

Great Waldingfield Parish Council (GWPC)
Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 14th September 2026 at 2.00pm
Great Waldingfield Village Hall
Minutes

Present and apologies

Present: Cllr Evans (Chair), Cllr Leonard, Cllr Baxter, Cllr Berry, Cllr Spackman, District Cllrs Clover and Rev'd Maybury, Tony Evans (Locum Clerk), Deshune Morrison (Management Accountant), 6 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Ambrose, County Cllr Philip Faircloth- Mutton (Cllr P F-M).

01 Welcome and Apologies. The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed attendees, and accepted apologies from Cllr Ambrose.

02 Declarations of Interests and Dispensations. Cllrs Evans, Baxter and Leonard declared an interest as Trustees of the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC).

03 Minutes of meetings. Consider and approve the minutes of meeting held on Tue 11 Aug 2026. 1st: Cllr Baxter. 2nd: Cllr Leonard. **Unanimously approved.**

04 Public Forum

A member of the public expressed concern about vehicles parking on the pavement footpaths near to the village shop. This proved difficult for residents to safely access the shop and very hazardous or impossible for residents using walking sticks or walking frames. The Chair pointed out that double yellow lines were considered but the cost of implementation was prohibitive. The recent accident at Ten Trees was also raised. The Locum Clerk confirmed that a letter had been posted and emailed to Cllr P F-M requesting support to resolve these and other traffic issues including speeding and overweight lorries in the village. District Cllr Rev'd Maybury would take these issues back to Babergh District Council for it's help and support.

Another member of the public spoke about the EV chargers at Bantocks Road. It was confirmed that Cllr P F-M had agreed to address this issue but he had not responded.

In order to ensure the Police and Suffolk County Council (SCC) were addressing these issues correctly District Cllr Clover would call a meeting of all interested parties.

Another member of the public stated that the grit bins managed by SCC had been overfilled and were overflowing. Locum Clerk to raise a complaint with SCC.

05 County and District Councillors' Written Reports

05.01 Suffolk County Council – County Cllr P F-M Cllr P F-M submitted a written report prior to the meeting. The items covered were Local Government Reorganisation for Suffolk Withdrawn, Great Waldingfield benefits as Suffolk creates 648 new school and SEND places, Sudbury's Fire Station Commended, Unsafe treehouse deconstructed on County Farm

Estate, Follow up to Locum Clerk's recent correspondence concerning speeding, recent road traffic accident at Ten Trees and HGVs breaching the 7.5 tonne weight restriction.

05.02 Babergh District Council – District Cllrs Clover & Maybury District Cllr. Clover provided written and verbal reports on the Government's suspension of Local Government Reform, Adult Social Care, Switch Together Schemes for buying heating systems, Self-Build Register and National Planning Policy Framework changes affecting Neighbourhood Plans and Local Plans.

06 Councillor Matters

06.01 Personal statement by Cllr Leonard. Cllr Leonard gave his statement in which he informed Members that he intended to resign from the Council at the end of September. He thanked all colleagues for their help and support during his tenure. The Chair thanked Cllr Leonard for his outstanding contribution – particularly project management.

06.02 Councillor Vacancies The Chair confirmed that there were now 3 vacancies that needed filling.

06.03 Co-opt Cllr Berry onto Finance Committee. 1st: Cllr Spackman 2nd: Cllr Baxter. Unanimously agreed.

07 Traffic

07.01 SIDs, Speeding, Overweight lorries, Recent accident – Update. The defective SID had been repaired and returned for deployment. Cllr P F-M had addressed overweight lorries and the recent accident in his latest report.

07.02 Lorry Watch – Update Cllr Baxter informed the Members that there were not enough volunteers available to run a Lorry Watch.

08 Parking. Parking at Heathway. In his report Cllr P F-M stated "If a vehicle is placing other road users in immediate danger, this should also be reported directly to Suffolk Police at the time of the incident"

09 Correspondence

09.01 EV Charging Points by SCC. The Council received a message from a resident requesting an update about the EV charging points situated in Bannocks Road. Refer to item 04 above.

09.02 Noise and nuisance behind the chip shop. District Cllr Rev'd Maybury advised that this issue was under review.

09.03 Suffolk Wellbeing. The Council received a letter from Suffolk Wellbeing promoting help and mental health support for people over 16. Cllr Berry to reach out to Suffolk Wellbeing.

09.04 Suspicious person on playing field. An email had been received from a resident informing the Council of suspicious activity by an individual who was trying to talk to 2 young girls on the Playing Field. The police had been informed.

10 Planning and development

10.01 In-tray. Lavendar Cottage – Removal of dead silver birch tree. Cllr reported **No Objection**.

10.02 Churchfield Road, Chilton. Cllr Reported **Objection** to the outline planning application for 210 houses.

11 Financial Matters

11.01 Annual Return. The Management Accountant (MA) confirmed the AGAR annual return had been completed and signed off.

11.02 Income and expenditure Aug. The MA presented a report showing the Council's income and expenditure for Aug. He advised the second precept amount had been received early Sep and would be transferred into the Council's savings account.

11.03 Bank reconciliation Aug. The MA presented the bank reconciliation report.

11.04 Income and expenditure Aug. See item 11.2.

11.05 Accessing UTB by Councillors and Locum Clerk. MA to ensure all members of Financial Committee are digital signatories for UTB.

11.06 S137 LGA1972 – GWPC expenditure. The Locum Clerk reminded Members of the Council's powers to spend money and that, without the Council's Power of Competence, it may need to use it's power under S137 LGA1972 as a last resort. This will be capped at £11.60 per elector during 2026/27.

11.07 CIL Allocation. The MA presented an updated report on CIL allocation.

12 Grant Application. New signage for Bowls Club. The Chair presented the Bowls Club's application for a grant of £500 to purchase replacement signs. 1st: Cllr Leonard; 2nd: Cllr Spackman. **Unanimously approved.**

13 Strategic Plan (SP) and Action Plan The Chair reminded those present of the purpose of the SP and Action as a 4 year vision to include wildlife sites.

14 PC Assets/Land

14.01 Greenacre, Update The Chair reminded those present of the Council's intention to make Green Acre the centre piece for the village at Christmas time. This may include additional Christmas trees with lights. Cllr Berry suggested that a Tommy soldier and Lady silhouette sign should be included The estimated cost would be an additional £200. 1st: Cllr Spackman; 2nd Cllr Leonard. **Unanimously approved.**

14.02 Pavilion and Playing Field, Update

Cllr Leonard summarised the written report provided prior to the meeting. The report requested the Council to make the following resolutions:

- 1. To support the continued exploration of the alternative option for a Well-Being and Community Café with SCC. Any decision on future costs and funding will be determined once more information is received.**
- 2. To note that a formal decision on the future of the Pavilion will need to be taken at a future meeting of the Council once the position with SCC and the new option is clarified.**
- 3. To approve the Council's support for Nigel Leonard to continue to lead on the work with SCC on this project and the associated lease from 1 October 2026. This approval is on the basis that all future decisions on the development and associated costs are presented to Full Council for approval.**
- 4. For the Parish Clerk to prepare a list of abortive costs for presentation to a future Council meeting.**
- 5. For the Parish Clerk and Project lead to contact all grant providers to update them and to clarify the actions GWPC need to take.**
- 6. For the Working Group to be stood down temporarily whilst discussions on the new option continue. Once the Working Group reconvenes the Parish Council will need to nominate a member.**

1st: Cllr Berry; 2nd: Cllr Spackman The Council **Unanimously Agreed** to these 6 requested resolutions.

14.03 Consider piece for Village Magazine. Carried over.

14.04 Village Hall (VH) Update and Annual Return. Cllr Leonard summarised the written report provided prior to the meeting. The Chair confirmed that discussions were continuing with a local contractor with suggestions and costings to improve the security of the VH.

15 Footpaths (FP) and hedgerows. Airfield. SCC land misuse, Update. Cllr Spackman reported that Matthew Lee of SCC County Farm Estates had cleared the site and would be erecting suitable signage. He would also draft a piece for publication in the Village Magazine.

17 Environment Cllr Baxter reported that the ponds on GWWA were too difficult to keep topped up during the very hot, dry period. Alternative sites may be considered. The litter pick has been suggested to take place on 17 Oct from 10 – 12 at the QDJG. Maps will be drawn up to show no-mow/wildlife corridors and biodiversity areas to be included in the SP and placed on the website.

18 Strategic Plan, Update. Nothing to report.

19 HR and Complaints None

20 Matters arising to the Chair None

19 Matters arising to the Chair None

20 Next meeting. Mon 12 Oct at 2.00pm.

21 Exclusion of Public and Press. It was resolved to exclude members of the public from the confidential section¹.

22 Thank You to the Public. The Chair thanked the public for attending.

23 Confidential section

Meeting Closed at 5.00pm

¹ The Public Bodies S.1 (2) (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) and the Local Government Act 1972 ss 100 and 102 (amended 2014). The Council is asked to consider and agree to exclude the Public since publicity would legally prejudice commercial sensitivity and confidentiality.

Great Waldingfield Parish Council — Action Log (11 August 2026)

Clerk

- Workplace assessment and security of Clerk's room to next agenda.
- Progress Assistant Clerk recruitment following Council discussion.
- Add emergency planning review to a future agenda (following Lavenham fire discussion).
- Update website with wildlife/no-mow areas once amendments are confirmed.
- Bank mandate. Lloyds.
- ABC Protocol. Cross check with P&Ps.

Locum Clerk

- Write letter to Cllr P F-M requesting action taken regarding traffic issues.
- Purchase 3 recycled materials chairs for QDJG.
- Check on warranty of faulty SID.
- Write letter to SCC requesting action to clear up damage at airfield

Management Accountant

- Liaise with the Clerk to purchase a replacement/provisioned laptop.
- Liaise with the Clerk regarding the Lloyds Bank mandate.
- Monitor receipt of the second tranche of the precept.
- Retain/record the completed AGAR documentation as required.

Cllr Evans:

- Confirm resolution and communication with **Cllr Ambrose** regarding extended absence and continued membership.
- Continue discussions/agree ToR between the Council and Bowls Club, Old School Wood and QDJG.

All councillors: Continue outreach to fill the remaining vacancies.

Cllr Baxter:

- Continue biodiversity work (wildflower areas, habitat mapping).
- Progress competition for children to design a speeding banner for the village.
- Liaise with Chilton PC and coordinate objections to the proposed 210-house development at Church Field Road.
- Complete membership of the Wool Town Farm Cluster following approval of the £120 membership.

Cllr Leonard:

- Provide Pavilion Project Update
- Initiate process with Charity Commission to end VH Charity status

Cllr Berry:

- Greenacre project: Explore options to repair or replace the village sign and identify other small projects to improve Green Acre.
- QDJG benches : liaise with Locum Clerk
- Arrange/monitor RoSPA inspection of play equipment

Village Hall / VHMC

- Update VHMC T&C to reflect adoption of the butterfly campaign.
- Continue discussions with contractors regarding improved VH security, including CCTV.

Environment & Wildlife

- Implement **wildlife corridor mapping** for inclusion in the Strategic Plan.
- Liaise with Chilton PC regarding wildlife corridors
- Maintain **no-mow areas** and monitor biodiversity outcomes.

Finance Committee

- Review **CIL allocations** (£27k unallocated; FP11 deferred).
- Review **reserves document** (deferred item).
- Renew Council insurance with the existing provider. 1st October 2026