



Minutes of **FILTTON TOWN COUNCIL'S – Full Council Meeting** held at 7:00PM on Tuesday 28th April 2026 – Held at: Studio 1, Elm Park Leisure Centre, Filton, Elm Park, Bristol, BS34 7PS.

PRESENT: Cllrs: Mead (*Deputy Mayor & Vice Chair*), E. Adjeivi, J.Baverstock, A.Bird, A.Doyle, D. Harris, S. Milestone, J. Molloy, A. Monk.

IN ATTENDANCE: Simon Davies (*Town Clerk*), Peach Jones (*Town Council Support Officer*), Lucy Frost (*Press*), Sean Bell (*Centre Manager*), PCSO Megan Lyons and Olivia Rowley (*Filton Police Team*)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs: T Mewies (*Chair & Mayor*) and B.Dewfall.

NON-ATTENDANCE: .

MEETING STARTED AT 7:06PM

1. EVACUATION PROCEDURES - NOTED.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - NOTED: Councillors: T. Mewies and B. Dewfall.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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| A. To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda. | None. |
| B. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any). | None. |
| C. To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate. | None. |

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: No declarations were raised to exclude any items from the press and public.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

RESOLVED: No questions were received from members of the public or press.

6. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: Members agreed that the minutes of the previous Full Council meeting, held on 31st March 2026 should be accepted and approved as a true and accurate record. The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chair.

7. MINUTES FROM COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

NOTED: The following minutes were received and noted.

- Finance & Scrutiny Committee – 14th March 2026

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NOTED: Councillors requested an update regarding Filton Athletic's provision of an outline diagram detailing the spatial and facility requirements associated with the proposed pitch upgrade. Members acknowledged the need to explore associated costs and the time-sensitive nature of securing planning permission in order to meet the target delivery date, enabling the football team to progress within their league structure.

The Town Clerk reported that a recent meeting had taken place with representatives of Filton Athletic's Youth Football Division, including Mr Oliver Keeble, to discuss their requirements. The discussion focused on identifying how the Town Council could support the project in a timely and collaborative manner.

Councillors further suggested that engagement with the planning authority would benefit from inclusion of a local resident survey. This would help to outline the proposed changes, clarify the necessity of the project, and highlight any constraints and required proposals.

9. REPORT FROM LOCAL BEAT TEAM

NOTED: PCSO Megan Lyons introduced PCSO Olivia Rowley, who was attending her first Full Council meeting. PCSO Lyons then presented the Filton Beat Team's monthly report.

It was reported that there has been a general decrease in crime across most categories in the Filton area, with 65 recorded crimes in the most recent 28-day period compared with 104 in the previous month.

Ongoing concerns were highlighted, including:

- Anti-social behaviour in and around Elm Park, including the use of electric and off-road bikes, with increased patrols being undertaken.
- Continued issues with shop thefts at Shield Retail Park.
- Reports of youths congregating near Elm Park Leisure Centre engaging in disruptive behaviour, with patrols implemented to address this.

PCSO Lyons further reported that several uninsured, untaxed and unroadworthy vehicles remained in the parking area at Northville Community Garden. Despite repeated requests for enforcement action, South Gloucestershire Council had not yet taken action and further engagement was being pursued.

The Beat Team also outlined plans to increase community engagement, including hosting events in collaboration with local organisations and venues, such as Elm Park Leisure Centre and Filton Town Council.

Councillor Questions and Responses:

- Members suggested engagement with the local youth organisation FACE to support provision of activities for young people and to help address youth congregation and anti-social behaviour. PCSO Lyons agreed to pursue this collaboration.
- Councillors raised concerns regarding incidents of violence at a local public house and issues of pavement parking during school drop-off and collection times, including obstruction of residents' driveways. PCSO Lyons advised that officers would respond when capacity allows and take appropriate action where issues persist. It was further suggested that affected schools contact the Beat Team directly to work collaboratively on resolving these concerns.
- It was requested by councillors for an update on the recent murder and sought reassurance regarding measures being taken to ensure residents feel safe, noting a significant volume of online commentary expressing public concern.

PCSO Lyons advised that the incident involved individuals known to each other and was being treated as an isolated case. Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, no further details could be provided beyond information already in the public domain. It was confirmed that additional routine patrols had been undertaken in the area to provide reassurance to the community.

- Councillors raised concerns regarding the effectiveness of security gates installed in the previous year to prevent access to rear alleyways, following reports on local social media suggesting that properties, particularly those backing onto Filton Avenue, may still be being targeted.

Councillors further reported that younger residents had expressed anxiety about travelling on foot or via public transport to schools and clubs. Additionally, a request had been received from members of Light & Life Church (Meadowsweet Avenue) for engagement with the Filton Beat Team.

PCSO Lyons strongly encouraged residents to report incidents and concerns directly via the Avon and Somerset Police online reporting system or by calling the non-emergency number (101). It was emphasised that direct reporting enables the police to build an accurate intelligence picture, identify priority locations, allocate resources effectively, and increase patrols where required. PCSO Lyons agreed to make contact with the organisation referenced.

- It was enquired by councillors how vehicle break-ins are categorised within the monthly police report.
PCSO Lyons confirmed that such incidents fall under “Vehicle Offences” and noted that there have been fewer recent reports.

It was then acknowledged that while incidents are frequently discussed on local online forums, they are not always formally reported to the police, which limits the ability to respond effectively.

PCSO Lyons reiterated the importance of direct reporting, confirming that increased reporting would lead to targeted patrols and a greater visible police presence in affected areas.

Finally, PCSO Lyons confirmed that the Beat Team would be willing to support and attend future community events organised by Filton Town Council, including seasonal events such as Halloween and Bonfire Night, and confirmed attendance at the Filton Festival scheduled for Sunday, 5th July 2026.

10. PRESENTATION BY ELM PARK LEISURE

NOTED: The Centre Manager, Mr Bell delivered a presentation on the performance and operations of Elm Park Leisure Centre and responded to Members’ questions.

It was reported that overall usage performance remains strong at just over 85%. Membership levels have continued to increase, with a net growth of 52 members compared to the previous month, and direct debit income showing consistent upward trends.

Revenue performance was reported as positive, with monthly direct debit income increasing from £38,800 in March to £40,260 in April, with further growth forecast for May.

Ongoing monitoring of attrition and retention was noted, with a particular focus on reducing swim membership attrition.

Members were advised of continued compliance and maintenance works, including legionella prevention measures, fire door inspections, plant maintenance and ongoing training requirements. Planned actions include further deep cleaning of the pool environment and additional remedial works.

Additional operational updates included energy usage for March, reported at approximately £4,700, with savings achieved through reduced consumption and approximately 33.8% of

energy demand being supported by solar panels. Overall financial performance was reported as operating at a marginal profit position.

It was further reported that the Leisure Centre is planning an Open Day on Monday, 25th May 2026 (Bank Holiday), alongside attendance at local community events including the Filton Hill Primary School Summer Fair on Sunday, 28th June 2026 at 11am to 2pm, as well as this years Filton Festival on Sunday the 5th July 2026. Marketing initiatives, including banner advertising and increased social media activity, are being implemented to improve outreach. Proposals were also outlined to deliver additional children's activities, including inflatable sessions, during the summer period.

Members' Questions and Responses:

- Councillors enquired about the potential introduction of discounted memberships for blue light and NHS staff.
Mr Bell advised that this is under review. He further noted that additional personal trainers have been recruited to deliver sessions better targeted at older residents.
- It was also queried by Councillors of the level of profit being generated.
Mr Bell reported that operational efficiencies, including increased direct debit uptake, have contributed to cost savings, including approximately £600 in staffing-related savings.
- It was further highlighted by councillors that upon feedback from Cribbs Enablement Services indicating a reduction in mobility-related provision and suggested this as a potential opportunity for the Leisure Centre to expand accessible services.

Mr Bell acknowledged this opportunity and confirmed a commitment to inclusive provision for individuals of all abilities and age groups. He also noted intentions to expand outreach through local schools and community events to engage a broader demographic. Work is ongoing to identify more efficient delivery methods to support these objectives.

11. SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORTS

NOTED: Members received a report from South Gloucestershire Councillors. Key updates included ongoing work relating to Special Expenses, with a Scrutiny Working Group established to review proposed changes, and further consultations expected ahead of conclusions in June.

It was reported that discussions with South Gloucestershire Council officers regarding the bus gate are ongoing, including an exploratory meeting held to review the matter. Councillors were advised that any request to prioritise further investigation or closure may incur significant costs (estimated at approximately £5,000 for expedited assessment) and would remain subject to approval by South Gloucestershire Council. It was noted that such proposals are currently considered a low priority within existing highways programmes.

Members discussed the potential for Filton Town Council to consider submitting a highways priority request following the forthcoming elections, should it wish to pursue escalation of the bus gate issue. It was highlighted that any commitment to proceed may carry long-term implications and may not be easily reversible, with an indicative duration of up to two years should a change of position be sought. Concerns raised by South Gloucestershire Council in relation to the proposal were also noted, including the potential for increased traffic congestion.

Further updates included:

- **Highways and Infrastructure:** Ongoing planning considerations regarding traffic impacts in the Brabazon and A38 area were noted. It was also reported that maintenance works to a local bridge are required due to wear and tear.
- **Special Expenses:** Members noted budget implications, including allocated funding for environmental maintenance such as flower beds.

- **Blenheim Drive:** Progress is being made on a transfer document, with a proposed lease period of approximately 13–15 years.
- **Community Engagement:** The next “Your Voice” event is planned to be held at Elm Park as a family-focused event, with highways officers in attendance. This is intended to align with the Filton Festival scheduled for Sunday, 5 July 2026.
- **Central Garage Site:** Progress was noted as ongoing, with scrutiny being applied to delivery activity occurring outside expected timeframes.

Members’ Questions and Responses:

- It was queried whether any improvements were planned for the zebra crossing at the Gloucester Road North roundabout.
- Cllr Monk confirmed that roundabout improvement works are scheduled to commence within approximately 10 weeks, with communications to be issued in advance. Works are expected to be undertaken during night-time hours to minimise disruption.
- Cllr Milestone further enquired about potential design proposals for the flyover.
- Cllr Monk advised that further information would be sought.
- An alternative location for a local Post Office could be explored, such as within the Morrisons store at Conygre Triangle, in light of the anticipated closure of the Church Road facility. Concerns were also raised regarding the condition of Charles Road, including potholes and surface quality.
- Cllr Monk advised that previous applications for relocation had not been successful but agreed to seek further information. It was further noted that Charles Road is currently not prioritised within the highways maintenance programme due to its classification.
- Cllr Doyle highlighted the availability of the South Gloucestershire Council reporting application, which enables residents to report potholes and upload photographic evidence, and encouraged wider public use to support prioritisation of repairs.
- Councillors also raised concerns regarding drainage issues during periods of heavy rainfall, particularly along Gloucester Road North. It was suggested that these issues be addressed in conjunction with planned highway improvements, especially in light of anticipated changes to parking provision.
- Cllr Monk advised that drainage works had been undertaken during winter 2025; however, it was further disputed that issues appear to persist despite these interventions.

12. MODESHIFT ACCREDITATION FOR FILTON SCHOOLS

Members considered a proposal to support the implementation of the Modeshift STARS Active Travel Accreditation Scheme across local primary schools within Filton. The scheme is a nationally recognised programme that promotes sustainable travel planning in schools, with accreditation progressing from ‘Good’ through to ‘Outstanding’, assessed annually.

The initiative seeks to encourage safer, healthier and more sustainable journeys to school, with the wider objective of reducing traffic congestion and improving air quality. Members noted the ambition for Filton to become the first town within South Gloucestershire to achieve full participation across its schools.

The Town Clerk reported that engagement with local schools is already underway. Filton Hill Primary School has recently joined the scheme and is working towards its first accreditation. Charborough Road Primary School and Shield Road Primary School are both currently

accredited at 'Good' level and are progressing towards the next stage. A meeting with Charborough Road Primary School was scheduled for later that week, and further engagement with Shield Road Primary School is anticipated.

Members were advised that the Town Council may support participating schools through practical measures, including the provision of funding or grants for the installation or expansion of cycle parking facilities, to encourage pupils and parents to adopt active travel options.

- Councillors raised a query regarding how the scheme would accommodate and support accessibility for disabled children and adults.
- Cllr Monk acknowledged the importance of inclusivity and advised that further engagement would be undertaken to explore appropriate measures. It was emphasised that the initiative is not intended to discourage necessary car use, particularly where reliance on vehicles is essential for accessibility.

Members also discussed the potential for additional awareness measures, including signage encouraging parents and carers to park away from school entrances and complete the final part of their journey on foot, thereby reducing congestion and improving safety.

RESOLVED:

- That Filton Town Council supports the Modeshift STARS programme in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council.
- That the Town Clerk be authorised to engage with all local primary schools to support achieving initial 'Good' accreditation and, over time, higher accreditation levels.
- That the initiative be progressed on behalf of the Town Council, with Member oversight as appropriate.

Members further agreed to promote the initiative and invite public engagement and questions, including through a future edition of Filton Voice.

13. TOWN OF CULTURE UPDATE

NOTED: Members received an update on the Filton UK Town of Culture 2028 bid. It was emphasised that the initiative is a "Filton Bid", rather than solely a Town Council bid, and aims to deliver a comprehensive cultural programme for 2028 through a partnership approach.

Members were advised that the project is being developed through a network of strategic partners, including local authorities, educational institutions, cultural organisations and major employers, alongside a wider group of community organisations and stakeholders who will contribute to and benefit from delivery of the programme.

The Town Clerk outlined ongoing work to build partnerships and expand outreach, including engagement with local and neighbouring schools, community groups, and regional organisations. It was noted that local organisations participating in the programme would benefit through opportunities for involvement and development, aligned to the wider cultural vision for Filton.

Members noted that several existing and planned initiatives form part of the bid's "signature projects", including the Conygre Regeneration Project, expansion of local markets, school travel initiatives, Elm Park's Green Flag Award, improvements to sports facilities, and a programme of community events. These projects collectively contribute to strengthening Filton's cultural offering and long-term investment in the town.

It was further reported that Elm Park Leisure Centre is proposed as the central hub ("Bid HQ") for the project, with governance arrangements, including oversight, financial management and delivery structures, to be developed in the coming months.

An update was provided on recent progress, including a visit from Green Flag Award judges to Elm Park in April, where a tour and presentation were facilitated by the Park Ranger.

Members were advised that the outcome of the current stage of the bid process is expected by the end of June 2026, following national assessment processes. It was also noted that assessors may undertake site visits to locations within Filton as part of the evaluation process.

- Councillors sought clarification regarding the expected level of involvement from Councillors in the bid.

The Town Clerk advised that while direct operational involvement is not essential, it is important that Councillors support the initiative through advocacy, raising public awareness, and communicating the Council's ambitions, including the role of governance structures and the proposed Bid HQ.

14. SPORTS UPDATE

NOTED: Members received a verbal update from the Town Clerk advising that the Sports Development Ranger has developed plans for an Elm Park Community Fun Run, scheduled to take place in June. In addition, ongoing research is being undertaken into the potential delivery of future sporting activities and initiatives at Elm Park.

It was reported that work is being undertaken to explore external funding opportunities to support the development of sports provision within the town. In particular, the Sports Development Ranger has commenced enquiries with The National Lottery Community Fund regarding a potential grant application.

Members noted that the 'National Lottery Awards for All' programme offers grants ranging from £300 to £20,000 to support community-based projects that improve local spaces and promote health and wellbeing. The proposed project aligns with these objectives, focusing on enhancing community facilities and encouraging increased physical activity.

The Council is exploring the potential use of such funding to develop or improve outdoor gym and fitness facilities at Elm Park. This includes consideration of transforming underutilised space into an accessible outdoor exercise area designed for use by residents of all ages and abilities.

Members welcomed the initiative and noted the potential benefits in terms of improved health outcomes, increased community engagement and enhanced use of public open spaces.

15. FILTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MEETING MAY 2026

NOTED: Members received an update regarding the forthcoming Filton Community (Business) Partnership Meeting, organised jointly by Filton Town Council and the Foundation of Active Community Engagement (FACE). The meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 20th May 2026, from 1:15pm to 2:30pm at Filton Hill Primary School.

Members noted that the event is intended to provide a networking opportunity for local businesses, community organisations, employers and stakeholders, with the aim of strengthening partnerships, sharing ideas, and supporting collaborative working across Filton.

The meeting will include keynote updates, stakeholder introductions, a presentation from FACE, and a workshop session relating to the Watermark Town initiative, alongside wider updates on community priorities and the Town of Culture bid.

The Support Officer provided a verbal update, which Members received and noted, and no further questions were raised.

16. COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Members were advised of current vacancies on the following committees:

- Planning & Climate Committee
- Assets & Open Spaces Committee

RESOLVED: No Councillors present indicated an interest in filling the vacancies at this time. Members were informed that any Councillor wishing to be considered for these Committees should contact Council officers to express their interest.

17. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS – NOTED: The Deputy Mayor informed Members that the Mayor's birthday would take place on Friday, 1st May 2026. Councillors were advised that they would be welcome to join in any associated celebrations.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – NOTED: Tuesday, 26th May 2026 at 7pm.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8:28PM