GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at Great Canfield Village Hall on Monday, 19th January 2026 at 08:00pm

Present: Cllrs Ginny Barlow (Chair), Michael Knight (Vice-Chair), Harry Anderson, Keir Donald, Magnus Mildwater, Jenny Jewell, and the Clerk, Oliver Rogers.

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The Chair, Cllr Barlow opened the meeting at 8.04pm

25/114 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The meeting accepted apologies for absence from the following:

Cllr Richard Stratton due to illness.

25/115 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING

None.

25/116 PUBLIC FORUM (Maximum 15 minutes)

None.

25/117 VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Cllr Barlow updated the meeting that Great Canfield Parochial Church Council (PCC) is having the Village Hall building valued on 23rd January 2026. It will then be possible to discuss a valuation and the potential options available to the Parish Council.

25/118 COMMERICAL PROPOSAL FOR NURSERY GROVE

This matter will be deferred to the next meeting.

25/119 MINUTES OF ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Monday, 15th December 2025. The meeting **resolved and agreed** the minutes as a record of the proceedings.

25/120 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

County Cllr Barker and District Cllr Driscoll both sent apologies.

8.05pm Parish Cllr Donald joined the meeting.

District Cllr Neil Reeve updated the meeting on approval of the new Uttlesford Local Plan. Confirmation from the national Planning Inspectorate had come through that day. The Local Plan now sets a precedent and gets considerable weight as it is a material planning consideration in planning decisions from now on. A full council meeting for UDC to approve the plan as made and any changes from the Regulation 19 consultation likely to take place in March 2026.

Waste collections across Christmas and New Year seem to have worked well across the district said Cllr Reeve and he asked for any feedback from the Parish Council.

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)

Local Government Reform, Cllr Reeve said that a decision from the Government about the format for the reform package is coming soon. It is likely that there will be a halving of councillors with around 22 new councillors instead of 39 (Total number of UDC councillors) with the existing 4 County Councillors set to disappear.

Sustainable Uttlesford are having their first birthday on 5th February 2026 and are planning a Big Green Festival later in the year (June).

Cllr Reeve and Cllr Driscoll continue to hold their surgeries in Hatfield Broad Oak for members of the public to attend.

25/121 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To receive reports on the following from lead Cllrs.

- *Footpaths, Byways, Bridleways and Greens* – Nothing
- *Highways/Road Safety* – Cllr Anderson – Affinity Water are working on water leaks – need to find out about works in advance. Clerk to send letter for better information. Cllr Barlow's children washed the fingerposts, the Parish Council would like to pass on their thanks for this work.
- *Crime Prevention* – Cllr Stratton – Police are appealing for information and CCTV footage as two farms in the local area had equipment stolen recently.
- *Tree Warden* – Cllr Knight – Nothing

25/122 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- The Clerk has applied and been accepted for the Essex Association of Local Council's Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). High Easter Parish Council has agreed to share costs following GCPC's decision at the December meeting.
- Clerk met with Zoe Morgan at Ashfields on Wednesday, 14th January to discuss the defibrillator and Zoe confirmed there is a regular check, often weekly of the defibrillator. Zoe has agreed for Ashfields to purchase two new sets of pads as these are close to the expiration dates. *[These have been ordered and the invoice sent to Ashfields]*.
- Clerk met with Robert McGown on Friday, 9th January and discussed the proposed pond project. As a gesture of goodwill, Robert has kindly offered to clear part of a ditch in the second pond to make sure this is draining correctly. An ecological study is necessary to see if Great Crested Newts are present in the ponds and to help with this cost a grant application has been made to the Local Nature Recovery Partnership - Community Fund for £2,000. Parish Councillors discussed the need for a long reach 360 digger, Cllr Mildwater to ask Merrill Lynch for costings.

25/123 PLANNING APPLICATIONS [See APPENDIX A below]

25.123.01 The meeting discussed and considered the below planning applications.

25/124 FINANCE [See APPENDIX B below]

25.124.01 Parish Councillors **resolved and agreed** to make the following below payments.

25/125 PRECEPT AND BUDGET FOR 2026/27

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)

25.125.01 The accounts were presented by the Clerk for the period April to December 2025, and these were accepted by the parish council.

25.125.02 Parish Councillors discussed the proposal to amend the reserves policy and lower the General Reserve levels required in the policy and they **resolved and rejected** this proposal. The General Reserve will remain at between 12 and 24 months of the new Precept.

25.125.03 The Clerk presented a draft expenditure budget for consideration. After discussion regarding the increased costs of the pond project, holding match funding for the Village Hall garden rennovation and training for the Clerk, Parish Councillors discussed raising the Precept to £8,900, which will show as a 5.01% increase on the current year on council tax bills for the Parish Council portion of the Precept. The average band D cost will be £36.27 per annum an increase of £1.73. Parish Councillors **resolved and agreed** a Precept of £8,900 this will now be submitted to Uttlesford District Council.

25/126 VILLAGE HALL EMERGENCY LIGHTING WORKS

25.126.01 Parish Councillors considered and discussed three tender bids (WFP, Excite Electrical and Anglian Fire Protection) to carry out the work to install emergency lighting in the Village Hall. Parish Councillors **resolved and agreed** to go with Anglia Fire Protection as it was the most competitively priced with a discount and met the tender requirements.

25.126.02 Implementation of actions from the Health and Safety review are now complete.

25/127 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Hedge cutting

25/128 FUTURE DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 16th February	Monday 20th July
Monday 16th March	Monday 21st September
Monday 20th April	Monday 19th October
Monday 18th May	Monday 16th November
Monday 15th June	Monday 21st December

25/129 DATE OF NEXT MEETING, Monday, 16th February 2026 at 8pm in Great Canfield Village Hall.

The Chair, Cllr Barlow closed the meeting at 09.15pm.

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)

APPENDIX A

REF	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS
New applications			
UTT/25/3316/HHF	The Rectory Marsh Farm Lane Great Canfield Essex CM6 1JX	Internal and external alterations to house and garage including changes to the fenestrations, replace the flat roof on the rear bay window with a new tiled roof, replace windows and doors with uPVC wood grain effect double glazing, house and garage to be rendered to cover existing brickwork, removal of concrete shelf porch and replace with oak frame porch with tiled dual pitched roof, garage roof replaced with tiled dual pitched roof.	Delegated Decision No comment.
Information only			
UTT/25/2926/FUL	Whitedale Great Canfield Road Takeley Essex CM22 6SX	S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of UTT/22/1181/HHF (amended under UTT/24/0634/NMA) to facilitate the minor footprint increase to erect a single storey side extension for ancillary plant.	Approved with conditions
UTT/25/2807/HHF	Bacons Bacon End Road Great Canfield Essex CM6 1JW	Alterations to garage to square off the front elevation and provide external steps at the rear.	Approved with conditions

APPENDIX B

The following financial payments are proposed:

PAYMENT TO:	VALUE:
Oliver Rogers, Parish Clerk [December]	£283.30
Hire of Great Canfield Village Hall for Oct/Nov/Dec 2025	£90.00
Alison Clark for Village Hall cleaning services	£80.00
TOTAL:	£453.30

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)