

Great Waldingfield Parish Council Meeting

Monday 9 February 2026 at 7.00pm, Great Waldingfield Village Hall

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Evans (Chair), Baxter (Vice Chair), Spackman, Berry, Leonard, Ambrose. District Cllrs Clover & Maybury and two residents.

Apologies: Cllr Faircloth-Mutton.

01 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present. Apologies from Cllrs Faircloth-Mutton.

02 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Cllrs Evans, Leonard and Baxter declared their roles as Village Hall Trustees. No further declarations.

03 Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of 8 Dec 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting (EM) of 3 Feb 2026 were approved. No matters arising.

04 Public Forum

Residents raised concerns about parking charges, council performance, and communication.

05 Suffolk County Council & Babergh District Council Reports

05.01 SCC

Cllr Faircloth-Mutton's written report was not available to the meeting.

05.02 BDC

Cllrs Clover and Maybury summarised their report, including:

- Recycling system changes (three-weekly black bin collection; new glass and plastics bin; weekly food waste).
 - Business rate pressures.
 - Sheltered housing changes in Lavenham.
 - Car parking charges and scrutiny review.
- A vote of thanks was recorded.

06 Councillor Matters

Following interview at the EM, Stewart Ambrose was unanimously co-opted. Induction to be arranged. Two vacancies remain.

07 Devolution & Local Government Reform (D&LGR)



Elections postponed. Judicial review ongoing. Village Hall to remain booked for 7 May pending any change.

08 Traffic

- No volunteer came forward to act as TG liaison.
- Cllrs Baxter and Faircloth-Mutton will continue to report informally.
- Purchase of third SID confirmed (net cost approx. £3,800 after SCC contribution).
- Discussion of HGV movements, lorry-watch, and possible correspondence with T&M regarding routing.
- SCC review of 20mph policy noted.

09 Parking Nil.

10 Correspondence Items included:

- Website presentation and separation of PC/village content.
- Assertion 10 and requirement for a PC-controlled email domain.
- EV chargers installed without consultation; concerns about pedestrian access, lighting, and cabling.
- Footpath flooding near Old School Wood and Anglian Water issues.

11 Planning and Development

11.01 DC/25/05426 Chilton Woods Reserved Matters

Noted. Comments submitted.

11.02 DC/25/04825 Glamping Pods, Moreves Barn

Objection submitted on grounds of biodiversity, amenity, and traffic.

12 Financial Matters

12.01–12.03 Income & expenditure for Dec/Jan and bank reconciliation for Jan were received.

12.04 RMS risk log to be circulated for councillor input.

12.05 Continuity planning: FC meeting to be arranged.

12.06 Budget, Precept and Reserves noted (as agreed Nov 2025).

12.07 AGAR online reporting trial confirmed.

12.08 Donation request from Scouts received; Clerk to process.

12.09 Annual review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Roles & Responsibilities, Asset Register and Internal Controls to proceed.

13 Urgent Financial Matters. None.

14 Strategic Plan & Action Plan. Chair outlined development of a fouryear strategic plan aligned with the Neighbourhood Plan. Draft framework to be circulated.

15 PC Assets / Land

15.01 Pavilion. Progress noted. Grant applications submitted. SCC lease discussions ongoing. A vote of thanks was recorded for the work of the project team.

15.02 Play Equipment. Phase 2 repairs to proceed.

15.03 Greenacre. Three initiatives approved in principle:

- Memory Tree
- Lamp Light of Peace
- WW1 “Tommy” silhouette (£200)
Working Group to be established for trees and lighting.

15.04 Village Map. Nil.

15.05 Village Hall. Accounts audited. Cleaning costs rising. Spaceplanning exercise underway. Meeting with Dog Club scheduled to review storage and free space for the Larder.

15.06 Village Sign. Working Group established. £7,000 earmarked. Cllrs Maybury (£400) and Clover (£833.50) contributions noted.

15.07 Bus Shelters. Volunteers to assist with cleaning when weather permits.

15.08 Office Furniture. Workstation risk assessment to be undertaken. Budget £500.

16 Terms of Reference. Work ongoing for VH, Bowls Club, QDJG, Old School Wood, Traffic Group and Events Team.

17 Footpaths & Hedgerows. Meeting with SCC pending. FP11 ditch issues continue.

18 Environment. Flooding, Anglian Water overflows, and wildlife area updates noted.

19 Events. Events Team now fully independent.

20 HR & Complaints. Clerk training underway.

21 Matters Arising to the Chair. Domain name and Assertion 10 requirements under review. Dates for APM/APCM to be set.
Council discussed undertaking a parish survey to gauge performance.

22 Next Meeting

7.00pm Monday 9 March 2026.



23–25 Confidential Session

Council resolved to exclude the public.

Matters relating to legal correspondence were considered. Clerk to prepare a structured response and collate information for solicitors.

Meeting closed: 22:41

Mark Freeman, Parish Clerk

