

TORMARTON PARISH COUNCIL

The draft minutes of the Meeting of Tormarton Parish Council held on Monday 1st December 2025 at 18:30 at Tormarton Parish Hall.

Councillors: Cllr Katy Pool (Chair), Cllr Sue Giles (Vice Chair), Cllr Derry-Evans (departed at 7.30pm) Cllr Janet Wells and Cllr Ranald Crook. Ward Cllrs Marilyn Palmer and Ben Stokes (departed at 7pm)

In Attendance:

Members of the Public: One

01/12/2025 - No 1. To receive any questions from members of public present – None

01/12/2025 - No 2. To receive apologies for absence – None

01/12/2025 - No 3. Declaration of Interest – Cllr Janet Wells – planning application P25/02599/HH

01/12/2025 - No 4. To approve the minutes of the Meeting of Tormarton Parish Council held on Monday 3rd November 2025 and to note any issues.

The minutes were unanimously approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Resolved: All Agreed

01/12/2025 – No 5. To receive any reports from South Gloucestershire Council Councillors

Ward Cllr Ben Stokes advised the following:

- Both Ward Cllr Palmer and himself attended a tree planting event in Pucklechurch. The plan is to plant over sixty acres of new woodland.
- The A4174 multi use pathway is nearing completion. It is hoped this will improve congestion.
- There have been two people fined by South Gloucestershire Council for fly tipping. Cllr Stokes encouraged residents to keep reporting incidents, as the authority do follow up on reports.
- Bromford who provide affordable homes on behalf of South Gloucestershire Council have approval to build 150 homes. He advised this is to demonstrate the council are caring for those on low incomes or homeless people requiring homes. Cllr Palmer added that South Gloucestershire Council have received an award for providing the most affordable homes in the country.
- He reminded that there is both practical and financial help for individuals who require help during winter months from the Heat and Eat scheme provided by South Gloucestershire Council in partnership with Age UK. Details can be located here:
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/seasonal-support/>

Ward Cllr Palmer confirmed she had nothing further to add.

01/12/2025 – No 6. Lime Down Solar Farm Response

Councillors agreed:

- To circulate information to all residents in West Littleton and Tormarton, via email and WhatsApp groups and encourage everyone to send individual responses to the Planning Inspector.

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- For Cllr Pool to modify the original parish council objection, to circulate it for agreement, before the clerk submits it to the Planning Inspectorate.
- Councillors agreed that it is important to note the impact on the residents and community, due to increased road usage in narrow lanes and access and use of surrounding villages.
- The deadline date for all submissions is the 9th of January 2026.

Resolved: All Agreed

01/12/2025 – No 7. South Gloucestershire Council 2026.27 Budget Consultation

The clerk explained the information relating to the special expenses part of the consultation. South Gloucestershire Council are proposing that town and parish councils collect the special expenses from residents, via the parish council precept. Presently the special expenses are collected via the South Gloucestershire Council part of the council tax. The parish and town councils can then either buy back the service for which the special expenses are utilised or purchase the service from a third-party contractor. This will allow South Gloucestershire to collect more money from the residents in their precept, to the current maximum of 4.99%, raising more money to close their spending gap, which is currently 13 million pounds.

Councillors discussed the impact this may have on the parish council and the community, including:

- The additional demands on parish councillors, who are not remunerated for their role.
- The lack of expertise for the tasks that may be handed over to the parish councils.
- Increased hours required for employees.

Ward Cllr Stokes also advised that Tormarton would need to consider the impact on Tormarton Parish, in a rural area, with less people having to pay for the increased cost.

In response to questions and comments from the parish councillors, Ward Cllr Palmer advised that the headcount in South Gloucestershire Council has decreased in recent years, but the work has not decreased. She gave an example that the Highway's budget has not changed for 15 years, but there is more demand. Ward Cllr Palmer also advised that South Gloucestershire Council are required to focus on the statutory requirements, which need to be met, so this will impact the funds allocated to non-statutory services.

Councillors agreed they would object to the special expenses part of the budget, but they may also like to comment on other aspects of the proposals. It was agreed that:

- Cllr Pool would circulate the budget consultation information.
- All councillors would review the information and send comments to the clerk, for inclusion in a collective response, by the 11th of December 2025.
- The clerk was asked to prepare the collective response and then share it with the councillors for agreement, prior to submission.

Resolved: All Agreed

1/12/2025 – No 8. Tormarton and West Littleton Defibrillators

Councillors agreed to take the gift of the two current defibrillators and then accrue within the budget from 2026.27 money to replace them in four to five years.

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It was noted that Cllr Giles regularly checks the defibrillator in Tormarton to ensure it is working order and Harry Lawrence checks the one in West Littleton, with Cllr Pool acting as deputy.

Resolved: All Agreed

1/12/2025 – No 9. Agree the budget and the precept for 2026.27

The budget and precept information, which was prepared by the clerk, was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Councillors agreed the budget and a resulting precept figure of £12,070.

It was noted that the increase was higher this year, in part, due to future planning to replace the defibrillators.

Cllr Pool duly signed the budget/precept and the earmarked reserve documents.

Resolved: All Agreed

01/12/2025 – No 10. To consider any planning applications received during the month

Applications received for comment:

- [P25/02599/HH – The Smithy, Tormarton](#) – The owner of this property had invited the parish council to attend their property to explain the details of the application. Councillors were aware that they could not comment positively or negatively regarding the application and could only attend, due to an invitation being received. Cllr Wells and Cllr Giles advised they would like more clarification on the planting of lime trees on the border of the property and the impact on parking. Cllrs Wells, Giles and Crook agreed to meet with the residents on Monday 8th of December 2025 and following the meeting to submit agreed comments to the clerk for submission to planning.

Planning Application decisions received.

- [P25/02445/PNA](#) – Councillors noted the objection by South Gloucestershire Council. A full application is required.
- [P25/02373/TCA](#) – Councillors noted no objection to this application by South Gloucestershire Council
- [P25/01989/F](#) – Councillors noted the decision to approve this application with conditions

01/12/2025 – No 11. To receive the bank reconciliation, bank statements, income and expenditure and monthly accounts to 27th November 2025.

Councillors approved the document contents and they were duly signed.

Resolved: All Agreed

Councillors approved the payments to be made.

Resolved: All Agreed

01/12/2025 – No 12. To receive updates from members on ongoing Parish issues.

Traffic and road issues within the parish

- The clerk and Cllr Giles updated the councillors on the VAR, which is out of action. The clerk had been able to upload the new files onto the SID unit on the roadside, however, there was no red light showing despite the update. The supplier Traffic Technologies advised the battery now needed testing to see if it would charge without the solar panels. The clerk has therefore arranged for the SID to be removed by South Gloucestershire Council and for it to be delivered to her home, so that she could attempt to charge it. If it will not charge, then the supplier advised a new battery will be required. The cost for the new battery advised was less than £100. The council agreed for the clerk to acquire the battery if required. It was

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noted by Cllr Giles that the parish council need to get the VAR working, due to the excessive speeds of vehicles in the village, however, it was very important that the costs need to be effectively managed to ensure they do not outweigh the benefit.

Resolved: All Agreed

- Cllr Wells advised that there had been a large traffic build up on Norley Lane on the 28th of November 2025, which caused one resident to take thirty minutes to travel through the village to her home, which highlighted the issues on Norley Lane. She advised she had sent the information to Ward Cllr Palmer. Cllr Palmer advised the council of another council's proposal to South Gloucestershire Council to have signs erected stating "Residents Access Only". If this is agreeable by the authority, then it could be a potential solution for Tormarton Village. Cllr Palmer advised she would inform the council at a later date how the other scheme progresses.
- Cllr Giles advised the council that she had received very good service from Dave Jones of South Gloucestershire Council, who organised his team to clear the leaves in Church Road, to prevent people having to walk in the road. Road signs were also cleaned. She is also trying to obtain the sign required for Spyre Corner, liaising with Neil Trotter of South Gloucestershire Council.
- The attending resident raised information regarding the West Littleton 30mph scheme that has been applied for and a discussion took place regarding the background of why this application had been made.
- Cllr Wells advised the council of a situation that occurred where an extremely large tractor was travelling through Tormarton village and local lanes, which has resulted in the verges being eroded, to allow cars and the tractor to pass one another. She has not been able to get the registration number, but it was noted that all councillors should be aware of the situation in case of reoccurrence.

Any items considered urgent as directed by the Chairman or Clerk

- There were no urgent items noted by the Cllr Pool or the clerk.

Cllr Wells noted that a reply had been received from Sargent Mabbet of Avon and Somerset Police regarding her questions at the Your Voice meeting, which had been circulated by the clerk. The clerk was asked to send a copy to Ward Cllr Palmer.

Resolved: All Agreed

Clerk's update – Nothing additional to note.

01/12/2025 – No 13. To receive an update from the following committees.

- Village Hall Committee:** Cllr Giles advised that the minutes for the recent meeting were still not available. She informed the council that there was a really successful tidy up of the village hall on Sunday the 30th of November, with leaves being cleared, hedges being cut and cleaning completed, which was appreciated by the nursery staff. Further there will be a children's Christmas party on the 7th of December 2025, the gyro spiro is now fixed and new benches are in place.
- Village Pond Committee:** Nothing to note

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- c) **Playing Field Committee:** Cllr Crook advised he had received some documentation to explain the relationship between the parish council and the playing field committee, that he plans to review.

It was noted that there are some broken walls and tiles and the safety tape around an unsafe building has been removed, at Manor Farm, Tormarton. Cllr Wells agreed to contact Jasper, once she had received the email contact from Cllr Pool.

01/12/2025 – No 14. To note that the date of the next meeting of Tormarton Parish Council will be held on the 2nd February 2026 at 6.30pm. A meeting will be held in January if there are matters arising.

The meeting closed at 19:51