



GREAT BRICETT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Bricett
Tuesday, 7th July 2026 at 7pm.

Present:

Councillors: S Burnett (Chairman)
A Auchterlonie
S Tetlow
K Hamilton-Harris
A Pittock

In Attendance J Blackburn – Clerk
D Pratt – District Councillor

GB30/26/27 – TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morley and Cllr Parnell.

GB31/26/27 – CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Adria Pittock had attended the previous Parish Council meeting and had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

It was AGREED: That Adria Pittock be co-opted onto the Parish Council. **All Agreed.**

GB32/26/27 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None had been received.

GB33/26/27 – TO RECEIVE APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

None had been received.

GB34/26/27 - TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 26th MAY 2026

It was AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 26th May 2026 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

GB35/26/27 – PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

GB36/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR GARY KEOGH

Cllr Keogh was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

GB/37/26/27 - TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – CLLR DANIEL PRATT

Cllr Pratts' report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

Cllr Pratt had nothing further to report.

Members briefly discussed the Joint Local Plan Scoping Consultation which was currently active and how the Parish Council could notify residents, who may wish to take part.

Members suggested the village WhatsApp groups, noticeboards and website.

GB38/26/27 – TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) **CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk had nothing to report other than what was on the Agenda.

b) **TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Clerk reported on the Council’s current financial position and movements since the last meeting. It was reported that the balance in the accounts on 1st July 2026 was £20,354.57.

c) **TO AUTHORISE PAYMENTS AND NOTE RECEIPTS**

The Clerk reported the following payments be authorised:-

NSK Landscapes	Grass Cutting (Community Woodland)	£515.24
NSK Landscapes	Grass Cutting (Community Woodland)	£515.24
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (July)	£382.61
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Jul)	£33.70

The following payments were ratified:

Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Pay (Jun)	£382.61
Jennie Blackburn	Clerk’s Office Allowance/Exp (Jun)	£26.00
HMRC	PAYE to end 5th Jul	£314.63

It was AGREED: That payments totaling £2,170.03 be authorised and actioned by the Clerk.

No receipts had been received.

d) **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was AGREED: That the Bank Reconciliation be approved.

e) **MILEAGE COSTS RATES**

It was AGREED: That the increase in mileage rates from 45p per mile to 55p per mile was approved.

GB39/26/27 - PLANNING APPLICATIONS

None had been received.

GB40/26/27 – PLANNING DECISIONS

None had been received.

GB41/26/27 – ACTION TRACKER DOCUMENT

The Action Tracker was reviewed.

Cllr Tetlow reported that he had had second thoughts on the kit for filling the pond at the Community Woodland as it would encourage evaporation.

Members briefly discussed solutions and agreed that if the hot summers were going to continue then it would need to be revisited in the future as to how to fill the pond with water.

GB42/26/27 – PUBLIC EMERGENCY BRIEFING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Cllr Pittock reported that Chris Packham, Presenter and Environmental Campaigner, had put together a video on Climate Change and was encouraging the Government to show it around the country. The video was called 'National and Emergency Briefing on Climate Crisis'.

It was very accessible and consisted of six different topics.

It helped people to understand the situation and ways they could help climate change.

Cllr Pittock suggested that a showing of the video be held at the Village Hall.

Members supported the suggested and it was agreed that Cllr Pittock liaise with the Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC) as to a date and put together a flyer that could be circulated to all residents in the village.

It was AGREED: That Cllr Pittock liaise with the VHMC and produce a flyer for the event.

Following on from the discussion of Climate Change Cllr Burnett reported that the Farmer of land around the brook and fields in the village had been liaised with over biodiversity following the last Parish Council meeting and questions raised by Cllr Pittock in relation to his hedges, and she had received the following response:

In 2018, when we entered the farm there were very few hedges, a couple of small areas of woodland and handful of grass strips around some fields.

In 2022 over 3km of native hedge rows were planted on the boundaries of several fields that was planned with the farm contractors to allow continued management of ditches which were a pivotal part of the farm's extensive drainage schemes. Those hedges had been overseen by a local arboricultural expert. The hedges had not been touched until this autumn when we were advised that extensive cutting of the hedges was required to improve the hedges condition moving forward. All hedges were cut to around 2 foot tall and had since had all tree guards removed. That would allow the hedges to grow to full potential giving a thick bottomed hedge allowing this to be friendlier towards wildlife which would use those as corridors, Hedges would be allowed to grow to around 6 foot and would be managed accordingly moving forward.

The woodlands which were planted at the same time were all also under the same management and were assessed regularly and would be allowed to grow into a diverse species rich woodland providing habitat to a huge amount of wildlife.

Ponds had been created on the farm in several locations and those provided a crucial water source to many animals on the farm in the dry springs and summers we seem to be experiencing nowadays.

Paddocks around the village which were once mown regularly were now left and had established a range of wild flowers within them and were now only cut once per year.

The ancient mount to the rear of the hall had been restored in the past few years and was now a huge feature of the farm, long term residents would remember when that was not visible. The moat holds water 365 days of the year which also provided water and habitat for many species.

Members discussed the possibility of the Farmer giving a talk to the village in relation to biodiversity and their plans moving forward.

Cllr Pratt added that the District Council had set up a cluster with Farmers which was called Gipping Valley Cluster. It showcased Farmers and what they were doing to react with climate change. Also, it highlighted what food production they were undertaking.

More information could be found at <https://gippingvalleycluster.co.uk/>

GB43/26/27 – VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Cllr Hamilton-Harris reported that in relation to the 'People and Place Plan' (PPP), considered last year, she had read Onehouse Parish Council's PPP which was very interesting and suggested that the Parish Council revisit this for Great Bricett.

Cllr Auchterlonie reported that at the time it was considered the legislation had not been formalised or approved.

Cllr Pratt explained that the District Council were focusing more now on Neighbourhood Plans and the enthusiasm for PPPs had dropped.

The Clerk reminded members that the changes due to local councils could mean that the process for Neighbourhood Plans could change.

Members agreed to put the idea on hold and re-visit once the Unitary Councils had formed.

GB44/26/27 – BUSINESS PARK

It was noted that following issues raised at the previous Parish Council meeting the Clerk liaised with the owners of the Business Park over the noise problems and she had received a reply.

The owners had asked for any evidence of the noise, such as dates, times and photographic evidence if possible so that the issue could be investigated further.

They also requested they attend the September Parish Council meeting for a further discussion.
Clerk to action.

GB45/26/27 – LAND

Cllr Burnett reported that she had liaised with the VHMC to ask them if they would be happy to manage the land should it be hired for any events, to which they had agreed.

Cllr Burnett also asked them to keep her informed of when it was used as she would keep a log for information and monitoring purposes.

A name for the land was raised and following a brief discussion it was agreed that it should be called The Meadow, which was what it had been called in the past.

Cllr Auchterlonie explained that there had been a parking issue on The Green recently where hirers of the hall had blocked the entrance of a resident's property. He asked that the VHMC informed all hirers when they booked the hall that The Meadow was available to use for parking, which would help alleviate any further problems.

The fencing around the Meadow was discussed further and Cllr Auchterlonie reported that it was in a poor state with many of the posts being rotten.

Cllr Burnett stated that she had liaised with Cllr Pratt over funding for the project which he confirmed would be available.

The idea of a hedgerow being planted on the inside of the fencing was also discussed and supported by all members, although they agreed that the fencing should be dealt with first.

Cllr Pratt stated that he would liaise with the Clerk over what funding pots were available.

Cllr Auchterlonie agreed to measure the fencing for Cllr Burnett to state when discussing quotes plus the pole count. **Cllr Auchterlonie to action.**

It was AGREED: That Cllr Burnett seek three quotes for post and rail fencing.

GB46/26/27 – BIODIVERSITY FOR VILLAGE

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

GB47/26/27 - COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Cllr Burnett reported that all plants and trees were ok, despite the hot weather.

GB48/26/27 - VILLAGE HALL

No report had been received.

GB49/26/27 - FOOTPATHS

Cllr Burnett stated that all footpaths are walked regularly and checked and all ok.

Cllr Pittock reported that the pavement around the junction of The Street with the B1078 had become overgrown, to which Cllr Burnett advised Cllr Pittock to report it on the 'Suffolk Report It' tool. **Cllr Pittock to action.**

GB50/26/27 - MATTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- The resignation of Cllr Purnell had been received. Members wished her well and thanked her for all her help.

GB51/26/27 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was AGREED: That the next meeting be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 15th September 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.

Chairman: Dated: