GREAT FINBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Parish Council meeting** held at the Village Hall, Great Finborough **Monday, 19th October 2026 at 7.30pm.**

Present:

Councillors:	A Mann (Chairman) S Waspe J Spencer J Tarabella J Kemp
In Attendance	J Blackburn – Clerk M Bentley – County Cllr J Matthissen – District Cllr

GFPC146/26/27 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND APPROVALS

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

GFPC147/26/27 – DECLARATIONS ON INTEREST

None had been received.

GFPC148/26/27 – APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

GFPC149/26/27 – TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2026

It was AGREED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st September 2026 were approved as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

GFPC150/26/27 - PUBLIC FORUM

Two residents of Combs Lane were present and expressed their concerns over the speeding of vehicles along the lane.

They stated that more pedestrians and cyclists were using the lane and therefore the amount of traffic, including large Lorries, made it a dangerous road for those users.

Combs Lane was often used by motorists during A14 closures and whilst it was not a formal diversion route motorists would use it as so which increased the volume of traffic making it more of a danger.

Cllr Mann explained that the previous County Cllr, Penny Otton, had arranged a traffic survey of the lane the results of which hadn't helped their case for the lane to be a cause for concern in relation to speeding. In previous years the Parish Council had fought for a reduction in speed limit, but to no avail.

District Cllr Matthissen shared the residents' concerns and stated that Cllr Otton had worked for many years to get the reduction in speed from 60mph to the current 40mph. He added that a traffic survey, in weight of traffic, could now be useful to see the difference in amount of traffic from when that speed reduction was implemented.

Cllr Spencer reported that the last time a reduction to a 30mph speed limit was applied for was back in 2019, which was rejected at that time.

Cllr Bentley stated that the Highways criteria for a 30mph speed limit were 20 houses with road frontage. He confirmed that he would look into the matter again and would also investigate it being made an 'unsuitable for HGVs' road.

GFPC151/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Bentley's report was circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

In addition to his report Cllr Bentley reported that Reform were wishing to start up Best Start Family Hubs, which would be ran in libraries across the county. Further information could be found on the County Council's website and a public consultation would commence mid-December.

Cllr Mann informed Cllr Bentley that three incidents of people driving into parked cars had occurred within one and half years at the same place on High Road.

On talking to a Policeman about the problem Cllr Mann was informed that a chicane would be a good option in the circumstances to slow traffic down and he therefore asked Cllr Bentley for his help with that.

Cllr Mann stated that talks with Highways would be welcomed as to any speed reduction options.

Cllr Bentley asked for photographs of exactly where on High Road, or google maps / what3words. **Cllr Mann to action.**

GFPC152/26/27 - 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 website.

One item that Cllr Matthissen highlighted was the changes to planning reforms brought in by the Government. Amongst concerns were changes to Neighbourhood Plans, green spaces and the way planning application were decided. One of the changes for example meant that Reserved Matters in applications could not be taken to Planning Committee.

He explained that if the District Council did not accept the changes into its constitution the District Council would no longer be a Planning Authority.

On Neighbourhood Plans Cllr Matthissen explained that they would become more important following the changes to planning reforms, but stated that they would need to include housing provision within the Parish. He confirmed that funding for Plans was available from the District Council now that the Government had ceased their funding.

Cllr Matthissen reported that new planning reforms included changes to Settlement Boundaries where gaps between settlement could be built upon to fill in the gaps. He encouraged the Parish Council to identify and specify green spaces in a Neighbourhood Plan should they decide to go down that route.

On other matters Cllr Matthissen reported that District Council elections would most likely take place in May 2027 along with Parish Council elections.

Cllr Spencer asked Cllr Matthissen about the item 'Local Houses for Local People' in his report, to which Cllr Matthissen explained that it was houses being built using Section 106 funds. Housing Developments of 50 houses would have 10 social housing included in them, which would help keep local people in the village rather than someone out of the parish.

GFPC153/26/27 – FLOODING RISK – DITCH ALONG FINBOROUGH ROAD

Cllr Mann reported that the ditch was now full.

Cllr Waspe stated that the ditch worked well prior to the adjacent houses being built.

Cllr Matthissen explained that the conditions put on planning applications would be signed off by the County Council and the Flood Authority.

Cllr Mann stated that they had been informed that the water was running off the hedge. He explained that at the current time the whole road was wet and given another month the condition would become a lot worse.

Cllr Matthissen stated that he would send Cllr Bentley all previous correspondence on the matter.

Cllr Waspe felt that the solution would be to get rid of the water and not be concerned as to where it was coming from. He added that the water contained a white colour, in the pipe under the pedestrian bridge which didn't seem right.

GFPC154/26/27 – FLOOD WORKING GROUP

a) Hill Farm Leaky Dams

Cllr Mann reported that the project was moving forward with two applications completed for two dams.

GFPC155/26/27 – UPDATE - SWIMMING POOL

Members noted that works to the swimming pool had not got ahead as the initial contractor who had offered to help had stated that the works would be beyond his remit.

Members were concerned that if the area collapsed it would result in a huge problem.

GFPC156/26/27 - UPDATE ON 20MPH ZONES WITHIN THE PARISH

Cllr Matthissen suggested that the Parish Council work together with other villages as a lot of money could be saved.

GFPC157/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERK'S REPORT**
The Clerk had nothing to report in addition to what was already 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 12th October 2026 was £53,840.28.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

SALC	Payroll provision for 12 months	£338.40
Digital Copycentre	Newsletter Printing	£220.00

The Clerk reported the following payment be ratified:

DMM Electrical	Lighting in Telephone Box	£100.00

It was AGREED: That payments totalling £658.40 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

The following receipts had been received:

C Smith	Newsletter Advert	£40.00
Stan Theatre Ltd	Newsletter Advert	£40.00

GFPC158/26/27 – SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

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

GFPC159/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

GFPC160/26/27 - PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

GFPC161/26/27 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE RATIFIED

None.

GFPC162/26/27 – COMPOST SITE

Cllr Mann suggested that the piece of shrub land at the entrance to the Allotments, near the Football Pitch, could be used as a Compost Site with 2 – 3 units, an idea which he considered whilst out litter picking. He explained that the Food Museum in Stowmarket had something similar which seemed to work well.

Members considered the idea and was aware that volunteers would be required. Maintenance of the area was also questioned.

Cllr Mann stated that the idea be investigated further and could be brought back for further consideration in the future.

GFPC163/26/27 – WAR MEMORIAL BEDDING

Cllr Morgan was not present at the meeting but gave an update via email to state that he was due to speak to the Garden Club, specifically Ann Basey-Fisher, who had agreed to help with the design of the bedding area. Unfortunately, he felt that time had ran out for any works to be undertaken before Remembrance Day, so the planning and work would likely be in the Spring.

He asked of a small budget could be agreed, £250, for any hard landscaping and plants with all work being carried out by volunteers.

The Clerk was asked if CiL money could be used for the project as the land was not owned by the Parish Council, to which she stated that she would seek confirmation. **Clerk to action.**

It was AGREED: That £250 be given for the project.

GFPC164/26/27 – LEVEL OF ROAD CLOSURES

It was AGREED: To defer this item to the next meeting.

GFPC165/26/27 – EV CHARGER

Cllr Morgan has sent an update on the Village EV charger and stated that a proposal from the operator Believ had been received, via the EV department at the County Council.

He confirmed that he had sent it to Cllr Mann for his review and a detailed proposal would be approved, which the Parish Council could approve in due course.

Cllr Mann reported that the EV charging would be in one or two spaces of the car park and would bring in power. He confirmed that a survey was imminent.

GFPC166/26/27 – LITTER PICKERS

Cllr Mann reported that whilst the younger Litter Pickers cleared 'safer' areas around the village, the more remote areas such as Valley Lane had offered to be cleared by an older resident.

He explained that the Cleansing Grant was used to fund the Litter Pickers and he stated that the surplus could be used to fund another, older person.

Members asked the Clerk to liaise with the Public Realm Department for confirmation of the Cleansing Grant being an annual grant, or was it a one off. **Clerk to action.**

GFPC167/26/27 – CLOUD WORKING

There was nothing to report.

GFPC168/26/27 - POSTS IN VILLAGE

Cllr Mann reported that he had received two quotes for the supply and installation of replacement posts (composite) in the village (Church Road and the Village Green).

Phil the Fence quoted £1,500 plus VAT to supply and install 61 posts by drilling them into the ground. Jack Lloyd had quoted £1,429 to supply all materials and would post crete them into the ground.

It was AGREED: That the Parish Council accepted Jack Lloyd's quote. **Cllr Mann to action.**

Cllr Mann reported that Phil the Fence would be installing replacement posts around the allotments at a cost of £400 and asked the Allotment Association if they would be willing to pay half.

Mary Smyth stated that she would ask the committee and report back.

GFPC169/26/27 – NEWSLETTER – INCLUSION OF SEEDS

Cllr Mann reported that there had been three new advertisers this month.

Cllr Mann raised the inclusion of free wildflower seeds with the next Newsletter and asked Mary Smyth when the best time of year would be, to which she replied now, or into the Spring.

Cllr Mann stated that the Spring would be best and asked the Clerk to include on the December Agenda. **Clerk to action.**

GFPC170/26/27 – PLAY AREA

Cllr Mann reported that the District Council had sent out their invite for Play Area inspections for February 2027.

It was AGREED: That the inspection invite be accepted. **Clerk to action.**

GFPC171/26/27 - VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Cllr Mann confirmed that the next Working Party would be 14th November.

GFPC172/26/27 - BIODIVERSITY

Cllr Tarabella reported the following:

(a) The chippings from the felled tree had been distributed on the paths, by the Woodpecker Hill volunteers.

(b) A date, 25th October, had been set to move the larger logs into habitat piles in the wood, to create new habitats.

Mary Smyth had put an article in the Newsletter asking for additional volunteers to get involved in the working parties.

(c) A meeting had been organised for Friday 23rd October to discuss what work the volunteers currently did, what they might be willing to take on in addition and how that would all feed into an ongoing Management Plan for the Wood.

(d) The Wild flower Meadow has had two cuts (leaving a marked area uncut). Mary Smyth had raked one third, the remaining two thirds still needed to be raked and volunteers were being sought to help.

(e) The allotments working party was on Sunday 22nd November which mainly consisted of allotment volunteers and a few Parish Council members.

Mary was keen to cut the Meadow using a more traditional and safe method of manual scything. She intended to take a day training course in scything next year with an experienced instructor. The course was accredited by UK Rural Skills (UKRS) enabling certification of training for Community Development Projects (CDP).

The Parish Council were asked if funding could be provided for the course and a scythe.

Members felt it would be beneficial for the village and so would consider funding nearer the time.

Biodiversity Action Plan

Cllr Tarabella reported that draft Actions had been put together for the Football / Playing Field and the Car park area, which included the creation of the Community Orchard.

It was becoming apparent that the Action Table was becoming more complex than initially anticipated. So consideration was being given to taking out the management actions that were not directly related to Biodiversity and just putting them into a separate (10yr) Management Plan. Who was responsible would then be included for each action, i.e. Contractors, working parties etc. It could then be updated as and when necessary.

GFPC173/26/27 – EMERGENCY PLAN

There was nothing to report.

GFPC174/26/27 - FOOTPATHS

Cllr Mann suggested that arrows be sprayed onto the missing directional signs on footpath junctions.

The Clerk reported that the same issue was happening in another Parish to which she had reported on the Suffolk Report It Tool. A reply had been received which stated that the arrows would be replaced.

Cllr Mann stated that the Parish Council would wait to see what happened in the other parish before any further action be taken.

GFPC175/26/27 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Phone call received – water leak behind the telephone box had been fixed.
- PC Elections due in May 2027 – publish information for residents to consider standing.
- Anti-social behaviour reported at the Youth Shelter – to be monitored.
- Tree works – awaiting date.
- Pub owners were investigating installation of a shop.

GFPC176/26/27 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on Monday, 16th November 2026 at 7.30pm

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.

Chairman: …… Dated: ……