

Minutes of Great Barton Parish Council on Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.00pm



Councillor Maggie Dunn chaired the meeting along with Vice Chair Elaine Read and Councillors, Peter Fisk Andy Baker, Jenny Stone, Gwyn James. Cllr Hopfensperger was present. No members of the public were present.

1.	<p>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.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation. Apologies from Cllr Broughton and the Clerk</p>
2.	<p><u>Open Public Session</u> No public present</p>
3.	<p><u>County Councillor's report</u> Cllr Hopfensperger reported that county elections will proceed as planned. The Barrow and Thingoe division has been amended following the recent boundary review. The next county council election will cover a two-year term (2026–2028). Should local government reorganisation progress, a unitary authority election is expected in 2027, followed by a potential one-year borough election term.</p> <p>Cllr Hopfensperger advised of the extension to the 11th March for consultation responses in regards to the development on Land North East of Bury St Edmunds.</p> <p>Cllr Hopfensperger advised that 20s plenty outside school is enforceable but 20 anywhere else will need to be on the new process and they require evidence. Cllr Read did state it was disappointing to find out parish councils will then have to fund the 20mph speed reductions as most won't be able to afford it. Cllr Stone queried who pays to reduce the speed limit on the A143 near the Land North East Development once complete. Cllr Hopfensperger confirmed the developer and this is usually after the site is partially occupied. Chair Dunn advised she is going to report the drain in elm close as flooded and outside the Coppice and will feed this back to Cllr Hopfensperger again.</p> <p>Chair Dunn advise she will also be reporting the pot holes. Cllr Fisk queried if the Salt had changed which could be causing more potholes. Cllr Hopfensperger advised it's a multitude of things – extra traffic, water freezing etc. Cllr Stone advised we are still looking for a contractor for the skirting back. Cllr Hopfensperger advised to keep the money and get it skirting sorted.</p> <p><i>Cllr Hopfensperger left at 7.14pm</i></p>
4.	<p><u>To Sign the minutes of the Planning meeting on Monday 12th January</u> Cllr Read proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Baker, unanimous decision from those at the meeting.</p>
5.	<p><u>To Sign the minutes of the Council meeting on Monday 19th January</u> Cllr Read proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Baker, agreed unanimously by those present, with the exception of Cllr Fisk, who was not in attendance at that meeting.</p>
6.	<p><u>To Sign the minutes of the Planning meeting on Monday 9th February</u> Cllr Baker proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Fisk, unanimous decision from those at the meeting.</p>
7.	<p><i>Item missing from agenda</i></p>
8.	<p><u>To Consider completed planning applications</u> DC/25/1973/HH – 1 Barton Hamlet</p>
9.	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>a) Payments of Accounts and outstanding invoices. The Council resolved to pay the following Accounts. Proposed Cllr James Seconded Cllr Read, unanimous decision. Internet banking transactions entered by the Clerk, verified by Cllr James, verified and released by Cllr Dunn.</p>

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

Bank balances

Unity trusts Current Account	£12,340.79
Unity Trust Savings Account	£74,765.67
Total balances	£87,106.46
Instant Access Interest	£0.00
Moved from current account to savings account	None
Moved funds from Savings account to Current account	None
Credits received	£4101.50
Payments made under S137*	None

Reserves Balances

GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES AS OF 13th February 2026

RESERVE	AS of 05/11/25	SPENT TO DATE	EARMARKED PROJECTS	CURRENT BALANCE	AVAILABLE TO SPEND
SMALL PROJECTS	£ 18,401.55	£ 11,694.31	£700 Memorial grant for Kate Trevitt	£ 6,707.24	£ 6,007.24
LEGAL/CONSULTATION	£ 10,290.41	£ 195.00	None	£ 10,095.41	£ 10,095.41
YOUTH PROJECT	£ 612.62	£ 316.03	None	£ 296.59	£ 296.59
GENERAL	£ 12,657.47		None	£ 12,657.47	£ 12,657.47
ALLOTMENTS	£ 60.00	£ 120.00		£ 60.00	£ 60.00
ASSET MAINTENANCE	£ 11,343.48	£ 817.01	None	£ 10,526.47	£ 10,526.47
ASSET ACQUISITION	£ 8,727.82	£ 1,845.00	(Precept Budget of £456)	£ 6,882.82	£ 6,882.82
ICEPITS WOOD	£ 12,748.55	£ 339.50	(Precept Budget of £2000)	£ 12,409.05	£ 12,441.05
S106 FUNDS	£ 14,676.00	£ 4,652.00		£ 10,024.00	£ 10,024.00
TOTAL RESERVES	£ 89,517.90	£ 19,978.85		£ 69,659.05	£ 68,959.05

* To include precept and underspend Reserves

- c) Cllrs requested the clerk gain 1 more quote so we have 3 in total due to the amount skirting back is going to cost. Cllrs disappointed Suffolk County Council said footpaths didn't meet the criteria to be done through them. (Grants from Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council total £4160).
- d) Cllrs considered neighbourhood plan review and opted not to progress at this time. Review in 6months
- e) Cllrs reviewed the items raised from the Risk Assessment. Clerk had cleaned the notice board. Cllrs queried who installed the plastic reflector bollards on Conyers Green – The green has been driven on and cut back so far that now the bollards are in the road. Concern that they could become a H&S risk. Cllr Stone to remove broken bollard.
- f) Cllr Stone stated personnel training would be beneficial. Chair Dunn to review.

- g) Cllrs reviewed the quote from Suffolk Cloud for Phishing Protection and felt this was more than is required. Cllrs reviewed the quote for Microsoft Teams. Both items were pushed to next meeting for Clerk to provide more detail.
- h) Council considered a Grant Request for Citizens Advise. Cllrs requested a Grant Request form be completed for them to be considered.
- i) Council deferred 1password protection to next meeting
- j) Cllr James provided an update in relation to the gate's installation. Works have been split into two separate sections. This will be an extra day's work (£500 on the original quote). Total £2210. Because we no longer require lights on Thurston Rd, this may well balance the cost out. Proposed Cllr James, seconded Cllr Baker, unanimous decision.

10. **Non- Financial Items**

- a) Chair Dunn to review the West Suffolk Policy Consultation on affordable housing and submit our response.
- b) To support the national Covid Day of Reflection Holy Innocents are to tailor evening service on Sunday 8th March.

11. **Chairman'and Councillor Reports**

Chair Dunn provided an update on the latest parish forum, and the Waste Hub in relation to the New Bin Collections.

Cllr Read has had further correspondence from a member of the public in relation to the redevelopment on Mill Road and has requested Marie Smith (from planning) contact the member of the public direct with her response.

Cllr Stone has been advised that brown waste has been dropped into ditch again on Mill Road and requested we send letters to advise this is classed as fly tipping.

Cllr Baker advised the manager at the Bunbury Arms would be happy to host the Defib Training. Tuesday/Wednesday and include their members of staff.

Cllr Baker queried if we get notified of requests to discard a constraint on a planning application. Chair Dunn advised we do if they are sent to us as consultees.

13. **Correspondence**

- a) Member of the public had reported fly tipping on Brand Road. Clerk advised member of public of how to report using the west Suffolk council page and what.three.words
- b) Member of the public had reported dog walkers not sticking to new footpath but cutting behind the houses. Clerk reported this to Public Rights of Way / Suffolk County Farms for additional signage

Items to be carried forward to next meeting

- a) 9.g) IT / Cyber / Phishing Protection
- b) 9.h) Grant Request for Citizens Advice
- c) 9.i) 1password management

Date of next meeting at 7pm in the Community Room -

Monday 9th for Planning

Monday 16th for Full Council

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.20pm

..... sign and date

..... Print name

Chairman Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.