GREAT CANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
held at Great Canfield Village Hall on Thursday, 21st May 2026 at 08:00pm

Present: Cllrs Viriginia Barlow (Chair), Michael Knight (Vice-Chair), Jenny Jewell, Magnus Mildwater, Richard Stratton and the Clerk, Oliver Rogers.[1] District Cllrs Geoff Driscoll and Neil Reeve and County Cllr Geoff Bagnall also in attendance.

0 members of the public in attendance.

The Chair, Cllr Barlow opened the meeting at 8.00pm

26/01 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Barlow was proposed as Chairman for the Civic Year 2026-27 by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Mildwater with all in agreement. The Chairman signed a declaration of acceptance of office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.[2]

26/02 ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Knight was proposed as Vice-Chairman for the Civic Year 2026-27 by Cllr Stratton and seconded by Cllr Mildwater with all in agreement. The Vice-Chairman signed a declaration of acceptance of office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.[3]

26/03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE[4]

The meeting accepted reasons for the apologies from the following Cllrs:

Keir Donald due to personal commitments

Harry Anderson due to work commitments.

26/04 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR THIS MEETING[5]

None.

26/05 PUBLIC FORUM (Maximum 15 minutes)

None.

26/06 MINUTES OF ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING[6] held on Monday, 20h April 2026. The meeting **resolved and agreed** the minutes as a record of the proceedings.

26/07 COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS REPORT

New County Cllr, Geoff Bagnall set out some of the work that he and his colleagues have been

1 Local Government Act 1972 Section 12 (40) [Record of attendance at the meeting]
2 Local Government Act 1972 Section 15 (1) and (2) [Appointment of a Chairman]
3 Local Government Act 1972 Section 15 (6) [Appointment of a Vice-Chairman]
4 Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1) [Record of absence for the meeting]
5 Localism Act 2011 Section 29 (1) [Record of declared interests]
6 Local Government Act 1972 Section 12 Part IV para 41 (1) and (2) [Minutes are a signed and accurate record of the previous meeting]

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)

undertaking since being elected to Essex County Council. Two specific actions taken by Reform UK since taking control of ECC were to reverse a charge on reserving library books in the county and to threaten a legal challenge to the Government's proposals for Local Government Reform. Cllr Bagnall said his party were in support of the Mayoral election, but not in favour of the 5 unitary authorities to replace the county and district councils. Voting would take place internally within the administration to elect committee chairs in the next few weeks.

Cllr Bagnall said that Reform UK had 12 months to make a difference otherwise people would vote for someone else. Highways and potholes were a huge priority and the budget required scrutiny along with the potential to bring in a machine to fix potholes more quickly.

Cllr Bagnall said he was aware of the interest in the planning applications at Crumps Farm and he would continue to take a keen interest in these planning applications.

Cllr Jewell asked if he was able to sit down and discuss the Crumps Farm situation at some point. The County Cllr said he would in the near future.

Please get in-touch on issues that the parish council would like to see followed-up, he added.

26/08 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

To receive reports on the following from lead Cllrs:

- Footpaths, Byways, Bridleways and Greens – Cllr Donald

25.166.01 Cllr Knight informed the meeting that Footpath 21 has now been closed further up towards High Roding. This is on the same footpath as the new bridge.

- Highways/Road Safety – Cllr Anderson

The Clerk updated the meeting that Essex Highways may be resurfacing around the surface water drains past the Cricket Club entrance towards Hellman's Cross shortly [Ref: 4038917].

- Crime Prevention – Cllr Stratton

'Be vigilant note' included in Parish News.

Tree Warden – Cllr Knight

Discussion and decision on the tree outside Charlie Craft's house. Previously Parish Councillors agreed to pay Marcus Crown in the village to remove the dangerous and dead tree. He has not been able to do this and it was **resolved and agreed** by the meeting that Cllr Knight would undertake the works to remove the tree and speak with the householders.

26/09 CLERK'S PROGRESS UPDATE and CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

26.09.01 The Clerk updated the meeting on planning for works on the ponds at Peckers Farm junction. The Clerk and Cllr Knight had met with JCM Services a professional contractor for removing the trees and asked for a quote. The Clerk had also had comment back from Robert McGowan and he had indicated a preference for a staggered approach to works, with ecology report and tree works in the autumn and then digging the following harvest.
The Clerk also updated on funding grants and disappointingly the Local Nature Recovery

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)

Partnership had refused a grant application. Cllr Stratton also indicated that he had spoken to FWAG East, an independent farming advisory service with funding to support pond digging, and they had indicated due to road run-off that these ponds would not be suitable for funding.

26.09.02 A letter has been sent back to Barry Pestell accepting his offer subject to negotiations on land. A with meeting with Barry is being arranged to discuss further details.

26/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS [See APPENDIX A below][7]

26.10.01 The meeting **resolved and agreed** to make the following comments and objections to the planning applications considered in Appendix A.

26.10.02 Parish Councillors **resolved and agreed** to comment on an appeal to the Planning Inspector [Ref: 6006106 /UTT/25/2358/FUL] about the proposed buildings for Sandhurst at Hope End Green. As part of the appeal process comments in relation to the New Local Plan had been requested by the Inspector.

26/11 CRUMPS FARM UPDATE

26.11.01 Chris Vince MP is concerned about residents issues with the former landfill site and is keen to help and support. He has asked for information about the impacts in Great Canfield and the Clerk will provide more detail to his office. Clare Richards from the EA has confirmed that there are only 3 regular tests carried out at the site on liquid samples:

1. Ammonia
2. Suspended solids (turbidity)
3. Oil or grease content

And for air samples it is 2 tests for methane and hydrogen sulfide gases.

FOI has revealed that no PFAS testing has been carried out at the site by any EA team on air or water samples.

Cllr Reeve and Cllr Barlow noted that the River Roding through Bury farm has been changing colour recently.

Cllr Knight raised the issue of the new dam being built on the River Roding at Navestock and whether this will have impacts of Great Canfield. Further information is required.

26/12 VILLAGE HALL OPERATIONAL UPDATE

26.12.01 Aldburys Farm Contracting has started work on the landscaping of the Village Hall garden. Spraying off of weeds has been undertaken by James Perry.[8]

26.12.02 Uttlesford District Council collected the rubbish from the litter pick, week commencing 11th May.

26/13 FINANCE [See APPENDIX B below]

7 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Article 25 and 25A) [Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all parish related planning applications submitted to the Principal Authority in England]

8 An order made under the Local Government Act 1976 (Miscellaneous Provisions) Section 19 (1) (f) [Power to provide recreational facilities as necessary]

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)

26.13.01 The meeting **resolved and agreed** to make the below payments.

26.13.02 The current account has **£13,716.43** and the savings account has **£2,819.40** as at 15th May**.** We've also received a payment from Uttlesford District Council for £250 as payment for use of the Village Hall as a Polling Station for the recent Local Elections.

26.13.03 To note the Parish Council has received payment of half of the Parish Precept (**£4,450**) on 24th April. 250 from Uttlesford District Council.

26.13.04 To note payment was made to Anglia Fire Protection for the safety lighting works on the Village Hall (**£3,344.40**) on 29th April.

26/14 AGAR DOCUMENTS

26.14.01 Cllrs **resolved and agreed** to sign the Annual Governance Statement

26.14.02 Cllrs **resolved and agreed** to sign the Annual Accounting Statement

26.14.03 Cllrs **resolved and agreed** the Clerk/RFO will submit all AGAR documentation [following completion of the internal audit] to the external auditor.

26/15 ITEMS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- To receive the internal auditor's report

26/16 FUTURE DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

~~Monday 2nd February~~	Monday 6th July
~~Monday 2nd March~~	Monday 7th September
~~Monday 6th April~~ ~~*Monday 13th April*~~	Monday 5th October
~~Monday 4th May~~ Thursday *21st May*	Monday 2nd November
Monday 1st June	Monday 7th December

26/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday, 15th June 2026 at 7.30pm at Great Canfield Village Hall this will include the Annual Village Meeting.

Cllr Barlow closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

APPENDIX A

REF	***ADDRESS***	***DESCRIPTION***	***DETAILS***
Latest applications			
Nil.			
Information only			
UTT/26/0537/DOC	Peckers Farm Green Street Great Canfield Essex CM6 1LE	Application to discharge conditions 3 (materials), 9 (great crested newt statement), and 10 (biodiversity enhancement layout) attached to UTT/23/2966/FUL	Discharge Conditions in Full - 5th May 2026
UTT/26/0579/DOC	Peckers Farm Green Street Great Canfield Essex CM6 1LE	Application to discharge conditions 4 (insulation) attached to UTT/23/2967/LB	Discharge Conditions in Full - 24th April 2026

Signed
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UTT/26/0413/HHF	Peckers Farm Green Street Great Canfield Dunmow Essex	Proposed 4 bay cartlodge to house animal feed and gardening	Withdrawn by applicant

APPENDIX B

The following financial payments are proposed:

PAYMENT TO:	***VALUE:***
Oliver Rogers, Parish Clerk [May]	£269.10
HMRC – Income Tax deduction	£14.20
Alison M Clark, village hall cleaning	£80.00
TOTAL:	**£363.30**

Signed
Cllr Ginny Barlow (Chair)