

Great Ellingham Parish Council
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of the Parish Council
held at the Recreation Centre on Wednesday 17 June 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr P Ewin (Chair), Cllr I McDonald, Cllr H Mellor, Cllr C Blanchflower & Cllr P Bonner
In attendance: Parish Clerk, 4 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 S Mellor & Cllr T Mellor
3. **To receive any declarations of interest on any item on the agenda** – None received
4. **To confirm the Minutes of the meetings on 20th May 2026** – The Minutes were confirmed to be an accurate record of the meetings 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 County Councillors (15 Mins)** –
 - Neither the District or the County Councillors were present, but the new County Councillor , Councillor Kabeer Khara be attending the meeting in July.
6. **To hear the Chair's Report** – The Chair reported that the majority of his report is covered by Agenda items, except that the suggested “Duck Slow” signs needed Highways approval, which would be sought before this time next year.
7. **To receive reports from Councillors and/or Clerk** – The Clerk reported that the law was changing and as from end of June it would no longer be necessary for Councillors to advertise their home address on the “Declaration of Interest” forms. She also asked whether Councillors would like to add their photographs to the website – most agreed and would send them to her.
8. **Open Forum – an opportunity for any parishioner to speak on planning matters (15 mins)** – There were no public comments on planning matters.
9. **To consider responses to planning applications, previously circulated** –

CONSULTATION

PL/2026/0701/VAR – No objections were raised

PL/2026/0781/CLEUD & PL/2026/0740/CLEUD – Problems with the planning portal did not enable Councillors to make an informed decision, but as the closing dates were after the next meeting, discussion and decisions were deferred until then.

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

NPTS – Grant Funding Training – S Mellor	£48.00
NALC – Web Hosting Fee	£14.47
Rec Centre – June Mtg – REC26_053	£27.80
NPTS – Grant Funding Training – S Mellor	£48.00

11. **To receive an update on the traffic calming along Long Street** : The Chair had nothing new to report.
12. **To receive an update on the new Village Hall** : The Chair reported that the S106 was still between solicitors but was close to signing. A member of the public questioned whether the Parish Council were holding up the process, but the Chair confirmed the Parish Council had agreed all points and were happy to sign.
13. **To discuss the local re-organisation of the councils** : Cllr T Mellor was not present at the meeting, so this was deferred to next month's meeting.
14. **To consider items from Councillors: to be received by the Clerk in advance of the meeting** :
 - a) **Biodiversity Audit – Cllr P Bonner** – Cllr Bonner reported that he had been unable find another supplier to quote for the Audit – The Chair advised he would send some information to him **ACTION: Chair**
 - b) **Bus Shelter – Cllr P Bonner** – Again, more information/quotes were needed. Westcotec had inspected the bus shelter and spoke to local residents, who all wanted it repaired, rather than replaced. Cllr H Mellor to provide additional companies to quote **ACTION: Cllr H Mellor**

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- c) **Village Pump Magazine and insert – Cllr I McDonald** – A draft of the Parish Council insert was presented to the meeting and the publication is likely to be out end June/first week July. It was agreed, on presentation of an invoice, the £500 Sparks grant would be paid over.
 - d) **Update on War Memorial at Church – Cllr McDonald** – The Diocese had met and confirmed they did not want granite, but preferred stone, with deep cut lettering and a plinth above. Cllr McDonald to obtain and further quote.
 - e) **The Pightle Oak Tree – Cllr I McDonald** – Recently a large bough had been seen under the Oak Tree at Pightle, and a visual inspection indicated possible dead limbs. Cllr H Mellor to provide contact details for tree surgeons to check the tree and quote for remedial work.
15. **To discuss responses to Persimmon Homes & Places for People** – Councillor P Bonner reported on the public presentation by Persimmon and the Parish Council Working Group meeting with Places for People. Both developers had attended pre-planning meetings with Breckland Council, but planning applications had actually been submitted. Persimmon wish to present to the Parish Council at the July meeting and it was hope that, with the County Councillor, the District Councillor could also attend. The Chair to write to Rebecca Collins to confirm an earlier assurance that Great Ellingham were oversubscribed on housing development **ACTION: Chair**
A discussion also took place around a Neighbourhood Plan to protect the village against future development and it was agreed the Clerk would investigate the services of a professional to assist **ACTION: Clerk**
16. **To discuss new Parish Councillor member co-option** : Amie Mason presented to the councillors and was unanimously co-opted onto the Council – Welcome Councillor Amie Mason
17. **To adopt/discuss the following Policies** :
- a. **Grant Award Policy** – Cllr T Mellor as not present at the meeting, so this was deferred to the July meeting - **ACTION Cllr T Mellor**
 - b. **Biodiversity Policy** – This was to be amended by the Clerk and circulated to Councillors **ACTION: Clerk**
18. **To consider all correspondence received : all circulated** :
- a. The new County Councillor, following his request, would be attending the July meeting.
 - b. The contractor cutting the grass on the roundabout was to be contacted to ensure minimal disturbance to the planted area – **ACTION: Chair**
19. **To confirm the date of the next meeting as Wednesday 15th July 2026 at the Recreation Centre commencing at 7.30pm.**

Meeting closed at 8.22pm