



GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF GREAT MASSINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 15TH OF JUNE 2026 FROM 7.30PM AT THE VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs Kevin Hobart (KH) Chair, Alexis Brun (AB), Peter James (PB),
Robin Arbenz (RB), Pete Harries (PH), and Oliver Locke (OL)
4 members of the public with 2 part time
Borough Councillor Alistair Beales (AB) and County Councillor Lee Jarvis (LJ)

1. Welcome from the Chair

2. APOLOGIES – Cllrs Nash and Frazer

3. MINUTES of the **Annual** Parish Council meeting on the 18th of May 2026, proposed by Cllr Locke, seconded by Cllr Arbenz, with all in favour who attended that meeting.

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

a. Help is requested to allow people with hearing loss be able to attend meetings. This had been raised a few years ago but nothing has changed at the Village Hall. Requested that the parish councillors keep in ear plugs for a day to directly appreciate the issue. There is a lack of understanding which can lead to mental health problems and the loop scheme to be raised with the Village Hall.

b. Parking on the village green – The recent beer festival held at the pub led to over 40 vehicles parking on the green, some of which were the owners and staff. No notices were issued.

Cllr Hobart advised that we appreciate the frustration this is causing to residents close to the green and a meeting with the Dabbling Duck and Cllr Beales will be set as soon as possible to discuss these issues including the rear car park application withdrawal due to costs for hedging.

c. Will the new fishing warden(s) have details of the latest rules and regulations to give out to fishing people? Cllr Locke will arrange for flyers to be available.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

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 Fishing warden vacancy has been filled by Jasmine Longhurst and Gavin Cole. Cllr Hobart and the clerk had an online meeting with the Angling Trust who gave a lot of advice including silt management, obtaining "free" fish and links to various agencies.
- b.** Village Noticeboard – Clerk has chased the installers and they will install on the 26th of June.
- c.** Robert Miller at the Houghton Estate emailed the Tree Survey and the small silver birch has been removed leaving a stub. Clerk to again mention the overhanging horse chestnut trees and to ask for notification of any works. ACTION: Clerk
- d.** The Land Behind Surgery – Cllrs Harries, Frazer and Brun had met and still awaiting the land evaluation from Browns. A drop in session for all to attend was agreed as a good way forward. Cllr Hobart proposed Collective Community involvement in phase 2 with limited involvement in phase 1 which was seconded by Cllr Arbenz with all in favour.
- e.** Massingham Together play area update – The village fete and opening of the new play area to be put back a day to the 2nd of August due to other events in the village on the 1st. It was agreed to give the £1k agreed funding to the Village Hall as they were running the event. The plans for the fete etc., were requested and Cllr James to find out more. ACTION: PJ
- f.** A quote for £600 to clear the overgrown area at the junction of Abbey Road and Abbey Fields has been received. Cllr Arbenz suggested checks made with Mr & Mrs Crisp regarding their boundary. Clerk to contact. ACTION: Clerk

8. REPORTS

Clerks Report – Year end now completed with the AGAR sent to the external auditors.

Chased noticeboard installer again for installation date – 26.6.26

Opened the new instant access bank account for The Mallard. Proposed new logo – all in favour.

Ordering of the triple fronted recycling unit – to go ahead and order – advise Cllr Locke of delivery date. ACTION: Clerk

Road Closure for the Christmas tree switch on event – have completed the paperwork but the properties from the Dabbling Duck to the junction with Station Road need to be made aware and give approval. Clerk to type up a flyer. ACTION: Clerk

Will attend the Local Plan Consultation on the 16.6.26 and report back. We now have 2 applicants for the Parish Councillor vacancy and co-option to take place at the July meeting from 7pm.

Highways – road signs on Drunken Drove need cleaning and the footpath out of the village towards Little Massingham needs cutting back.

Clerk to add Telephone Box to the July agenda as need to check back on paperwork re adoption and use – books/music. ACTION: Clerk

Village Hall – no update

Great Massingham School –notification of the proposed change to Voluntary Aided.

Biodiversity – no update

The Mallard – As the former editor (parish clerk) was paid, Cllr Hobart proposed that the Parish Council continue to pay the £250 per edition until the year end in March 2027, this was seconded by Cllr James with all in favour. They are looking at other printers.

Ponds (FOSP GM) Cllrs Locke and James advised that two “do not feed the ducks” signs have been removed and re-sited to ensure not in the way of anglers. The other sign is to be relocated as the post was badly corroded and the stub is left but not causing any issues. Thanks to a resident who took away and responsibly disposed of the cuttings. Cllr James advised that an approved goose controller has been in contact, if required.

Village Greens – as item 5. Open bin replacements were discussed and it was agreed to go for 2 new wheelie bin covers at £576.99 each. Installation costs for the concrete plinth required before ordering. ACTION: all

NDP – to consider engaging Collective Community once the NDP is handed over to the Parish Council.

GMPC HR Group – clerk review in October.

Health & Safety – Cllr Locke raised the fact that the defibrillator outside the Dabbling Duck was not registered with the “circuit” – clerk to investigate ACTION: Clerk

Allotments – Cllrs Hobart and Locke visited the allotments and overall they look great. There is 1 vacant plot which will be covered by the current waiting list.

9. BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllr Beales – the new County Councillors were welcomed last Monday and it was very useful meeting. The Borough were up for 2 awards last week for most improved and housing but unfortunately did not win. LGR Alistair suggested to twin track this regarding risk mitigation. A Norfolk Leader Group will be held next Thursday. The £500 grant funding to go through structurisation.

Cllr Jarvis advised that the County Council were opposing LGR due to the costs of £96m. Budgets - the local members fund remains at £11k and a parish fund of £5k, both to be approved next month.

Regarding the road signs – a Clean up Britain campaign with local volunteers takes place on the 4th of July and he would like advice on where the signs are. This campaign also includes litter picking.

Minor works include the gulley work on Lynn Lane due August 26 and in 2029 surface dressing on Sandy Lane. This is his second Parish Council meeting and requested that any specific items were advised prior to the meeting to give him time to comment/action. Moving from Leziate to Dersingham, works for Greene King travelling all over the country and asked that we contact via his Facebook page. He suggested that we look at having a table at the village fete with details/flyers on the proposals for the land behind the surgery.

Cllr Locke requested looking into the footpath bank issue on Castleacre Road where, following clearing by Highways, the soil was banked up and is now back on the pathway. Cllr Jarvis will take this up with Highways. ACTION: LJ

10. MATTERS REQUESTED BY COUNCILLORS

a. Confirmation of Subgroup Cllrs – as per standing orders we cannot have subgroups but can have Working Groups that cannot make decisions without presenting to the full Parish Council.

b. The Christmas lighting support pole is sticking out of the ground and requires fluorescent painting to make it visible. Cllr Brun to check on this.

ACTION: AB

c. It was agreed that we look into dredging the Weasenham Road pond and have £2k available – Cllr Brun to look into this. ACTION: AB

d. Bertie's bench is in a dangerous condition and Cllrs James and Locke will remove, retaining the plaque.

e. The bench opposite Abbey House will need the slats replacing next spring and the wood on the top of the well needs attention.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Email from a resident regarding the continued parking on the green – as item 4b, a meeting to be held with the Dabbling Duck and Borough Council.

b. Email from a resident regarding the parish councillor vacancy – as item 8. Clerks report.

12. FINANCE

a. Approve the bank statements, reconciliation and payments/receipts for May 26 – proposed Cllr Hobart, seconded Cllr Locke and all in favour.

b. Approve the payments, to date, for June 26 – proposed Cllr Hobart, seconded Cllr James and all in favour.

c. Approve the HMRC mileage increase from 0.45p to 0.55p – all in favour.

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 20th of July from 19.30 at the GM Village Hall. **Co-option to take place from 7.00pm**

Meeting closed at 21.19

Signed:

Date:

JUNE PAYMENTS TO DATE:

NAME	REASON	£
Cozens	Lighting maintenance	54.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	7.00
C Boyden	Clerk Salary June	573.01
C Boyden	May Expenses	38.65
HMRC		188.08
J Lodge	Mallard delivery	60.00
Scribe Accounting	Monthly payment	42.00
G Harries	Mallard Editor	250.00
HHA Grounds Maintenance	12142 2026 invoice	946.52
SSE	Streetlighting	266.32
FOFWDC Ltd	New play area	70,376.00
Minuteman	Mallard printing	62.00
NALC	website migration	114.00
NALC	website hosting	86.00
Flights of Fantasy	VAT payment (to be refunded)	4,000.00
Interflora (paid by Clerk)	Flowers for Cllr Nash	55.00