

STANDISH PARISH COUNCIL

draft MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7pm

All written reports referred to in these minutes are available on the Standish Village website.

Present: Cllr Sue Hartley (Chair), Cllr Alison Widgery, Cllr Richard Faith, Cllr Andreas Biermann.

In attendance: County Cllr John Patient, District Cllr Mark Ryder, Elizabeth Oakley (Clerk).

26.01 To receive apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Oliver Kirkham, Cllr John Parker.

26.02 To receive any declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

26.03 To receive any representations or questions from members of the public (15 Minutes)

(Members of the public are invited to address the Council, give their views and question the Council on issues on the agenda or raise issues for future consideration (at the discretion of the Chair).

Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than three minutes.) Cllr Faith reported on incidents of anti-social behaviour which District Cllr Ryder supported as now correctly involving the police.

26.04 To receive reports from County and District Councillors

A written report had been received from District Cllr Mark Ryder which was now partly superseded by the recent news that local government reorganisation is paused. However, the Future Gloucestershire Group is building partnerships and eliciting natural alliances that may apply for the proposed neighbourhood areas. For Community Governance Review, Cllr Ryder will be a member of the working group.

A written report had been received from County Cllr John Patient who highlighted that funds up to £5,000 were available under a Climate Change fund up to the 30th September. Cllr Patient had been pressing to bring the 20mph restriction on Horsemarling Lane onto the Highways schedule and will take the Standish petition to the county council September meeting next Wednesday. It is possible to watch the meeting on line. Cllrs Faith and Biermann drew attention to the verge cutting schedule as not much had been completed and there were patches missed on the B4008. The footpath from Little Haresfield to Stonehouse is in very poor condition and dangerous to walk on. It is hardly ever cut. Two paths at Green Walk need attention. Cllr Biermann to send Cllr Patient the map reference.

26.05 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2026 and receive any updates

The minutes of 8th July meeting were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. For Matters Arising, Cllr Widgery had raised unclear road markings at Little Haresfield. Clerk advised August payments are now recorded on this agenda; data protection level two training is rescheduled from the summer to the autumn; the bank had cancelled and rescheduled clerk information sessions; annual pay variance was clarified (clerks report); as planning alerts have proved unreliable, Clerk is now using main portal before meetings.

26.06 To consider any planning applications: including the following: -

To receive update on appeal process: 23/1451/OUT Land Northwest of Stonehouse-mixed use development comprising the following individual, severable and self-contained elements: i) Up to 635 residential dwellings, ii) A primary school, Sport & recreation facilities. Associated works including infrastructure, ancillary facilities, open space (including allotments), landscaping & access – *Chair advised that due to the National Planning Policy Framework effective from August this year and some late changes to environmental issues in the application, the district council was unable to object to the application and so its response was confined to section 106 and conditions criteria. Cllr Kirkham had attended the first day to make representations on behalf of the Council, particularly relating to access to Stagholt Farm. Cllr Hartley attended the second phase on the inquiry on Teams and also had the opportunity to make representations relating to Stagholt Farm. The outcome of the inquiry is awaited. It is expected in about 6 weeks.*

NB Following the meeting, the application was called in by the Secretary of State, so the timescale for decision is now uncertain.

S.26/1371/HHOLD 11 John Martin Gardens, Standish, householder application, loft conversion – council agreed to make no comment.

S.26/1523/FUL Ivy Cross Farm Oxlynch Lane Standish, erection of a farm building -council agreed to comment- the council requests protection of the hedge to ensure this is not harmed by excavation works.

Decisions-

S.26/1144/HHOLD 5 Mary King Close Standish, erection of a timber shed in rear garden - permitted

S.26/1100/HEDGE field Opposite Standish Church, Standish Lane, Standish, removal of stretches of hedgerow - refused

S.26/0185/TPO John Martin Gardens Standish, Tree 765 Cut-leafed Beech - reduce entire crown by 1-2 metres all round. Remove dead wood over access. Retain all internal growth – refused

26.07 To receive an update on the Standish Neighbourhood Development Plan and agree actions

Council accepted the report received with thanks. The Regulation 14 consultation has ended with a range of comments received from residents and organisations. Thanks were given to Cllr Widgery for her work creating a table format for comments. The Chair and Cllr Widgery will meet on 10th September to start drafting responses to the comments, which will then be forwarded to district council planners for comment. The Chair advised that it would not be possible to move to Regulation 16 until the outcome of the PS19a planning inquiry is known. She anticipates that further changes will need to be made to the NDP, due to the planning appeal and inquiry.

26.08 To receive update on Community Governance Review and agree actions

Chair advised that she had drafted and submitted the Council's response. She extended thanks to Cllrs Widgery and Biermann for their contributions. The first meeting of the CGR working group will be in October.

26.09 To receive an update on the Multi-User Path project (Horsemarling roundabout to Crowcumpill) and agree actions

Phase two has started and a recent meeting with the county council co-ordinator had been very positive. Electricity and telegraph poles had arrived and traffic lights are now in place and controlled to avoid peak times. Cllr Widgery advised all the maintenance will be for the developer to do. There were some wear and tear issues on the completed phase. A hedge will be positioned along phase one. Cllr Widgery to contact the County Council on its location.

Action points: *Cllr Widgery to liaise with the County Council on hedge location.*

26.10 To receive a report on matters relating to Green Walk including update on petition (Horsemarling Lane speed limit) and agree actions

Cllr Biermann advised of outstanding issues including location of the play area. The Resident's Association has not been recognised by the developer making progress on issues difficult. Cllr Widgery expressed the hope that the parish council has recognition for all the Green Walk issues it has pursued. If there is no response to Clerk's request for an update on drainage issues within ten days, the Clerk to pursue response before the next council meeting. Cllr Kirkham had circulated details of pipe installed by Highways. There has been some deterioration of the eco system and some antisocial behaviour- racing on ebikes - for which the Police are involved. Issue of grass around mature trees to be progressed by asking Cllr Parker which trees are a priority before the Chair writes to developers.

Action points: *Clerk to request update on drainage issues. Cllr Parker to identify priority trees before Chair writes to developer.*

26.11 To receive a report on Standish Lane issues and agree actions

Cllr Widgery advised white lines had been marked around potholes but nothing else needing work had been completed. Bollards previously installed had disappeared into the hedge.

Action points: *Cllr Widgery to contact Highways Managers for an update.*

26.12 To receive a report on local and national climate change initiatives and agree actions

Cllr Widgery advised Transition Stroud newsletter had been circulated.

26.13 To receive update on Neighbourhood Fund application/s and agree actions

Cllr Kirkham had advised he would supply quotes by the coming Friday.

26.14 To receive a report on the Village Hall Management Committee and agree actions

Cllr Widgery advised she had not attended the last meeting and minutes of the meeting were outstanding.

26.15 To receive a report on village events and agree actions

Cllr Widgery advised the harvest supper event had sold fewer tickets than hoped for to date. Forty artists had entered the September art show in the church and village hall.

26.15 To receive clerk's update and agree actions

Clerk advised an all-files backup had been completed with all data backed up twice to a memory stick and computer hard drive which are stored separately; defib parts back ordered some months ago had arrived safely; items had been highlighted to take forward to the October agenda including updated parish and town council charter, quarter two cashbook, and consultation on audit for smaller authorities. The clerk's national pay award had now been agreed with payroll to implement from April 2026; principles of an ex-gratia payment had been investigated, but not progressed to date awaiting councillor response; council current email service expires at the end of December. There appeared to be some connection compatibility issues with the replacement council laptop which the Clerk would resolve, possibly with an adaptor.

Action points: Clerk to resolve IT issues.

17.To receive list of internal audit auditor's recommendations and agree actions

Council agreed to accept with thanks the report circulated. The Clerk had tabled items for attention and actions to be progressed. The key item was the format for presentation of bank reconciliations.

Action points: Clerk to complete audit actions identified.

18.To consider grant application received and agree actions

A grant application from Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Stroud had been received and circulated. CAB had previously supported some Standish residents. The Clerk had checked the amount requested was correct. Council agreed to the grant award of £18.00.

19.To receive update on website development and email adoption (Assertion 10) and agree actions

Cllr Kirkham had advised he would respond to quotations for a new email service prior received by this coming Friday. The Clerk to pursue if not received. The Clerk to progress archiving guidelines for documents held digitally through GALC.

Action points: URGENT - Cllr Kirkham to advise on email quotations and Clerk to research archiving guidelines.

20.To receive update on finger post improvement work and agree actions

The Clerk advised address details had been clarified with the contractor over the summer and approval given on spacing of lettering. It was unclear whether the spigot had been removed and sent to the company.

Action points: Cllr Kirkham to update the Council.

21.To receive Handyperson report and agree actions

Reports of both July and August work completed had been received. Recent additional photos showed a significant crack in the concrete structure in front of the bus shelter. Cllr Faith to further investigate and take more photographs, place cones to cover the crack, and handyperson to tape off the area. The Clerk to investigate if the insurance company would take responsibility and what level of excess applied.

Action points: Cllr Faith to investigate and take photographs, Cllr Widgery to supply cones, Clerk to determine level of excess that would apply.

22.To note publication of summer newsletter and receive feedback and agree actions

The Chair was congratulated on a successful publication.

23.To consider defibrillator issues and agree actions

Cllr Widgery had asked Cllr Faith to identify a location in the parish for the defibrillator for which a back order of parts had now arrived. A defib case would be needed at an estimated cost of £250.

Action points: Cllr Faith to advise on defib location.

24.To note payments and receipts and agree payment of invoices

Payments were approved

- Handyperson monthly invoice: £250.00
- Clerk's monthly wages: £452.08

- HMRC: £96.42 (£ 76.40 PAYE, £ 20.02 NICs)
- CPRE annual membership renewal: £60.00
- PATA payroll service, Quarter 2: £51.30
- Cllr Alison Widgery, reimbursement Kelex printing for art show and supper flyer, £39.00
- Cllr Alison Widgery, reimbursement Kelex printing for art show, £56.00 (*from grant income*)
- Clerk's home-office expenses, Quarter 2: pro-rata: £15.60
- Citizens Advice Bureau: approved grant: £18.00

Record of mid-August Payments

- *Handyperson monthly invoice: £250.00*
- *Clerk's wages: £452.08*
- *HMRC £ 96.22 (£76.20 PAYE, £ 20.02 NICs)*
- *Quertyop, summer newsletter; £302.00*

For Information: September pension contributions

- Employer: £16.52
- Employee: £22.02

Payments approved at July meeting

- Handyperson monthly invoice: £250.00
- Clerk's monthly wages: £452.08
- HMRC: £ 96.42 (£ 76.40 PAYE, £ 20.02 NICs)
- GAPTC annual membership 2026/27: £216.65
- GAPTC internal audit service 2025/26: £210.00

Payments agreed and pending –

Receipts –

Receipt pending: -

25.To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of the Council

The next meeting of Standish Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 14th October at 7.00 pm at Standish village hall.

*All written reports submitted for monthly council meetings are available
on the Standish Parish Council website*