



GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council meeting** held at the Village Hall, Great Finborough **Monday, 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors: A Mann (Chairman)
 J Kemp
 S Waspe
 J Spencer
 R Burton

In Attendance County Cllr Matt Bentley
 District Cllr John Matthissen

GFPC88/26/27 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morgan, Cllr Tarabella and the Parish Clerk, which was approved.

GFPC89/26/27 – DECLARATIONS ON INTEREST

None had been received.

GFPC90/26/27 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

GFPC91/26/27 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 15th JUNE 2026

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15th June 2026 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

GFPC92/26/27 - PUBLIC FORUM

Resident from College Barn asked for an update on the request for 'beware horses' signs.

GFPC93/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Bennett's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

He reported that plans to increase provision of bus services across Suffolk had been taken to Council. Discussions had taken place to relieve the pressure on Parish Councils and the need to bid.

Cllr Mann raised the Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to which Cllr Bentley confirmed he was exploring if he could fully fund the SIDs and would report back.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Morgan follow up with Cllr Bentley the agreement of funding

GFPC94/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR JOHN MATTHISSEN

Cllr Matthissen's report had not yet been received.

A discussion took place around the bin distribution and how it had caught up with everyone receiving the new bins. It was confirmed that there had not been further general complaints in the village.

Cllr Matthissen reported the following:

- The 'Pride in your Place' local grant funding remained available.
- Gateway 14 - 40% of spaces already let and at a reasonable price
- Locality Budget - invited requests based on the Agenda items discussed at the meeting

GFPC95/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

b) TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk reported on the Council's current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts as of 6th July 2026 was £53,876.93.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

GF Village Hall	Hall Hire (Jan - Jun)	£174.00
Elan City	SIDs / Solar Panel / Brackets	£3,270.11
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jul)	tbc
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£33.70

The Clerk reported the following payments be ratified:

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Jun)	£600.09
Megan Clarke	Litter Pickers Pay (Jun)	£18.00
Roman Gambling	Litter Pickers Pay (Jun)	£24.00
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th July	£35.74
Oliver Reeves	Litter Pickers Pay (Apr/May/Jun)	£42.00
Digital Copycentre	Newsletter Printing	£220.00
Robinson Arnold	Garden Maintenance	£822.00
Mrs J Newell	Brushcutter	£191.30

It was AGREED: That payments totalling £4,830.85 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) MILEAGE RATES

It was AGREED: That the increase in mileage rate from 0.45p per mile to 0.55 pence per mile be approved.

e) **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

It was AGREED: That as the External Auditor's report had not yet been received this item was deferred to the next meeting.

GFPC96/26/27 – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

GFPC97/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

GFPC98/26/27 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

GFPC99/26/27 – JOINT LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION

Cllr Mann reported that he had attended the webinar during the previous week where other large 'towns' were present.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Morgan share the link for the survey and would post on the Parish Council's Facebook page a couple of times before 31st July.
That Sally Gooch to support local residents to complete the survey for those who did not have access to internet.

GFPC100/26/27 – UPDATE – POSTS IN VILLAGE

Cllr Mann reported that to replace the rotten posts in the village would cost in the region of £500 for wooden ones and £1,500 for composite ones. He was still seeking further quotes.

Cllr Mann stated that he would bring a sample of the materials to the September meeting. **Cllr Mann to action.**

Funding for the project needed to be explored. **Cllr Morgan to action.**

GFPC101/26/27 – PURCHASE OF STRIMMER – WOODPECKER HILL GROUP

Cllr Mann confirmed that the strimmer had been purchased.

He stated that he would check on safety equipment such as goggles and gloves. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC102/26/27 - UPDATE ON 20MPH ZONES WITHIN THE PARISH

Cllr Mann reported that he had spoken with Matthew Fox from Suffolk County Council (SCC) to explore 20mph zones in the village. Matthew Fox felt that the speed could be reduced around the Primary School.

He stated that the cost for a survey would be £450 plus the Parish Council could use its own speed guns.

Cllr Mann had received one response from the Newsletter article asking for residents opinions on the subject.

It was noted that the Quiet Lane scheme would potentially become available again.

Discussions took place around ways to canvas opinion for the 20mph between the Primary School and the Village Hall.

Cllr Kemp agreed to create a Microsoft form to canvas opinion from Primary School / Pre-School / Finborough School with any questions being shared with the Parish Council ahead of distribution. **Cllr Kemp to action.**

a) Extension of 30mph – High Road (Hitcham end)

It was felt that the extension could be explored with Cllr Bentley, although it was noted that previous Councillors had tried before on two occasions without success.

Cllr Mann stated that he would speak with Cllr Bentley on the issue. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC103/26/27 – UPDATE – PICNIC BENCH – WILDFLOWER MEADOW

It was noted that the current bench had been made safe, with discussions taking place around if it needed to be replaced or whether to wait until the Orchard was ready.

It was AGREED: That the item should be deferred until the Orchard Project was confirmed.

GFPC104/26/27 – UPDATE - HORSE RIDER SIGNAGE

Cllr Mann reported that he had met with Matthew Fox (SCC) to discuss where the signage could go without causing any obstruction.

Matthew Fox had stated that a sign could go at the crest of the hill and one metre in from the roadside so it was not on Highways land and gave better visibility. During the discussion issues were highlighted in relation to the pulling out of the sign with a tractor.

Costs involved would be as followed:

DHF products (Council supplier) three metre post - £40 (excl. vat), sign (£79 excl. vat) plus £30 for post-crete but two would be needed so would be approximately £300.

Cllrs would check whether the project could be funded from the CiL pot.

The resident from College Barn offered to support financially if the Parish Council Could not fully fund the project, with her neighbour potentially being able to also contribute.

Both landowners confirmed they would be in support of the signage being on their land.

It was AGREED: That the costs stated above be approved.
That Cllr Mann check whether CiL could be used.

An update was received in relation to Knights Bridge with repairs being delayed due to conflict in timing with Highways.

On 5th August a site meeting was due to be held to discuss traffic calming measures at the bridge with confirmation being required for the Parish Council to attend.

Cllr Bentley requested feedback from residents and one representative from the Parish Council.

GFPC105/26/27 – UPDATE - LIGHTING FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR UNIT PLUS REPLACING STRUCTURE

It was AGREED: That this item be deferred to the September meeting.

GFPC106/26/27 – UPDATE – NEWSLETTER

There was nothing to report.

GFPC107/26/27 – UPDATE - SWIMMING POOL

Cllr Mann agreed to speak with Cllr Waspe in relation to wooden protective boarding that had been agreed at the June meeting. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC108/26/27 – PLAY AREA

There was nothing to report.

GFPC109/26/27 - VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

a) Shelter by Football Pitch

Members discussed how used the shelter was. Suggestions were made in relation to whether the Perspex could be removed from the shelter to make it look better and make it safer.

Cllr Mann stated that he would investigate the removal of the Perspex and explore the refreshing of the shelter ahead of the Orchard development. **Cllr Mann to action.**

Other village maintenance issues included:

- Trees - Cllr Mann had trimmed back some low branches on a path and also the 30 mph sign on Valley Lane
- Water box by the allotments needed to be levelled
- New SIDs and brackets had arrived
- SID near the Primary School - charge only lasted eight days
- SID on Purple Hill - no longer charges – suggestion of selling it

GFPC110/26/27 – FLOOD WORKING GROUP

a) Hill Farm Leaky Dams

It was noted that consultation work to complete the application forms could begin from 20th July.

Cllr Mann stated that he would speak with Paul Marriage about the progress. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC111/26/27 - BIODIVERSITY

a) Action Plan

An update had been received via email from Cllr Tarabella

b) Tree Works

Mary and Martin had put ribbons on trees denoting urgency of action. There were some trees that could not be managed by the Woodpecker volunteers. James Firman was going to quote for the ongoing maintenance costs and stated that it would be three-four days work for two people and would initially cost £2,000. There were some elements that needed to be actioned urgently.

It was noted that CiL could be used to fund the work.

Cllr Mann proposed £3,000 budget for the initial tree work at Woodpecker Hill and confirmed that no new membrane was needed for the pathways.

It was AGREED: That £3,000 be budgeted for the initial phase of work.

It was noted that Cllr Matthisson had confirmed that locality funding could be applied for to cut the chestnut tree in the village and it was agreed that Cllr Morgan follow that up with Cllr Matthisson to confirm the £1,200 (plus VAT) for the Chestnut Horse. **Cllr Morgan to action.**

It was agreed that James Firman be invited to the Parish Council meeting in September to explain the work to be carried out on the Chestnut Horse and the Parish Council would advertise the works via the Newsletter and posters around the village.

Mary Smyth offered feedback from the Woodpecker Hill Volunteer Group that there may be a move to a more formal group in the future linked to the Biodiversity Action Group led by Cllr Tarabella.

GFPC112/26/27 – EMERGENCY PLAN

It was reported that Cllr Spencer, Cllr Morgan and Connor met to review and explore the Emergency Plan.

The first focus was around flooding as the blueprint could be replicated to other types of ‘emergency’.

It was discussed that GiFT be contacted to provide a list of ‘vulnerable’ residents and Suffolk County Council’s Emergency Plan be explored for guidance and how it could link. **Cllr Spencer to action.**

GFPC113/26/27 - FOOTPATHS

The footpath down to Buxhall Lodge was discussed with the issue being rectified.

Also, the footpath near City Lane was discussed but it was unclear which land it was on.

GFPC114/26/27 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Rendering at a residents house and the need for exploration about how to improve the water flow around there. Community Asset Register to be reviewed and Assets of Community Value be explored.
- Cloud based working
- Knights Bridge Site Meeting – 5th August 2026 – traffic calming
- Compost site for the Village – add to next Agenda
- 30mph sign on Purple Hill knocked down

GFPC115/26/27 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday, 21st September 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 9.23pm

Chairman: Dated: