



Minutes of Great Barton Parish Council on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.00pm

Councillor Maggie Dunn chaired the meeting along with Councillors, Peter Fisk, Andy Baker, Gwyn James. Cllr Broughton, and 2 members of the public were present.

1.	<u>Chairmans Welcome</u> Cllr Maggie Dunn welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone present that the public session is the opportunity for members of the public to raise any concerns. No fire alarms are scheduled, and the emergency exits were pointed out. Apologies received from Cllr Hopfensperger. Cllr Baker - There were no declarations of interest - No written requests for dispensation
2.	Open Public Session MOP queried whether the Chair had received the S278 agreement; the Clerk confirmed this has been raised with Cllr Hopfensperger, who is pursuing it with West Suffolk Council. MOP expressed disappointment at the limited impact of the Neighbourhood Plan on recent applications. The Chair confirmed the Planning Inspector considers it a material consideration and that the Council will continue to reference it. It was noted that comparisons with Station Hill are not appropriate due to differing planning contexts. MOP thanked the Clerk for arranging the recent speed survey but felt it did not capture speeds at the relevant junction and requested the item remain on the agenda. Discussion followed regarding whether the current VAS can record speeds approaching the give-way junction. Further discussion took place on the access road for the Vistry development and the expected increase in traffic at an already constrained junction.
3.	Update on The Severalls (Land North East) Development – Open Session Chair updated members following a MOP's review of Phase 2 plans; planning consultants advised focusing on key issues rather than minor points. Clerk reported concerns about school parking, nursery split across two floors, and potential traffic queuing from four zebra crossings. Cllr Broughton noted existing officer comments identifying issues; Chair confirmed holding objections from SCC, landscaping, and energy/sustainability. MOP queried consultants' scope; Clerk provided details. Further concerns raised about school entrance, spine-road parking, safeguarding issues around flats opposite the nursery, and early-years provision on an upper floor without ground-level play space. MOP highlighted Core Strategy considerations, concerns about three-storey buildings, balconies, and nursery layout. Question raised about developer engagement timing; Clerk confirmed village leaflet and Community Liaison Group requests. MOP stated Vistry's claimed community consultation has not occurred. Cllr James emphasised need for expert support; Clerk noted previous low uptake for a working group. Councillors confirmed commitment to securing best outcomes for the village. MOP raised importance of Neighbourhood Plan and concerns about Condition 23.

	Cllr Broughton advised the Council must submit its objection; Chair noted a variation of conditions application is also active. Clerk confirmed that, following the Council's decision, the planning consultant can be instructed.
(9.h)	Following discussion above it was agreed to discuss item 9.h) Open discussion held on both planning consultants' quotations. A MOP favoured obtaining proposals from both consultants before selecting one. Cllr Broughton raised concerns about how this approach would be received by residents. Cllr James noted time constraints if the Council wishes to submit comments. Cllr Broughton suggested choosing one consultant; a MOP disagreed, stating both proposals should be reviewed first. Chair requested a vote to obtain both consultant responses as a one-off due to limited time. Proposed by Chair Dunn, seconded by Cllr Fisk, and unanimously agreed. Clerk will notify both consultants and arrange a meeting as soon as possible to review their responses.
4.	County Councillor Report from Cllr Hopfensperger Cllr Hopfensperger sent her apologies. Clerk reported on her behalf: • LGR – SCC is pursuing a Judicial review of the decision. Questions have been raised by councillors regarding the decision-making process. • Climate Change - The County Council has agreed to withdraw the Climate Emergency declaration originally made in 2019 • Cabinet Meetings and Scrutiny – Changes have been introduced, including 1 question per councillor • Cabinet considered proposals to progress the A140 Major Road Network scheme at Earl Stonham. • Post-16 Travel Policy Statement for the 2026/27 academic year was considered by Cabinet. • Consultation has begun on the proposed EcoPower Suffolk solar farm and battery storage scheme in Mid Suffolk. • Following the Government's announcement regarding the proposed use of RAF Barnham to accommodate asylum seekers, councillors have sought further information about the proposals and their potential impact on local communities. • Suffolk Highways has begun its annual surface dressing programme across the county. • Work has begun on preparing a new Suffolk Minerals and Waste Plan. • Suffolk County Council has expanded its Apprenticeship Levy Support Scheme in partnership with Apprenticeships Norfolk. • The initiative enables larger employers to transfer unused apprenticeship levy funding to smaller businesses, helping more employers recruit apprentices and invest in workforce development across Suffolk. Cllr Hopfensperger advised she had chased the S278 Agreement for The Severals development
5.	District Councillor Report from Cllr Broughton • Good roll out for the bins. The council are looking to door knock for people who aren't recycling. • EO Council meeting to discuss RAF Barnham 600 Residents 1200 Asylum Seekers at the camp. The Stone Curlew has protection there due to the Brecks. Barnham has a primary school there.

	- Overview and Scrutiny Chair – can call in any cabinet members and interview them at length. <i>Cllr Baker arrived at 20.30pm</i> - Concern over village gates – specifically the A143 Fornham road entrance. This gate has been placed over the farm access Cllr James advised that this was approved by SCC and advised to land owners. Cllr Broughton agreed but not over the entrance. Cllr Broughton advised the gate just needs to be moved to avoid line markings on the road as they begin hedge cutting after the 31st August. Cllr James advised we could take it down, and move to another location. Highways had not raised this as an issue. <i>Cllr Broughton left at 20.36pm</i>																							
6.	To Sign the minutes of the Council meeting on Monday 15th June 2026 Cllr Baker proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Fisk, agreed unanimously by those present.																							
7.	Council considered completed planning applications <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Willow Barn 2 The Coppice</td><td>DC/26/06 33/LB</td><td>a. removal of internal structural partition wall to create open plan kitchen/dining area b. Installation of structural beam</td><td>Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application</td><td>APPROVE</td></tr> <tr> <td>Land Off Compiègne Way</td><td>DC/26/06 78/CLE</td><td>Application for lawful development certificate for existing use or development - commencement of planning permission DC/22/1294/FUL</td><td>Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application</td><td>GRANTED</td></tr> <tr> <td>Rawlins School Lane</td><td>DC/26/06 68/TPO</td><td>TPO 370 (1974) tree preservation order - a. two Yew (T1 and T6 on plan within A2 on order) height reduction to six metres b. one Sycamore (T2 on plan within A2 on order) fell c. two Sycamore (T3 and T4 on plan within A2 on order) and one Beech (T5 on plan within A2 on order) pollard to eight metres above ground level</td><td>Great Barton Parish Council does not consider the justification provided to be sufficient or appropriate for the removal of these trees. Shading of a garden is not, in itself, a valid reason for consent under Tree Preservation Order (TPO) regulations. National and local guidance is clear that applications must demonstrate a clear arboricultural, structural, or safety-related need for works. No such evidence has been provided. We therefore request, as a minimum requirement, that a qualified arboricultural consultant supplies a full report assessing the condition, health, and long-term management implications for the trees. Without this, the Council is unable to support the proposed works.</td><td>Approve (amended proposal in line with tree officer comments)</td></tr> <tr> <td>18 Diomed Drive</td><td>DC/26/06 87/HH</td><td>Householder planning application - a. cladding to front elevation b. widening of garage opening and replacement garage door c. replacement of existing front flat roof with pitched roof d. raising of retained flat roof to side elevation e. cladding to existing front and side elevations of garage f. insertion of door to existing ground floor south west</td><td>Great Barton Parish Council has no objections in relation to this application</td><td>Approve</td></tr> </table>				Willow Barn 2 The Coppice	DC/26/06 33/LB	a. removal of internal structural partition wall to create open plan kitchen/dining area b. Installation of structural beam	Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application	APPROVE	Land Off Compiègne Way	DC/26/06 78/CLE	Application for lawful development certificate for existing use or development - commencement of planning permission DC/22/1294/FUL	Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application	GRANTED	Rawlins School Lane	DC/26/06 68/TPO	TPO 370 (1974) tree preservation order - a. two Yew (T1 and T6 on plan within A2 on order) height reduction to six metres b. one Sycamore (T2 on plan within A2 on order) fell c. two Sycamore (T3 and T4 on plan within A2 on order) and one Beech (T5 on plan within A2 on order) pollard to eight metres above ground level	Great Barton Parish Council does not consider the justification provided to be sufficient or appropriate for the removal of these trees. Shading of a garden is not, in itself, a valid reason for consent under Tree Preservation Order (TPO) regulations. National and local guidance is clear that applications must demonstrate a clear arboricultural, structural, or safety-related need for works. No such evidence has been provided. We therefore request, as a minimum requirement, that a qualified arboricultural consultant supplies a full report assessing the condition, health, and long-term management implications for the trees. Without this, the Council is unable to support the proposed works.	Approve (amended proposal in line with tree officer comments)	18 Diomed Drive	DC/26/06 87/HH	Householder planning application - a. cladding to front elevation b. widening of garage opening and replacement garage door c. replacement of existing front flat roof with pitched roof d. raising of retained flat roof to side elevation e. cladding to existing front and side elevations of garage f. insertion of door to existing ground floor south west	Great Barton Parish Council has no objections in relation to this application	Approve
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8.	Council to consider the following planning applications a) DC/26/0878/HH – Neat House, Livermere Road. - a. pitch roof over bay window to front of dwelling b. alterations to window at front of dwelling c. first floor side extension d. pitch roof to side of dwelling e. solar panels to front and side elevations f. infill of porch side g. two windows to side of porch h. single storey rear extension (following removal of existing chimney) i. demolition of existing garden room j. juliet balcony to rear of dwelling Cllrs resolved there was no objection in relation to this application. Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr Fisk, all in favour. b) DC/26/1001/HH – Highfields, Nacton Lane – <i>WITHDRAWN</i> Both applications for land north east /Severalls Development to be reviewed and submitted following planning consultant response - EO Council Meeting to be held prior to the 1st August deadline.																																																																																															
9.	Finance a) Payments of Accounts and outstanding invoices. The Council resolved to pay the following Accounts. Proposed Cllr Baker Seconded Cllr James unanimous decision. Internet banking transactions entered by the Clerk, verified by Cllr James, verified and released by Cllr Dunn. <table><tr><th>Inv Ref</th><th>Payee</th><th>Details</th><th>Power to pay</th><th>Pymt type</th><th>Total Invoice</th><th>VAT reclaim</th></tr><tr><td>33</td><td>Jessica Langley</td><td>Monthly Salary up until 12th inc overtime for newsletter 15 hours</td><td>3</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 1,225.30</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>34</td><td>HMRC</td><td>Ni & tax due previous month (after 6th before 22nd)</td><td>1</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 130.96</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>35</td><td>Nest Pensions</td><td>Pension Contributions (paid 09/07)</td><td>1</td><td>DD</td><td>£ 39.44</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>36</td><td>Great Barton Thanks Giving Fund</td><td>Hall Hire -June - Full Council Meeting</td><td>3</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 12.50</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>37</td><td>O2</td><td>Clerks mobile phone contract</td><td>1</td><td>DD</td><td>£ 16.60</td><td>£ 2.77</td></tr><tr><td>38</td><td>Unity Bank Trust</td><td>Unity Bank Service Charge Taken 30/07/26</td><td>1</td><td>SO</td><td>£ 7.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>39</td><td>Vertas</td><td>Grass Cutting - 01/04/26-30/06/26- Village Hall 808.84 Holy Innocents 843.08</td><td>5</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 1,982.30</td><td>£ 330.38</td></tr><tr><td>40</td><td>Gipping Press</td><td>Summer Newsletter - 1000 Copies (28 Pages)</td><td>7</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 855.00</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>41</td><td>Matta Products</td><td>To supply 5x play matta tiles in black inc glue</td><td>14</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 147.60</td><td>£ 24.60</td></tr><tr><td>42</td><td>DJ Haill Ltd</td><td>Village Gates Installation 50% Final Payment</td><td>3</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 1,201.00</td><td>£ 200.17</td></tr><tr><td>43</td><td>Jessica Langley</td><td>Expenses - Collect Newsletters</td><td>2</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 20.02</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>44</td><td>Hayden's Tree Survey</td><td>Site Visit and Inspection of Trees, Tree Survey report and plan</td><td>5</td><td>B/P</td><td>£ 1,827.48</td><td>£ 304.58</td></tr></table> b) Responsible Financial Officer’s Report including details of reserve budgets <u>Bank balances</u>					Inv Ref	Payee	Details	Power to pay	Pymt type	Total Invoice	VAT reclaim	33	Jessica Langley	Monthly Salary up until 12th inc overtime for newsletter 15 hours	3	B/P	£ 1,225.30		34	HMRC	Ni & tax due previous month (after 6th before 22nd)	1	B/P	£ 130.96		35	Nest Pensions	Pension Contributions (paid 09/07)	1	DD	£ 39.44		36	Great Barton Thanks Giving Fund	Hall Hire -June - Full Council Meeting	3	B/P	£ 12.50		37	O2	Clerks mobile phone contract	1	DD	£ 16.60	£ 2.77	38	Unity Bank Trust	Unity Bank Service Charge Taken 30/07/26	1	SO	£ 7.00		39	Vertas	Grass Cutting - 01/04/26-30/06/26- Village Hall 808.84 Holy Innocents 843.08	5	B/P	£ 1,982.30	£ 330.38	40	Gipping Press	Summer Newsletter - 1000 Copies (28 Pages)	7	B/P	£ 855.00		41	Matta Products	To supply 5x play matta tiles in black inc glue	14	B/P	£ 147.60	£ 24.60	42	DJ Haill Ltd	Village Gates Installation 50% Final Payment	3	B/P	£ 1,201.00	£ 200.17	43	Jessica Langley	Expenses - Collect Newsletters	2	B/P	£ 20.02		44	Hayden's Tree Survey	Site Visit and Inspection of Trees, Tree Survey report and plan	5	B/P	£ 1,827.48	£ 304.58
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Unity trusts Current Account	£12162.92
Unity Trust Savings Account	£94560.22
Total balances	£106,723.14
Instant Access Interest	£438.94
Moved from current account to savings account	-
Moved funds from Savings account to Current account	£7,500.00
Credits received	-
Payments made under S137*	None

Reserves Balances

GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES AS OF 17th July 2026						
RESERVE	AS of 12/06/2026	SPENT TO DATE	EARMARKED PROJECTS		CURRENT BALANCE	AVAILABLE TO SPEND
SMALL PROJECTS	£2,922.24	£73.00	None	£ -	£2,849.24	£2,849.24
LEGAL/CONSULTATION*	£13,095.41		None	£ -	£13,095.41	£13,095.41
YOUTH PROJECT	£296.59		None	£ -	£296.59	£296.59
GENERAL	£12,657.47	£108.00	None	£ -	£12,549.47	£12,549.47
ALLOTMENTS	£60.00	£60.00		£ -	£0.00	£0.00
ASSET MAINTENANCE	£10,526.47	£123.00	None	£ -	£10,403.47	£10,403.47
ASSET ACQUISITION	£10,847.61		(Precept Budget of £456)	£ -	£10,847.61	£10,847.61
ICEPITS WOOD*	£16,119.55	£1,522.90	(Precept Budget of £2000)	£ -	£14,596.65	£14,596.65
S106 FUNDS	£10,024.00			£ -	£10,024.00	£10,024.00
TOTAL RESERVES	£76,549.34	£1,886.90		£ -	£74,662.44	£74,662.44

- c) Council reviewed Quarter 1 spend over £100 no concerns
- d) Council reviewed Quarter 1 Spend to Budget no concerns raised.
- e) Council approved the Clerk 15hours overtime to produce the newsletter, Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded by Cllr James, Unanimous decision
- f) Council accepted the SALC Recommendation for HRMC Rates
- g) Council requested Clerk get a like for like quote for option 3 for the Tree Works identified
- h) *Item approved earlier in minutes*
- i) Council reviewed the request from the WI to hold a joint CPR Coffee Morning with the Parish Council Paying for the Annex Hire fees for 2hours. Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded Cllr Baker, Unanimous decision
- j) Council reviewed cost for missing parts for playground approved quote from Play dale. Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded Cllr Baker, Unanimous decision.
- k) Council reviewed the cost for silky pages in the newsletter Vs Paper pages. Agreed no changes to be made for the time being for £17.

Cllr Fisk left at 9.00pm

10	<u>Non- Financial Items</u> a) Council reviewed the village gates at the Bunbury Junction following concerns raised. Deemed no issue. b) Clerk has requested quote from West Suffolk for Quote for skirting back.
11	<u>Chairman' and Councillor Reports</u> Nothing to report not already covered

12	<u>Correspondence not covered elsewhere</u> • Village Handyman possibility for discussion in the future • MOP raised concerns about bin collections. Clerk forwarded to Cllr Hopfensperger and Broughton • Following complaints about overhanging brambles the Clerk has requested quotes from TBS for Flailing two sections on the A143 • Handbag found in Hedge and taken to West Suffolk Police Station
13	<u>Open Public Session – 10 Minutes</u>
14	<u>items to be carried forward to next meeting</u> Date of next meeting – 17th August 2026 There being no further business the meeting finished at 21.45pm sign and date Print name Chairman Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.

DRAFT