

Minutes of Great Barton Parish Council on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.05pm



Councillor Maggie Dunn chaired the meeting along with Councillors, Peter Fisk Andy Baker, Gwyn James. Cllr Hopfensperger and Broughton were present. 5 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.</p>
2.	<p><u>Open Public Session</u></p> <p>Discussion around access to Elm Meadow and new footpath via rear garden gates, Chair Dunn advised this is not permitted. Suffolk County Farms will also be sending a letter to residents to confirm this and an avoid any confusion. Member of the public queried the proposals for the footpath. Chair Dunn confirmed the red line in the proposal was the boundary and not the footpath. Elm Meadow Barn also has planning permission currently which doesn't show the footpath, but we have requested additional signage from Public Rights of Way to assist walkers. Clerk advised we do currently have a post with the map on ice pits end and cox lane to advise of the new footpath²³ but has requested additional for the rear of the gardens at both ends.</p> <p>Member of the public 2 advised how will residents know if they are not Cox Lane residents. Chair Dunn advised with the additional signage, and Clerk will share final letter on Parish Council Website and Facebook page. Member of the public queried if the pond was still going ahead. Cllr Fisk advised no as the land is too free draining and they would have to line it which could become a risk for drowning.</p> <p>Ian Houlder introduced himself as a nominee for the County Councillor election coming up for Barrow and Thingoe Ward.</p> <p>Member of the public 2 raised an issue about lorries using Cox Lane as a cut through either at night or during closures. And parking on verge. Clerk to raise and request additional signage to show private road / not suitable for lorries. Cllr Broughton queried the last walkabout. Chair Dunn advised not in the last year so we will request that at the same time.</p>
3.	<p><u>County Councillor's report</u></p> <p>Cllr Hopfensperger advised following investigation we only had an advisory weight restriction on Fornham Road. 3 speed an safety survey's have been arranged– 1 off roundabout just after the hub, 1 just before the turn off before Livermere road and 1 at the avenue and A143.</p> <p>As ward councillor Cllr Hopfensperger put in an official objection to the temporary entrance for the development. This has now been reduced to 3 years (from 5) and want to apply for a speed restriction to 40mph and have reconfirmed they will be constructing the roundabout before any occupation. There also will be construction management plan. She has raised that traffic is already using green lane (but they advised at that time it was the only access). Cllr Hopfensperger advised it to go to delegation panel. 25th March is the cut off for the 1 or 3 unitary options for Suffolk.</p> <p>Cllr Hopfensperger queried the road skirting back, Clerk advised we have a quote to review and Fornham have a contact.</p> <p>Cllr Hopfensperger is expecting an update into the mini roundabout at the Bunbury. Will share once she has. Cllr James advised the method from SCC for installing gateways has added complications that is unnecessary. Cllr Hopfensperger to feed back.</p> <p>Cllr Baker requested information in relation to Forest City. Cllr Hopfensperger advised she had put information on Facebook about it. We need houses but in the rice place, with the right infrastructure in place as such she has put in an objection for the proposal.</p> <p>Cllr Fisk requested an update on the Hub extension. Cllr Broughton advised they attended the meeting recently and its mainly going to be for parking, bin skips etc but there will be a planning application later this year. It will have the same lighting and fencing that the current hub has. The field will be farmed until its</p>

needed. This is required due to the new bins, simpler recycling. Cllr Fisk requested if we will get smells being processed. Cllr Broughton advised the waste food will be taken away. Its not being processed on site. We are on the last phase of bins being rolled out.
 Cllr Broughton advised the new Local Plan will be done in a much shorter time, and they will be calling for sites in April. The NPPF won't be replicating in the new local plan.
 Chair Dunn advised the items have arrived at the school following the grant, they will look to arrange a photo opportunity.
 Cllr Hopfensperger will be looking at the feedback survey from the school and a way forward in regards to helping parking.
 No update on the triangle.

4. **District Councillor's report**

Included above
Cllr Hopfensperger and Broughton left at 7.14pm

5. **To Sign the minutes of the Council meeting on Monday 16th February**

Cllr Fisk proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Baker, agreed unanimously by those present.

6. **To Sign the minutes of the EO Planning meeting on Monday 24th February**

Cllr Baker proposed acceptance of the minutes to stand as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Chair Dunn, agreed unanimously by those present.

7. **Council considered completed planning applications –**

- DC/25/2019/HH - Birch House Mill Road
- DC/25/1967/TPO - Barton House The Park

8. **To Consider completed planning applications**

- a) DC/26/0260/P3QPA – Land Adj to Elm Cottage - Great Barton Parish Council has no objections to this permitted development notification. However, we note that the submitted ecology report may relate to the previous application and may not be up to date. We also note that the Public Right of Way (PROW) footpath is not shown on the current plans. This footpath must remain in place and free from obstruction at all times. All in favour.
- b) DC/26/0319/HH -2 Downing Drive - Great Barton Parish Council support this application, All in favour.
- c) DC/26/0303/HH - Montrose House, the Park - Great Barton Parish Council support this application, 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 Cllr Dunn.
- b) Responsible Financial Officer's Report including details of reserve budgets

Bank balances

Unity trusts Current Account	£11,643.71
Unity Trust Savings Account	£74,765.67
Total balances	£86,409.38
Instant Access Interest	£0.00
Moved from current account to savings account	None
Moved funds from Savings account to Current account	None
Credits received	£650.00
Payments made under S137*	None

Reserves Balances

GREAT BARTON PARISH COUNCIL RESERVES AS OF 13th March 2026

RESERVE	AS of 05/11/25	SPENT TO DATE	EARMARKED PROJECTS		CURRENT BALANCE	AVAILABLE TO SPEND
SMALL PROJECTS	£18,401.55	£15,479.31	None	£ -	£2,922.24	£2,922.24
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	£23,763.85		£ -	£65,874.05	£65,874.05

* 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. Defer to April.
- d) Cllrs considered grant requested from Citizens Advice Bureau, West Suffolk. Council resolved a donation of £132. Proposed Chair Dunn, Seconded Cllr Baker unanimous decision
- e) Clerk proposed Key pass be used as the password safe. This is FOC and a recommended provider from NALC. All agreed, unanimous decision.
- f) Council considered a contribution from the Church in relation to the grass cutting fees. Council accepted the contribution, unanimous decision.
- g) Council to consider who to appoint as their internal auditor and agreed upon Suffolk Association of Local Councils. Proposed Cllr Dunn, Seconded Cllr James unanimous decision.
- h) Council approved that CV Gardening could spend up to £50 to tidy up the plants at the foot of the Village Sign. Proposed Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Baker unanimous decision.
- i) Following a personnel Committee meeting for salary and hours review for the Clerk council approved to increase the clerks SCP Banding (correct for role and parish size) and hours by 2 hours a week from 1st April. Making it 15 hours a week in total. Council agreed to back pay salary to date passed probation. Proposed Cllr James, Seconded Cllr Fisk unanimous decision.
- j) Cllrs requested to meet on site to discuss playground quotes prior to approval and clerk to chase 3rd quote. Defer to April.
- k) Cllrs requested an additional quote for bench installation. Cllr James suggest DJ Haill. Defer to April.

10. **Non- Financial Items**

- a) Council confirmed merge of planning and full council meetings following resignation of 2 councillors
- b) Elm Meadow covered above.

11.	<p><u>Chairman'and Councillor Reports</u></p> <p>Cllr Fisk queried update with footpaths. Clerk will chase FP 21 as no fencing in to date. In relation to new footpaths Clerk will chase Suffolk County Farms for update.</p> <p>Chair Dunn provided an update on Bins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one extra 240 litre green lidded recycling bin for paper and card, • 23 litre food caddy (outside) and 5 litre kitchen caddy (inside) <p>From June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food waste collected weekly • paper and card (grey recycling bin with green lid) collected once every four weeks • mixed recycling (blue bin) collected once every four weeks • non-recyclable (black bin) waste collected once every two weeks • garden waste (paid for service) collected once every two weeks. Your garden waste collection day will not change. <p><i>Cllr Fisk left at 8pm</i></p> <p>Following the resignations of Cllr Read and Stone the Chair would like to give thanks for their commitment and hard work whilst being on the Parish Council. We thank them for the service they gave to the village.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence not covered elsewhere</u></p> <p>Clerk advised an executor for Liz/Bettys will has been in contact in relation to a monetary gift in lieu of land. Clerk has requested more information once they have valuation and possible offer.</p>
13.	<p><u>Open public Session</u></p> <p>No comments</p>
14.	<p><u>items to be carried forward to next meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Skirting Back b) Playground equipment c) Bench Installation <p>Date of next meeting - Monday 20th April for Full Council at 6.00pm in the Community Room 7.00pm for the Annual Meeting of Electors in the Annex</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting finished at 9pm</p> <p>..... sign and date Print name</p> <p>Chairman Signed as confirmation that they are a true record.</p>