Gnosall Parish Council

(Including the wards of Moreton & Knightley)

Minutes of the Open Spaces & Burial Ground Committee held on 29th April2026 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

	Open Public Forum
	no members of the public were in attendance.
1	**To Receive Apologies and Record Absences**
	Roger Greatrex 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 18th March 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 gave an update on proposed the tree works at the 5G mast on the A518. The Chief Officer and Cllr Pearson met with BT's arborist on site, discussing which trees could potentially be removed. The information discussed will be fed back to head office. We await a response.
5	**To discuss any maintenance requirements including:**
	a) Handyman Duties Chief Officer to review handyman arrangements. Consider delegating odd jobs elsewhere to ensure quicker turn-around. **b) Burial Ground – mole issue & memorial testing.** Barbara Juniper advised that the new burial regulations had been issued by the Church of England. They can now start to look at the memorial testing policy. The tree works need to be agreed by the Arch Decan. The Chief Officer to provide Barbara Juniper with the tree report. The Chief Officer to send Barbara Juniper details of the proposed noticeboard for approval by the Diocese. Chief Officer to obtain legal advice on obtaining ownership of Hen and Chicken Lane. **c) Allotment clearing** First working part cleared 2 allotments fully and 3 partially. 2 skips full, large amount of scrap metal collected. Large pile of wood from sheds and fences to be cleared. Working parties scheduled for the 9th and 16th of May, to break down into smaller components and load on to skip. **d) Black railings** Railings need all rust and chipped paint to be removed, prepped and painted. Works required on the weekend due to the nursery school use.

	e) Hedge trimming in allotments Groundsman will trim long branches by hand and clear to ensure access in allotments is clear. A full cut to be scheduled in the autumn once the bird breeding season is over. **f) Doley Brook** Cllr Pearson to liaise with school contact regarding clearance of fallen tree on the school grounds. Chief Officer to investigate previous arrangements with Environmental Agency.
6	**Cleaning of picnic benches at Brookhouse Way Play area**
	Cllr Pearson has got in touch with a company regarding jet wash cleaning of the eight picnic benches. They have offered to do it for a cost of £20. Committee agreed unanimously.
7	**Management of the Acres Project – 5-year Biodiversity Plan**
	Cllr Pearson proposed re-instating the bio-diversity plan for the Acres. Chief Officer to pull original and revised proposals, review with Cllr Pearson and present to next committee meeting.
8	**Civic.ly management app for playpark and tree inspections**
	The Chief Officer attended an online demonstration of a new management and asset app. Whilst the app looks good in principle, it was felt that the cost of £600 per annum far outweighed the benefits at this time. To be kept under review.
9	**Update on Severn Trent Allotment track maintenance**
	Severn Trent to inspect the track on the 7th of May. At this time, they are suggesting establishing a formal agreement of easement and maintenance programme, but there is no further detail on what is involved or how this would work. The Chief Officer to reiterate that the road is currently in a very poor condition and that the overhanging trees need to be cut back as part of the ongoing maintenance.
10	**To Consider Any Health & Safety Matters**
	The swing at Brookhouse Way has been repaired.
11	**To Consider Any Policy and Risk Assessment Reviews**
	None required.
12	**To Confirm the Date and Time of the Next Meeting**
	27th May 2026
	Meeting Closed
	8.45pm

Signed: Cllr Pearson

Dated: 27th May 2026