



GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Council meeting** held at the Village Hall, Great Finborough
Monday, 15th June 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Councillors: A Mann (Chairman)
 L Morgan
 J Kemp
 S Waspe
 J Spencer

In Attendance Mrs J Blackburn – Clerk
 District Councillor John Matthissen

GFPC60/26/27 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Tarabella and Cllr Burton, which were approved.

GFPC61/26/27 – DECLARATIONS ON INTEREST

None had been received.

GFPC62/26/27 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

GFPC63/26/27 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18th MAY 2026

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th May 2026 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

GFPC64/26/27 - PUBLIC FORUM

Two members of the public were present. No issues were raised.

GFPC65/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Bentley was not present at the meeting. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

GFPC66/26/27 - 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 11th June 2026 was £55,585.19.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£32.75
ICO	Date Protection Renewal	£47.00
Wave	Water for Allotments	£24.57

The Clerk reported the following payments be ratified:

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (May)	£599.89
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (May)	£32.75
Megan Clarke	Litter Pickers Pay (May)	£18.00
Roman Gambling	Litter Pickers Pay (May)	£25.60
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th June	£35.94
Digital Copycentre	Newsletter Printing	£220.00

It was AGREED: That payments totalling £436.61 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipts were noted.

M & K Bryan	Newsletter Advert	£75.00
Robinson Arnold	Newsletter Advert	£103.00
MSDC	Grant for Leaky Dams Application Costs	£3,357.45

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

GFPC67/26/27 – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Comments and suggestions had been received from Cllrs in relation to what should be in the Policy.

WhatsApp content was also discussed and it was agreed to take off the auto deletion from the group chat in order for content to be retrievable if required.

Comments on social media in relation to planning was also raised. A section would be included within the Policy to cover that.

The Clerk would re-write the Policy to include comments and suggestions made and bring back to the next meeting for approval. **Clerk to action.**

GFPC68/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

GFPC69/26/27 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

Cllr Mann reported that Cllr Tarabella had given an update, following concerns raised at the previous Parish Council meeting, in relation to the Valley Farm Re-wilding project.

On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Tarabella had contacted Daniel Cameron, Planning Officer, with details of the concerns raised. No response had been received so Enforcement was approached, who sent the following response:

“Following the submission of your report to the Planning Enforcement team please be advised that we have an existing investigation on the site regarding this”

GFPC70/26/27 - UPDATE ON 20MPH ZONES WITHIN THE PARISH

Cllr Mann reported that he had drafted an article for the next edition of the Newsletter in which he would asked residents for suggestions and views on which areas of the village they would like to see 20mph speed limits introduced.

He would inform them of the areas that were being considered. **All Agreed.**

GFPC71/26/27 – CIL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS

a) Replacement Posts

Cllr Mann reported that many posts were rotten and required replacement. He explained that the job of installing the posts would be significant and therefore felt that a contractor should be assigned for the works.

A general discussion took place in relation to what posts should be used, concrete or recycled plastic.

Cllr Mann stated that he would also look at the posts on the village green also and would seek quotes and samples. **Cllr Mann to action.**

b) Strimmer – Woodpecker Hill Group

Cllr Mann reported that the Woodpecker Hill Group had asked the Parish Council for a strimmer.

Mary Smyth, who was present at the meeting, explained that she had a battery operated strimmer and felt it would be sufficient for what the Group would need it for. She would liaise with Cllr Mann as to the make and model for him to seek quotes.

c) - Tree Works, d) – Biodiversity and e) – Additional / replacement SIDs would be discussed later in the meeting at items 22 and 24.

Cllr Morgan reported that a Beacon was for sale and was something he wondered should be considered. It would cost £1,750 plus installation.

Members discussed the Beacon and the general view was that it would be something nice to have in the village rather than something that would be needed. The practicalities of installing it and lighting it would become too costly.

GFPC72/26/27 – WAR MEMORIAL

A general discussion took place in relation to the War Memorial and its surroundings.

Following a suggestion that the memorial required work Cllr Morgan reported that after inspection it was clear that the foundations were good and solid. He suggested that the ground surrounding the war memorial would benefit from a tidy up and he would liaise with the Gardening Club as to what could be planted to enhance its appearance. **Cllr Morgan to action.**

GFPC73/26/27 – THAI FOOD TRUCK

Cllr Mann reported that he had been approached by a resident who had informed him that there was a local Thai food truck "Real Thai Food" that travelled around the villages and small towns in the area. The owner was always open to requests for visits, and when Great Finborough was mentioned she said she would be happy to visit if a parking spot could be suggested.

Members discussed the options and it was felt that the truck visits should perhaps coincide with when the Pub was shut. Also, Tuesday lunchtimes should be avoided as that was when the Fish and Chip Truck visited the village.

Due to concerns such as possible increase in litter, a trial period was suggested. **All Agreed.**

Cllr Mann would liaise with the resident and Thai Food Truck owner. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC74/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR JOHN MATTHISSEN

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

He reported that in relation to Cagmans Farm, they needed time to comply to no further action could be taken at this time.

Cllr Matthissen highlighted the following items from his report:

- Joint Local Plan - The District Council would be asking the public for views on what was important to them as the districts grew and developed and how best they could be included in the process.
- Gateway 14 – Innovation Centre - Construction of a 'transformational' £18 million, state-of-the-art skills and innovation centre in Stowmarket had been completed – and was ready to open next month. The Innovation Gateway would offer a range of office spaces for high growth start-ups, collaboration and innovation areas, meeting rooms and high-quality training spaces.
- Armed Forces Day – Saturday, 27th June 2026

Cllr Matthissen stated that the new recycling programme was well underway and if anyone had not yet received their new bins then to contact recycling@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk to inform them.

Members informed Cllr Matthissen of homes in the village that they were aware had not received their bins as yet, to which Cllr Matthissen made a note of the addresses.

Cllr Mann informed Cllr Matthissen that Enforcement had already been made aware of the Valley Farm Re-wilding issue and were investigating the situation.

Cllr Kemp asked Cllr Matthissen about the route 51 bus from Hadleigh to Stowmarket and how long it would run for, to which Cllr Matthissen replied that it would be reviewed after 12 months.

Cllr Spencer asked Cllr Matthissen about the Joint Local Plan Scoping Consultation and when would be the best time for the Parish Council to comment. Cllr Matthissen stated that the Parish Council could comment anytime. He explained that the Parish Council should consider things such as water supply to the village, how many schools there were etc with evidence being required.

GFPC74/26/27 – HORSE RIDER SIGNAGE

Cllr Mann reported that he was due to meet with Matthew Fox from the County Council the following day to discuss the signage and the best options for the location of the posts.

GFPC75/26/27 – EV CHARGING IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Morgan confirmed that an expression of interest had been submitted and subsequently had been added to the waiting list.

GFPC76/26/27 - LIGHTING FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR UNIT PLUS REPLACING STRUCTURE

Cllr Mann reported that he would contact an electrician, suggested by Cllr Kemp in relation to the lighting for the defibrillator.

Cllr Morgan reported that currently the defibrillator was registered with both the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) and The Circuit. He explained that consumables would usually be purchased from the CHT but he had recently seen a decline in their customer service and felt the Parish Council should cease using them in future. He confirmed that consumables could be purchased online.

He also confirmed that as the defibrillator was registered with The Circuit, future submissions for 'defibrillator ready' status and reporting would be continued through them.

It was AGREED: That consumables for the defibrillator would be purchased online moving forward. That Cllr Morgan contact the CHT to inform them of the Parish Council's departure from their services.

GFPC77/26/27 - SWIMMING POOL

Cllr Waspe reported that whilst the project was no further forward, he would like to install posts and a board of marine ply wood against the wall of the swimming pool to protect it from further breakage.

Members were in agreement as permission had been received from the landowners in relation to trying to save the swimming pool from decay.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Waspe install posts and a board and should funding be required up to £100 be spent.

GFPC78/26/27 – FLOOD WORKING GROUP

a) Leaky Dams

Cllr Mann reported that funding had been awarded to complete the application for the registration of permits for the Leaky Dam project. The project would commence in July with the Permit application form having been submitted to the Wildlife Trust.

He explained that the only route was to use the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who were currently short staffed

GFPC79/26/27 - REPLACEMENT PICNIC BENCH

Cllr Mann expressed his thanks to the resident who had made safe the picnic bench at Wildflower Meadow.

Suggestions and consideration continued as to a replacement.

GFPC80/26/27 – PLAY AREA

Cllr Mann reported that the annual play area inspection had included a slight increase in cost of approximately £25.

It was AGREED: That the cost increase be approved.

GFPC81/26/27 - NEWSLETTER

There was nothing to report.

GFPC82/26/27 - VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

a/b) Purchase of Replacement Speed Indicator Device (SID) and additional solar panel and brackets

Cllr Mann reported that the cost for an extra solar panel and brackets would be £394.23 plus VAT.

In relation to the purchase of the new SID, plus extra solar panel and brackets, Cllr Mann asked Cllr Matthissen if locality funding would be available to which he replied yes, it would.

It was AGREED: That the solar panel and brackets be purchased. **Cllr Burton to action.**

c) Tree Works

Cllr Mann reported that he had received a complaint from a resident in relation to trees growing over and around cables, which would be investigated further.

Cllr Mann also reported that he had contacted James Firman about works to the Chestnut Tree and also him attending a Parish Council meeting to discuss the works. A reply had not yet been received.

GFPC83/26/27 - BIODIVERSITY

a) Mary Smyth reported that Richard Parmee, Diversity Manager from the District Council, had visited and walked around the meadow and other parts of the village and suggested which trees required attention. Moving forward he had suggested that a Tree Surgeon be appointed to review the trees regularly and carry out any required works.

She added that she had spoken to all the volunteers at the Woodpecker Hill group, who had confirmed that some works were beyond their capability.

Richard Parmee had been impressed with what the village were doing in terms of biodiversity and had agreed to make an application for a number of fruit trees of the village's choice. He advised that community engagement would be required as part of the application process. Mary Smyth explained that at a village event at the weekend she had sought views of the residents and had gained 33 views.

Cllr Mann stated that Cllr Tarabella had completed the application for 14 fruit trees, to be located by the Youth Shelter and along the edge of the football pitch. The application would be submitted following discussion and agreement by the Parish Council.

Cllr Mann agreed to obtain three quotes for the planting of the trees and other tree works discussed, from James Firman plus two others. **Cllr Mann to action.**

b) Biodiversity Action Plan

Cllr Tarabella had circulated an update prior to the meeting which stated that an initial assessment had been carried out of the High Town Green Wildflower Meadow and the Buffer Zone around the playground, so that completed all Parish Council identified areas.

Mary Smyth had written and submitted the biodiversity item for the June/July Newsletter. She would provide an update on the Family Day biodiversity related activities, including the survey of public opinion on a community orchard on the area adjacent to the youth shelter.

GFPC84/26/27 – EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Spencer stated that a meeting would be held the following week with the initial focus being on flooding.

GFPC85/26/27 - FOOTPATHS

There was nothing to report.

GFPC86/26/27 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Reservoir being built at Golf Club – how much water would it hold
- Swimming Pool funding should be sought as soon as possible so as not to delay works – Bricklayer to be sought
- Possible alternative location for defibrillator

GFPC87/26/27 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday, 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 9.25pm

Chairman: Dated: