



Gnosall Parish Council

(Including the wards of Moreton & Knightley)

Minutes of the Open Spaces & Burial Ground Committee held on 9th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office

Present

Cllr Pearson (in the Chair), Cllr Parry , Cllr Middleton, Roger Greatrex
J Marshall Chief Officer

	Open Public Forum
	No members of the public were in attendance.
1	To Receive Apologies and Record Absences
	Cllr Beswick and Barbara Juniper gave apologies
2	To Record Any Declarations of Interest
	No declarations of interest given.
3	To receive and confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 5th August 2026
	The minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.
4	To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda
	Cllr Pearson asked if the ROSPA inspection had taken place. To the Chief Officers knowledge, not yet as no report has been received. The BKV totem was removed following safety concerns. Costs for replacement to be sourced.
5	To discuss any maintenance requirements including:
	a) Burial Ground - mole issue & memorial testing. Barbara Juniper submitted comments in her absence. The Memorial testing process can now be developed after the Burial Ground Policy being approved. This will be subject to formal approval by the Diocese of Lichfield, so no testing can take place at present. Noticeboard discussed under item 9. b) Black railings at the Grosvenor Centre The chief Officer has obtained an amended quote to have the railings stripped, rust removed, rubbed down, and repainted, to include the railings on the other side of the entrance. Roger Greatrex suggested that the paint specified was not hardwearing enough and suggested asking the contractor for a labour only quote and for the Council to supply Tractol paint for the job. Chief Officer to pursue.
6	To Consider Any Health & Safety Matters
	- No further contact has been received from Stafford Borough Council following the removal of the tree in the play area in July. - The ROSPA report is pending. Any actions will be reviewed in October's meeting.
7	To discuss the following future projects:
	Installing water butts at the Grosvenor Centre - for budgeting for 2027/28. Given the unseasonably hot summer and the prospect that this is likely to become the norm, the committee feel that any actions to make the council more sustainable should be investigated.

	• The Big Bulb Plant - this is a community engagement project to increase biodiversity, early pollinator food and beautify the community. The committee agreed to spend £750 on indigenous, pollinator friendly bulbs, purchased through the Gnosall Gardens and Allotments association and invite residents to help plant them this autumn. This may become an annual event. • Bench at the Acres - a request for a memorial bench at the Acres has been received. In principle to committee is in favour but a formal proposal of style, possible locations, total number of benches, costings and ongoing maintenance must be determined for Council consideration.
8	To discuss the allotments - track & carpark maintenance, inspections, & clearance work. Severn Trent have made some remedial repairs to the allotment track. No further communications on the maintenance agreement for the ongoing maintenance of the allotment track have been received from Severn Trent Water. The carpark is the responsibility of the Council. This needs to be budgeted for 27/28. Allotment Inspections take place quarterly, with two complete and a final inspection due at the end of the growing season. This has been well received by allotments holders, who have appreciated the Councils involvement and communication. Further clearance work of the 'returned to nature' allotments is required next year. It was suggested that the working parties clear the areas, stacking waste in piles according to type, (plastic, wood, metal etc) prior to skips being delivered to site.
9	To agree the purchase of two new noticeboards for the cemetery and canal - Cost £773 - 805 each + VAT (sizes to be confirmed) The committee agreed to purchase two new 15xA4 single opening noticeboards to the GPC standard, at a cost of £805 + VAT each, totalling £1610 + VAT.
10	To consider the 5-year biodiversity and management plan for the Acres and Doley Brook The committee recognised that the long-term management of the Acres and Doley Brook is essential to help manage flooding issues in the village as well as to increase biodiversity. A report on the impact of bulrush vegetation on the brook and flood plain, was received by a resident. This highlights the issues faced in this area. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency have previously been contacted for support on how best to manage this area and this will be perused to understand the best course of action to improve flow along the brooks and how to improve the flood plain's function. Staffordshire County Councillor Pert has been working with Severn Trent and other agencies on the clearance and management of the culverts. Contact with the school, Sports & Social Club and adjacent farmers will also be sought, so an inclusive plan can be formulated. Costings will be presented at Octobers meeting for budgeting purposes.
11	To Confirm the Date and Time of the Next Meeting 28th October 2026
	Meeting Closed 8.47pm

Signed:

Dated: