



Minutes of Great Barton Parish Council on Monday 20th April 2026 at 6.00pm

Councillor Maggie Dunn chaired the meeting along with Councillors, Peter Fisk Andy Baker, Gwyn James. Cllr Hopfensperger was present. 1 member of the public were present.

It m 1.	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. Once all comments have been made, the session will be closed. Attendees were informed that the meeting may be recorded. No fire alarms are scheduled, and the emergency exits were pointed out. There were no requests for dispensation. Cllr Fisk reiterated his previously declared interest in the completed planning application DC/25/1353/HH.
2.	<u>To Sign the minutes of the Council meeting on Monday 16th March</u> 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.
3.	<u>Council considered completed planning applications –</u> DC/25/1353/HH - Woodview Thurston Road
4.	<u>Council to consider the following planning applications</u> DC/26/0433/HH- Hi Ways Mill Road a. render to all existing elevations b. one and half storey rear extension (following partial removal of one metre of existing outbuilding) c. infill of existing window to side elevation d. detached two bay cart lodge. Great Barton Parish Council support this application, Proposed Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour. DC/26/0335/HH - Grove House Livermere Road - construct water feature in front garden Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application, Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr Dunn, all in favour. DC/26/0260/P3QPA - Land Adj Elm Cottage Cox Lane - AMENDED LOCATION AND BLOCK PLAN RECEIVED (now shows footpath) Thank you for consulting Great Barton Parish Council on this Class Q Prior Approval application. Following review, the Council has no objections to the proposal. Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour. DC/26/0487/VAR - "Planning application - variation of condition 1 of DC/24/1072/VAR to allow use of amended plans for waste transfer area of site for municipal operational hub comprising waste transfer station, household waste recycling centre (including reuse building), fleet depot (including offices), public realm maintenance depot and associated infrastructure including accesses, paths, internal roads and paths, parking, weighbridges, and landscaping" Thank you for consulting Great Barton Parish Council. Council has reviewed the proposed variation of condition 1 and has no objections to the amended plans. Proposed Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Fisk, all in favour. DC/26/0459/HH – May Cottage School Lane - a. single storey front extension (following demolition of existing conservatory) b. single storey rear extension c. first floor rear extension d. alterations to existing rear dormers to create one larger mono-pitched dormer e. alterations to fenestration to rear elevation Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application. Proposed Cllr Fisk, Seconded Cllr Baker, all in favour.

DC/26/0519/HH - 16 Downing Drive - Single storey side extension –
Great Barton Parish Council have no objections in relation to this application. Proposed Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Fisk, all in favour.

DC/26/0595/TPO - 1 Beech Park - "two yew and one sycamore (marked T1, T2 and T3 on plan and within A1 on order) crown lift to 2.5 metres above ground level"

Great Barton Parish Council have no objections, subject to agreement with west Suffolk tree officer. Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr James, all in favour.

5. **Finance**

- a) Payments of Accounts and outstanding invoices. The Council resolved to pay the following Accounts. Proposed Cllr Fisk Seconded Cllr James unanimous decision. Internet banking transactions entered by the Clerk, verified by Cllr James, verified and released by Cllr Dunn.
- b) Responsible Financial Officer's Report including details of reserve budgets

Bank balances

Unity trusts Current Account	£5426.22
Unity Trust Savings Account	£75151.28
Total balances	£80,577.50
Instant Access Interest	£385.61
Moved from current account to savings account	None
Moved funds from Savings account to Current account	None
Credits received	None
Payments made under S137*	None

Reserves Balances

GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES AS OF 31st March 2026

RESERVE	AS of 31/03/026	SPEN T TO DATE	EARMARKED PROJECTS	CURRENT BALANCE	AVAILABLE TO SPEND
SMALL PROJECTS	£2,922.24		None	£2,922.24	£2,922.24
LEGAL/CONSULTATIO N	£10,095.41		None	£10,095.41	£10,095.41
YOUTH PROJECT	£296.59		None	£296.59	£296.59
GENERAL	£12,657.47		None	£12,657.47	£12,657.47
ALLOTMENTS	£60.00			£60.00	£60.00
ASSET MAINTENANCE	£10,526.47		None	£10,526.47	£10,526.47
ASSET ACQUISITION	£6,882.82		(Precept Budget of £456)	£6,882.82	£6,882.82
ICEPITS WOOD	£12,409.05		(Precept Budget of £2000)	£12,409.05	£12,409.05

S106 FUNDS	£10,024.00			£ -	£10,024.00	£10,024.00
TOTAL RESERVES	£65,874.05	£0.00		£ -	£65,874.05	£65,874.05

- c) Cllr James reviewed and signed the Q4 Quarterly Bank Reconciliations.
- d) Review of Budget Vs Actual Spend for Q4. An error was noted. Clerk to correct and upload amended document to website.
- e) Council considered Budget Vs Actual Spend for Q4, no queries were raised.
- f) Audit Paperwork Section 1 and 2 Signed off, Proposed Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Baker, unanimous decision
- g) Council reviewed quotes for Bench Installation at Village Hall, Council agreed to award DJ Haill priced at £750 inc Vat. Clerk to notify contractor and liase regarding the works. Proposed Cllr Baker, Seconded Cllr Dunn, unanimous decision
- h) Council considered the clerks overtime of 14.5 hours for production of the Spring Newsletter. Council approved. Proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded by Cllr Dunn, unanimous.
- i) Council considered a one-off mole treatment for the playground for £50. Last treated over a year ago. Council approved. Proposed Cllr Dunn, Seconded Cllr Fisk, unanimous decision
- j) Council considered the remaining costs for the village gates installation. The Clerk confirmed an additional £467 over budget requiring approval. Council approved. Proposed Cllr Dunn, Seconded Cllr Baker, unanimous decision
- k) Council reviewed the costs for the A143 Skirting Back Costs. Agreed to defer and raise at the Annual Parish Meeting to gauge Parishioners point of view.

6. **Non- Financial Items**

Chair Dunn thanked everyone who took part in the Spring Litter Pick. West Suffolk Council have already collected the items gathered. In total, volunteers removed 14 Co-op crates, 1 Somerfield crate, 14 bags of rubbish, and some plastic wire from the countryside.
The Clerk suggested holding an end-of-summer litter pick in September, once the children have returned to school.

7. **Chairman' and Councillor Reports**

Cllr Baker raised concerns over 2x Sycamore Tree's leaning over the A143. This has been reported to Suffolk Highways as could be another road closure should they come down. Around the back of hall park area.
Cllr Baker requested the Clerk get a quote for the Tree Survey as due June / July 2026.
Cllr Baker is looking to secure the speed awareness sign on Thurston Road once he has checked the diameter. Clerk advised to keep the receipt so we can claim it back on expenses next meeting.

Cllr Fisk left at 8.05pm

8. **Correspondence not covered elsewhere**

Cllr James advised he attended a meeting at Montana due to the barking dog's issue. Cllr Hopfensperger also attended. Residents who can hear it are undertaking a noise audit to send to West Suffolk Environmental Team. It can be from 6pm – 11pm at night – 3 Dogs constantly. The property is rented, so the owner is responsible. Cllr Baker queried if the dogs are ok. Cllr James advised the dogs can be seen.

Cllr Dunn advised another complaint about dogs in Nacton Lane, off lead, diving throw hedging chasing deer. Clerk advised she could do a post about online and the website about village etiquette foot paths etc, Cllr Dunn advised looking at the Countryside Code.

	<p>Clerk advised we had an email from a member of the public in relation to not holding a public vote for councillors. Clerk advised Parish Councils cannot “refuse” elections. Elections only happen when more candidates stand than there are seats; otherwise, the law requires an uncontested return.</p> <p>We encourage participation, advertise vacancies, and invite residents to stand, but cannot compel volunteers.</p> <p>A member of the public requested to speak, which Cllr Dunn approved. He stated that he was disappointed that the Council had reversed its earlier decision to approve the costs for the Stage One of the Local Plan review and instead delay for 6months. He queried why the decision had been reversed (as it was not explained within the minutes) and queried whether this was permitted under the Council’s Standing Orders, noting the provision that decisions should not normally be revisited within six months.</p> <p>The Council accepted that the decision may not have been dealt with correctly and agreed to place the item back on the May agenda in order to revisit the decision.</p>
9	<p><u>items to be carried forward to next meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Skirting Back b) Revisit Decision not to progress with Stage one Review of the local plan <p>Date of next meeting - Wednesday 29th April at 7.00pm for the Annual Meeting of Electors in the Annex Monday 18th May at 7.00pm for Full Council in the Community Room</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.29pm</p> <p>..... sign and date Print name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Chairman Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.