NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Norton Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2026 at Norton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Present – Cllrs R. Page (Chairman), A. Delaney (Vice Chair), H. Costin, A Mason

Attendees – D Hinde (Clerk), B. Clllr M Williams, 2 members of the public

Minutes

11.03.26.1 **To receive and consider apologies for absence and confirm the meeting is quorate**

Cllr Griffiths sent apologies for absence, and the meeting was confirmed as quorate

11.03.26.2 **To receive declarations of interest on the agenda below (Localism Act 2011)**

Cllr Delaney declared an interest in item 11.03.26.10b

11.03.26.3 **To receive questions from the public and comments on agenda items below – no decisions will be made on issues raised. Any items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting (NB Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that are not specified on the agenda)**

Resident 1 – spoke on the failing sewerage pumping station. Councillor Page confirmed he had spoken to Severn Trent who were carrying out significant maintenance to the pumping station. He advised he would keep following this up due to growing concern around the number of developments planned in the area and the number of tankers turning up each day. A minibus of workers is arriving regularly with a "Severn Trent Task Force" hosing and jetting down the area and manholes.

Resident 2 – spoke on the drain on Wainlode Lane which is currently blocked and has a collapsed pipe so all needs work.

11.03.26.4 **To confirm and sign Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2026**

COUNCIL APPROVED the minutes of the Meeting held on 14th January 2026

11.03.26.5 **Reports**

11.03.26.5a **Chairmans Report**

Chairmans report was received as per **APPENDIX I**

Council was all in favour of the Norton resident of the year award.

11.03.26.5b **Members**

Cllr Delaney confirmed the airport sale was all going through, and it must be sold as an airport with no other purpose. New owners are looking at radar site which should be confirmed by the next meeting.

Councillor Mason attended a Cyber Protection workshop and raised the question on keeping data on personal equipment. It is advisable to keep in a secure location and there is no legal reason not to keep information on personal devices

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11.03.26.5c **Norton CofE Primary School**
None

11.03.26.5d **Neighbourhood Watch**
Neighbourhood watch report was received as per **APPENDIX II**

11.03.26.5e **Borough Councillor**
None

11.03.26.5f **County Councillor**
None

11.03.26.5g **Nurturing Nature**
None

11.03.26.5h **To receive a report on Norton Village Hall**
Cllr Page confirmed there were 4 new committee members. A new invoice and booking system are being installed, There are various maintenance projects going on around the hall with the heating and toilets being renovated over the 6-week holidays. OVO has made a payment for power generated by the solar panels.

11.03.26.6 **Finance, all documents circulated prior to the meeting**

11.03.26.6a **To approve March 2026 Payment List/those paid since last meeting, to note receipts and agree actions**
COUNCIL APPROVED Payment List as per **APPENDIX III**

11.03.26.6b **To receive and approve the Bank Reconciliation up to 28th February 2026**
COUNCIL APPROVED bank reconciliation up to 28th February as per **APPENDIX IV**

11.03.26.6c **To receive and approve Budget Monitoring Report up to 28th February 2026**
COUNCIL APPROVED budget monitoring report up to 28th February 2026 as per **APPENDIX V**

11.03.26.7 **To review the new play space inspection report and the latest inspection report from Copeland Maintenance and agree if any new actions need to be taken**
The report highlighted 3 items of medium risk to repair. Accessible carousel surface around perimeter is uneven and worn and needs repair.

11.03.26.8 **To discuss the Parish Councils response to the Government's public consultation on Local Government Re-organisation in Gloucestershire**
COUNCIL AGREED to submit response as per **APPENDIX VI**

11.03.26.9 **To discuss applying to Tewkesbury Borough Council to increase the number of councillors on the parish council**
B. Cllr Williams to investigate what is needed to proceed as nothing has been heard from anyone on Tewkesbury Borough Council. Council was all in favour of proceeding.

11.03.26.10 **Planning**

11.03.26.10a **To discuss the result of the planning enforcement investigation into 26/00017/ENFD re erection of lighting columns at Locks Paddock, Tewkesbury Road**

It was confirmed that enforcement gave 28 days to apply for retrospective planning permission having been told to turn the columns to face into the property and not out towards the road.

11.03.26.10b **To discuss the planning enforcement investigation 26/00018/ENFD re alleged unauthorised works to create a vehicular access at the Red Lion Camping and Caravan Park**

Enforcement are looking into the owner opening access in various places without permission. These areas are closed when challenged and reopened elsewhere. Enforcement have arranged 2 site meetings which have not been attended by the site owner. Cllr Page advised he would update at the next meeting.

11.03.26.10c **APPLICATION NO: 25/00967/FUL Amendment**
DESCRIPTION: Construction of 9 dwellings, access, landscaping and associated works
LOCATION: Part Parcel 8628, Old Tewkesbury Road, Norton

Council confirmed there were no changes to their original objections

11.03.26.11 **To receive items for the next agenda**

None

11.03.26.12 **To agree date for the next meeting**

Meeting Close: 20:54

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX I

Norton Parish Council

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 11 March 2026

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(1) Parish Emergency Plan

The Parish Council has established a Sandbag Distribution Point at the back of the Village Hall car park and taken delivery of a bright yellow lockable sand hopper.

Arrangements have been made with Tewkesbury Borough Council for a delivery of sand for the hopper and special sandbags. The sand delivery is expected sometime in the next two weeks.

(2) Norton Award

I recently suggest that the Parish Council should consider introducing an annual "Norton Award" to recognise a person (or persons) who had given exception service to the community, or significantly improved the lives of parishioners in some way, during the previous year.

The Parish Council should involve the community in the award process by inviting residents to submit nominations for the Council to consider and make an award decision. There wouldn't be a prize, just public recognition and the community's thanks, with the person chosen presented with a certificate at the Annual Parish Meeting in May and their name included on an Honour Board erected in the Village Hall.

Councillors supported the idea, which was publicised in last month's Norton News to gauge local support. Unfortunately no responses were received.

Recommendation:

That the Parish Council agrees to:

(a) establish an annual Norton Award to recognise a person (or persons) who had given exception service to the community during the previous year; and

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

(b) invite residents through the Norton News to submit nominations for the 2026 Norton Award for the Parish Council to consider.

(3) Erection of a mobile phone mast in Norton

Further to my report at the Council's last meeting in January, the Atlas Tower Group has told me that they are currently in active discussions with two local landowners about a potential site for a phone mast.

(4) Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils

Norton Parish Council is a member of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) which supports, trains and advises over 260 local councils across the county.

GAPTC is an unincorporated association which has now decided to both transition into a company limited by guarantee and change its name to the Gloucestershire Association of Local Councils (GALC). The organisation will begin operating as GALC with effect from 1 April.

(5) Increase in the number of parish councillors (Agenda item 9)

I am awaiting several pieces of information on this subject and therefore my report recommending that the parish council apply for an increase in the number of parish councillors from five to seven with effect from next year's election will be a verbal report.

Richard F N Page

7 March 2026

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX II

Norton Neighbourhood Watch Report -

Norton Parish Council meeting 11th March 2026

There are 150 members of the Norton Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp Group.

January 2026

Report of someone behaving suspiciously at night in Lime Close.

Report of missing parcels.

Reminder regarding planning application for houses being built near to New Dawn

Notice of meeting of Norton and the Leigh History society.

Police Alert: Public to be vigilant after £6,000 stolen in courier fraud.

Residents advised that Wainlode Lane is flooded.

Village Hall's electric socket being fitted with lockable cover to stop vehicles using it illegally.

Rubbish being dumped in the Hall's car park. Residents asked to report any suspicious activity around the hall.

Police Alert: Fake police telephone scam.

Resident asks if the Flood Warden can turn on the highway's flood sign.

Letters sent to wrong address.

Report of dog loose.

Community Alert: "Concerned about a mature driver?" Help available.

Loose dog reported on main road.

Enquiry about rubbish / food bins not being collected.

Resident asks if people can recommend any football teams as an Ukrainian lad staying wishes to join a team. Advice provided.

Resident advises car parked in Hall's car park is due to a split tyre and will be collected next day.

February 2026

Recommendation for a piano teacher.

Recommendation for a good Doctors' surgery. Advice given by several residents.

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Recommendation for a skip hire company.

Reminder re Highways road closures for purpose of change of speed signage. Residents discuss any problems that may arise.

Recommendation for dog walker / dog day care.

Report of fly tipping in Wainlode Lane. Reported to TBC.

Police Alert: Vehicle crime incidents in local area.

Report of congestion on A38 due to M5 incident.

Recommendation for a local solicitor.

Assurance given regarding Hall's car park being used by motorhomes. Hall booked out for the weekend for a Caravan Club rally.

Poster re Quiz Night.

Recommendation for a good chiropractor

Residents question why 30 mph near school could not be reduced to 20 mph.

Community Alert: Mature Drivers and the New Road Safety Strategy

Resident reports that about 40 full dog poo bags were collected by a family from a hedgerow along a short stretch of footpath near their farm. Not the first time. Polite reminder to take disposal of pool bags responsibly. No excuse as there are 12 dog waste bins across Norton.

Power cut reported by many residents.

Loose dog reported on the hill.

Report of missing parcel.

March 2026

Picture of Norton Vicarage. Copies available should anyone want one.

Recommendation for a curtain maker.

Recommendation for a gardener.

Resident requests contact details of the local MP and their surgery.

Local primary school requests any photos or memories of Norton Primary school as they are having a Summer Fete celebrating 150 years of the school

Resident asks if Down Hatherley Road is open and response given that it is not.

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Resident asks if Wainlode Lane is open. Tirley not accessible beyond Red Lion by car.

Loose dog in field.

Labrador spotted looking lost in field, now back with owner.

Notice of Parish Council meeting, 11th March at 7.30 pm in the hall.

Christine Williams - Norton Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator -10th March 2026

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

APPENDIX III

Norton Parish Council

Finance report presented to Norton Parish Council on the 11th March 2026

A summary of financial activity for 2025/26

Income during the period		
	Amount	**Legal Note**
C/f from 2024-25	£ 24,198.83	
Precept paid on 30/04/2025	£ 15,000.00	*Local Government Finance Act (LGFA)1992 sc. 41*
HMRC VAT Refund	£1,052.05	
CIL	2258.08	
Total	**£ 42,508.96**	

Expenditure during the period	Payments Approved at Meeting 11.03.26	Total spend 15/05/2025 to 28/02/2025	Payments made yet to clear 15/05/2025	Total Committed Payments to 14.01.26	2025 / 2026 Budget	Notes
Clerk's salary and associated costs	£414.48	£4284.92	£0	£4,699.40	£4,878.99	
Hiring of village hall	£0	£0	£0	£0	£250.00	
Maintenance of Parish graveyard	£0	£0	£0	£0	£400.00	
Defibrillator	£0	£0	£0	£0	£75.00	
Grounds maintenance	£0	£2310.40	£0	£2310.40	£2,000.00	
Maintenance of Assets	£0	£0	£0	£0	£200.00	
Insurance premiums	£0	£570.29	£0	£570.29	£700.00	
Audits & Accounts Fees	£0	£0	£0	£0	£362.88	
Subscriptions	£0	£392.60	£0	£392.60	£500.00	
Communications	£0	£0	£0	£0	£200.00	
Website	£0	£120	£0	£120	£365.00	
Training	£0	£35	£0	£35	£150.00	
NDP & Planning Costs	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2000.00	
Norton Nurturing Nature	£0	£0	£0	£0	£850.00	
Bus Shelter Noticeboard	£0	£0	£0	£0	£300.00	
Traffic Management	£0	£0	£0	£0	£1,000.00	
Play Space Maintenance	£99	£676	£0	£775	£500.00	
Contingency	£0	£0	£0	£0	£105.33	
Bank Charges	£4.25	£46.75	£0	£46.75		
Total Expenditure	**£409.13**	**£5,391.93**	**£0**	**£5801.06**	**£15,000.00**	

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APPENDIX IV

9 March 2026 (2025-2026)

Norton Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

	Bank Reconciliation at 28/02/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		24,198.83
	ADD		
	Receipts 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		18,321.35
			42,520.18
	SUBTRACT		
	Payments 01/04/2025 - 28/02/2026		8,803.87
A	**Cash in Hand 28/02/2026** (per Cash Book)		**33,716.31**
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 07/03/2023	0.00	
	Parish Council of Norton - Treasure 28/02/2026	33,716.31	
			33,716.31
	Less unpresented payments		
			33,716.31
	Plus unpresented receipts		
B	**Adjusted Bank Balance**		**33,716.31**
	A = B Checks out OK		

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APPENDIX V

Norton Parish Council

09 March 2026 (2025-2026)

Monthly breakdown of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026)

	Budget	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	
PAYMENTS															
Admin costs															
Scribe Accounts					345.60									345.60	-345.60
Bank charge		4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25		46.75	-46.75
VAT Refund															
Audits															
Audit Fees	362.88														362.88
Bus Shelter															
Bus Shelter Noticeboarc	150.00														150.00
Bus Shelter	150.00														150.00
Chairman Expenses															
Chairman's Expenses															
Churchyard Maintenar															
Churchyard Maintenanc	400.00														400.00
Clerk Costs															
Clerk Salary	4,878.99	289.46		289.26	578.92	289.26	723.26	448.95	374.13	374.13	374.13	374.13		4,115.63	763.36
HMRC Payments					216.80									216.80	-216.80
PATA Payroll	162.80				67.35		37.35			52.35				157.05	5.75
Clerk Mileage											15.66			15.66	-15.66
Clerk Expenses		69.99		6.26			77.66		15.66					169.57	-169.57
Communications															
Communications	200.00														200.00
Community Infrastructi															
Community Infrastructur															
Contingency															
Stationary															
Defibrillator															
Defibrillator	75.00														75.00
Dues & Subscriptions															

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APPENDIX VI

Norton Parish Council

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 11 March 2026

Agenda item 8 – "To discuss the Parish Council's response to the Government's consultation on Local Government Re-organisation in Gloucestershire."

The Government has launched a statutory consultation to seek views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Gloucestershire to submit proposals for unitary local government in the county.

The three proposals in this consultation were made by the following councils:

Cotswold District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, and Tewkesbury Borough Council proposed 1 unitary council comprising the current areas of:

- **Gloucestershire**: Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Stroud, and Tewkesbury

Cheltenham Borough Council proposed 2 unitary councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **East Gloucestershire**: Cheltenham, Cotswold, and Tewkesbury
- **West Gloucestershire**: Forest of Dean, Gloucester and Stroud

Gloucester City Council proposed 2 unitary councils. This includes a request to split existing district council areas between the proposed new councils. These would comprise the current areas of:

- **Greater Gloucester City**: Gloucester plus 12 parishes from Tewkesbury *(Norton isn't one of these parishes) 8* parishes from Stroud and 1 parish from the Forest of Dean
- **Gloucestershire**: Cheltenham, Cotswold, and the remaining parts of Tewkesbury, Stroud, and Forest of Dean

The consultation is open until 26 March 2026, and respondents are requested to answer the following ten questions for each of the above three proposals.

Question 1

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal suggests councils that are based on sensible geographies and economic areas?

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Question 2

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will be able to deliver the outcomes they describe in the proposal?

Question 3

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils are the right size to be efficient, improve capacity and withstand financial shocks?

Question 4

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed councils will deliver high quality, sustainable public services?

Question 5

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal has been informed by local views and will meet local needs?

Question 6

To what extent do you agree or disagree that establishing the councils in this proposal will support devolution arrangements?

Question 7

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal enables stronger community engagement and gives the opportunity for neighbourhood empowerment?

Question 8

If you would like to, please use the free text box to explain the answers you have provided to questions 1-7 referring to the question numbers as part of your answer. You may also use the box to provide any other comments you have on the proposal.

Where a proposal includes a request that the Secretary of State modifies a proposal to achieve boundary change, or the proposal affects wider public services, such as fire and rescue authorities, you will be asked an additional question:

Question 9

This is a proposal that is accompanied by a request that the Secretary of State considers a boundary change or that affects wider public services. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposal sets out a strong public services and financial sustainability justification for boundary change?

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Question 10

If you would like to, use this free text box to explain your answer to question 9.

For each question (apart from free text boxes) respondents can only provide the following answers:

- strongly agree
- somewhat agree
- neither agree nor disagree
- somewhat disagree
- strongly disagree
- don't know

Respondents will also be invited to explain their answers to questions 1 to 7 using a free text box at question 8. If a question on boundary change is included at question 9, respondents should explain their answer in a free text box at question 10.

Although parish councils are not statutory consultees, GAPTC is urging its member councils to respond to ensure that local views are taken into account when the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government makes its decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

That I be authorised to respond to this statutory consultation on Local Government Re-organisation on the Parish Council's behalf.

However, so that I can respond effectively, I should be grateful for the Council's views on each of the three proposals and the consultation questions.

To help councillors formulate their views, I've set out below a summary of the findings from a countywide consultation on devolution and Local Government Reorganisation that GAPTC undertook last year.

GAPTC received responses representing approximately 28% of Gloucestershire's local councils. The message from the sector was clear: local councils would be willing partners in local government reform – but only where funding, clarity and realistic capacity planning were embedded from the outset.

The key themes emerging from the consultation were:

- Strong financial concern – Two-thirds of councils were concerned about the financial implications of taking on new responsibilities. Half the responding councils explicitly stated that full ongoing funding (and not just transitional support) would be required.

NORTON PARISH COUNCIL

- No mandate for unfunded devolution – There was clear resistance to double taxation, or the transfer of services without the transfer of budgets. Local councils cannot be expected to offset structural financial pressures through increased precepts alone.
- Capacity divide – Larger councils showed greater confidence. However, many smaller rural councils operate with limited staffing and infrastructure, and over half reported that they could not take on additional responsibilities without significant support.
- Appetite for collaboration – Two-thirds of councils expressed openness to working with neighbouring councils, provided governance frameworks, accountability and funding mechanisms are clear.
- Governance uncertainty – Many councils were unsure about proposed neighbourhood groupings of 20,000 to 50,000 electors, particularly in rural parts of the county where geography, economic pull and community identity do not always align with administrative boundaries.

Richard F N Page
8 March 2026