

Council
23/February2026



COTSWOLD
District Council

Minutes of a meeting of Council held on Monday, 23 February 2026

Members present:

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mark Harris (Chair) | Ray Brassington (Vice-Chair) | |
| Claire Bloomer | Nikki Ind | Tom Stowe |
| Nick Bridges | Angus Jenkinson | Jeremy Theyer |
| Patrick Coleman | Julia Judd | Craig Thurling |
| Tony Dale | Juliet Layton | Clare Turner |
| Mike Evemy | Helene Mansilla | Michael Vann |
| David Fowles | Mike McKeown | Ian Watson |
| Laura Hall-Wilson | Dilys Neill | Len Wilkins |
| Joe Harris | Tony Slater | Tristan Wilkinson |
| Paul Hodgkinson | Lisa Spivey | |

Officers present:

| | |
|--|---|
| Jane Portman, Chief Executive Officer | Nickie Mackenzie-Daste, Senior Democratic Services Officer |
| Andrew Brown, Head of Democratic and Electoral Services | Tyler Jardine, Trainee Democratic Services Officer |
| Angela Claridge, Director of Governance and Development (Monitoring Officer) | David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer |
| Julia Gibson, Democratic Services Officer | |

71 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Gina Blomefield, Councillor Daryl Corps, Councillor David Cunningham, Councillor Andrea Pellegram and Councillor Jon Wareing.

72 Declarations of Interest

The Chair drew members' attention to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which provides that any member who is in Council Tax arrears of two months

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or more must declare this and is prohibited from voting on budget or Council Tax matters.

Members' records had been checked and, to the best of the Council's knowledge, no members were in Council Tax arrears. Accordingly, all members were entitled to vote unless they indicated otherwise.

There were no declarations of interest.

73 Minutes

Council considered the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 January 2026.

Councillor Every proposed the approval of the minutes. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Stowe, put to the vote and agreed by Council.

RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council 21 January 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Voting record:

27 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention.

| To APPROVE the minutes of Full Council 21 January 2026 (Resolution) | | |
|--|--|----|
| RESOLVED that the minutes of Full Council 21 January 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record. | | |
| For | Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Every, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins | 28 |
| Against | None | 0 |
| Conflict Of Interests | None | 0 |
| Abstain | None | 0 |
| Carried | | |

74 Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive

Chair's announcements:

The Chair welcomed Councillor Craig Thurling as the new member for The Rissingtons ward, and wished him the best in his new role.

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The Chair advised that the local Phoenix Festival was again seeking volunteers and funding. It was noted that the Council had been one of the largest contributors in previous years and might continue its support. Members were encouraged to promote involvement.

It was noted that the "Unsung Heroes" awards would not be presented at this meeting due to the budget-setting process. Nominations were invited from across the community for the March awards.

Finally, the Chair advised that a job fair would be held at the Council offices on 4 March 2026 and members were encouraged to promote the event.

Leader's Announcements:

The Leader welcomed Councillor Craig Thurling to his place in the Chamber.

Tribute was paid to Nigel Robbins, who had stepped down at the end of January 2026, after nearly 11 years' service on the Council. Mr Robbins had served as Chair of the Council for two years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for almost four years as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. He had also served eight years on Gloucestershire County Council. The Chair expressed thanks for his significant contribution to the Council and wished him well in his retirement, noting that he remained a member of Cirencester Town Council.

Members were reminded that the Government's consultation on Local Government Reorganisation in Gloucestershire was open until 26 March 2026 and available on the GOV.UK website. Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation and to promote participation within their communities. It was noted that a decision from government was expected before the summer recess.

Chief Executive's announcements:

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive.

75 Public Questions

There were two public questions:

Question 1

Mrs Sylvia Shepherd, a resident of Mayfield Park drew attention to the difficulties experienced by herself and fellow residents in getting her bins to the waste collection site by the road. Mrs Shepherd asked what support was available to assist herself and other older residents in the same position? She also asked whether a closer collection point could be provided for their use?

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In the absence of the Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment, Councillor Juliet Layton responded. She declared that she knew Mrs Shepherd's daughter and confirmed that she had no pecuniary interest in the waste service.

In response to a question from Mrs Shepherd regarding bin collections, it was reported that Ubico had advised officers that residents should not have individual bins, as waste facilities were provided at a communal collection point. However, it was noted that Mrs Shepherd and other residents on the site had individual waste provisions. Mrs Shepherd had a full set of recycling containers, a grey wheelie bin for residual waste, and a green garden waste wheelie bin, for which an annual licence fee was paid. Other residents had similar arrangements.

It was further noted that on 29 December 2025 Mrs Shepherd was issued with a replacement set of recycling bins, which she had not requested, indicating that individual waste provision was recognised in practice. Officers had previously provided Ubico with verbal and written information regarding Mrs Shepherd's request for the reinstatement of assisted collection, which she had received prior to Covid due to a back condition.

The matter was noted as ongoing. The ward member, Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, was aware of the situation, and it was acknowledged that a resolution had not yet been reached. Further discussions with officers and, if necessary, the site manager would continue.

Question 2

A second question was raised by Mrs Shepherd regarding decking installed by her neighbour shortly after they had moved in. After a visit from the enforcement team, the neighbour had also erected a wooden fence which was actually attached to Mrs Shepherd's garage and which left no boundary. The effect was to prevent repairs to Mrs Shepherd's garage being carried out. Mrs Shepherd asked how the installation could be considered compliant with planning regulations, given that it obstructed access and affected her property, she reported that she had been advised by LEASE (the Lease Advisory Service) to write to the Council to seek clarification as to why this was not deemed a planning breach?

Mrs Shepherd asked what her options were and sought advice as to what she needed to do to resolve the situation.

Councillor Juliet Layton, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning responded that the Council's enforcement team had inspected the site and confirmed that the decking complied with planning regulations, including fire-safety requirements. However, because the decking was so close to the resident's garage and prevented access, it would be considered a civil matter rather than a planning or enforcement issue. Councillor Layton advised that the resident could seek legal guidance.

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Councillor Layton confirmed that the matter appeared to be civil in nature and the Chair suggested that the resident contact the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for advice. Mrs Shepherd was encouraged to keep the Council informed of progress, noting that Councillor Paul Hodgkinson, her ward member, would also be in contact.

76 Member Questions

There were no member questions.

77 Appointments to Committees

The purpose of this report was to consider the following recommendations following the resignation of former councillor Nigel Robbins:

1. The appointment of a member to the vacant Liberal Democrat seat on the Audit and Governance Committee.
2. The appointment of a Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee.

The Leader, Councillor Mike Evey, introduced the item and clarified that former councillor Nigel Robbins had served as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee and had occupied a seat allocated to the Liberal Democrat Group on that Committee.

It was noted that a by-election was pending and that there would be a subsequent opportunity to review the political balance of the Council and make any necessary appointments. As the next meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee was not scheduled until April, it was confirmed that no nomination would be made at this meeting of Full Council to fill the vacant Liberal Democrat seat on the Committee.

Councillor Mike Evey nominated Councillor Helene Mansilla to serve as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

Councillor Juliet Layton seconded the recommendation and Councillors were encouraged to support the nomination.

There were no questions for clarity.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the resolution as proposed by Councillor Mike Evey and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

Voting Record:

28 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Appointment to Chair of Audit and Governance Committee (Resolution)

Council RESOLVED to:

1. Appoint Councillor Helene Mansilla to the role of Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

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| For | Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Evey, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins | 28 |
| Against | None | 0 |
| Conflict Of Interests | None | 0 |
| Abstain | None | 0 |
| Carried | | |

78 Budget Council Protocol

The Chair introduced the Budget Council Protocol and reminded attendees and the viewing audience that the full protocol was available online.

The Chair made it clear that the Budget Council Protocol, Part G Appendix D of the Council's Constitution, would be followed in debating and setting the Budget for 2026-2027.

79 2026-27 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium Term Financial Strategy

The purpose of this report was to present the Revenue Budget for 2026-27, Capital Programme and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2026-27 to 2029-30.

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Patrick Coleman, to propose the administration's budget.

Councillor Coleman noted this was the third budget of the Council's second-term Liberal Democrat administration, highlighting the Council's financial remodelling over seven years despite challenges including COVID-19, high inflation, the cost-of-living crisis, and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). He praised staff professionalism and noted significant savings, including £500,000 per annum from waste collection reorganisation.

The proposed £5 annual Band D Council Tax increase was intended to support the 2026 budget. Councillor Coleman reported that the transition of Publica staff to the

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Council had improved retention, recruitment, and efficiency, delivering annual savings of £500,000 alongside restored pension scheme funding. Continued support for low-income residents via the Low-Income Families Tracker (LIFT) had helped 49 households out of fuel poverty, assisted 54 with water bills, and secured 181 new Council Tax Reduction claims.

On the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), Councillor Coleman welcomed the multi-year finance settlement but expressed concern at the late government announcement, which reduced the funding floor by £700,000 for 2027–28 and 2028–29. The waste fleet replacement programme would be funded from existing resources without borrowing and included greener vehicles. The Financial Resilience Reserve was forecast to rise to £4.3 million. Strong public support for the budget during consultation was noted. Councillor Coleman moved recommendations 1–10, thanking officers and scrutiny members and commending the budget for approval.

The Chair invited Councillor Tristan Wilkinson to speak as seconder, who reserved his right.

Councillor Stowe, Leader of the Conservative Group, also reserved his right to respond.

The Chair then invited Councillor Stowe to propose the Conservative Group's amendments in accordance with the Budget Council Protocol.

Councillor Stowe then spoke to the amendment proposal:

Amendment Part 1

Establish the "Cotswold District Council Legacy Fund Reserve" - £190,000.

This is to be funded by reallocating funds from the "Council Priorities: Capacity Building" earmarked reserve.

£5,000.00 to be allocated to each Ward Member (£170,000 plus £20,000 administration costs) to support suitable projects in their wards.

Projects are to leave a lasting legacy after CDC ceases to exist and are to align with the Council's priorities including "Preparing for the Future."

Examples – supporting youth activity, improving the public realm, improving the local environment and biodiversity.

Amendment Part 2

Additional funding of £40,000 to be allocated to the Planning Services Budget to be used to strengthen the Planning Enforcement Team.

Additional funding of £38,471 to be allocated to the Land Drainage and Flood Defence Budget to create a new Cotswold Flood Team Assistant Role.

These are to be funded by capping the Communications Budget at £300,000.

Councillor Stowe further commented:

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Amendment Part 1 – Cotswold District Council Legacy Fund (£190,000)

- The proposed Legacy Fund Reserve would be funded through reallocation from the Capacity Building Earmarked Reserve with no increase in overall expenditure
- The £5,000 allocated per ward member would be intended for locally determined, community-focused projects and was designed as a lasting legacy aligned with Council priorities and preparations for Local Government Reorganisation.

Amendment Part 2 – Communications Budget Reallocation (£80,000)

- The proposed reduction of the communications budget from £380,000 to £300,000 per annum would be split between two areas: £40,000 reallocated to strengthen the Planning Enforcement team (customer service function and/or recruitment and retention support); with the remainder reallocated to create a Cotswold-specific role within the Land Drainage and Flood Defence team.
- The Conservative Group considered the communications budget disproportionate and stated that additional resources were required to address enforcement pressures, increased flooding, and forthcoming major development.

Councillor Stowe urged members to support the proposed amendments.

Councillor David Fowles seconded the amendments, citing historical community funding precedents, under-resourced planning enforcement, and flood resilience needs.

No amendments were proposed by Green or Independent members.

The Chair then invited Members to ask any questions for clarification on the proposed amendments.

Members raised questions for clarification on the proposed amendments, which Councillor Stowe addressed:

- **Communications Budget Reductions:**
Councillor Stowe confirmed the budget would decrease from £380,000 to £300,000, with £300,000 allocated to staffing and £80,000 to non-staff costs. He explained that the proposal was that the Service Lead would restructure and operate within the revised allocation.
- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Communications:**
In response to concerns about maintaining communications capacity during LGR, Councillor Stowe noted that the Head of Communications was coordinating work across the county and suggested costs should be shared with partner authorities.
- **Statutory Communications Duties:**

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It was noted that, as a public authority, the Council had a statutory duty to communicate effectively with residents, including on the National Planning Policy Framework, the Local Plan, LGR, and budget matters. Councillors praised the communications team and questioned whether a reduction would affect these responsibilities. Councillor Stowe responded that similar outcomes could be delivered within a £300,000 budget.

- Nature of the £80,000 Saving:
Councillor Stowe confirmed that the proposed reduction represented an ongoing annual revenue saving.
- Planning Enforcement Recruitment:
In response to concerns about recruitment difficulties being sector-wide, Councillor Stowe stated that the additional £40,000 could enhance salary offers to improve recruitment and retention.

There were no further questions for clarification.

The Chair invited the Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer, David Stanley to give his views on the proposed amendments.

The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer, confirmed that the amendments had been submitted in accordance with the budget protocol and had been discussed with him. He advised on the use of earmarked reserves, noted the Section 25 statement regarding the adequacy of reserves, and confirmed that the amendments were fully funded without adversely affecting overall reserve adequacy.

The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting to allow groups to discuss proposal. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Evely declined the invitation to adjourn the meeting as the amendment had been considered.

Councillor Coleman, Cabinet Member for Finance was invited to inform Council as to the view of the administration. It was confirmed that neither part of the amendment had been accepted.

The Chair then moved to the debate on the amendment and invited all councillors to speak once, covering both proposed amendments and confirmed that they would each have the opportunity to speak again in the substantive debate.

Members made the following points in debate:

- Some councillors considered the amendments lacked strategic vision and did not address key issues such as the cost of living, health and safety, climate action, or long-term financial sustainability.
- The proposed Legacy Fund and ward allocations were seen as too small to have a lasting impact and raised potential governance concerns. It was noted they could risk undermining the Crowdfund Cotswold programme, which was praised for empowering communities and leveraging additional funding.
- Concerns were raised that staffing shortages, rather than budget, were the main barrier to effective planning enforcement.

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- Flood risk management was identified as requiring capital investment, multi-agency coordination, and long-term planning, rather than additional posts funded from the communications budget.
- Further reductions to the communications budget were opposed due to its essential role in public accountability, resident engagement, and statutory communications duties.
- Alternative funding sources, such as county councillor grants or existing reserves, were suggested to support local community projects.

Overall, the amendments were considered by members of the controlling group to lack strategic value and could put existing programmes and resources at risk.

The Chair invited Councillor Tom Stowe, Conservative Group Leader to sum up the debate on the amendment.

Councillor Stowe summed up the debate on the amendments, acknowledging that although the amendments had not passed, they highlighted under-resourced areas, particularly planning enforcement and flood management. He emphasised the Council's role in coordinating agencies and using enforcement powers for flood mitigation, suggesting a dedicated Cotswold-specific flood officer could have been valuable, and expressed interest in monitoring the operation of the newly restructured flood team over the next 12 months.

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Finance to respond to the Conservative amendment.

Councillor Coleman responded, noting that public-backed initiatives such as Crowdfund Cotswolds tend to succeed over time. He welcomed the scrutiny and challenge presented by the amendments but emphasised the need for continued cooperative governance and prudent savings to maintain alignment with the medium-term financial strategy.

The Chair moved to the vote on the amendment, proposed by Councillor Stowe and seconded by Councillor Fowles.

Voting Record:

7 For, 21 Against, 0 Abstention

The amendment was lost.

| Budget - to APPROVE the Conservative Group amendments (Amendment) | | |
|--|---|----|
| For | David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Julia Judd, Tony Slater, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer and Len Wilkins | 7 |
| Against | Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Evey, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Lisa Spivey, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian | 21 |

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| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| | Watson and Tristan Wilkinson | |
| Conflict Of Interests | None | 0 |
| Abstain | None | 0 |
| Rejected | | |

The Chair then returned Council to the substantive budget and sought questions of clarification. There were no questions for clarification on the substantive budget.

The Chair then invited Councillor Tom Stowe, Leader of the Conservative Group, who had reserved his right to respond to the budget, to speak.

Councillor Stowe thanked the Deputy Chief Executive Officer and his team for preparing the budget and noted the unusual task of presenting an MTFs beyond the Council's expected existence, while emphasising the importance of handing over finances in good order. He congratulated Councillor Coleman on delivering his first budget and highlighted pressures on residents, including a 27% Council Tax rise since 2020, a 143% increase in green bin charges, and higher discretionary fees and car parking charges. Previous financial uncertainties were referred to, including projected gaps in the MTFs and anticipated costs associated with the waste fleet replacement programme. He noted that government settlements had eased some pressures, although a £700,000 one-off shortfall remained. Councillor Stowe recognised that procuring the new waste collection fleet without borrowing would deliver tangible assets for the Council.

The Conservative Group Leader further highlighted the estimated additional £640,000 annual cost of delivering services in-house following the transition from Publica and expressed concern about resourcing pressures in departments such as planning enforcement and environmental protection. The level of expenditure on communications in comparison with flood defence was questioned. Councillor Stowe concluded that, despite the efforts of officers, the budget relied on increased taxation and charges, which he believed placed additional pressure on residents while not fully resolving underlying financial and operational challenges.

The Chair then returned Council to the general debate on the substantive budget.

Councillor Mike Evely spoke in support of the budget, noting that it was the administration's seventh budget and reflected sound financial management. He highlighted modest Council Tax increases supported by public consultation, the success of the Low-Income Families Tracker (LIFT) programme, the £6 million waste fleet renewal funded without borrowing, the return of staff from Publica to the Council, and the addition of nearly £1 million to reserves. He described the budget as robust, balanced, and aligned with the administration's priorities.

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Councillor Tony Dale emphasised prudent financial management, highlighting the decision to fund the new waste service from reserves, support provided to businesses facing business rate increases, and the achievement of long-term budget stability despite reductions in central government funding. He commended officers, including the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, for delivering a balanced budget without borrowing.

Further support for the administration's approach with praise for financial prudence; the protection of essential services; forward planning; and the maintenance of stability for residents being expressed.

Councillor Tristan Wilkinson, as seconder of the budget, highlighted its role in safeguarding frontline services and supporting key priorities including waste services, planning, climate action, and housing. He noted that the budget provided a sound financial footing as the Council prepared for Local Government Reorganisation and commended both officers and councillors for their work.

The Chair then invited the Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Patrick Coleman, as proposer of the budget, to sum up the debate.

Councillor Coleman reflected on the Council's recent work and noted the positive and respectful engagement between members during the budget process. He commended the finance team for their work in preparing a robust budget and acknowledged the complexity of local government finance and the dedication of both councillors and officers in managing it. He highlighted that the proposed Council Tax increase was significantly below the rate of inflation while remaining within statutory limits and urged all members to support what he described as a prudent and robust budget.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the substantial budget proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Tristan Wilkinson.

Voting Record:

21 For, 6 Against, 1 Abstention.

2026/27 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme and Medium-term Financial Strategy - Approve Recommendations (Resolution)

RESOLVED that Council APPROVED :

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 £7,419,716 for this Council
4. the Council Tax level for Cotswold District Council purposes of £163.93 for a Band D property in 2026/27 (an increase of £5)
5. the Capital Programme, set out in Annex D

| | | |
|--|---|----|
| <p>6. the Annual Capital Strategy 2026/27, as set out in Annex E</p> <p>7. the Annual Treasury Management Strategy and Non-Treasury Management Investment Strategy 2026/27, as set out in Annex F</p> <p>8. the Strategy for the Flexible use of Capital Receipts, as set out in Annex H</p> <p>9. that £2m is set aside in a new earmarked reserve Council Priority: LGR Transition through the releasing of £2m of the balance currently held in the Financial Resilience Reserve.</p> <p>10. the balances and reserves forecast for 2026/27 to 2029/30 as set out in Section 7 of the report.</p> | | |
| For | Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Every, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Lisa Spivey, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson and Tristan Wilkinson | 21 |
| Against | David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson and Julia Judd | 3 |
| Conflict Of Interests | None | 0 |
| Abstain | Tony Slater, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer and Len Wilkins | 4 |
| Carried | | |

80 Council Tax 2026/27

The purpose of the report was to set the Council Tax for 2026-27.

The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and made the following points:

- The formal setting of Council Tax would be completed, following legal requirements.
- The report and resolution were outlined, covering pages 209-213 of the meeting documents.
- Council Tax levels for residents were detailed, including parish precepts and banding calculations.

Councillor Coleman formally moved the resolution and urged all Councillors to support the setting of the precept.

The Chair invited any questions for clarity. There were no questions for clarity.

Councillor Mike Every seconded the report and chose to speak to supplement Councillor Coleman's remarks, particularly for members voting on the council tax for

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the first time. Councillor Evely noted that the council tax amounts for each parish or town council were displayed from Band A to Band H, with the prescribed multiples from six-ninths to eighteen-ninths, in accordance with legislative requirements.

Members were reminded that calculations were referenced to Band D, which had been set at £5 for Cotswold District Council. This resulted in a Band D Council Tax of £163.93, with Band A at £109.29 and Band H at £327.86.

There were no contributions in debate.

The Chair invited Councillor Coleman to sum up; Councillor Coleman indicated that he had no further points to add.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the report recommendations proposed by Councillor Coleman and seconded by Councillor Evely.

Voting record:

28 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

Council Tax 2026-27 to APPROVE Recommendations 1-8 (Resolution)

Subject to confirmation of Gloucestershire County Council's precept, Council RESOLVED to:

1. Agree for the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 Section 35(2), that there are no special expenses for the District Council in 2026/27;
2. Note that, using their delegated authority, the Deputy Chief Executive calculated the Council Tax Base for 2026/27:
 - a. for the whole Council area as 45,261.49 [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. Agree that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2026/27 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £7,419,716.
4. Agree that the following amounts be calculated for the year 2026/27 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Act:
 - a. £52,952,023 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. £39,934,694 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) of the Act.
 - c. £13,017,510 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. £287.60 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. £5,597,794 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. £163.93 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. Note that for the year 2026/27 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 | 1,175.64 | 227.05 |
| B | 1,371.58 | 264.90 |
| C | 1,567.52 | 302.74 |
| D | 1,763.46 | 340.58 |

| | | |
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| E | 2,155.34 | 416.26 |
| F | 2,547.22 | 491.95 |
| G | 2,939.10 | 567.63 |
| H | 3,526.92 | 681.16 |

6. Agree, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to set the aggregate amounts shown in Schedule 4 as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2026/27 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.
7. Agree the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2026/27 is not excessive in accordance with principles approved under Section 52ZB Local Government Finance Act 1992.
8. Authorise 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 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.

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| For | Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Evey, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins | 28 |
| Against | None | 0 |
| Conflict Of Interests | None | 0 |
| Abstain | None | 0 |
| Carried | | |

81 Pay Policy Statement 2026

The purpose of the report was to consider the Council's Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27 and to clarify the Council's strategic stance on pay, to provide direction for members and officers making detailed decisions on pay and to provide the residents of

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the Cotswold district with a clear statement of the principles underpinning decisions on the use of public funds.

The Chair invited the Leader, Councillor Mike Evey, to introduce the report. Councillor Evey presented the Pay Policy Statement for the forthcoming financial year and advised that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, the Council was required to approve and publish the statement annually by 31 March. It was noted that the policy now applied to approximately 120 additional employees who had returned from Publica, significantly increasing its scope.

Councillor Evey explained that the statement promoted transparency, fairness and local accountability, enabling residents to understand senior staff remuneration, pay relationships across the workforce, the basis for determining pay, and compliance with equal pay legislation. The policy was commended to Members for approval.

The Chair invited any questions for clarity; there were no questions for clarity.

Councillor Juliet Layton stood to second the resolution and indicated she had nothing further to add.

The Chair moved to the debate. There being no debate, the Chair declared that there was no requirement to sum up.

The Chair then moved to the vote on the Pay Policy 2026-27 proposed by the Leader Councillor Mike Evey and seconded by Councillor Juliet Layton.

Voting Record:

28 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions.

| Pay Policy Statement 2026-27 to APPROVE (Resolution) | | |
|---|---|----|
| Council RESOLVED to | | |
| 1. APPROVE the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27. | | |
| For | Claire Bloomer, Ray Brassington, Nick Bridges, Patrick Coleman, Tony Dale, Mike Evey, David Fowles, Laura Hall-Wilson, Mark Harris, Joe Harris, Paul Hodgkinson, Nikki Ind, Angus Jenkinson, Julia Judd, Juliet Layton, Helene Mansilla, Mike McKeown, Dilys Neill, Tony Slater, Lisa Spivey, Tom Stowe, Jeremy Theyer, Craig Thurling, Clare Turner, Michael Vann, Ian Watson, Tristan Wilkinson and Len Wilkins | 28 |
| Against | None | 0 |
| Conflict Of Interests | None | 0 |
| Abstain | None | 0 |
| Carried | | |

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82 Notice of Motions

There were no motions.

83 Next meeting

The next meeting of Full Council was confirmed as being scheduled for 18 March 2026 at 2.00 pm.

The Meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and closed at 08.05 pm

(END)