Minutes of Great Barton Parish Council
on Monday 28th September 2026 at 7.00pm

Councillor Maggie Dunn chaired the meeting along with Councillors, Peter Fisk, Andy Baker, Gwyn James, Rob Lillistone and Chris Power. Cllr Hopfensperger and Broughton and 5 members of the public were present.

1.	**Chairmans Welcome** 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. No apologies received i. There were no declarations of interest ii. No written requests for dispensation
2.	**Open Public Session** John (Allotments Association) attended for the discussion of the Association's grant application. It was agreed to bring the item forward on the agenda following approval of the minutes. Cllr Fisk declared an interest. MOP requested an update on the Bus Shelter off Diomed Drive. Cllr Hopfensperger advised that its quite narrow but they are looking to put a shelter there, however they are looking at the usage of that stop first. Before allocating resources.
3.	**Update on The Severalls (Land North East) Development – Open Session** Cllr Lillistone reported that, although the construction access junction had been in use since July, "No Construction Access" signs had been installed on Green Lane and temporary signage erected on the A143. He advised that the temporary signage was not currently enforceable. Cllr Lillistone further advised that the Section 278 Agreement and associated Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) previously reviewed by the Parish Council had been expected to include a temporary speed reduction and traffic management measures. However, following the removal of Suffolk Highways' holding objection, the licence was issued without these provisions. He reported that he had pursued the matter through a number of channels in an effort to secure clarification and correction. The current Section 278 Agreement related to the construction works only and not to the operation of the junction. Cllr Lillistone advised that he had sought an update on the status of the TTRO process but had been unable to obtain a response. Cllr Hopfensperger reported that, following further enquiries, the matter had been referred back to the relevant Suffolk County Council Network Assurance and Development Regulation teams for clarification of the current position and any enforcement action required. She confirmed that concerns raised by the Parish Council and local residents had been escalated to the Head of Highways. In response to a question from a member of the public regarding responsibility for the omission, Cllr Lillistone explained that the Section 278 Agreement between Suffolk County Council and the developer, which sets out the requirements for works on the public highway, appeared to have been issued without the TTRO being attached. He advised that the TTRO would have provided for the temporary speed restriction and associated traffic management measures. In response to a further question regarding the responsible department, Cllr Hopfensperger advised that the agreement was between Suffolk County Council and the developer. Cllr Lillistone noted that some temporary signage had been erected but reiterated the Parish Council's concerns regarding safety on the A143 and the operation of a construction access onto a 60mph road without the anticipated traffic management measures in place. He stated that the preferred outcome was either

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	enforcement of the required measures or cessation of the junction's operation until the matter was resolved. Cllr Hopfensperger confirmed that she would continue to pursue the issue on the Parish Council's behalf. The Parish Council expressed concern that the matter should be resolved as a priority to minimise any potential risk to highway users. Clerk provided accident information to Cllr James.
4.	**County Councillor Report from Cllr Hopfensperger** Cllr Hopfensperger advised she has been chasing daily and it is a safety issue. Hence why the S278 should be in place. • LGR delay – latest is district election will go ahead in 2027 with current boundaries. Reasoning for delay is Steve Reed went against civil service advice and his own criteria. All 9 council areas were classed as all exceptional criteria which was suspicious and government would not win a judicial review on that basis. It's likely some type of reorganisation will go ahead, unlikely for any compensation for delay. Advised we should know more after October.
5.	**District Councillor Report from Cllr Broughton** • Cllr Broughton advised there are still ongoing issues with bins. Some of the rural areas are suffering. Cllr Broughton queried members of the meeting. Most advised have had good service with pockets of issues. Cllr Fisk not surprised Bin Lorry issues in Elm Close - Chair Confirmed Havebury have stopped cars from going across grass which causes 3 more cars in that close. Cllr Fisk queried the hedge hadn't been cut. Clerk advised it had been reported before but will chase up. • Local Plan – Emails to be sent to Clerks to check the amenities we currently have. As previously it was wrong in some places. • Dogs In the Street – On top of that issue now, no further complaints received.
6.	**To Sign the minutes of the Council meeting on Monday 17th August 2026** Cllr James proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Baker, agreed unanimously by those present.
9.	**Finance** (agreed to do out of order due to public attendance) h) Cllr Hopfensperger and Broughton advised they are looking to make a grant towards the allotments improvements but unable to confirm the amount at the moment. Cllr Broughton advised she had forwarded the thriving communities fund to the secretary. Clerk confirmed costs for ICBs £980, Roof Kits £2052 – Total £3332. GBPC currently have £668 left in our grant funds for 2026-2027. Cllr James proposed the remaining funds to be granted to the allotment's improvements. Cllr Power had attended site and was very impressed with what they had so far and what they can collect. Clerk confirmed just over half of the members are in the village. John (allotments) confirmed GB Residents did take priority on the waitlist. Cllr James calculated 7 could be installed with our grant. Cllr James Proposed, Chair Dunn Seconded. All in favour. John (allotments) gave sincere thanks for the grant. *Cllr Hopfensperger and Broughton left the meeting at 19:45*
	MOP requested an update with the Bunbury junction development. Clerk advised she will chase this at the last update it was in the design stage for a roundabout.
7.	**Council considered completed planning applications**

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	DC/26/0878/HH	Neat House Livermere Road	Householder planning application - 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	Great Barton Parish Council have no objections to this application	APPROVE
	DC/26/0906/VAR	Land North East of Bury St Edmunds	variation of conditions of planning permission DC/19/2456/HYB (appeal ref: APP/F3545/W/22/3297751) to enable amendments to the approved drawings for the Phase 1 detailed element (287 dwellings), including layout and associated changes	**submitted documents via email. This response has been submitted by the Clerk under the Great Barton Parish Council Scheme of Delegation due to meeting scheduling/quorum constraints.. See document 1**	APPROVE
	DC/26/1099/TPO	Grove End, Livermere Road	one Hornbeam (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) overall crown reduction by five metres	Great Barton Parish Council reviewed this application and the meeting resolved that there are no objections, subject to agreement with West Suffolk Tree Officer, all in favour. Please note for context that the applicant has previously applied for, and been granted, permission to fell at least 16 mature trees on this site since 2010.	APPROVE

8. **Council to consider the following planning applications**

DC/26/1001/HH- Highfields, Nacton Lane- a. single storey rear extension with rooms in the roof and six rooflights b. render to north-west elevation c. installation of cladding to north-west elevation

Cllrs resolved there was no objection in relation to this application. Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour.

DC/26/1305/HEDGE- Street Record Mere Farm Lane- removal of a section of hedgerow covering manhole

Cllrs resolved there was no objection in relation to this application. Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Chair Dunn, all in favour.

DC/26/1284/TPO- 31 Diomed Drive Tree preservation order - one Beech (T1 on plan, T1 on order) raise crown to 5 metres; one Silver Birch (T2 on plan, within group G1 on order) fell

Cllrs resolved there was no objection to the West Suffolk Tree Officer recommendations. Proposed Cllr Lillistone, Seconded Cllr James, all in favour.

DC/26/1329/TPO- 1 Beech Park- one Ash (T1 on plan, within area A1 on order) fell

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Cllrs resolved there was no objection to this application but would note the proximity of the powerlines. Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr James, all in favour.

DC/26/1367/TPO- The Moat House, Livermere Road - "Tree preservation order - two Oak (T1 and T2 on plan, W1 on order) fell"
Clerk note - a response to the planning application had been agreed by Council. Following receipt of additional information after that decision, an amended response was submitted under the Clerk's delegated powers in consultation with the Chair. The amended response to be presented to Council 19/10 and noted.

DC/26/1373/HH- Larchfield Mere Farm Lane- Single Storey Side Extension
Cllrs resolved there was no objection in relation to this application. Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded Cllr Power, all in favour.

Power cut in the village hall at 20:15 however the meeting continued under emergency lighting. Cllr Fisk left at 20:15

DC/26/1235/ADV - Land Off Orttewell Roadone billboard sign, three freestanding billboard signs, and 19 flagpole signs
Cllrs objects to this application on grounds of visual amenity, public safety, and excessive advertising (Please see Documents 1 at the end of the minutes) **Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded Cllr Lillistone, all in favour.**

9. **Finance**

a) Payments of Accounts and outstanding invoices. The Council resolved to pay the following Accounts. Proposed Cllr James Seconded Cllr Baker unanimous decision. Internet banking transactions entered by the Clerk, verified by Cllr James, verified and released by Chair Dunn.

Inv Ref	Payee	Details	Power to pay	Pymt type	Total Invoice	VAT reclaim
55	Jessica Langley	Monthly Salary up until 12th	3	B/P	£1,055.71	
56	HMRC	Ni & tax due previous month (after 6th before 22nd)	1	B/P	£130.96	
57	Nest Pensions	Pension Contributions (paid 09/09)	1	DD	£39.44	
58	Great Barton Thanks Giving Fund	Hall Hire Full Council Meeting	3	B/P	£12.50	
59	O2	Clerks mobile phone contract	1	DD	£16.60	£ 2.77
60	Unity Bank Trust	Unity Bank Service Charge Taken 30/09/26	1	SO	£7.00	
61	Clare Veal (CLV Gardening)	Village Sign planting & Waste Removal (Aug - 11.h)	3	B/P	£37.00	
62	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit fees for 31/03/26	3	B/P	£378.00	£63.00
63	Information Commissioners Office	Annual Data Protection Fee	3	DD	£47.00	
64	SALC	Councillor Basics Training Sessions	3	B/P	£172.80	£28.80

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b) Responsible Financial Officer's Report including details of reserve budgets

Bank balances

Unity trusts Current Account	£7181.03
Unity Trust Savings Account	£89560.22
Total balances	**£96741.25**
Instant Access Interest	-
Moved from current account to savings account	-
Moved funds from Savings account to Current account	£5000
Credits received	£25.50
Payments made under S137*	-

Reserves Balances

GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES AS OF 25th September 2026

RESERVE	AS of 12/06/2026	SPENT TO DATE	EARMARKED PROJECTS		CURRENT BALANCE	AVAILABLE TO SPEND
SMALL PROJECTS	£2,922.24	£735.00	None	£ -	£2,187.24	£2,187.24
LEGAL/CONSULTATION*	£13,095.41	£1,710.00	None	£ -	£11,385.41	£11,385.41
YOUTH PROJECT	£296.59		None	£ -	£296.59	£296.59
GENERAL	£12,657.47	£1,109.00	None	£ -	£11,548.47	£11,548.47
ALLOTMENTS	£60.00	£60.00		£ -	£0.00	£0.00
ASSET MAINTENANCE	£10,526.47	£376.96	None	£ -	£10,149.51	£10,149.51
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**	**£5,513.86**		**£ -**	**£71,035.48**	**£71,035.48**

c) Council reviewed and approved the NJC Pay award backdated to April. Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded by Cllr Lillistone. all in favour.

d) Council reviewed the insurance renewal quote, other than than updating salary clerk advised no changes were made and coverage was suitable. Proposed Cllr James, Seconded by Cllr Lillistone. all in favour.

e) Cllr James advised he needs to change post on A143 but looking at extension possibility. Requested Clerk put on the agenda for October.

f) Council reviewed the quote from AMS in relation to grass cutting at Church Rd and Travellers rest, Proposed Cllr Power, seconded by Cllr Baker. all in favour.

g) Council reviewed the quote from AMS in relation to removal of the gate on the A143, Proposed Chair Dunn, seconded by Cllr Baker. all in favour.

h) *Council approved Grant Application earlier in meeting due to public attendance*

i) Suffolk County Farms have committed to fund the cost of an owl box for Elm Meadow/Ice Pits. Clerk to speak with Boss about installation costs. Proposed Cllr Power, seconded by Cllr Baker. all in favour. Cllr Baker noted an Owl Box at allotment end of woods.

j) Council to reviewed the Rationale for works in regards to flailing on A143 from footpath to Diomed Drive to Eastbury, Proposed Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Baker. all in favour. SCC noted that it does not fit their criteria. Agreed this is a one off cut not setting prescient.

Good Governance

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	a) Council reviewed external audit and follow up actions. Clerk confirmed all completed steps have been taken. b) Council adopted the Risk Management Strategy provided by the Clerk. c) Council adopted the Financial Risk Assessment Chair Dunn thanked the Clerk for her hard work during her first audit.
10	**Non- Financial Items** a) Cllr James provided a written update in regards to speed reducing actions that we can undertake in the village. He requested ideas from councillors prior to the next meeting so that we can agree actions. He noted Clerk has requested a post in the street particularly for School Traffic / Parents walking to school. A resident has also requested a speed limit be reduced further up the Avenue. Cllr James met with Suffolk Highways who gave the costs for this process. Clerk queried if he had considered the additional surveys requested by the MOP. Cllr Lillistone advised this could rectify itself when the speed limit is reduced on the A143. Clerk advised it wasn't the speed as such but the Stopping rather than just a give way sign. Cllr Lillistone queried the S106 monies and advised we should raise this with Cllr Hopfensperger at the next meeting.
11	**Chairman' and Councillor Reports**
12	**Correspondence not covered elsewhere** The Chair reported correspondence from a resident regarding inconsiderate parking in the Shinham Bridge area. The resident was unsure which properties the vehicles were associated with. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to local residents. Cllr James reported an enquiry from a resident of the park regarding ownership of the road within the park. Councillors confirmed that the road is privately owned by the residents and noted that this information has been confirmed on previous occasions. **Footpaths Update** Nix Green to Livermere Road Circular route has been agreed and approved by SCF. Icepits to Thurston Road Councillors noted that SCF had no objection to the proposal and had suggested potential locations for a kissing gate connecting Thurston Road to Icepits. Whilst a member of the public had objected, councillors considered the objection in the context of the wider public benefit. Councillors noted the need for pedestrians to currently cross a 60mph road, concerns regarding traffic using Green Lane as a rat run, the forthcoming Bunbury junction improvements, and the absence of a formal pedestrian route through the car park. Having balanced these considerations, councillors unanimously agreed that the proposal would deliver wider community benefits and improve pedestrian connectivity and safety. Cllr Baker confirmed another footpath suggested from a member of the public. Clerk to raise with SCF.
13	**Open Public Session – 10 Minutes**
14	**items to be carried forward to next meeting** **Date of next meeting – 28th September 2026** There being no further business the meeting finished at 21.45pm

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	…… sign and date …… Print name Chairman Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.

Document 1 -

Land North East of Bury St Edmunds – DC/26/1235/ADV

Great Barton Parish Council objects to this application on grounds of visual amenity, public safety, and excessive advertising

We are concerned that the billboards and flags would compete for drivers' attention along the A143 and around the roundabouts, where motorists need to concentrate on traffic movements and junction conditions especially given the fact that the agreed speed reduction for this development is not yet in place (currently a 60mph road).

Although the covering letter describes the signage as static, the flags would move in the wind. The combined effect of repeated advertisements and moving flags should be assessed, rather than considering only whether individual structures obstruct visibility.

We request that the highway authority assess the cumulative impact of the entire advertising scheme on driver attention and road safety.

Comments on Specific Locations

Location A

The developer has been presumptive in erecting this sign prior to consent. We formally object to retrospective consent to indicate that due process must be followed.

We also object to the location of Sign A. It is a visual distraction and a safety hazard to drivers using the very busy roundabout. Traffic approaching the roundabout from Great Barton towards Bury St Edmunds frequently travels at speed. Drivers joining the roundabout and turning right towards Great Barton must judge gaps carefully and maintain full attention. The billboard and its associated flags are a distraction at precisely the point where drivers need to concentrate. Even a momentary diversion could contribute to a collision with severe consequences.

We ask the highway authority to assess Sign A and its associated flags specifically against these conditions, including approach speeds and the right turn movement towards Great Barton.

Location B

We have no objection to the location of Sign B, subject to our overarching objection regarding the excessive number of signs.

Location C

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We have no objection to the location of Sign C.

Location D

We suggest that Sign D be moved closer to the new roundabout, where it would more appropriately serve as an advertisement at the entrance to the new housing estate.

Flagpoles along the A143

The number of flagpoles proposed along the A143 will be a visual distraction to motorists approaching the new roundabout. We suggest that the number be reduced and centred around the entrance to the new housing estate.

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