

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held at the Recreation Centre on Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Ewin (Chair), Cllr S Mellor (Vice-Chair), Cllr T Mellor, Cllr A Broughton, Cllr P Bonner, & Cllr R Croft

In attendance: Parish Clerk, 7 members of the public

1. **Chairman's Welcome** - The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr H Mellor & Cllr I McDonald
3. **To receive any declarations of interest on any item on the agenda** – None received
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the meeting on 18th February 2026** – The Minutes were confirmed to be an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.
5. **Open Forum – an opportunity for any parishioner to speak on parish matters and to hear reports from District and Council Councillors (15 Mins) –**
 - Neither the District or the County Councillors were present
 - A member of the public asked why the precept had been increased by 45% for the next financial year - The Chair that this had not risen for many years and was now being brought in line with the majority of other parishes in the district.
 - Another member of the public asked for an update regarding the speed calming along Long Street. The Chair reported that a response from Highways was still pending **ACTION:**
Chair
6. **To report matters arising not on the Agenda and to hear the Chair's Report** – The Chair thanked Cllr Broughton for his tireless work as a Parish Councillor as he now stepped down.
7. **To receive reports from Councillors and/or Clerk** – None
8. **To discuss Great Ellingham Scout Group request** – The Parish Council has received a request from Great Ellingham Scout Group for a grant to assist in the building of a new scout hall. The request was for approximately £5,000 to cover the initial costs (Architect £1,500, Biodiversity Survey £1,591, Planning costs £1,226 and Energy use survey £541). It was agreed that a Grant Funding Arrangement was to be compiled **ACTION: Cllr T Mellor**
9. **Open Forum – an opportunity for any parishioner to speak on planning matters (15 mins)**
 - A member of the public requested to know where the “Places for People” and “Persimmon Homes” sites were located – The Chair confirmed their location as the Asparagus field for Persimmon and opposite Bowsfield development for Places for People, but no planning applications had been submitted.
 - A member of the public requested information on the variations to the S106 agreement (3PL/2023/0877/VAR) – the Chair confirmed the revised expected payment was to be in the region of £725 + indexation, the retail unit was to stay, plus additional money previously allocated to NHS, library and footpath was to come back to the village. This was to be agreed at the planning meeting on 24th March. Orchard Homes had picked up the failed project and following the presentation at a previous meeting, had included approximately 90% of what had been requested.
10. **To consider responses to planning applications, previously circulated –**

Appendix 2: Consultation

PL/2026/0320/FMIN – Objection to be raised. **ACTION: Clerk**

11. **To receive the financial report and consider the following payments** – All were agreed.

Rec Centre – REC26_022 – Mtg 18.03.26	£27.00
Rec Centre – REC26_028 – Mtg 11.03.26	£27.00
RLS Website design	£576.00
NPTS – Annual Sub	£273.28

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12. **To receive an update on the traffic calming along Long Street** : Despite chasing, this remains with NCC and a response is pending.
13. **To receive an update on the new Village Hall** : This was covered at Agenda Item 9 above.
14. **To discuss the local re-organisation of the councils** : Cllr T Mellor reported there may be some news next week, or it may be after the elections.
15. **To receive an update on the roundabout – maintenance and sculpture** : Kier are still working out the cutting schedule and costings – a response from them is pending.
16. **To consider the Teddy Bear Festival grant request** : Teddy Bear Committee confirmed this would be looked at after the 2026 festival and will be reported at the September meeting.
17. **To consider items from Councillors: to be received by the Clerk in advance of the meeting** :
 - a) Cllr Croft reported on the 2026 Parish Survey – the response to which was an encouraging 20%. It was decided that a letterbox drop would be arranged to ensure that all the residents had the opportunity to take part.
 - b) Cllr Croft reported on the Media & GDPR Policies – these were to be drafted and presented to the Councillors for signing.
 - c) Cllr McDonald sent in a report to advise he is in the process of collating full costs before contacting charities for match funding.
18. **To discuss car park marking quotes for the Village Hall** : A quote had been received for this work in the sum of £2,827 – another quote to be sought.
19. **To discuss responses to Places for People and Persimmon Homes** : It was agreed The working party would meet with Places for People and also contact Persimmon Homes.
ACTION: Cllr T Mellor & Cllr P Bonner
20. **To discuss new Parish Councillor member co-option** : Mrs Chantelle Blanchflower presented to the Council and was unanimously voted to become a councillor and completed the Acceptance of Office paperwork.
21. **To consider correspondence received : all circulated** : Cllr S Mellor raised the email sent earlier in the day regarding Transfer of Assets and asked the Clerk to find out the deadline for applications. **ACTION: Clerk**
 - a) Speedwatch Team – a Parish Partnership bid had not been applied for this year, but should be considered for next year as the speed cameras are very old and will need replacing.
 - b) Road Safety Concerns WestCarr Road – A resident had raised concerns about the traffic speed along WestCarr Road – this is to be raised with the SNAP team. **ACTION: Cllr H Mellor**
 - c) C Arnold - Planting – The memorial tree, planned for planting on the triangle, will instead be a damson tree planted just beyond the village hall. There is a spring weeding and tidy up session planned potentially for 26th April. Once the roundabout schedule is determined, some additional planting was offered for this area. Cllr S Mellor congratulated Mrs Arnold and her volunteers for their excellent work and commented on how bright the village was looking.
22. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 15 April 2026 at the Recreation Centre commencing at 7.30pm.**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm