



GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 20TH OF JULY 2026 FROM 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Kevin Hobart (KH) Chair, Alexis Brun (AB), Peter James (PB),
Kim Frazer (KF), Pete Harries (PH), and Oliver Locke (OL)
6 members of the public
Borough Councillor Alistair Beales (AB) and County Councillor Lee Jarvis (LJ)

A co-option was held for the vacancy of Parish Councillor and Mr Martin Tooley was duly elected.

1. Welcome from the Chair and to Cllr Tooley

2. APOLOGIES – Cllr Arbenz

3. MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting on the 15th of June 2026, proposed by Cllr James, seconded by Cllr Harries, with all in favour who attended that meeting.

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (3 minutes max per speaker) 15 minutes allowed in total

- a. New roadworks in the village have cut off access to Castle Acre, Weasenham, Swaffham, Gayton etc., and causing chaos.
- b. 23 vehicles were seen going the wrong way by the old Bakehouse and speeding. Suggest that traffic lights should be placed. Spoke to highways but they have not been down to see. Suspend the one way and put up traffic lights. An accident waiting to happen.
- c. Also spoken to Joseph at Highways and our Borough and County Councillors are aware of the situation. More signage is required and they have video evidence of vehicles ignoring the no entry signs. Cllr Hobart advised that we would contact our highways engineer and County Councillor as a matter of urgency.
- d. Church Lane at Little Massingham can be accessed but a single track with some passing places. The works have stopped the bus service causing inconvenience.
- e. A person was seen on the green measuring the area and when asked, they stated that they had been asked to quote for a fence on the green and a 5 bar gate. Cllr Hobart explained that this was requested by a working group within the parish council and just for information at this time.

f. 19 Station Road to Yew Tree House, the grass verge is very unkempt and need to find out who is responsible. This needs reporting via

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/article/39652/Report-a-highways-problem>

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Brun re pond dredging.

6. PLANNING – (as at agenda issue date)

Application: None

Decisions – None

Appeals – None

Enforcements – None

7. UPDATES ON ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

a. The Land Behind Surgery – Cllrs Harries & Frazer gave an update – It was agreed that Wellers solicitors run a title review on the land at a cost of £500 – proposed Cllr Frazer, seconded Cllr Locke with all in favour.

A meeting had been held with the Practice Manager at the Surgery and they were thankful for the transparency and assumed that the land would be built on as a follow on from Charles Dewar Close. It was explained that phase 1 was gathering relevant information with phase 2 talking to legal advisors etc., to decide the best use of the land. Proposal that the pre-school move into a purpose build building with 12 homes via Freebridge had previously been raised. A consultation with the residents is the next stage with an initial survey in the next edition of the Mallard, on the parish council website and paper copies available in the shop, pub and village Hall. A table at the Fete and playground opening on the 2nd of August will be set up with copies and to ask questions. The valuation is due with a review to take place September/October 26.

Cllr James raised the lack of the General Power of Competence needs to be adhered to and Cllr Harries advised that from next May with the elections we would have this in place.

b. Cllr Harries gave an update on the Play Area which is on schedule and ROSPA inspection should take place at the end of this week to give time to get the insurance set up along with the list of equipment.

The Cap-co tender charge of £5000 was discussed at agreed to offer £2,000 as proposed by Cllr Frazer, seconded by Cllr James with all in favour.

c. A quote for £500 to clear the overgrown area at the junction of Abbey Road and Abbey Fields has been received. Proposed go ahead after September by Cllr Hobart, seconded by Cllr Locke and all in favour.

8. REPORTS

Clerks Report – AGAR sent to external auditors and awaiting their approval. We have been out of contract with SSE for the street lighting electricity since 2023, therefore paying top rate. Clerk has negotiated a new contract and we should see savings from August. Bin replacements on the greens – need the exact locations of the 3 wheelie bin housings, ideally what3words. Installation costs need to be worked out once we have approval of the locations from the Borough Councils.

Road Closure for the Christmas tree switch on event – confirmation received from Highways today and clerk paid the costs. Cones/barriers required.

Highways – As discussed under item 4.

Village Hall – Cllr Locke advised that the current CCTV was outdated and would need replacing. Cllr Harries stated that the new system would have 4 cameras and be a closed recording system with secure recording. The new triple bin has arrived.

The current sound system will not work with the “loop” for hearing and a new system would be required which is extremely costly.

It was agreed that the siting of the meeting was much improved towards the stage area and will continue. Quotations on the solar panels are still in progress and Cllr Hobart has a contact for a company in Norwich who offer a free survey. Details to be passed to Cllr James.

ACTION: KH/PJ

Great Massingham School – as appendix 1

Biodiversity – no update

The Mallard – Looking at changing our printer to full colour and improved paper quality. Cllr Frazer suggested contacting Prontaprint in Kings Lynn. Cllr Tooley offered to join the working group.

Ponds (FOSP GM) Water levels are very low and Cllr James advised that the fishing warden’s husband has offered to restore the outlets on post office pond whilst it is low. Agreed to go ahead with this.

Dredging quote for the Rectory Pond at £2200 proposed Cllr Harries, seconded Cllr James will all in favour. Cllr Brun abstained.

Dredging of Scotsman’s Pit discussed and would cost a huge amount of money – help from Houghton? Suggested that a third is done at a time over 3 years. Cllr Locke advised that funding may be available if a “fishing group” is set up.

Village Greens – no update and a working group meeting to be held before the September meeting. Cllr Hobart advised that the parking at the Dabbling Duck is ongoing and hopefully will go back to panning with help from Cllr Beales.

NDP – Jess Cunningham advised that the recent health check had led to updating and a draft document was ready to be presented to the parish council. Agreed to hold a closed meeting and Mondays are good. Date to be agreed.

ACTION: ALL

GMPC HR Group – clerk review in September.

Health & Safety – Risk assessment for the litter pick to include gloves and masks due to the geese droppings.

Allotments – No update

9. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Beales – No report

Cllr Jarvis – see appendix 2

10. MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

a. Telephone Box raised by Cllr Hobart – research required.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Email from the fishing warden was discussed and agreed to trial the 2 rod limit for this season. Proposed Cllr Locke, seconded Cllr James with all in favour. Day ticket charges cannot be dropped this season.

- b. Email from a resident regarding the overhanging branches on Station Road – clerk to send out original email for exact location.
- c. Email sent to the Primary School regarding overgrown hedging.
- d. Email from the Borough Council regarding the Local Plan – deferred to September meeting as need input from Cllr Beales
- e. Email from resident regarding the geese – difficult to remove as they just fly back and they are a protected species.
- f. Email from a resident regarding Ecological Constraints – receipt minuted. Time required to properly review as only received 2 days ago.

12. FINANCE

- a. Approve the bank statements, reconciliation and payments/receipts for June 26 – proposed Cllr Frazer, seconded Cllr James and all in favour.
- b. Approve the payments, to date, for July 26 – proposed Cllr Hobart, seconded Cllr James and all in favour.
- c. Approve the Quarter one financial review – proposed Cllr Locke, seconded Cllr Harries with all in favour. £4,000 over budget.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 21st of September from 19.30 at the GM Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.03

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Signed:

Date:

GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

PAYMENTS FOR JULY 2026

NAME	REASON	£ TOTAL
Cozens	Lighting maintenance	54.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	7.00
C Boyden	Clerk Salary July	573.01
C Boyden	June Expenses	38.65
HMRC		93.16
J Lodge	Mallard delivery	60.00
Scribe Accounting	Monthly payment	42.00
G Harries	Mallard Editor	250.00*
HHA Grounds Maintenance	June invoice	946.52*
SSE	Streetlighting	386.55
Minuteman	Mallard printing July	185.00*
Minuteman	Mallard printing April	162.00 **
Flights of Fantasy	VAT payment (to be refunded)	8,000.00
Flights of Fantasy	Invoice 1485	8,400.00*
Flights of Fantasy	Invoice 1478	22,716.00*
MG Building Maintenance	Installation of Noticeboard	1,077.07*
NALC	Website hosting	86.88
C Boyden	NCC road closure payment	47.74

* Already paid

** original invoice unpaid from March 26

Note. J Lodge and July Minuteman to be re-paid from the Mallard bank account