

# Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Stuart Laurie: Chair

Denise Dear: Vice Chair

Rob Attwood

Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan

Chris Chapman BRC

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Members of the Public: 2

	<p><b>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</b></p>
<b>2603/01</b>	<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> Tim Jones</p>
<b>2603/02</b>	<p><b>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda</b> None declared</p>
<b>2603/03</b>	<p><b>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026</b> Approved by all and signed off.</p>
<b>2603/04</b>	<p><b>Exclusion of the public</b> To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
<b>2603/05</b>	<p><b>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald</b> This can be found in full on the BPC website but points covered:</p> <p><b>2026/27 Budget and Corporate Plan</b> The budget for 2026/27 was agreed at a Full Council meeting on 24 February, along with the Corporate Action Plan for the year, the budget and plan for housing, and key policies such as the Localised Council Tax Support Scheme that provides support for Council Tax payments for those in greatest need. The Council Tax precept for the District Council will increase by 2.99% or £5.24 per year for a Band D property. This compares with a CPI inflation rate of 3.4%, wage growth of 4.2% (both from December 2025), and a state pension increase of 4.7% this year</p> <p><b><u>Cambridge Growth Company</u></b> The Cambridge Growth Company (CGC) was established by the government in 2024 to foster additional economic growth in the Cambridge area by delivering housing, transport, water, and wider infrastructure.</p> <p><b><u>Food waste collections</u></b> In line with changing government requirements for food waste collection, weekly food waste collections are now already taking place in some parts of the district More information is available on the council's web site. <a href="https://www.greatercambridgewaste.org/foodwaste">https://www.greatercambridgewaste.org/foodwaste</a></p> <p><b><u>Council tenant satisfaction survey</u></b> The Housing Service has appointed M·E·L Research to carry out the Annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Survey with all our council tenants</p> <p><b><u>Councils awarded over £5million for water saving measures</u></b> Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – the shared planning service for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District councils – has received Government funding of over</p>

2603/06	<p>£5million to deliver part of the Greater Cambridge Water Efficiency Programme and help address water scarcity locally.</p> <p><b>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors</b>  This can be found in full on the BPC website but points covered:  A reminder that the following consultations are live:  NPPF changes (closes 10 March)  <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK</a>  Local Government Reorganisation for Cambridgeshire (closes 26 March)  <a href="#">Proposals for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - GOV.UK</a>  Development Corporation (closes 1 April)  <a href="#">Establishing a Development Corporation in Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK</a></p> <p><b>Capital Maintenance Programme</b>  On Tuesday 4 March, the Capital Maintenance Programme was agreed for 2026/27, alongside changes to our Highways Asset Management and Data Strategies. Peter and I are really pleased that we are seeing over £1.7m invested in resurfacing within the Division, especially as the County budget is only £20m and &lt;£4.6m has been allocated for South Cambs</p> <p><b>Potholes</b>  We are doing everything we can to deal with issues, and have now gone from our summer standards of 6 crews with 2 dragon patchers in operation to 24 crews and 3 dragons. The number of crews has been rising recently in response to the issues we are facing, with a normal winter having 10 crews in operation at once in the County  Locally, please do continue to report issues and raise significant ones with Peter and I. I have been very pleased to see a number of holes filled, with Peter and I regularly out and about inspecting the area and passing on our perspectives to officers, but much work is still outstanding.</p> <p><b>Holiday food vouchers</b>  we will continue to provide vouchers to families through the summer, ending in September. We hope that this gives time for families to prepare, supporting them through the lengthy summer period, and our anti-poverty work will allow us to identify and target support for families most in need come September.</p> <p><b>Two new special schools for Cambridgeshire</b>  Cambridgeshire County Council has asked the Department for Education to continue with the delivery of two new special schools in Gamlingay and March. Greensands Academy Gamlingay and Lime Academy March had been approved for delivery by the DfE under the previous government, and are expected to provide 270 new special school places in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p><b>New system to tackle poverty in the County</b>  The council has agreed to procure a data-led system that will allow more targeted support for low-income families to address and prevent poverty.</p> <p><b>Cambridge Biomedical Campus</b>  The County Council's Assets &amp; Procurement Committee has agreed a partnership with developer Prologis to support the future expansion of Cambridge Biomedical Campus. 67 acres of land owned by the council is being put forward to allow the campus's next phase of growth</p> <p><b>Safe disposal of batteries</b>  Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership RECAP is urging residents to recycle batteries and battery-powered electricals safely, following an increase in fires caused by incorrectly disposed lithium-ion batteries. To help prevent fires, residents are urged to</p>
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	<p>never to place batteries in the bin, to use designated recycling points, tape over damaged terminals and check for local collection schemes.</p> <p><b>Bus franchising</b> An independent review of bus franchising for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has issued a draft report to Combined Authority officers. Further detailed work will now be done, with an update to the Combined Authority's Transport Committee in June.</p> <p><b>Electric vehicles</b> The Combined Authority has been granted £361,780 from the Government's Electric Vehicle pavement channels grant fund and is working with the county council and Peterborough on how this funding will be used.</p> <p><b>Transport Funding</b> In December 2025 the Department of Transport issued a letter to the Combined Authority confirming a four-year package of local transport funding allocations.</p>
2603/07	<p><b>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</b> Woodchips have been spread over paths. Ash dieback work continues. New hedgerows have been planted and willows pollarded. Help has been offered with replanting the verge in the High St in April. Tops of trees have been cut off in the Churchyard. Fallow arable fields have been shallow cultivated. The river- Wild Trout Trust along with the Environment Agency, Cambridge Water Company and Cambridge County Council, are looking at improvements to be made to chalk streams, Projects such as river bed improvements and flood meadows. This depends on obtaining permission from landowners. Further works include looking at weirs to create fish runs. Possible plans to return the river to its old route before it was canalised, but this is a big project. Outline planning for work on the Close was submitted in Dec. Public consultation comments are in and these will be responded to and questions answered. It is hoped to get to Committee in the Summer. At the next PC meeting, Chris will introduce Stuart Hay who is Chief Operating Officer at the BRC, this is because Chris is retiring from the BRC after 47 years.</p>
2603/08	<p><b>Co-option of new Parish Councillor</b> Kelly Hathaway was unanimously voted on to the PC; she was warmly welcomed onto the Council. Tisi means that the PC now has the full number of Councillors.</p>
2603/09	<p><b>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</b> Geoff King came to the meeting to tell us about the Action Group that has been formed to raise objections and fight the Grange Farm development. This not only covers Grange Farm but also Ley Rectory Farm in Abington, and there may be over 8,500 houses in the new town. He stressed that the Abington residents' group is in no way affiliated to the Little Abington Parish Council. The Action group doesn't as yet have a website. However there is a contact email address for Abingtons residents group, SAVE = "Save Abington Villages Environment). <a href="mailto:villageconsultation14@gmail.com">villageconsultation14@gmail.com</a></p>
2603/10	<p><b>CSET</b> Nothing new to report</p>

2603/11	<b>Village Hall</b> – work should be starting on the 7 <sup>th</sup> April; the build will take approx. 3 months.																					
2603/12	<b>Forest Garden Project.</b> We are awaiting looking at and approving the content of the Information boards and hope these will be ready soon. Paths have been strimmed, some areas will be left long for wildlife.																					
2603/13	<b>Neighbourhood Plan-</b> the PC have decided that we would like to complete the Neighbourhood Plan. A revised proposal taking on board the suggested time savings recommended by the planning authority team was shown to the PC and it was agreed to go ahead with the proposal.																					
2603/14	<b>Updates from last meeting.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grange Farm development- proposals will go to the Government in November</li> <li>• Dog poo bin at Cheveley- Cheveley Park will put the bin up at an agreed location, Clerk to send in the invoice to them for payment. Bin to be added to the collection list.</li> <li>• EV charging points- deferred until next meeting</li> </ul>																					
2603/15	<b>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</b> Review and approve policies: Biodiversity Policy Financial Regulations Standing Orders Risk Register These were reviewed by the PC and approved.  The pothole by the old bridge at the Wych is getting worse and the PC would like to warn residents to be careful when using this stretch of road.  Flooding at Brick Row is still a problem.  The MacDonalds roundabout will be resurfaced soon, (June?) closures and diversions will be in place.																					
	<b>FINANCE</b>																					
2603/16	<b>Receipts and Transfers (as of 5th March 2026))</b> Transfer £10,000 to current account																					
2603/17	<b>Payments (as of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026)</b>  <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Clerk</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Salary/Tax/Expenses-</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: right;"><b>confidential</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hugo Fox</td> <td>Website provider</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£35.99</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust bank</td> <td>Bank charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£7.35</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Morris</td> <td>Bins/Grass</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£280.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hewitsons</td> <td>Legal</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£2520</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Altone</td> <td>Newsletter printing</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£105.00</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>KWA</td> <td>Architects</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>£4158.00</b></td> </tr> </table>	Clerk	Salary/Tax/Expenses-	<b>confidential</b>	Hugo Fox	Website provider	<b>£35.99</b>	Unity Trust bank	Bank charges	<b>£7.35</b>	Chris Morris	Bins/Grass	<b>£280.00</b>	Hewitsons	Legal	<b>£2520</b>	Altone	Newsletter printing	<b>£105.00</b>	KWA	Architects	<b>£4158.00</b>
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	<b>A full list of payments was reviewed and approved at the meeting</b>																					

<b>2603/18</b>	<b>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 5th March 2026</b>																						
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<b>2603/19</b>	<b>Planning Applications: none</b>																						
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<b>2603/21</b>	<b>Correspondence.</b>																						
<b>2603/22</b>	<b>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</b>																						
<b>2603/23</b>	<b>Date of next meetings :</b> Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2026 7.30 Thursday May 14 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm																						
	<b>Part II: Confidential Information</b>																						
<b>2603/24</b>	Exclusion of the Press and the Public: To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.  Signature: <i>Anne Charteris</i> <b>18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b> 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827 or Mobile 07890512309																						