



COTSWOLD
District Council

Friday, 14 February 2025

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COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX on **Monday, 24 February 2025 at 6.00 pm.**

Rob Weaver
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

(Councillors Nikki Ind, Mark Harris, Gina Blomefield, Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Patrick Coleman, Daryl Corps, David Cunningham, Tony Dale, Mike Evemy, David Fowles, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Andrew Maclean, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Andrea Pellegram, Nigel Robbins, Gary Selwyn, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Clare Turner, Chris Twells, Michael Vann, Jon Wareing, Ian Watson, Len Wilkins and Tristan Wilkinson)

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Administrator know prior to the date of the meeting.

Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1PX
Tel: 01285 623000 www.cotswold.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. **Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence. The quorum for Council is 9 members.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any declarations of interest from Members and Officers, relating to items to be considered at the meeting.
3. **Minutes** (Pages 9 - 32)
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 January 2025.
4. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive**
To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
5. **Public Questions**
To deal with questions from the public within the open forum question and answer session of fifteen minutes in total. Questions from each member of the public should be no longer than one minute each and relate to issues under the Council's remit. At any one meeting no person may submit more than two questions and no more than two such questions may be asked on behalf of one organisation.

The Chair will ask whether any members of the public present at the meeting wish to ask a question and will decide on the order of questioners.

The response may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

6. **Member Questions**
A Member of the Council may ask the Chair, the Leader, a Cabinet Member or the Chair of any Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Cotswold District. A maximum period of fifteen minutes shall be allowed at any such meeting for Member questions.

A Member may only ask a question if:

- a) the question has been delivered in writing or by electronic mail to the Chief

Executive no later than 5.00 p.m. on the working day before the day of the meeting; or

- b) the question relates to an urgent matter, they have the consent of the Chair to whom the question is to be put and the content of the question is given to the Chief Executive by 9.30 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

An answer may take the form of:

- a) a direct oral answer;
- b) where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
- c) where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner.

The following questions were submitted prior to the publication of the agenda:

Question 1 from Councillor Maclean to Councillor Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning.

During the construction of Victory Fields in Upper Rissington the developer created bunds made from waste material (arising from the demolition of military structures) around the perimeter of the village despite the original planning requirement to remove it from site. The planning permission was subsequently amended to allow this change but made conditions that the material be remediated (there was asbestos and other contaminating materials in the waste) and capped. The case officer's report from 2018 states that the capping should be 1 m but the final capping layer used was 150 mm of topsoil which was then planted with grass and trees and had a network of pathways and play equipment built on them.

Last year, all the public open space was sold to Upper Rissington Parish Council for £1 in accordance with the 106 agreement and this land is now their responsibility. The parish council has some plans for installing equipment that may need foundations but are obviously extremely cautious about digging into possibly contaminated ground. At a recent public meeting there were several questions asked about this which the current Parish Council could not answer as none of them were serving at the time.

The case officer's report also mentions the need for a long term monitoring and maintenance scheme. The parish council is unaware of any ongoing monitoring and has not been given any instructions for maintenance.

Please can CDC therefore help with supplying as much information as possible and in particular:

CDC asked for extra remediation of the waste bunds and the case officer's report shows that this work was carried out by various specialist companies. Do we now hold any documentation or a certificate to show that the material in the bunds is completely safe and that it does not qualify as contaminated ground?

Has the waste material been capped with 1 m of capping as required and if so

what is the nature of the 850 mm capping underneath the 150 mm of topsoil?
Please would CDC supply details of the ongoing monitoring and supply the parish council with instructions in particular about the care and upkeep of the capping layer that has sealed in the contaminated waste material?

Question 2 from Councillor Twells to Councillor Harris, Leader.

Please confirm how many meetings the Leader has had with Roz Savage, the Liberal Democrat MP for the South Cotswolds, since the general election. Does the Leader agree with me that it is extremely regrettable that Ms Savage is campaigning against the Lime Down Solar Park development, which is projected to generate 500MW—enough electricity to power every home in the South Cotswolds and two other parliamentary constituencies? This hypocrisy would appear to make a mockery of the District Council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

Question 3 from Councillor Twells to Councillor Evemy, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation.

What was the total cost to the Council of sending officers and members to the LGA Conference in Harrogate in October? Please include the cost of registration, travel, meals and accommodation.

Many of my residents tell me they consider this sort of event to be little more than a taxpayer-funded jolly, particularly in an era of virtual meetings. What tangible benefits do you believe sending a delegation to that conference has delivered for Cotswold residents?

7. Budget Council Protocol

The Budget Council protocol within the Council's Constitution (Part G Appendix D) sets out the process by which the Council will determine its Budget for the forthcoming financial year within the statutory framework.

[Part G Appendix D Budget Protocol](#)

8. Budget 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy (Pages 33 - 228)

Purpose

To present the Revenue Budget for 2025/26, the Capital Programme and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy for 2025/26 to 2028/29.

Recommendation

Council resolves to approve:

1. the Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out in Annex B
2. the Budget Pressures and Savings for inclusion in the budget, set out in Annex C
3. the Council Tax Requirement of £7,065,418 for this Council

4. the Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £158.93 for a Band D property in 2025/26 (an increase of £5)
5. the Capital Programme, set out in Annex D
6. the Annual Capital Strategy 2025/26, as set out in Annex E
7. the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2025/26, as set out in Annex F
8. the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H
9. the Balances and Reserves forecast for 2025/26 to 2028/29 as set out in Section 7 of the report
10. formally note the renewal of the CIVICA OpenRevenues 3-year software contract from 01 June 2025 with an annual fee of £0.106m (an increase of £0.031m over the previous annual contract value).

9. **Council Tax 2025-26 (Pages 229 - 248)**

Purpose

To set the Council Tax and Precepts for 2025/26

Recommendation

It is recommended that (subject to confirmation of Gloucestershire County Council's precept):

- 1) for the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 35(2), there are no special expenses for the District Council in 2025/26;
- 2) it be noted that, using their delegated authority, the Deputy Chief Executive calculated the Council Tax Base for 2025/26:
 - (a) for the whole Council area as 44,456.16 [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended (the "Act")]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish Precept relates as in the attached Schedule 1.
- 3) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2025/26 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £158.93.
- 4) the following amounts be calculated for the year 2025/26 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - (a) £50,782,191 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act, taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils and any additional special expenses.
 - (b) £38,558,091 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.

- (c) £12,224,100 being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
 - (d) £274.97 being the amount at 4(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts and Special Expenses);
 - (e) £5,158,845 being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts and Special Expenses) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act as per the attached Schedule 2.
 - (f) £158.93 being the amount at 4(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(e) above by Item T(2(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no Parish Precept or special item relates;
 - (g) the amounts shown in Schedule 2 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(f) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area shown in Schedule 2 divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate;
 - (h) the amounts shown in Schedule 3 being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(f) and 4(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;
- 5) it be noted that for the year 2025/26 the Gloucestershire County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire have issued precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated below:

Valuation Band	Gloucestershire County Council	Police and Crime Commissioner
	£	£
A	1,119.77	214.72
B	1,306.39	250.51
C	1,493.02	286.29
D	1,679.65	322.08
E	2,052.91	393.65
F	2,426.16	465.23
G	2,799.42	536.80
H	3,539.30	644.16

- 6) the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in Schedule 4 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2025/26 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
- 7) the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2025/26 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 8) the following Council/Public Officers: Deputy Chief Executive, Interim Director – Resident Services, Director of Governance and Development, Legal Executive, Business Manager – Environmental, Welfare and Revenues, Revenues Manager, Revenues Lead and Senior Recovery Officer be authorised to:
 - (a) collect and recover any National Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax; and
 - (b) prosecute or defend on the Council's behalf or to appear on its behalf in proceedings before a magistrate's court in respect of unpaid National Non-Domestic Rates and Council Tax.

10. **Notice of Motions**

No motions were received.

11. **Next meeting**

The next meeting of Council will be held on 19 March 2025.