



Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00pm in The Higginson Room, Court Garden House, Pound Lane,

**Present:**

**Town Mayor Cllr M Boulay, Cllr P Burden, Cllr O Elliott, Cllr E Hawkins, Cllr G Nuttall, Cllr L Riches, Cllr F Schoofs, Deputy Mayor Cllr J Simnett, Cllr M Skoyles, Cllr K Thomson, Cllr J Towns, Town Clerk Mrs H Martin, Deputy Clerk Mrs K Joy, 4 members of the public**

**Public forum:** Questions, statements and concerns were invited.

Q: Marlow Society would be interested in further discussion with the Town Council with regard to water testing and specific reference to E Coli levels.

A: This item will be explored further in the forthcoming meeting.

**M.86.25 Apologies for absence**

**Resolved:**

That Council accepted apologies for absence from Cllr J Whelan.

**M.87.25 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**M.88.25 Communications from the Town Mayor**

The list of Mayoral engagements since the last meeting was presented by the Town Mayor.

**M.89.25 Town Council minutes**

**Resolved:**

That the minutes dated 02.12.25 were agreed and signed as a true record.

**M.90.25 Committee minutes**

**Resolved:**

That Council noted the committee minutes published since the last meeting.

**M.91.25 Management accounts****Resolved:**

That Council approved the management accounts dated 30.11.2025.

**M.92.25 Gate to access Gossmore car park**

Buckinghamshire Council has installed a lockable gate at the entrance to Gossmore car park. This will allow the car park to be locked during the hours of darkness.

- On weekdays, the gate can be locked and unlocked by Council Officers in the mornings and by volunteer residents in the evenings.
- On weekends, a contractor will be needed to lock and unlock the gate. The Council's current security patrol provider has agreed to do this as part of their existing patrols, at a cost of £1,000 per year.

Signage would be provided by Buckinghamshire Council.

**Resolved:**

That Council agreed to the payment of £1,000 per annum to 4Front Security for the locking and unlocking of the Gossmore Car Park gate at weekends; and that delegated authority is given to Officers to agree with Buckinghamshire Council the opening and closing times; and that Council will review the operation six months from the start date.

**M.93.25 Urgent repairs to play equipment**

Two items of play equipment have recently failed safety inspections and have therefore been taken out of use and secured. Both items require urgent repair or replacement which falls outside the approved budget. The equipment is no longer covered by the manufacturer's original 10-year guarantee.

**Riley Park playground**

**Cost:** £1,266

**Campbell Park playground**

**Cost:** £3,409

Current reserves for playground equipment replacement stand at **£5,953**.

**Resolved:**

That Council approved the repairs and replacements at a total cost of £4,675, to be funded from the playground equipment replacement reserves.

**M.94.25 River Partnership**

Council were asked to consider, in principle, contributing to the cost of testing of E Coli levels in the Thames within Marlow Parish. Full costings and possible sponsorship opportunities will be brought back to Council in due course. It was noted that other Councils already test and these would be contacted to share best practices.

**Resolved:**

That Council approves in principle supporting the concept of testing with detailed costs to be bought back to Council.

**M.95.25 Trial of Insignis for investments**

Recommendation from Resources Committee

Officers were asked to arrange a demonstration of the Insignis Platform to be able to inform councillors of options for managing council banking and surplus cash balances, comparing the current relationship with Lloyds Bank against adopting or supplementing it with Insignis, a deposit management platform. All members were provided with supplementary reports.

**Resolved:**

That Council approves a pilot with surplus funds to be invested with Insignis, subject to:

- Legal and procurement due diligence and auditor approval.
- Confirmation of FSCS coverage and account structure.

And delegates authority to a working group from Resources Committee of Cllr Schoofs, Cllr Simnett and Cllr Nuttall to work with the Clerk to update draft revised Financial Regulations and Treasury Management Policy and the amount of surplus cash value to be determined and bring these back to Council for approval.

**M.96.25 Budget 2026-27**

Town Mayor asked Cllr F Schoofs, Chair of the Resources Committee, to present the budget to the meeting. Questions were raised and answered.

**Resolved**

That Council approved the income and expenditure forecast and:

That members approved the proposed income and expenditure budget for 2026-27 and;

That in pursuance of its powers conferred by section 137 of the local government act 1972 (as amended) the Town Council: -

Approves proposed expenditure for 2026-27 on the following items which in the opinion of the town council are in the interests of the town or its inhabitants:

Mayoral functions and civic events; grounds maintenance; grants £30,000; town twinning; Christmas tree and decorations; floral displays and summer bunting; allotment prizes; community, leisure and entertainment; youth project; security patrols; town bus.

A recorded vote was requested:

For the recommendation

Cllr F Schoofs  
Cllr O Elliott  
Cllr J Simnett  
Cllr E Hawkins  
Cllr P Burden  
Cllr M Skoyles  
Cllr M Boulay

Against the recommendation

Cllr J Towns  
Cllr L Riches  
Cllr K Thomson  
Cllr G Nuttall

**M.97.25 Precept 2026-27**

**Resolved:**

That Council agreed that the precept for the 2026-27 financial year be the sum of £460,472.

A recorded vote was requested:

For the recommendation

Cllr F Schoofs  
Cllr O Elliott  
Cllr J Simnett  
Cllr E Hawkins  
Cllr P Burden  
Cllr M Skoyles  
Cllr M Boulay

Against the recommendation

Cllr J Towns  
Cllr L Riches  
Cllr K Thomson  
Cllr G Nuttall

**M.98.25 Information reports**

a) Buckinghamshire Councillors

[Report – Cllr A Collingwood](#)

[Report – Cllr A Crabtree & Marlow Bridge works update](#)

Report – Cllr C Heap

b) Outside representatives

There were no reports.

c) Freedom of Information request (FOI)

A FOI had been received on 04.12.2025 and was responded to on 17.12.2025. Full details were given to members.

**Members noted the reports.**

**M.99.25 Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.05pm