our priorities and that will continue to help local people.

"To allow us to do this, we will use our reserves; we will need to increase council tax in the way government has assumed when they set the amounts they give us; and we will need to increase our fees and charges so that people using services that are not free are covering the cost of delivering them.

"There are positives in this budget, and we are able to make some of the investments we'd like to, including to support families to feed their children during the school holidays, for example, as well as using our powers in planning to increase the supply of affordable homes.

“In difficult times we have been able to demonstrate that we will invest where we can, to make local people’s lives better. In the past year, for example, we have set up three new children’s homes in the area, to give the young people in our care better support locally in ways that also save us money.”

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 16th March 2026 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

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

In Attendance:

3 members of the public.

South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark & David Godwin.

01.03.2 6	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor D Smith (DS) Councillor R Brunswick (RB) Councillor M Ford (MF) South Glos Cllrs - Jon Lean The apologies were noted.
02.03.2 6	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations received. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.03.2 6	<u>Confidential Item</u> N/A
04.03.2 6	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.03.2 6	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.03.2 6	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.03.2 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
08.03.2 6	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Cemetery Tree work and digital cemetery records and creating a digital plan • Village sign return and future • Parish Meadows Masterplan • Noticeboard at the bus stop outside the school – No further action to be taken. • Request for Highway Safety Assessment – North Road, Iron Acton - note the response and agreed that IAPC do not wish to pursue the matter further through the Highway Improvement Request process due to the cost.

**09.03.2
6**

Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £24.00

Clerks Mileage – £4.80

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £26.40

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.

Members resolved to approve the addition of Cllr DB as an authorised signatory and online banking authoriser for the Parish Council's Unity Trust Bank accounts, and to authorise the Clerk to submit the necessary mandate documentation to the bank.

10.03.26	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: To consider a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: P26/00284/LB Internal alterations to remove and replace kitchen ceiling, insulating the roofspace and installation of extractor fan. External alterations to install 2no. rooflights to south east roofslope. Algars Manor Station Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TB No Comment P26/00411/F Establishment of an electricity substation - 132/33kV Bulk Supply Point (BSP) - including a substation compound, external grid transformers, busbars and associated apparatus, a single storey switchroom building accommodating control panels and apparatus, new vehicular access road, electrified com... Land East Of Latteridge Lane Latteridge Bristol BS35 3TF No Comment P26/00528/TRE Works to 2no Fir Trees to crown thin by 30% and to crown reduce leaving a finishing height of 10m. Works to Re Pollard 1no Willow Tree to previous points. Works to 1no Apple Tree to crown thin by 25% and to crown reduce leaving a finishing height of 6m and a radial spread of 6m covered by Tree Pr... 5 Engine Common Lane Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7PU No Comment P26/00173/F Erection of 1no. smoking shelter and 1no. cycle store with the installation of hardstanding. 50 Waverley Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 5QR No Comment P26/00552/HH Installation of rear and front dormer to facilitate loft conversion. 361 North Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 7LJ No Comment
11.03.26	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Replacement of basketball nets at the MUGA. Reports of the pot holes submitted to South Glos.
12.03.26	<u>Friends of Chill Wood</u> No report or agenda request received.

13.03.2 6	<u>Financial Regulations</u> Members approved the revised financial regulations.
14.03.2 6	<u>Standing Orders</u> Members approved the revised standing orders.
15.03.2 6	<u>Code of Conduct</u> Members approved the revised Code of Conduct.
16.03.2 6	<u>Fixed Asset Register</u> Members approved the fixed assets register.
17.03.2 6	<u>Financial Risk Assessment</u> Members approved the Financial Risk Assessment.
18.03.2 6	<u>Risk Register</u> Members approved the Risk Register.
19.03.2 6	<u>System of Internal Controls</u> Members approved the System of Internal Controls.

20.03.2 6	<u>Policies and Procedures</u> Members reviewed and confirmed that the following council policies remain adopted and fit for purpose. No amendments are proposed. Members resolved that these policies will be reviewed as required, unless legislative or operational changes necessitate earlier review. • Disciplinary procedures • Complaints procedures • Data protection and information policy • Freedom of information and publication procedures • Grievance and whistleblowing policy • Health and safety policy • Planning code of conduct • Retention of documents policy • Incursion policy • Equality and diversity policy • Grant awarding policy • Safeguarding policy • Social media policy • Training policy • Vexatious complaints policy • Website management policy • Friends of policy • IT policy • Dignity at work policy
21.03.2 6	<u>Footpath Level Crossing and Potential Underpass – Network Rail Engagement</u> Members received and noted an update from Councillor Chapman and a representation from Network Rail regarding the footpath level crossing and potential improvements, including the possibility of an underpass and gate-to-gate enhancements.
22.03.2 6	<u>Bus Services Affecting Iron Acton Parish</u> Resolved that Iron Acton Parish Council writes to First Bus and the Mayor of the West of England Combined Authority requesting a review of bus provision serving Iron Acton Parish, noting the absence of a direct bus service connecting the parish with Bristol and the recent and ongoing housing development within the parish.

23.03.2 6	<u>Vegetation Removal and Drainage Works – Broad Lane / Watery Lane</u> Resolved that Iron Acton Parish Council writes to South Gloucestershire Council seeking clarification regarding vegetation removal in the following locations within the parish: • Broad Lane / Iron Acton Way, where hedgerow and tree planting has been removed in connection with underground cable works; and • Watery Lane, where vegetation has been removed during drainage ditch clearance works. The council requests confirmation of permissions granted for these
24.03.2 6	<u>Traffic Regulation Order Consultation – Broad Lane Area (20mph / 30mph Speed Limits)</u> Members considered a consultation from South Gloucestershire Council regarding proposed speed limit changes affecting roads in Yate and Iron Acton, including Engine Common Lane and Watery Lane. Resolved: That the Parish Council submits a response to South Gloucestershire Council supporting the introduction of a 20mph speed limit on the affected roads.
25.03.2 6	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents. • Traffic Regulation Order Consultation – Broad Lane Area (20mph / 30mph Speed Limits) • Annual Parish Meeting
	<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.

Meeting closed – 20.43

Date of next meeting –20th April 2026

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors' Report

Monday 16th March 2026

Fifteen Councils Urge Immediate Passage of Historic Tobacco Bill

In a powerful demonstration of regional collaboration, the Council Leaders and Directors of Public Health from every local authority in the South West have united to demand the immediate passage of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

Representing a population of over five million people, the coalition warns that any delay to the legislation will cost lives and signal to the public that “preventable death is still being tolerated”.

The joint letter, sent to the Minister for Public Health and Prevention, Ashley Dalton MP, urges the Government to resist any amendments that would weaken the Bill and to ensure it receives Royal Assent before the parliamentary session ends.

The intervention highlights the devastating scale of the tobacco epidemic in the region. Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death in the South West, claiming over 6,500 lives annually – equivalent to more than 17 deaths every single day.

Despite progress in reducing prevalence, over 520,000 adults in the South West still smoke, with rates remaining stubbornly high in the region's most deprived communities.

Benji Hadwell, South West Smokefree Lead, said: “This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to end the harms of tobacco for good. We cannot view this Bill solely as a long-term measure for 2027; its immediate passage is a vital signal that the era of commercial tobacco is ending.

“The leaders responsible for the well-being of the South West are united. We see the heartbreak of families losing loved ones and the heavy burden placed on our NHS. We are calling on Parliament to pass this Bill swiftly and decisively, and to ensure that the key measures are not diluted by damaging amendments.”

The letter highlights that the region is firmly behind the ‘Smokefree Generation’ policy, which would ensure no child born on or after 1st January 2009 can ever legally be sold tobacco.

Polling from Action on Smoking and Health shows that 7 in 10 adults in the South West support the policy, with over 9 in 10 supporting bans on smoking in children's play areas and school grounds.

The signatories warn, however, that public confidence is at risk. They note that around half of adults in the region currently feel the Government is not doing enough to limit smoking.

The signatories, including the Leaders and Directors of Public Health from Bath & North East Somerset, Bournemouth Christchurch and Poole, Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly, North Somerset, Plymouth, Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Swindon, Torbay, and Wiltshire, have called on the Government to “resist compromise” and oppose any attempts to delay or dilute the Bill.

Westbury-on-Trym Woman Fined Following Fly-tip

A woman from Westbury-on-Trym in Bristol has been ordered to pay a total of £368 in fines and costs after South Gloucestershire Council prosecuted her following the discovery of fly-tipped household waste.

Claire Dolman, 51, of Merlin Close, Westbury-on-Trym appeared at Bristol Magistrates Court on 16th February. She pleaded guilty to failing in her duty of care for waste and was handed a £120 fine, ordered to pay costs of £200 and a victim surcharge of £48, making a total of £368.

The court heard that a fly-tip was discovered in a hedgerow at Webbs Heath, Siston Common on 18th August 2025. Council officers attended and found bags of household waste, furniture, toys, packaging, boxes, plastics and broken gardening machinery, along with correspondence in the name of Claire Dolman.

The council’s environmental enforcement investigators interviewed Dolman under caution at her home address on Thursday 11th September. During the interview, Dolman stated she had paid £150 to a cold caller offering waste clearance services, to remove what she described as half a Transit van sized amount of waste from her driveway. She admitted to failing in her householder duty of care by not checking that she was handing her waste over to a licenced waste carrier and not taking steps to obtain a receipt, nor record any details of the waste carrier and their vehicle. At the conclusion of the interview Dolman was advised that she was being reported for summons for the offence of failing in her householder waste duty of care.

Dolman was originally summonsed to appear before Bristol Magistrates Courts on 8th December 2025 but failed to attend and the case was adjourned to 2nd February 2026. She also failed to appear on that date, so the Court issued a warrant for her arrest.

Dolman was detained by Police on 13th February 2026 and appeared before Bristol Magistrates on Monday 16th February where she pleaded guilty to failing in her duty of care.

You can carry out these simple steps to make sure your waste is disposed of legally:

- Ask for a copy of the company's waste carrier registration certificate and ask where the waste is being taken. Legitimate firms will be happy to provide this information.
- Do not be tempted to use people offering cheap waste clearance on sites such as Facebook and Gumtree unless you have confirmed that they are registered with the Environment Agency
- Check whether the waste carrier is registered by calling the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 or by checking on their website <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>
- Ask for a registered trading address and contact telephone number for the trader and get a receipt.

Household waste can be taken to the council's Sort It recycling centres where it can be disposed of at no cost www.southglos.gov.uk/sortitcentres

Residents who see illegal fly-tipping are encouraged to report it by contacting the council's StreetCare helpdesk on 01454 868000, emailing streetcare@southglos.gov.uk or visiting www.southglos.gov.uk/flytipping

Iron Acton Parish Council
PO Box 1959, Yate, Bristol, BS370DJ
Tel: 07955115308 Email: clerk@ironacton-pc.gov.uk
Chairman: Cllr Catherine Spedding Clerk: Donna Ford
Minutes of Iron Acton Parish Council Meeting held at the Parish Hall
on Monday 20th April 2027 Commencing at 7.30pm

Chairman: Councillor C Spedding (CS)

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 M Ford (MF)

In Attendance:

4 members of the public.

South Glos Councillor's Tristan Clark & Jon Lean

01.04.2 6	<u>Apologies for absence and to consider the reasons given</u> Councillor R Brunswick (RB) South Glos Cllrs - David Godwin The apologies were noted.
02.04.2 6	<u>Declarations of interest</u> No declarations received. No written requests for dispensations were received.
03.04.2 6	<u>Confidential Item</u> N/A
04.04.2 6	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.04.2 6	<u>Chairman's Announcements</u> Nothing to announce.
06.04.2 6	<u>Clerks Report</u> The Clerk gave a report on current matters, including updates on previous actions and correspondence received.
07.04.2 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
08.04.2 6	<u>Outstanding Actions</u> • Village sign return and future – The first stage of erecting has begun and will be installed shortly. • Parish Meadows Masterplan – No further action to report. • MUGA Cleaning – Details have • Network Rail – Proposed pedestrian access – agreed to write to the land owner and request a meeting.

**09.04.2
6**

Accounts for Payment

Members reviewed the Accounts for Payment and authorised the payments.

Clerk Salary

Clerks Expenses – £30.00

Clerks Mileage – £4.80

Zurich Insurance - £2,131.11

Parish Hall – Room Hire - £10 & £58.90

Rialtas – Accounts software - £252.00 & £777.60

Royal Mail – PO Box - £276.60

ALCA – Membership - £459.71

Barret Garden Maintenance - £1060 & £525 & £1060 & £90

Pear Technology – Cemetery mapping - £840

W Smith – Materials for IA sign - £550

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.

10.04.26	<u>Planning Applications for Consideration</u> Members considered a schedule of applications submitted for consultation: Cllr MF left the room P26/00629/F Demolition of dwelling. Erection of 1no. self build dwelling with associated works. Jessamine Cottage Dyers Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XW – No comment Cllr MF returned to the meeting P26/00639/F Installation of new roofs,, full height composite micro-rib cladding, glazed powder coated metal main entrance doors, double glazed powder coated metal framed windows, steel fire exit doors, and insulated roller shutter doors. Units 17 To 22 Beeches Trading Estate Lavenham Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 5QY– No comment P26/00680/CLE Continued use of land as residential with the siting of 1no. caravan. Land Adjacent To Side And Rear Of 16 Engine Common Lane Engine Common Yate BS37 7PX – No comment P26/00711/F Refurbishment of 5no units include full roof replacement, gutter refurbishment, new full-height composite cladding, new windows and personnel doors and new steel fire exit doors and roller shutter doors. Units 2 To 5 Beeches Industrial Estate Waverley Road Yate South Gloucestershire BS37 5QT– No comment P26/00772/F Demolition of existing garage/storage building and kennels, and the erection of 1no. detached ancillary annexe. 2 Barton Cottages Chaingate Lane Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9XL– No comment P26/00737/PIP Permission in principle for the erection of 1no.dwelling. The Paddock Station Road Iron Acton South Gloucestershire BS37 9TA – No comment
11.04.26	<u>Parish Maintenance</u> Members considered maintenance required for Iron Acton Parish. Bramble clearance at the gateways of the play area.

12.04.2 6	<u>Friends of Chill Wood</u> Members received an update regarding the planting of five-year-old oak trees offered by an Iron Acton resident. It was noted that one tree had been planted at Chill Wood, with the remaining trees planted at Acton Court due to the need for urgent replanting. Members considered a request from the Friends of Chill Wood for advance permission to accept and plant future tree donations within Chill Wood. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that authority be granted to accept and plant suitable tree donations, subject to: • Compliance with the Chill Wood Management Plan (2021); and • Appropriate professional guidance, including advice from Deborah Randal.
13.04.2 6	<u>Annual Parish Meeting</u> Members considered any outcomes from the Annual Parish Meeting and noted no further action required.
14.04.2 6	<u>Land at Nibley Lane – Resident Enquiry and Possible Unauthorised Works</u> The Council received a report from the Clerk regarding a resident enquiry concerning alleged development activity on land off Nibley Lane, near the Robinwood railway overbridge. Members noted that no planning application relating to the site is currently recorded on the South Gloucestershire Council planning portal, and that the Parish Council has not received any formal notification in respect of development at this location. It was acknowledged that planning enforcement and the determination of applications fall within the remit of South Gloucestershire Council as the Local Planning Authority, and that the Parish Council has no enforcement powers. Members discussed concerns raised by residents, including rumours regarding the potential use of the site, and agreed that it would be inappropriate to speculate in the absence of verified information. Resolved: • To note the report and the concerns raised by residents; • That the Clerk will make enquiries with South Gloucestershire Council to establish whether any planning application or enforcement investigation is underway; and • That any further escalation of the matter should be directed via South Gloucestershire ward councillors.

15.04.2 6	<u>South Gloucestershire Council: Special Expenses Policy Consultation (2026)</u> The Parish Council considered a report from the Clerk regarding the consultation on South Gloucestershire Council's proposed Special Expenses Policy. Members noted the proposed changes to the funding of local services, including the intention that a number of services currently funded through Special Expenses would become "local choice" items to be funded through parish precepts from 2027/28. The indicative financial impact for Iron Acton Parish Council was noted, including an estimated increase of £1.58 per Band D property (1.2%), representing a relatively low impact compared to other parishes. Members discussed the implications of the proposals, including the principle of local accountability, the need for clarity on future liabilities, and assurance that any transfer of responsibilities would be appropriately funded. Resolved: • That the report be noted; • That the Parish Council supports the principle of a fair and transparent approach to Special Expenses; • That a consultation response be submitted highlighting the need for clarity on long-term funding and liabilities; • That authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair, to finalise and submit the response.
16.04.2 6	<u>Communications</u> Members considered communication channels and information for residents. The annual PC report will be published in the next addition of Local Poyntz.
	<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.

Meeting closed – 20.57

Date of next meeting –18th May 2026

Appendix A

Iron Acton Parish Council – District Councillors' Report

Monday 20th April 2026

Government Launches Consultation on New Towns Proposals

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is conducting a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) consultation of the draft plan to deliver potential New Towns across the country.

The national consultation, which began on Monday 23rd March, features proposals for seven locations across the country, including Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc, which is located in one the West of England's Growth Zones in South Gloucestershire.

The government believes that a new generation of new towns is essential to address England's structural housing shortage crisis and unlock economic growth.

Each of the potential new towns will be expected to build at least 10,000 new homes, with an ambition for a minimum of 40 per cent affordable housing and half for social rent. Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc could deliver 10,000 with the future potential for around 40,000 homes over the coming decades, predicated on investment in infrastructure including transport, employment, education, retail and leisure that will also benefit existing communities.

The West Innovation Arc is already home to a thriving economy, hosting global aerospace companies like Rolls Royce, Airbus and GKN. The area is home to an advanced manufacturing and innovation ecosystem including the National Composites Centre at the Bristol & Bath Science Park, which also hosts Isambard AI – the UK's fastest supercomputer. Realising the full potential of the site would require investment in transport to drive a suitable public transport mode share helping to relieve, and prevent, future pressures on the already constrained road network.

No final decisions on locations will be made by government until this assessment concludes and preferred locations could change as a result of the process. The government intends to confirm final locations later this year.

The government is working with mayors, councils, and developers to increase housebuilding to a level that hasn't been seen since the post-war era, unlocking economic growth, creating new jobs, and helping tackle the housing crisis by getting millions more people onto the property ladder.

The consultation closes at midnight on 18th May. To find out more and have your say on the proposals please visit [New Towns Draft Programme – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/new-towns-draft-programme)

Hambrook Junction Set to Fully Re-open Following Air Quality Improvements

South Gloucestershire Council is set to reinstate normal traffic movements at Hambrook Junction on the A4174, following confirmation from the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) that air quality at the site has met national standards for two years running.

A recent letter from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to the Council acknowledges the successful improvement in local air quality and confirms that Hambrook Junction is no longer required to operate under the Ministerial Direction in place.

The Ministerial Direction was issued after a national assessment identified the A4174 Ring Road at Hambrook as a location requiring action to reduce roadside nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) levels. To achieve compliance, the Council implemented several changes in 2019, including:

- Removing the right turn from the westbound A4174 onto the B4058
- Removing the right turn from the B4058 (Frenchay) onto the A4174
- Removing the straight ahead movement when leaving Frenchay on the B4058

Since then, the Council has closely monitored NO₂ levels by the A4174 Ring Road between the M32 and Bromley Heath roundabouts. Initially, monitoring data was significantly affected by reduced traffic volumes during the Covid 19 pandemic, so it did not provide a true representation of the usual traffic flows.

The latest Air Quality Assessment of the 2024 monitoring data undertaken by JAQU, shows that roadside NO₂ levels in the area have met the national standards. This represents the second year of compliance, following compliance already achieved in 2023, enabling the Government to formally revoke the Ministerial Direction in place.

With two years of compliant data now verified by the Government, the Council will move to reinstate normal traffic movements at the junction and coordinate this with resurfacing work due to take place on the A4174 in the coming weeks.

Work to reopen the junction is expected to be completed by 27th April. The Council will continue to closely monitor NO₂ levels across the area as part of its Local Air Quality Management responsibilities.

Examination in Public Timetable for Local Plan Published

Last October South Gloucestershire Council formally submitted its draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government so that it can undergo Examination in Public. The Secretary of State subsequently appointed three Planning Inspectors to oversee the process. The Planning Inspectors have now published the timetable that those hearings will follow.

Any residents, campaign groups or organisations that submitted comments as part of the earlier Regulation 19 stage consultation do not need to resubmit those

comments. All submissions that were received during that Regulation 19 stage consultation have already been given to the Planning Inspectors to consider.

The Examination in Public will commence on Tuesday 18th May. Sessions will take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The final session will take place on Thursday 16th July. All sessions will take place in the Council Chamber at the Kingswood Civic Centre.

The Local Plan has been divided into 28 separate matters and a total of 558 questions. This is the fundamental structure that underpins the examination process. On some days multiple matters will be discussed whilst the largest matters, those covering the sites that have been identified for residential development, will be discussed over multiple days.

If any residents, campaign groups or organisations wish to attend the hearings to speak they must notify the programme officer, Robert Young (robert.young@southglos.gov.uk), by 5 p.m. on Friday 10th April and specify which hearings they wish to attend. The Planning Inspectors will only permit people to speak if they are seeking material changes to the draft Local Plan.

Anybody wishing to submit either a further written submission or a hearing statement must submit them to Robert Young by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 28th April. Any submissions should not exceed 3,000 words for any matter addressed.