

**Great Waldingfield Parish Council Meeting  
Monday 9 March 2026 at 7.00pm, Great Waldingfield Village Hall  
Minutes**

**Present:** Cllrs John Evans (Chair), Gail Baxter (Vice Chair), Jan Spackman, Pete Berry and Stewart Ambrose. County Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton, District Cllrs Margaret Maybury and Paul Clover and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Cllr Nigel Leonard.

**01 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm and welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Cllr Leonard.

**02 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations**

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

**03 Minutes of Meetings (9 Feb 2026) – Matters Arising**

Minutes of 9 Feb 2026 were, after minor editing, approved. No matters arising.

**04 Public Forum**

Residents contributed to discussions.

**05 Suffolk County Council (SCC) & Babergh District Council (BDC) Reports**

**05.01 SCC** Cllr Faircloth-Mutton's (F-M) summarised his report. There was a discussion about the airfield fence and path. Cllr F-M offered £160 to GWPC for a suitable project. Funding for the Greenacre sign posts were agreed. Cllr F-M was thanked for this grant and the £1,000 towards the new SID.

**05.02 BDC** Cllr Maybury summarised the BDC report. There was a discussion about the new recycling system and a requirement to assist residents understanding how to use them. Also, the land offered for possible development in Acton / Lavenham was discussed. It was agreed that this was offered land and too early to discuss any detail.

**06 Councillor Matters**

Two vacancies remain.

**07 Devolution & Local Government Reform (D&LGR)**



Elections back on 7 May 2026. Cllr Berry raised the reminder of the need for an ID to vote, and that voting IDs were available for Babergh. Also anyone planning to use a postal vote needs to apply soonest.

## **08 Traffic – TG Volunteer, SID**

No volunteer came forward for the TG liaison role.

Purchase of a third SID confirmed (net cost approx. £3,800 after SCC contribution).

## **09 Parking. Nil.**

## **10 Correspondence**

A resident had raised the issue of wildflower destruction and the loss of the temporary amphibian crossing signs for Folly Road. A budget of £60 was proposed and agreed for the purchase of two 'Amphibian crossing' signs. Action. Clerk to purchase.

## **11 Planning and Development**

**11.01 DC/25/05426 – Chilton Woods Reserved Matters.** Noted. No comments submitted.

**11.02 DC/26/00748.** Application for works subject to Tree Preservation Order (TPO) BT83 - Silver Birch Trees (T4), (T5),(T6) - Reduce the trees by 25% to shape and balance to leave smaller more compact crowns. Longways, Lavenham Rd, GW. Deadline 18 Mar 2026. GWPC will object. Action. Action. Cllr Baxter to draft objection.

## **12 Financial Matters**

Income & expenditure and bank reconciliation for Feb were received and accepted. The Clerk highlighted the receipt of the VAT reclaim of £6888. The RMS risk log was described and will be circulated for input and comment from Cllrs.

The Continuity Planning working group will be formed from Cllrs: Evans; Baxter and Leonard and a meeting arranged. The Clerk highlighted the need for reviews. Cllr Ambrose agreed to undertake the Audit of Internal Controls. Date tbc.

## **13 Urgent Financial Matters** None.

## **14 Strategic Plan (SP) & Action Plan (AP)**

Chair outlined development of the four-year SP aligned with the Neighbourhood Plan. The SP leads to the AP and associated risk held on the risk log. Costs and budgets need to be agreed. The draft framework had been circulated and a SP meeting set for 13.00hrs Tue 21 Apr 2026...aft framework to be circulated.

## **15 PC Assets / Land**



**15.01 Pavilion** The huge progress made by Clare Kiely and Cllr Leonard was noted. Timings had, and will, slip due to deadlines of grant bids and lease discussions.

**15.02 Play Equipment** Phase 2 repairs completed. Phase 3 will be quoted for.

**15.03 Greenacre** Three items have already been approved: Memory Tree; Lamp Light of Peace; WW1 "Tommy" silhouette. Cllr Baxter said that the tree is likely to be a Blue Spruce. Cllr Berry highlighted how Greenacre will become the location for the Remembrance Day village commemorations. centre for (£200)

Cllr Ambrose will establish the Working Group (WG) for the Greencare village sign and lighting and include all elements. Cllr P F\_M volunteered to be part of that WG. to be established for trees and lighting.

**15.04 Village Hall (VH)** The Clerk went through the report and illustrated that, despite the recent increased expenses the VH will breakeven at financial year end. A cleaning contract has been appointed. Cllr Evans reiterated that Cllrs Evans, Baxter and Leonard were VH Trustees and that Mark Freeman was the Secretary and Treasurer not Trustee with no voting rights or access to accounts. The space-planning exercise was underway and a meeting with Dog Club will free space for the Larder.

## 16 Terms of Reference

Work is ongoing for VH, Bowls Club, QDJG and Old School Wood. SCC need to be chased for the promised Heads of Terms for the lease for the land on which the Bowls Club sits and BDC for the Licence to use the land where the QDJG is located

## 17 Footpaths (FP) & Hedgerows

The obstruction caused by the three EV Charger plinths on the footpath of Bantocks Road was discussed. Cllr P F-M requested that GWPC write him a letter outlining the background and current issues. Action. Clerk. Letter

The airfield fence had already been discussed. It was agreed for the Clerk to approach the landowner with the suggested solution. Action. Clerk. Approach landowner.

## 18 Environment

A number of topics were discussed: TPOs for two oak trees; Litter picking on 18 Apr; Recycling bins; Flower seed planting on 9 May.

The Anglian Water ditch has been cleared by Parish Support Services (PSS) and Anglian Water will be approached for payment. Action. Clerk. Approach Anglian Water. PSS will start moving downstream, next.

The meadow management email from BDC was highlighted. Opinions from residents would be solicited via social media and the website. Action. Clerk. Post



**19 Events** Nil.

**20 HR & Complaints** Nil.

**21 Matters Arising to the Chair** Nil.

**22 Next Meeting(s)**

7.00pm Monday 20 April 2026. Likely to be The Bowls Club but tbc.

Cllr Berry to find a suitable Saturday for the APM.

**23 Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press**

Council resolved to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and LGA 1972 ss100 & 102.

**24 Thank You to the Public for Attending**

**25 Confidential Session**

Mark Freeman  
Parish Clerk, GWPC

**Great Waldingfield Parish Council  
Action List (from Minutes of 9 March 2026)**

**Councillor / Clerk Actions**

- Clerk — Purchase two *Amphibian Crossing* signs (budget £60).
- Clerk — Circulate the RMS risk log to councillors for input and comment.
- Clerk — Arrange meeting of the Continuity Planning Working Group (Evans, Baxter,
- Clerk — Circulate the Strategic Plan draft framework (if not already done).
- Clerk — Chase SCC for Heads of Terms for Bowls Club land lease.
- Clerk — Chase BDC for Licence for QDJG land.
- Clerk — Write to Cllr P F-M regarding the Bantocks Road EV charger plinth obstruction (background + issues).
- Clerk — Approach the airfield fence landowner with the suggested solution.
- Clerk — Approach Anglian Water for payment for ditch clearance.
- Clerk — Post on social media/website to gather resident opinions on meadow management.
- Cllr Ambrose — Establish the Greenacre Working Group (village sign, lighting, and related elements), including Cllr P F-M
- Cllr Ambrose — Undertake the Audit of Internal Controls (date tbc). Cllr Baxter — Draft objection to planning application DC/26/00748 (TPO Silver Birch reductions).
- **Cllr Berry** — Find a suitable Saturday for the **Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**.

**Dates (for context)**

- Litter pick: 18 April
- Flower seed planting: 9 May
- Strategic Plan meeting: 13:00, Tuesday 21 April 2026
- Next PC meeting: 7pm, Monday 20 April 2026 (likely Bowls Club)

