

GREAT RISSINGTON PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held Tuesday May 5th 2026

Great Rissington Club

Chaired by: Cllr Andrew Keep (Chairman, Great Rissington Parish Council)

In attendance: Cllr Andrew Keep (Chair), Cllr David Turnbull, Cllr Kate Bishop, Cllr Caroline Taplin, Clerk Jane Carter, District Cllr Craig Thurling, County Cllr Daryl Corps

Residents present: 22

Apologies: Cllr Melanie Darwent

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS
260505/APM1	Apologies for Absence: Cllr Melanie Darwent (on holiday).
260505/APM2	Chairman's Annual Report: Cllr Andrew Keep presented his report. He welcomed the continued strong engagement of residents with parish council affairs. Key points noted: Collaboration: For the first time, the council has engaged in active collaboration with Bourton-on-the-Water and Little Rissington parish councils on traffic management measures, with the aim of preventing coaches from being diverted through the village. Local Government Reorganisation: The council submitted its views on proposals to replace the current two-tier structure with unitary authorities. A decision from the Secretary of State is expected in autumn 2026. Bus shelter: The new bus shelter has been completed, concluding a longstanding project. Grass cutting: A revised grass cutting regime was agreed and is now in place. School closure: The Chair acknowledged with regret that Rissington School's Great Rissington site will not host daily classes from September 2026, noting the school's significance to the community. Planning: Approximately 60 planning applications had been considered over the past 12 months, covering a wide range of matters. The Chair emphasised the importance of continued careful scrutiny given the village's location within the Cotswold National Landscape. 20 mph speed limit: The Chair noted that a discussion on a proposed 20 mph speed limit would take place at the July council meeting, and encouraged residents to share their views informally beforehand.
260505/APM3	Reports from Organisations and Invited Representatives: District Councillor — Craig Thurling: District Cllr Thurling reported on the following matters: Christmas waste collections: Following a resident complaint about excess waste at Christmas, discussions are underway with Ubico about establishing a designated collection point in the village. An update is expected shortly. Blocked drains: Drains from the Lamb Inn down towards Rectory Lane have been blocked for approximately a year. The matter has been reported repeatedly via Fix My Street. District Cllr Thurling is working with County Cllr Corps to escalate the issue. A424 resurfacing: Requests for resurfacing of the A424 due to potholes are being progressed; Highways have indicated they will bring it into their forward plan. Fraud awareness: The District Council has launched an awareness campaign on financial scams targeting vulnerable residents. Information and links to available support will be circulated via the parish council website. Cost of living support: Details of grants and payments available to residents struggling with the cost of living are on the CDC website. Residents in need can contact District Cllr Thurling directly. County Councillor — Daryl Corps: County Cllr Corps reported on the following matters:

County Council administration: The new Liberal Democrat administration has settled in. Adult social care and children's services continue as before; Ofsted rated children's services as Good, up from Inadequate.

Grassroots Fund: The former 'Build Back Better' fund has been rebranded as the Grassroots Fund. Cllr Corps has allocated grants to Headspace (youth mental health charity, with funds directed to rural outreach in the Rissingtons) and to Men in Sheds in Moreton-in-Marsh (for a defibrillator). Residents with ideas for the fund are encouraged to contact the parish council or Cllr Corps directly.

Highways budget: The local highways budget has been centralised, meaning Cllr Corps must now make individual applications for minor works. Substantial road investment has been made in the area in recent years.

20 mph speed limits: No locations in the North Cotswolds have been allocated in the first, second or third phases of the county's 20 mph rollout. Cllr Corps has asked the Cabinet Member for Highways to explain the metrics used and has submitted a Freedom of Information request.

Farmers and rural economy: Cllr Corps successfully proposed a motion, agreed unanimously at GCC, committing the county to supporting local farmers through council procurement and the Made in Gloucestershire programme.

Special educational needs school: Planning approval has been granted for a new 200-place SEN school in Cheltenham.

Local government reorganisation: Cllr Corps noted that the Secretary of State's decision is expected in autumn. He indicated a personal preference for a single unitary authority, though national precedent suggests the government may favour two smaller units of approximately 300,000 population.

Stow Fair: The traveller community had arrived in the area earlier than usual; Cllr Corps left the meeting briefly to respond to a related matter.

Rissington School —Laura Hudson addressed the meeting and explained that, from September 2026, all classes will be based at the Upper Rissington site due to significantly falling pupil numbers. Reception intake has fallen from 39–40 two years ago to 23 this year, with a forecast of 16 in two years' time. The Great Rissington site will remain part of the school and will continue to be used for Forest School sessions, art therapy, design and technology, science, and school council meetings. The site will still be owned and maintained as part of the school. A whole-school photograph and time capsule project are planned to mark the change. The Head will provide future updates to the parish council as plans develop. It was agreed that information be disseminated to all residents via the Great Rissington News and the village email group.

St John the Baptist Church

The parish is currently without an associate priest following Revd Nina's departure in July 2025; recruitment is underway. The new St John's Choir has launched and is open to all. Regular services, the church electoral roll, and community use of the church were highlighted. Contact details are posted on the church noticeboard.

Coffee Cake and Chat

The weekly Tuesday morning coffee morning at the church has been running for almost eight years, with only a pandemic-enforced break. It takes place 10 a.m.–12 noon, is open to all, and has raised approximately £1,800 for the church in the past six months alone, contributing to over 1,500 cakes baked over eight years. The Christmas Tree Festival also celebrates its eighth anniversary this December, with 26 trees exhibited last year.

Church Bells and Eco Church

St John's has six bells and five active ringers; one further ringer is needed. Practices are held on alternate Thursdays, combined with the Bourton band. The church holds a Silver Eco Church award and maintains ongoing environmental commitments including wildflower areas, swift boxes and a green electricity tariff.

	Great Rissington News The village magazine, now approaching its 50th year, is distributed to current and former residents including internationally. Articles, news, and donations are always welcome. Rissingtons Local History Society: Membership stands at 71. The annual programme comprises seven talks and three visits, held at Upper Rissington Village Hall. Forthcoming topics include the Mitford sisters, Cotswold industrial heritage. Details on the society website and in the village magazine. Gardening Club: Meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Annual membership is £20, which includes six talks and four private garden visits with tea. Thirty-three members currently; new members are welcomed. Wine Club: Informal Friday evening social gathering at the club from approximately 6 p.m. All are welcome. Village Market: Held on the second Saturday of each month, March to November, 10 a.m.–12 noon. Stalls include bric-a-brac, books, cake, and bacon/sausage rolls. Volunteers, particularly for setting up and packing away, are welcome. Great Rissington Club The club hosts archery and cricket as well as regular social events including Sunday lunches, quiz nights, film nights, wine tastings and murder mystery nights. The bar is open Tuesday–Friday from 4.30 p.m., Saturday 1–6 p.m., and Sunday lunchtimes. Annual membership is £20 and includes bar and meal discounts. Membership numbers have recently reached approximately 376. Pristine Parish The litter-picking group has 12 regular volunteers with six litter pickers, operating twice weekly. In addition to clearing litter, the group is building a photographic evidence base to approach corporations (including fast food outlets and cider brands) whose packaging appears repeatedly, with a view to seeking financial contributions. The group welcomes new volunteers and is looking to extend its coverage towards Bourton. Duke of Edinburgh participants are also welcome.
260505/APM4	Open Forum: Drainage — persistent water leak: A resident reported that a water leak at the front of their property has been present since November 2025. The council attended recently, filled the hole, but did not resolve the underlying fault; water broke through again after heavy rain and sandbags have been placed as a temporary measure. County Cllr Corps agreed to take up the matter directly Drain outside Old Rectory: A further drainage problem at the Old Rectory was noted, with water regularly pushing out of the drain. NOTED alongside the wider drainage issues already raised with the county. Refreshments were served