

**Great Waldingfield Parish Council Meeting
Monday 20 April 2026 at 7.00pm,
Great Waldingfield Bowls Club
Minutes**

Present: Cllrs John Evans (Chair), Gail Baxter (Vice Chair), Jan Spackman, Pete Berry, Nigel Leonard. County Cllr Philip Faircloth-Mutton, District Cllr Paul Clover and five members of the public.

Apologies: District Cllr Margaret Maybury, Cllr Stewart Ambrose (noting his resignation).

01 Welcome and Apologies

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

02 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations

Declarations were made in respect of the Pavilion Working Group (three councillors) and the Village Hall Management Committee (three councillors as Trustees). No further declarations.

03 Minutes of Meeting (9 March 2026)

The minutes were received, considered and approved. No matters arising not otherwise on the agenda. The Motion to bring forward Item 15.01 was approved. See Item 15.01.

04 Public Forum

No questions were raised other than those relating to the Pavilion (Item 15.01)

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

05.01 SCC – Cllr Faircloth-Mutton

Cllr F-M reported on: Moratorium in place until 7 May due to elections; Unitary Authority (UA) proposals, including boundaries, parliamentary approval expected in October, and potential judicial challenges; Financial pressures relating to adult and children's care services; and assurance that SCC remains committed to dialogue with parishes regarding assets such as the Pavilion lease. GWPC recorded a vote of thanks to Cllr F-M for his support.

05.02 BDC – Cllr Clover

Cllr Clover reported on: UA transition arrangements and the role of district cllrs during the shadow period; Neighbourhood Plan updates, call-for-sites timetable, and the importance of maintaining an up-to-date plan; Recycling system changes, including bin types and collection



arrangements; Concerns regarding heating oil costs and available support schemes. Thanks were expressed to local volunteers for the recent litter pick.

06 Councillor Matters

Two vacancies remain. The Chair noted the resignation of Cllr Ambrose and summarised his reasons, including returning to aviation work on a secondment basis.

07 Devolution & Local Government Reform (D&LGR)

Discussion took place under Item 05. No further matters raised.

08 Traffic – TG Volunteer, SIDs

Cllr Baxter volunteered for the Traffic Group liaison role. A Freedom of Information request had been received regarding SID data; the Clerk has responded.

09 Parking. Nil.

10 Correspondence

10.01 Anti-social behaviour. Reports of anti-social behaviour in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Garden and near the school were discussed. GWPC reaffirmed its full support for residents reporting incidents to the police and noted the link between lack of youth facilities and behavioural issues. The Pavilion project was highlighted as part of the long-term solution. 10. Anti Social Behaviour: piece to be included May magazine

10.02 Village Volunteers Afternoon. Cllr Berry outlined plans for the Village Volunteers Afternoon on 7 June, including refreshments. A budget of £200 was approved. GWPC supported the event and agreed that annual volunteer awards would be presented there.

10.03 Lavenham Road Pavement. Concerns were raised again about the narrow and overgrown pavement. Multiple reports to SCC have resulted in the response "does not meet criteria". GWPC agreed to continue pressing SCC, including exploring statutory obligations and past precedents. Cllr P F-M agreed to apply pressure on SCC Highways once GWPC has provided evidence of the issue.

10.04 Bus Service Removal. Felix Bus services have been withdrawn. Cllr Berry is in dialogue with operators to explore reinstating a morning service and a Saturday service via GoStart. GWPC noted the significant impact on residents, particularly those at the far end of Bantocks Road and Valley Road.

11 Planning and Development

11.01 DC/26/00164 – 13 Chestnut Close. A site visit was undertaken. GWPC found no grounds for objection.

11.02 DC/26/01417 – Chilton Woods Reserved Matters. Council agreed to submit no comment.

11.03 DC/26/00748 – TPO Silver Birch (Longways). Granted. GWPC expressed disappointment, noting concerns about long-term tree health.

11.04 Glamping Pods (Badleys Road). Council noted that permission has been granted for three glamping pods. Concerns were raised about wildlife impact, including bats, swallows and insects, as previously submitted in comments to BDC.

12 Financial Matters

12.01–12.03 Income & Expenditure / Bank Reconciliation. The Clerk presented the Mar and Apr figures.

12.04 Risk Management Strategy. The Clerk circulated the updated risk log and requested councillor input, noting that the top risks are now materializing.

12.05 Review of SO, FR, Roles & Responsibilities. Work ongoing. The Clerk will be revising Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as part of CiLCA training.

12.06 Business Continuity. Updates on: File naming conventions; Village manual; Timesheet tracking. Need for an Assistant Clerk, potentially shared, to support resilience and reduce operational risk. Chair in dialogue with LW Chair

12.07 Old School Wood. Insurance. GWPC approved the £164 insurance payment.

13 Urgent Financial Matters. Nil.

14 Strategic Plan (SP) & Action Plan

A SP meeting is scheduled for 21 April 2026. The Chair emphasised the need to align the SP with the Neighbourhood Plan and to review councillor roles given reduced numbers.

15 PC Assets / Land

15.01 Pavilion. A detailed update was provided following the earlier public presentation:

- £10,000 Community Development Grant must be spent within one year.
- Phase 1 priority is moving the school fence to allow community access.
- Estimated PC contribution: £9,000–£11,000, with a recommended working margin bringing the total to £15,000. Motion to allocate £15,000 passed unanimously.
- Concerns noted regarding the 30-year lease; SCC approached for a 99-year term. Cllr P F-M agreed to approach Pete Mumford.
- Working Group to be expanded to include village volunteers.
- Monthly meetings and continued updates in the parish magazine agreed.

15.02 Play Equipment. Nil.



15.03 Greenacre – Village Sign & Lights. Work delayed due to councillor resignation; to be reassigned at SP meeting.

15.04 QDJG – Bench Replacement. A budget of £1,000 was approved for two replacement benches (composite or metal) including installation.

15.05 Village Hall. A verbal report was given:

- Positive meeting held with former trustees regarding audit matters.
- Constitution requires review; options include winding up or amending the charity structure.
- Storage reorganisation completed with cooperation from the Dog Club.
- Repairs and maintenance schedule drafted.
- Fire safety compliance works to be commissioned urgently.

Cleaner performance praised and minuted.

16 Terms of Reference

Updates on: **Old School Wood** – title search ongoing; insurance approved; **Bowls Club** – awaiting SCC Heads of Terms; delays noted; and **QDJG** – awaiting BDC response on licence renewal. GWPC emphasised the importance of structured relationships with all asset-related groups.

17 Footpaths & Hedgerows

No further update on the airfield footpath; awaiting landowner email response.

18 Environment

Items discussed: Pink bin for electricals – parish added to waiting list; Meadow management – resident views to be gathered; Tree planting – limited suitable locations; Wildflower areas – Folly Field corner suggested; and Seed-planting event scheduled for 9 May.

19 Events

Recent events noted: Easter Book Trail; Village Quiz (well attended). Upcoming: Scarecrow Trail in August. Christmas event planning to include Greenacre tree lighting.

20 HR & Complaints

Nil, but the Chair emphasised the Council's duty of care to the Clerk, to be discussed further in confidential session.

21 Matters Arising to the Chair. Nil.

22 Next Meetings. Monday 11 May 2026 (including APCM) APM: 16 May 2026.

23 Resolution to Exclude the Public and Press. Council resolved to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the confidential nature of the business.



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 20 April 2026)

Clerk

- Minutes. Sign. Print and post
- Reply to Stewart Ambrose
- SID Fol. Responded
- Lavenham Rd p[pavement. Send details to Cllr P F-M
- Planning. Send responses
- OSW. Remind David Taylor for title document.
- OSW. Make insurance payment.
- Bowls Club. Chase Matthew Lee, SCC, for heads of terms.
- Risk Log. Circulate risk log for comment.
- Strategic Plan. Circulate document.
- Review. Review and update documents.
- Asst Clerk. With SALC assemble JD.
- More to follow..

