Great Blakenham Parish Council Minutes

Minutes of Gt Blakenham Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 10th September 2026 at Parish Rooms. Present: Chair Nick Leonard, Cllr Matt Powell, Cllr Karen Wheeler, Karen Grimwood (Parish Clerk), SCC Cllr Asa Downing, MSDC Cllr Adrienne and 5 members of the public.

1. To receive and approve any apologies for absence – **Cllr Debbie Kemp**

2. Declaration of any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests – **None**
   a. *Councillor's declaration of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda.*
   b. *To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interest (if any).*
   c. *To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.*
   d. *Co-option of parish councillor(s) / to sign declaration of acceptance.*

3. Public Forum
   a. *To receive the report from the County Councillor* – ***See attached report***
   b. *To receive the report from the District Councillor.*- ***See attached report***
   c. *To receive questions from members of the public.*- **A question was raised regarding the current position of the section of the bridleway at Chalk Hill Lane which remains legally closed pending investigation into reported surface damage. No further update was available at the time of the meeting. The Clerk and Cllr Downing to contact the relevant authority and request an update on the investigation and anticipated timescale for reopening the bridleway.**

4. To approve the Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th July 2026 - **Approved**

5. To note the Clerk's update from previous meeting.
   a. **Following an investigation into the recent increase in water bills from Anglian Water, it was discovered that the bills had been based on estimated meter readings. A correct meter reading has now been provided to Anglian Water, who have confirmed that the Parish Council is, in fact, currently in credit.**
   b. **Re organization plans for councils have been put on hold by the government whilst it is under review.**
   c. **The landowner has agreed to lease the meadow on Stowmarket Road to the Parish Council for a period of 15 years at an annual rent of £200. The Clerk will arrange for the lease to be drawn up by the landowner's solicitors.**

Signed ..... Date 8/10/2026

6. Planning
   a. To consider the following planning applications:

Reference	Location	Proposal	PC Comment Date
DC/26/03368	Plot 16 (Unit 27) Port One Business And Logistics Park , Bramford Road, Little Blakenham, IP6 0RL	Class B8 Open Storage Yard and Distribution use, with ancillary warehouse, offices and parking, together with extension of existing estate road.	**Agreed to object for traffic concerns, noise pollution and light pollution**

   b. To note planning determinations – **Noted**

Reference	Location	Proposal	
DC /26 /02449	Addison way Gt Blakenham IP6 0RL		Granted
DC/26/02976	48 Blueleighs Park,Chalk Hill Lane IP6 0ND	Application for works to Trees subject to Tree Preservation Order MS141/W1	**Granted**
DC/26/02688	Land adjacent Stowmarket Rd, Gt Blakenham	Advertising boards	**Refusal**

7. Highways, and Infrastructure
   a. Port One – **Port One have advised the topping of Gipping Meadow has been held off until the month of September due to the prolonged dry conditions this summer . The meadow will be strimmed as well as the areas around ditches**

   b. Request for support Bell Lane - **The Council discussed concerns raised by residents regarding vehicles parking at and around the junction of Old Bell Lane and Stowmarket Road. It was noted that vehicles emerging from Old Bell Lane have restricted visibility of oncoming traffic due to parked vehicles. GBPC has been asked to provide support in addressing the issue.The Council agreed to contact Highways to request an assessment of the current parking situation, the visibility available to vehicles emerging from Old Bell Lane, and whether any parking restrictions or other measures could be introduced to prevent vehicles parking in locations that obstruct the junction.**

   c. Planning Dept update - **GBPC are still awaiting a response from the Planning Department regarding concerns about additional supporting information for the Port One planning application being added after the consultation end date.Cllr Marriott will contact the Planning Manager to request an update. The Council agreed to wait until the next meeting to allow time for any further information or response to be received before deciding how to proceed.**

   d. Planning AI Tool update – **Cllr Powell believes there may be a delay due to the new planning updates having to be uploaded. Will chase for further updates.**

Signed ..... Date 8/10/2026

e. Parish Infrastructure Report – **Deferred until next meeting**

8. Governance
   a. Policy Reviews – **GBPC adopts the Standing Orders and notes all brackets removed as advised in Audit report 25/26 - Clerk to publish it on the Council's website.**

   b. Website Upgrade – **Agreed to pay the discounted fee of £150 to upgrade website with additional features included with website provider.**

   c. Insurance Renewal – **Agreed to renew policy at cost of £ 1039.45**

   d. Pay Award – **Clerk exited room while council discussed pay increase .Agreed to the national pay increase of 3.3% and back dated to April 2026**

9. Village Maintenance
   a. Hackneys corner - **It was agreed that Hackney's Corner, near the Tesco store, should be relandscaped, with a Christmas tree planted as part of the improvements. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for the proposed works. It was also agreed to investigate whether additional trees could be planted in the grassed area opposite Hackney's Corner.**

   b. Planters - **The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for self-watering planters to be placed at the entrances to the village and potentially at various other locations throughout the village.**

10. Finance

Note Payments approved August 2026 Outside of Meeting

Payee	Method	Description	Amount	Legislation
Shades	Bacs	Street Cleaning as per tender 2906	£1213.33	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	Bacs	Grounds Maintenance as per tender 2907	£758.33	LGA 1972 s111
MSDC	Bacs	Dog waste/litter emptying 2026-2027 - 2000039947	£1050.60	LGA 1972 s111
Three	DD	Phone contracts	£37.98	LGA 1972 s111
Payroll	Bacs	Month ending 31.07.26	£1075.83	LGA 1972 s111
Nest Pension	DD	Month 4 ending 31.07.26	£53.99	LGA 1972 s111
Lloyds	DD	Card fee	£3.00	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	DD	Service charge	£7.00	LGA 1972 s111

Income Received @ 31.07.2026

13.07.2026 – MSDC Cleansing Grant £6609.20

14.07.2026 – Sale of printer £133.94

28.07.2026 – Sale of shed £50.00

 Signed ..... Date 8/10/2026

Bank Balances @ 31.07.2026

Unity Trust Current Account: £37,764.05

Unity Trust Saver Account: £169,670.17

Total: £207,434.22

To consider approving and making the following payments September 2026

Payee	Method	Description	Amount	Legislation
Shades	Bacs	Street Cleaning as per tender 2918	£1213.33	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	Bacs	Grounds Maintenance as per tender 2917	£758.33	LGA 1972 s111
Shades	Bacs	Bus shelters/notice boards as per tender 2919	£485.33	LGA 1972 s111
Three	DD	Phone contracts	£37.98	LGA 1972 s111
NSK Landscapes	Bacs	Bank Clearance Bramford Rd part 2 Inv03586	£540.00	LGA 1972 s111
Payroll	Bacs	Month ending 30.08.26	£1075.83	LGA 1972 s111
Nest Pension	DD	Month 5 ending 30.08.26	£53.99	LGA 1972 s111
Lloyds	DD	Card fee	£3.00	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	DD	Service charge	£7.00	LGA 1972 s111

Income Received @ 31.08.2026

03.08.2026 – Sale of shed £50.00

21.08.2026 – Memorial fees £50.00

Bank Balances @ 31.08.2026

Unity Trust Current Account: £33,564.19

Unity Trust Saver Account: £169,770.17

Total: £203,334.36

11. Allotments

    a. Clearance update – **Clearance is ongoing and sheds are slowy being removed. Still lots of rubbish to go and potential items to sell .**

12. Potential sale of fencing – **Initial discussions with another party regarding the sale of the metal fencing unfortunately did not come to fruition. The Clerk was asked to investigate alternative options. A meeting with the land agent has been arranged for 2 October 2026.**

13. Reports

Signed NJe Date 8/10/2026

a. Village Hall

13.Future Meetings

a. *To note invitation for items to be considered in the next meeting.*
b. *To note the date of the next scheduled meeting on* ***8th October 2026*** *and any items for the agenda.*

Signed ..... Date 8/10/2026