

DRAFT MINUTES

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

31st March 2026 in Greatford Village Hall

Present

Cllr Vanessa Smith, Cllr Tony Barker, Cllr Phil Britton, Cllr Jason Halsey, Cllr Caroline Nathan, Cllr Gemma Taylor, Kate Armstrong, Steve Armstorong, Nigel Ashby, Helen Britton (Clerk GPC), Alex Doust, Paul Doust, Ross Dykes, James Everitt, Jeremy Hockham, Kerry Hockham, Lois Webb.

2025/26 - 59 Apologies

Cllr Baxter, Bob Hogg.

2025/26 - 60 Approval of Minutes from 27.1.26

Proposed by Cllr Caroline Nathan, seconded by Cllr Tony Barker.

2025/26 - 61 Matters arising

Speedwatch training new date 22.4.26. The link will be sent to the new volunteers.

2025/26 - 62 Reports from County and District Councillors

District Cllr Vanessa Smith reported that, following consultation, the new local authority structure is due to begin in May 2027. The Thetford Farm quarry has been approved. There is a Planning Application for 283 houses in Baston, as part of the Local Plan. Weekly food waste collection begins the week commencing April 13th. Parishioners have been sent information and new bins.

2025/26 - 63 Finance

The balance is £16161.16, including holding £5050 for the play equipment project. The invoice for half of the costs of the Village Hall entrance is due. Cllr Halsey asked James Everitt if he is able to audit the Parish Council accounts once again this year to which he agreed. The Parish Council is very grateful.

2025/26 - 64 Planning

Application No: S26/0068

Date Received: 21st January 2026

Applicant: Mr Lygo

Proposal: Section 211 Notice to remove overhanging limbs from Willow tree.

Location: Greatford Mill Carlby Road

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4QA

Decision/Date: Work Allowed 23rd February 2026

Rutland County Council

The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024

Reference: 2025/1531/MALDIS

PROPOSAL Discharge of Requirement No. 11 (1&2) for Phase 1 (Highway Works)

(Construction Environmental Management Plan) of Schedule 2 of The Mallard Pass Solar Farm Order 2024 (as amended).

Mallard Pass Solar Farm, Stamford Road, Essendine, Rutland

2025/26 - 65 Traffic

Ibis Channell shared her ideas to reduce traffic. The Parish Council has had previous communication on multiple occasions with LCC Highways and each item raised was given a response set out below:

Various yellow speed signs incorporating other speed prevention messages - Principal Highway Officer, Graham Simpson (LCC) responded to GPC (email 30.6.25) that LCC have more urgent road safety priorities on which to spend their budget, ie. fen road surfaces. He confirmed that policy change would be the only enabler to a change in status and any change would be communicated to GPC in a timely manner. No further action.

Repeater 30mph signs throughout village - Principal Highway Officer, Graham Simpson (LCC) responded to GPC that these are not permissible. (see LCC regulations). No further action.

White gates: LCC Highways have responded to GPC that they are not prepared to fund them. GPC explored the costs (circa £8000 + installation and signage costs) and the PC does not have sufficient funds. No further action.

Chicanes: Not permissible under current LCC regulations. No further action.

Available preventative measures for speeding in Greatford: Following exhaustive investigations and follow-up communications with the respective responsible body (LCC Highways), unfortunately none of the AOB points raised can be progressed as actions. However, the community of Greatford can be individually proactive in taking part in the village speedwatch group to collect data on which LCC Highways may act, as in other nearby villages who have succeeded in improving speeding through the village. (Contact the Clerk to be included in the next training session, 22.4.26). When safe to do so, take appropriate action as a pedestrian to alert drivers to excessive speeds. Ross Dykes kindly offered to investigate the provision of safety-related messaging signs against speeding to be erected on parishioners' private land.

Cllr Vanessa Smith reminded the meeting that the Parish Council is not at liberty to alter the highway. Ibis Channell acknowledged the current status of each point and stated that she would not be raising them ahead of and during future meetings. Should GPC be informed of any relevant highways policy changes, the details will be communicated at the following parish council meeting.

Parishioners living on the Stow Road, Maya and Yasir Qureshi, have raised their ongoing concerns about the positioning of 30 speed signs on the Stow Road into Greatford and a serious incident involving speeding traffic entering the village along Stow Road and their pet cat. Whilst the positioning of the sign meets regulations, the PC will write to LCC Highways to position it before the houses for improved safety for parishioners as traffic enters the village from Stow.

2025/26 - 66 Flood Wardens update

Contractors to the Lead Local Flood Authority (LCC) are currently undertaking outdoor surveying for the Hydrology Report. Next, they will survey inside properties.

Jeremy Hockham commented on the good quality of the ditch conditions. Cllr Halsey gave a reminder that landowners are to remove hedge-cutting debris to avoid blockages in ditches. If parishioners observe any waste, damage or blockages in ditches and waterways generally, they should use Fix My Street to report issues <https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/>, and/ or inform the Flood Wardens/ Parish Councillors who can make a report.

2025/26 - 67 Any other business

Ross Dykes raised the issue that there is no school bus for Greatford children to attend senior schools in Bourne as there has been in the past. Currently, there is no provider willing to supply a route (to be paid for by parents). Cllr Gemma Taylor and Cllr Vanessa Smith have been pursuing this. LCC policy currently excludes the village from automatic entitlement to a bus service to senior schools. Cllr Vanessa Smith advised that there needs to be a policy change by LCC. It was suggested that a committee of parents is formed and that the PC will support the case.

Ibis Channell asked parishioners to keep an eye on the security of the pub sign now that the pub is closed.

Cllr Caroline Nathan thanked the village litter-pickers from the recent event. Cllr Tony Barker highlighted the asbestos waste on Stow Road; it is awaiting a specialist collection team.

Jeremy Hockham highlighted that CityFibre are currently laying fibre cables; a great improvement for the parish.

Cllr Phil Britton communicated the bid by Stamford Mayor, Cllr Amanda Wheeler, for Stamford to become the first Town of Culture and that outlying parishes such as Greatford are encouraged to be connected to the cultural life of the town.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 20th May at 7:30pm in Greatford Village Hall, and comprises the Annual Parish Council Meeting (formally appointing the PC Officers) followed by a Parish Council meeting.