



GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Finborough **Monday, 8th December 2025 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

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

In Attendance Mrs J Blackburn – Clerk
 Three members of the public

GFPC181/25/26 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morgan.

GFPC182/25/26 – DECLARATIONS ON INTEREST

None had been received.

GFPC183/25/26 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

GFPC184/25/26 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH NOVEMBER 2025

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th November 2025 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

GFPC185/25/26 - PUBLIC FORUM

Three members of the public were present. The following issues were raised:

- A few of the fencing posts at the Allotments had become loose which would indicate they had become rotten at the base.
- The fence between the allotment site and the bungalows was not solid and seemed it would fall down very soon. It had been propped up with posts on the allotment side which would only be a temporary measure.

It was noted that the fences were owned by the bungalows adjacent to the allotments.

Cllr Kemp stated that the Housing Association owned the properties, therefore the fencing, and she had a contact at the Association so would speak with him in relation to repairing the fence.

GFPC186/25/26 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – CLLR PENNY OTTON

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

GFPC187/25/26 - TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR JOHN MATTHISSEN

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

GFPC188/25/26 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

GFPC189/25/26 - PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decision had been received:

DISCHARGE OF CONDITION(S) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - Proposal:

Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/24/03228 - Condition 12 (Bat Licence Method Statement) - Broad Oak Cottage, High Road, Great Finborough - **Approved**

GFPC190/25/26 – 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 1st December 2025 was £48,281.42.

c) TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Pay (Nov)	£485.89
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk's Office Allowance/Exp (Nov)	£32.75
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Dec	£149.94
Megan Clarke	Litter Picker Pay (Nov)	£36.00
Great Bricett PC	Contribution to Ink Cartridges (Clerk's Printer)	£134.45
Suffolk.Cloud	Set up of Chair email address	£30.00
Digital Copy Centre	Newsletter Printing	£220.00
Roman Gambling	Litter Picker's Pay (Dec)	£24.00

The Clerk also reported that the following payment be ratified:

Roman Gambling	Litter Picker Pay (Nov)	£30.20
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It was AGREED: That payments totalling £1,113.03 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipt was noted.

Suffolk County Council	Locality Funding	£2,500.00
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GFPC191/25/26 – IT POLICY

It was AGREED: That the IT Policy be adopted and approved.

GFPC192/25/26 – NEWSLETTER

Cllr Mann reported that moving forward there should be an item on each Agenda to discuss Newsletter related issues, which would include new advertisers and outstanding invoices.

GFPC193/25/26 - THE FORGE CARAVAN PARK – UPDATE

A resident present at the meeting had looked into the history of the site and gave the following information to members:

The Forge site only had planning permission for a Gypsy Caravan Park with restrictions on occupation to Gypsy/Travellers only.

Mr Gumble, previous owner, had tried to get the use of the land changed by the means of submitting a planning application for use of the land as a Caravan Park with no restrictions on occupation, and also by the means of applying for a Certificate of lawful Use as a caravan site with no restrictions on occupation. Both of these methods failed.

Mid Suffolk Council (MSDC) had not supported Mr Gumble's applications to change the use of the site for various reasons and they had attempted to obtain the site via a Compulsory Purchase Order, which failed as it was not confirmed following a public enquiry.

The site was included in the Suffolk cross boundary Gypsy & Travellers Accommodation Assessment, 2007 and as such the site counted towards the number of pitches the Council was required to provide for Gypsy/Travellers. The loss of the site for this purpose would result in the Council having to find an alternative site/s to provide the pitches lost.

The site residents that attended the November Parish Council meeting, emphatically stated that they were not Gypsies or Travellers and the husband of one of the sisters/owners also stated that there had been no gypsies on the site since the early 1980's, presumably from the date Mr Gumble bought the site in 1984.

That being the case, the site was and had been operating as a Caravan Park with no restrictions on occupation, which was a breach of planning permission and therefore unlawful use of the land, which it was presumed the basis for the District Council's current enforcement action.

The current situation could only be resolved by the owners acquiring a Certificate of Legal Use as a caravan park with no restrictions on occupation (which was what they were now trying to do), or a planning application being granted for use as a caravan park with no restrictions on occupation.

The situation had been going on for almost 40 years, without resolution.

Cllr Spencer suggested that Onehouse Parish Council be contacted to inform them of the current issues with the site for information. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC194/25/26 – VALLEY LANE TRAFFIC SURVEY

It was noted that County Cllr Otton would pay for the survey to be carried out.

Cllr Mann reported that he had also been in touch with the Safer Communities Team in relation to the dirt bikes reported to being ridden along the lane. Dates and times had been requested by the Team.

A link where incidents could be reported would be circulated. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC195/25/26 – OLD SWIMMING POOL UPDATE

Cllr Waspe reported that he had met with District Cllr Matthissen at the site who had shown great interest in the pool and the prevention works planned.

He had offered Cllr Waspe some bricks to help with the project and had confirmed he would help investigate funding.

The history of the site was briefly discussed and it was felt that further historical information would be useful.

Members felt that a piece should be published in the Newsletter asking residents with any further knowledge on the Pettward Estate to please come forward. **Cllr Mann to action.**

The Clerk reported that she had received permission from the second landowner which meant works could go ahead.

GFPC196/25/26 - PLAY AREA

a) Insurance cover

The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting a quote from the insurance company in relation to both the play equipment being insured as well as installation costs.

In relation to the repair work required underneath the ship equipment, tarmac options were discussed.

Cllr Mann reported that he would ask a contractor for a quote to carry out the repairs.

GFPC197/25/26 - VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

a) Issue with tree on parish Land by Pettward Hall
b) Chestnut Tree on Village green

In relation to both a) and b) above Cllr Mann reported that a quote had been received for the tree works to be carried out, at a cost of £1,200 plus VAT.

He explained that Cllr Morgan had spoken to someone at UK Power Networks who had stated that the work needed to the tree adjacent Pettward Hall they could carry out free of charge as cables were close by so the tree would usually be cut by them anyway.

Therefore, Cllr Mann would ask for a revised quote for just the Chestnut. **Cllr Mann to action.**

c) Update from Suffolk County Council on Oak Trees near Primary School – covered in Ivy.

The Clerk reported that a follow up email from the Highways Team at the County Council stated that works had been ordered.

d) Discuss and approve new posts around play area plus replacement of rotten posts near car park

Following on from the last meeting in relation to replacement posts needed around the play area and car park, Cllr Mann had obtained a quote of £150. The quote included the correct tool to install the posts.

It was AGREED: That the posts and tool be ordered. **Clerk to action.**

e) Completion of white line painting

Members agreed that the completion of the white line painting would be carried out in the Spring.

f) Installation party needed for Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)

Cllr Mann reported that a date to install the SIDs has yet to be arranged. He confirmed that he had all required fixings.

g) Low level solar lighting options for car park and football ground car park

Cllr Mann explained that members needed to start considering solar options for lighting around the car parks in the village.

Cllr Kemp also reported that the lighting outside the Primary School was inadequate during the darker months when the children were being picked up from after school clubs or events. She stated that she would liaise with the Head teacher to receive suggestions.

GFPC198/25/26 – FLOOD WORKING GROUP

Cllr Mann reported that concerns had been expressed as to how many people were becoming involved in the Leaky Dams project. He added that progress was ongoing in relation to the two permits.

GFPC199/25/26 - BIODIVERSITY ACTION GROUP

Cllr Mann reported that following information being included in two editions of the Newsletter, nothing had been received.

The suggestion of a village WhatsApp Group had been made.

GFPC200/25/26 – EMERGENCY PLAN

There was nothing to report.

GFPC201/25/26 - FOOTPATHS

There was nothing to report other than Cllr Mann stating the QR code discs on the footpath signs were being pinched!

GFPC202/25/26 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Cars parking on the bend at the Primary School when picking up children
- Defibrillator needed to be registered correctly including its location
- Grit Bins to be checked
- Street lights need to be checked
- Noticeboard – free to be used for all service times over the Christmas period
- Food Museum, Stowmarket – looking for village traditions
- Litter Pick to be arranged in the New Year – signage required

GFPC203/25/26 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday, 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 9.01pm

Chairman: Dated: