



Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th May 2026 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllr S Burnett (PC), Cllr A Auchterlonie (PC), Arland Shawe-Taylor (PCC), Mick Read (VHMC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs Jennie Blackburn (Clerk), District Cllr Dan Pratt and five members of the public.

GB/APM/01/26/27 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Great Bricett, Cllr Sue Burnett, welcomed those present.

GB/APM/02/26/27 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Mr Gough, Ringshall Primary School.

GB/APM/03/26/27 - MINUTES 13th MAY 2025

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 13th May 2025, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

GB/APM/04/26/27 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and answer any questions. Where received, their reports are attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Great Bricett Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report. No questions were raised.

- b) **Suffolk County Council**
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Due to recent elections no County Councillor was present.

- c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr Daniel Pratt*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Pratt read through his report.

When asked about the small appliance recycling bins Cllr Pratt confirmed that they had been temporarily suspended.

- d) **Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)** – *Mick Read*

Mick Read reported the following:

- Village Hall was well supported by residents
- Hirers had commented how clean the hall was kept which included the garden
- Lighting consideration for front entrance and rear exits ongoing
- Replacement heaters and toilets planned

- Future considerations included solutions for people with hearing aids as hearing was compromised when hall full at events – comments had been raised.

Arland Shawe-Taylor added that £10,000 had been donated to the Parish Council towards the purchase of the land in the village.

- e) **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** – *Arland Shawe-Taylor*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Arland Shawe-Taylor read through his report. No questions were raised.

- f) **Ringshall Primary School** – *Mr Gough*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Gough was not present at the meeting. His report had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be published on the village website.

- g) **Community Speed Watch** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report. No questions were raised.

- h) **Tree Warden / Community Woodland** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report. No questions were raised.

- i) **Wattisham Airfield** – *Martin Kinsey*

Martin Kinsey was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

GB/APM/05/26/27 - PUBLIC FORUM

Five members of the public were present.

Public comments were around the use of the recent purchase of land and the Parish Council's strategy to use it and make changes.

Questions were raised which included the following:

- Was there a long term strategy to build a new Village Hall and car park?
- What use of the land was being considered?
- Short, medium and long term – residents felt that the Parish Council should have a strategy.

Residents felt that there should be a proper village consultation with input from residents. Ways for that to happen and were discussed.

It was agreed that items that required consideration were as follows:-

- Maintenance – grass cutting, replacement of the fencing around the boundary and charges for specific event grass cutting by request.
- Additional pedestrian gate access, moving the main access gate, repairing the existing main access gate, village sign relocation, new cross footpath, grants, costs and charging for use, booking process and management responsibilities.

- Tree planting, allotment space, children’s play space, biodiversity and hedging.
- Short term land use under the 28 day rule for agricultural land – village events, car parking, marquee pitching, bonfires and village table sales.
- Longer term plans, different access location, future Village Hall and car park site (needed to undertake short term plans with longer term plans in mind).
- Other ideas for short, medium and long term use would be considered.

The Clerk explained that the individual items would need to be discussed at a Parish Council meeting and the decisions formally made and minuted.

Cllr Auchterlonie stated that the land purchase was a strategic move, to protect it, an investment for the village.

The Clerk confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Tuesday, 26th May 2026 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Chairman Date

DRAFT

Chairman's Report 2025-2026

Since last May the purchase of a piece of land in the Village has been completed. The land to be used primarily for parking for village events and as an investment for the future. The Village Hall Management Committee gave a large amount to ensure the purchase could go ahead. We are just waiting for the land to be added to the Land Registry.

This year we welcomed a new Councillor Kate Hamilton-Harris, and said goodbye and thank you to Lesley Jefferson who joined us on the Parish Council for a while and has now left us, she will continue to keep an eye on the local footpaths and occasionally do litter picking through the village.

Secondly, thanks again to Arland who has been moving our SID machine on a regular basis to help keep speed down, the data from SID is downloaded and kept to show the average speed of vehicles.

We are still waiting for the yellow lines to be installed at the T junction by Wattisham Airfield, the Highways Department have requested payment but we prefer to wait until the job has been done.

The new owners of the Business Park have endeavoured to put to some use the Nissan huts for small businesses to generate income while plans for the future use of the Park are being considered. This year we had a presentation concerning the Business Park, the plan would include 45 houses of varying sizes, we were asked to forward any comments we might have. Since then we have heard very little.

Steve Tetlow started a campaign to encourage dog walkers to clear up after their pets, this has had some success.

A decision was made to forgo the maintenance on 'street light' the cost of this maintenance and the replacement of the light bulb with an LED was prohibitive.

An ongoing problem has occurred at Wixfield, the outflow from their sewage system is extremely polluted causing the ditch to smell and look awful. Dan Pratt our District Councillor has been taken this problem to the Environment Agency and has had various samples taken for testing.

Ongoing suggestions: Twinning with another community in France, a biodiversity plan for our area and a Village Fete in the summer.

We would like to thank Kay Oakes, our County Councillor and Dan Pratt our District Councillor for all their hard work on our behalf through the year. Also, to Jennie, our Clerk for keeping us on track especially during the purchase of the land.

Mid Suffolk District Councillors' Annual Report (2024/25) for the Annual Parish Meeting

Local Government Reorganisation

Suffolk's councils submitted business cases for their preference on how local authorities will be re-structured in the county. The government has decided that there will be three unitary authorities in Suffolk. While detailed boundaries are being finalised, the three unitary councils, West Suffolk, Central & East Suffolk, and Ipswich and South Suffolk are planned to be in place from April 2028. Parishes within the current Battsford and Ringshall Ward, including Barking, Great Bricett, Offton and Willisham will be located within Central and East Suffolk.

Elections for the new shadow authorities are due in May 2027. Following this there will be a transition period until vesting day on 1st April 2028 when the new unitary authorities will take control. The transition period is to enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, and services will be delivered as usual throughout the process. We are expecting Mayoral elections to also be held in May 2028.

Budget 2026/27

Mid Suffolk District Council is increasing its share of Council Tax by 2.99%.

For a Band D property, this brings the yearly charge to £180.26—an increase of £5.23 per year (or approximately 10p per week). This follows a year of no increases. It is also important to note that Mid Suffolk receives only about 8% of your total Council Tax bill.

This increase is necessary because the Government now awards future grants based on the assumption that councils have already raised their tax share. Had we not implemented this modest increase now, the council would face a significant funding shortfall in the coming years.

In addition to the day-to-day provision of council services and activities, the 2026/27 budget includes funding for a wide range of programmes, including:

- Implementation of the new food waste collection scheme and waste depot improvements
- Further support for recycling education
- Biodiversity enhancements on council-owned land
- Two new community nature recovery grants
- Cost of living support and a Council Tax Support scheme
- Grants programmes for towns and rural communities outside of Stowmarket
- Investment in the Stowmarket Leisure Centre
- Stowmarket sports facilities delivered through the SHELF Project
- Support for wider Stowmarket regeneration
- Expanded 'Cosy Homes' insulation scheme to help residents obtain solar panels
- Support for active travel including new footpaths and cycle lanes
- Completion of the construction of the Stowmarket Innovation Gateway
- Expansion of temporary accommodation to help homeless residents

Planning and Housing

In 2025 the Government introduced new housing targets increasing the number of dwellings from 535 to 734 per year. The council held a briefing for parishes following the government requirement to increase the number of dwellings in Mid Suffolk.

Work is ongoing to update the existing JLP Part 1 which included the planning policies, and to include new settlement hierarchy and allocated sites.

Officers sent out a 'Call for Sites' and the proposed sites are now being assessed against planning policy, constraints, evidence and deliverability criteria. Inclusion on the list does not grant planning status for a site. Further assessment will be published through the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) in Spring 2026. It is important to note that we are carrying out this work to ensure any future development is 'plan-led' and not 'developer led'.

This year MSDC introduced a £20,000 Neighbourhood Development Plan fund to support Parish Councils which seek to allocate sites for housing development. The neighbourhood plan has statutory weight and status in the plan and decision-making process.

Waste and Recycling

Mid Suffolk District Council will start its Better Recycling scheme in June 2026. New bins have been delivered to all homes to help separate waste more effectively. Waste and recycling services include:

- Weekly food waste collection – use new kitchen caddy and larger outdoor food bin for all food scraps.
- Blue-lidded recycling bin – now for glass (bottles and jars), cartons (Tetra Paks), plastic bottles, bags, and wraps and metal cans.
- Green-lidded bin – used exclusively for paper and card to keep them clean and dry for better recycling.

More information can be found at www.suffolkrecycles.org.uk

Nature Recovery

Following our successful launch event at The Mix in Stowmarket, Mid Suffolk District Council announced the new £525,000 Catchment and Landscape Nature Recovery Grant. This fund supports ambitious, collaborative projects (£50k–£200k) focused on river restoration and habitat connectivity.

Our Community Nature Recovery Grant was launched in January, offering up to £50,000 for grassroots biodiversity projects. We have currently had many enquires and 7 applications – the outcomes of which will be announced following the pre-election period. There will be two more application windows for 2026.

These funds are part of a landmark £1.8 million commitment to our new Biodiversity Action Plan (2025–2030).

2025/2026 Achievements:

- Meadow management - we reached a milestone of 114,341m² of managed meadows, a 38% increase in the area of council-owned land under meadow management in 2024.
- Nearly 400 residents applied for our 'Tree for Life' scheme to mark for babies born or adopted in 2025/26
- Secured an eight-acre riverside habitat in Stowmarket for permanent conservation and public access

- Two Assistant Ecologists are now in post to support our planning team with the delivery and monitoring of Biodiversity Net Gain

Mid Suffolk District Council was also a partner and collaborator in the production of the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). This groundbreaking work which was launched in November 2025. It is a blueprint for nature recovery across Suffolk and provides evidence-based maps that indicate where resources should be focused.

Supporting the community

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spending of £918,000 was allocated by to communities across the district from the last round in 2025. Barking Village Hall received a Community Development Grant to install solar PV and battery system. Battisford Village Hall has also been offered £5,000 towards the costs of a solar installation scheme.

In the Battisford and Ringshall ward, the following organisations and projects were supported from the Locality Budget:

- Barking Village Hall – contribution towards solar photovoltaic panels and battery storage
- Punchbowl Inn CIC – support towards the refurbishment of men's toilets
- Upper Gipping Farm Cluster – costs covered for new website design
- Orchard Barn CIC – first aid training for volunteers
- River Gipping Trust – contribution towards costs of river path improvement works
- Great Bricett – support towards the Community Woodland project
- Wattisham Army Cadet Group – signage replacement
- Ringshall Parochial Church Council – support towards restoration of church organ

Mid Suffolk District Council information is available via www.midsuffolk.gov.uk or by phone **0300 123 4000**

I would like to thank the Parish Council for all their work done throughout the year.

Dr Dan Pratt

Ward Member for Battisford and Ringshall

Mid Suffolk District Council

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT - May 2026

May I firstly record the thanks from the PCC for the continued support of the Parish Council with churchyard mowing and for providing the illumination of the South side of church during the winter months. With the support of Kate & Phil Hatch we were again able to illuminate the North side of the church this year and we remain grateful to The Hall Farm for providing additional parking space on their yard for special occasions and services.

As part of the recently completed project to repair the render on the internal walls there was also a structural engineering investigation into cracks in the East wall and also apparent movements of the porch. The report and recommendations from this are still to be received and will enable the cost of remedying these problems to be identified.

As a reminder we are one of eight churches under the care of Rev Dan Harrison and we continue to have our regular monthly service of communion on the 3rd Sunday. The church is open daily for visitors and for quiet contemplation.

Arland Shawe-Taylor
Churchwarden

Review of the 2025/2026 academic year

The Ringshall School Report for the Great Bricett Parish Meeting - May 2026

Written by James Gough, Headteacher - Ringshall Primary School

This report will give an overview of the current learning provision and plans in place at Ringshall Primary School.

Learning outcomes - SATs 2025

At time of writing the current year 6 cohort are about to take their SAT. Results will be out in July.

Last year's SATs results were again well above the national average in both attainment and progress across all subject areas.

National Average Smashing outcomes - again!

GPS (Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling): 94% Pass, with 65% achieving Greater Depth.

Reading: 94% Pass, with 59% achieving Greater Depth. Maths: 94% Pass, with 53% achieving Greater Depth.

What's more, 100% of children entered into the exams passed – truly amazing! This marks another year where our pupils have massively outperformed the national average, a testament to their efforts and the dedication of our fantastic staff.

Overview of the school year to date and beyond

This report provides an update on the progress, achievements, and future plans of Ringshall Primary School as we conclude another successful academic year.

Major Investment: Expanding Our Early Years Provision

The most significant news for the upcoming year is the awarding of a £120,000 grant to fund the creation of eight new nursery places. This investment is an exciting opportunity to upgrade our infrastructure in the Early Years part of the school.

To accommodate this expansion and enhance the learning environment for all our younger pupils, the funds will be used for:

- A brand-new outdoor learning area designed to foster physical development and exploration for the nursery and Early years children exclusively.

- A comprehensive upgrade to the Early Years classroom. Including a brand new toilet block and changing facilities.
- Modernisation of the adjacent Hub Classroom, ensuring our facilities remain versatile and able to support learning for our young learners.
- A sensory room to support SEN children.

Curriculum & Creative Success

Following a year of dedicated focus on the arts, including ukulele performances, enhanced dance sessions, and creative design across all subjects. We are thrilled to announce that we have officially achieved the Artsmark Award. This national accreditation celebrates our success in placing creativity at the heart of our curriculum.

Our curriculum remains robust, supported by frameworks like White Rose and Cornerstones. We are also staying at the forefront of educational technology as we look to support all our teachers to become Google Gemini Champions, through taking the Google Educator qualification level one and two. We are also supporting staff in exploring how technology and AI can make lesson planning more engaging and tailored to our children's needs.

Wellbeing & The "Complete Human Strategy"

Wellbeing remains our top priority. Building on the success of our MyHappyMind programme, the Complete Human Strategy and Mindful Mondays, we are now introducing Therapeutic Thinking.

The Therapeutic Thinking framework moves beyond traditional discipline by focusing on:

- Understanding the internal drivers of behaviour.
- Supporting mental health through a social, empathic and restorative approach.
- Fostering a school culture where children feel safe, regulated, and ready to learn.

Our Complete Human Strategy (CHS) continues to evolve, providing a "wheel" of support for pupils, staff, and families alike. See our website for more information.

Teaching & Learning Highlights

Physical Education: Continues to be expertly delivered in-house sports coach, Mrs Draper, ensuring regular and high-quality sports provision for all year groups.

Forest School: Our EYFS and KS1 children continue to benefit from year-round outdoor learning.

Academic Progress: We continue to focus on our five key development goals from our school development plan, with a particular emphasis on oracy, vocabulary, and technical writing skills.

Community Voice: The continued "Asset Arrows" programme has successfully amplified pupil voice across the school. This year has focused on school meals and the importance of having a nutritious school meal.

Staffing & Community

I am pleased to report that as I write this, there are no major changes to staffing for the upcoming year. This stability allows our team to maintain the strong momentum we have built.

Our Parent Cafés remain a popular fixture, and we value these opportunities to welcome parents into the classroom. Other initiatives such as Themed singing assemblies, Rocksteady concerts and the school plays (Christmas and Summer) have allowed us to invite parents into school more often this year than in previous years.

Looking Ahead: We anticipate a memorable conclusion to this year with our production of 'Wind in the Willows' and look forward to the exciting transformations our new grant will bring to the school site over the summer.

If you have any questions or would like to visit the school to see these developments firsthand, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Speedwatch Report

A short report! The same stalwarts continue to do Speedwatch when time and the weather permits. Thanks to them: Bill Dewick and Lesley Jefferson.

During the year we had a visit from one of the Community Speedwatch Team to assess all the sites we can use from a safety and visibility perspective. The sites now have a What3words code. One site was removed from our list and another added.

The Community Speedwatch Team have update and streamlined the reporting system, this is completed on an Excel Spreadsheet which is compatible with the new system. We get regular monthly reports for all areas in Suffolk to give an overall picture.

Draft

Tree Warden Report – Parish Community Woodland

The Tree Warden WhatsApp Group continues to provide a lot of useful information. There are some members who run tree nurseries to grow trees from seed they collect.

There is always someone on the Group can give help and advice on any problems. Especially as there seems to be many tree diseases -for example Acute Oak Decline.

Another suggestion was due to the quantity of deer there are in England who enjoy browsing on new slips and saplings, it had been discovered that deer really don't like the smell of sheep's wool. The cull of deer has been necessary as many trees are killed by the deer tearing the bark from the trees.

As we have young trees especially young fruit trees, I have used some of the funds given to us by Dan Pratt from his locality budget, to purchase Herdwick Sheep's wool mulch mats to put around the bottom of the trees, we will see if it works!!

When discussing things that would improve the Community Woodland for wildlife it was suggested that a 'scrub' area would be useful. I asked the Tree Wardens if anyone had any hedge slips we could use. Two offers were made and I was given and collected about 50 seedlings – these have been planted and mulch mats put around the base.

We have purchased a hedgehog house, 2 swallow cups and a sparrow house. We have sourced a pole for the owl box, this has been erected. A telescope has been donated by Steve Tetlow and put in the 'shed' and is there with instructions for anyone to use.

The Tree Wardens also indicated the value of dead wood, we are, with the help of the farmer and some large logs he does not want, creating a stumpery for beetles and other invertebrates.

The work continues!!!! Thank to Barry Abbott, Steve Tetlow and Richard Cage for being 'volunteers' And to Harry Hobyn of the Tree Warden Network for the hedge plants.