



Gnosall Parish Council (Including the wards of Moreton & Knightley)

Minutes of the Open Spaces & Burial Ground Committee held on 18th March 2026 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office

Present

Cllr Pearson (in the Chair), Cllr Beswick, Cllr Gregory, Barbara Juniper, Cllr Parry, Cllr Middleton
J Marshall Chief Officer

	<p>Open Public Forum</p> <p>no members of the public were in attendance.</p>
1	<p>To Receive Apologies and Record Absences</p> <p>Roger Greatrex was absent.</p>
2	<p>To Record Any Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations of interest given.</p>
3	<p>To receive and confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd October 2025</p> <p>The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.</p>
4	<p>To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the Agenda</p> <p>Cllr Beswick advised that he had replaced the bolt in the gate at Chippy Jumps and it was broken again within two days. Chief Officer to look at replacing lock or using chain and padlock.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory suggested the council thank the Gnosall Towpath Restoration group publicly for their work in providing and maintaining the ramp at the canal bridge.</p> <p>Chief Officer to request an update on the tree works at the 5G mast on the A518.</p>
5	<p>To discuss any maintenance requirements including:</p> <p>a) Handyman Duties</p> <p>Bolt missing in gate at Chippy Jumps, handyman to replace or install chain and padlock.</p> <p>b) Burial Ground - mole issue & memorial testing.</p> <p>Barbara Juniper advised that the Chancellor of the Diocese was in the process of rewriting to memorial testing documentation and will issue new burial regulations and policies shortly.</p> <p>It was suggested that a noticeboard at the cemetery would be a valuable addition, though it will need permission from the Diocese. Chief Officer to provide quote at next meeting.</p> <p>Ownership of Hen and Chicken Lane was queried as neighbouring houses are disposing of garden waste over their fences. Can the council adopt the lane and assume maintenance. Chief Officer to investigate.</p> <p>c) Bollards on the Village Green</p> <p>Chief Officer provided initial costs on recycled plastic posts which could be cut to size. It was felt by the committee that a more detailed cost of the number required, cost to purchase and install should be provided at the next meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that some trees at the memorial orchard on the Village Green need rebanding. Chief Officer to contact sponsors.</p>

6	To discuss quotes for the Tree inspection report works
	The Chief Officer presented two quotes for tree works following the tree inspection in December 2025. The committee agreed to contract Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeon to carry out the high priority works and to look at a rolling programme of works over the next few years. Chief Officer to investigate possible funding from Biffa or Viola to help with the costs. The committee agreed to put the unspent 2025/26 Open Spaces budget of £8,500.00 into a reserve to cover the cost of tree works and replacement bollards on the Village Green. Underspend due to planned projects being cancelled this year due to staffing and councillor changes.
7	To discuss improvement works at the allotments
	It was agreed to hire a skip to assist with clearing redundant allotments and give allotment holders the opportunity to clear their sites ahead of the growing season. A large mixed waste to be sited last two weeks in April. A work party to be commissioned to assist with clearance. Outside bodies to be contacted for volunteers.
8	To Review the Terms of Reference for BKV
	It was agreed to remove the Lead Co-ordinators name and just keep the title. The name has changed and will be updated to Best Kept Village and Community Working Group. The restriction on solo working to be amended to a recommendation to work in groups, and if that is not feasible, to notify others of location, date and time of solo working.
9	To review and agree the Tree Management Policy
	Cllr Beswick suggested that the wording in the introduction and Appendix A to read ' tree stock on council owned or managed land'. Chief Officer to create a schedule of inspection following high wind events be created, listing date of event, councillor/s tasked with visual inspections, areas inspected and any issues detected. The Policy was approved with those changes.
10	To Consider Any Health & Safety Matters
	The Chief Officer advised the committee that one of the toddler swings at the Brookhouse Road playpark had been reported as damaged. The swing has been marked as 'out of action pending repairs' and presented a quote for £132.00 + VAT for the replacement parts. The committee approved the order as a health and safety issue. It was suggested that costs be sought to install solar panelled CCTV cameras on the play areas and other key areas around the Acres to help combat vandalism.
11	To Consider Any Policy and Risk Assessment Reviews
	None required.
12	To Confirm the Date and Time of the Next Meeting
	29 th April 2026
	Meeting Closed
	9.05pm

Signed: Cllr Pearson

Dated: 29th April 2026