Randwick and Westrip Parish Council
Minutes of the parish council meeting held at Randwick Village Hall on Thursday July 16th 2026.

Present
Councillors
Jo Boldero
Nick Lythgoe
Elisabeth Newman
Barry Chapman
Alun Davies
Glenn Dooley

Clerk B Parsons
County Cllr Craig Horrocks

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Boldero.

1/7/26 ***Apologies:*** *Cllr Rob Davies: reason approved by the council. County Cllr John Patient sent his apologies.*

2/7/26 ***Public Forum****: One member of the public was present and County Cllr Craig Horrocks.*
A parishioner asked whether the council could arrange for kissing gates to be installed on Randwick playing fields, at the SW and SE corners and reported damage to a pear tree at the shipping container used by the Wap Committee and wood stored there.
Action: *The clerk to ask whether GCC was still supporting the cost of installing kissing gates and to write to the Wap Committee about the conditions attaching to their permission for keeping a container on the field.*

3/7/26 ***Declarations of interest in items on this agenda****: None.*

4/7/26 ***Minutes:*** *The minutes of the meeting held on June 18th 2026 were approved and signed by the chair of the meeting.*

5/7/26 ***Casual Vacancy:*** *To date there had been no applicants for co-option.*

6/7/26 ***Report from the Officer of the Council:*** *Cllrs noted the contents of the clerk's report: the national average for band D council tax in 2026/27 was £99.79. The band D charge for the parish was £32.60*

7/7/26 ***Correspondence:*** *Cllrs noted the correspondence in the clerk's report.*

8/7/26 ***Questions from Councillors:***
Cllr Alun Davies reported that parking on the edge of the playing field at the bottom of Ocker Hill obstructed vehicles turning out from Ocker Hill. Cllrs were asked to consider appropriate signage to deal with the problem.

Cllr Newman reported on the meeting of the Stroud Strategic Partnership which had included initiatives for young people in Stroud and asked what was available outside the town. Cllrs

discussed what activities were available in the parish and whether the parish council could set up anything further if volunteers could be found and publish a leaflet listing what was available.
Cllr Alun Davies commented that there were difficulties in maintaining many organisations as volunteers tended to commit for short terms.

9/7/26 ***District and County Councillors' reports:*** *County Cllr Patient had sent a written report.*
County Cllr Horrocks spoke about the announcement received that day about local government reorganisation. Gloucestershire would become a single unitary authority and the district councils would cease to exist in April 2028. There would be elections for a shadow authority in 2027. The new unitary authority would continue district councils' statutory duties but not necessarily any non-statutory duties. Cllr Horrocks suggested that the parish council consider all the services it received from SDC that would need to be continued by a future authority.
'Designated 'Neighbourhood Areas' would be set up by mapping local council areas into units of around 20,000 electors.

Cllr Horrocks commented on the proposal to introduce more consistent speed limits across Stroud and Cainscross. The majority of urban and residential streets were proposed to become 20mph, particularly where people lived, shopped, travelled locally, and socialised. Residents had been invited to take part in a survey.

Cllr Horrocks would follow up any reports made to GCC Highways about roads and paths if required. The number of staff working in Public Rights of Way had been temporarily enhanced to cope with current demand.

10/7/26 ***Lease for Randwick Playing Fields:*** *Cllrs would consider Cllr Rob Davies's draft lease again in August. Councillors had made suggestions in June for Cllr Davies to amend the draft .*
The clerk had contacted a surveyor about a plan of the playing fields for the lease and would seek a lower estimated charge.

11/7/26 ***Planning:***
a) Planning applications:

S.26/1057/FUL - Five Acres, Church Road - Erection of a replacement self-build dwelling (Class C3) with associated landscaping and ancillary works – no comment.

b) ***Vehicle Activated Speed Sign:*** *Cllr Lythgoe explained that work was still in progress to repair the sign.*

c) ***Community Speedwatch:*** *Cllr Alun Davies reported that there had been no members of the group available on July the 15th, National Speedwatch Day.*

12/7/26 ***Finance:***
a) Bank reconciliation: *Cllrs considered the bank reconciliation for June. Closing balance at June 30th was £46,940.33.*
b) Internal Audit: *Completion of the internal audit had been delayed. GALC hoped it would be ready for the August meeting*

13/7/26 ***Heritage Trail****: Cllr Newman had sent councillors a copy of the draft leaflet that would be downloadable from the council's website and a choice of posters. Cllrs approved the leaflet, with a suggestion that 'lagger' was explained for people not familiar with this local word, and chose a poster that showed St John's Church. Cllr Lythgoe would ask a local photographer to provide an aerial photo for the leaflet.*

14/7/26 ***Environment:*** *Cllr Boldero had met with the SDC Strategic Lead for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity and reported on their walk around the parish and discussions about what small changes that could be made to increase the biodiversity of the parish. They had focused on areas that the parish council owned and currently mowed and maintained. One of the pear trees in front of the shipping container used by the Wap Committee had been broken off or damaged by wind. Two others had grown tall and needed new stakes. They would not grow to cover the container so other planting would be needed.*
A dead tree by Sugars hole might fall and block the public footpath.

Cllr Boldero asked cllrs to consider not mowing right up to the tree trunks of the large mature trees on Randwick Playing Fields. An area the size of a tree's drip line would help protect the health of the trees and their roots. Stroud District Council had a tree management policy which would help large mature trees seen to be struggling with increasing temperatures.

Cllrs were asked to consider leaving a two-metre margin around the field edges and enlarging the wildflower area at the SW lower end of the field and mowing paths within it. Sowing yellow rattle would help to weaken grass and encourage the wild flowers. Cllr Boldero suggested making a compost area to encourage wildlife, slow worms, grass snakes and small mammals.

Ideas discussed for Finn's Way included a small orchard, wild flower areas, working with children at Cashes Green School to use the area, a compost area and a new sign explaining what was happening to wildlife and plants in the area

Cllr Boldero suggested that two grassy areas (at More Hall corner and Humphreys End) could be wild flower areas with only a small area close to footpath mown, with signage to explain the management of these areas.

Cllr Boldero would be happy to co-ordinate a working group to help facilitate these ideas.

Actions: *The clerk to ask the handyman to cut back brambles along the lower edge of Randwick Playing Fields by the stile leading to the brook and to leave the grassy area at More Hall to grow; to ask the mowing contractors to leave a two-metre space around the trees on Randwick Playing Fields; to write to the Wap Committee to ask that the pear trees be staked and to tidy away wood left behind the container.*

15/7/26 ***Items delegated to the clerk and items for the next agenda:*** *As above. Also the clerk to arrange to have some trees cut back at Finn's Way which were overhanging a resident's garden.*

16/7/26 ***Orders for payment:***
X-Net *email addresses*

TW Hawkins (SGMS) *Mowing to 30/6/26*
Digital WebWorx *website hosting and maintenance*
CR Signs *Parking Signs*
C Curtis *July monthly contract payment*
B Parsons *July salary less tax*
Tesco Mobile *July phone bill*

17/7/26 ***Next meeting:*** *Thursday August 20th at Cashes Green School.*

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.

Signed:

Date: