

**GIMINGHAM  
PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES\*** of the Parish Council  
Meeting, held at The Village Hall,  
Gimmingham, Norfolk  
on  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2025 at 7.30pm.**

Clerk: J Collingwood.  
Tel. 07703 129173  
Email: clerk@gimmingham-pc.gov.uk



**1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:**

**Present:** Alan Gotts, Richard Lee, Daniel Gotts, Michelle Englestone, Ali Cargill and District Councillor Roy Macdonald.

**Apologies** were received from: County Cllr Ed Maxfield.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING and ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THEM:**

The Minutes from the previous meeting held on July 14<sup>th</sup> were accepted as correct and approved. Proposed by Cllr Cargill and seconded by the Chairman.

**4. REPORT FROM SOUTHERN HILL DIRECTOR, Vicky Hare:**

The Clerk was notified this afternoon that Ms Hare would not be attending the meeting but she will be invited to the next one.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** No members of the public attended.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE. District & County Councillors' reports:** These had been sent prior to meeting and already distributed to Parish Councillors.

**6. PLANNING:**

- A previous application for Old Ben's Cottage (PF/24/1908) has been granted.
- An application (PF/25/1671) in respect of Hall Farm, Hall Road, Gimmingham had been received. The Parish Council supports the application.
- On July 15<sup>th</sup> a decision was made to allow BT to erect 7 x 9m wooden poles for a fixed line for Broadband apparatus on land at Windmill Road, School Lane and Sandpit Lane. Cllr Cargill reported in relation to Broadband services, that he uses Starlink at his farm and finds it is very good despite being in a rural position.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING:

**a. Village hall donation request** – It was agreed that the Parish Council can only afford to donate £250 at the present time instead of the requested £500, due to the Council's tight financial position. Should circumstances change, the Council will review the request.

**b. Allotments** – Cllr Gotts reported that there are currently seven plots available to rent. One plot holder has erected a garden shed on the drive and the Clerk will contact him asking for it to be moved to a more appropriate place. It was agreed that the Council will meet on site shortly before the next meeting in October to discuss the allotments as it was felt that some were too big to rent easily. As there is no running water on site, the Clerk was asked to contact Anglian Water asking if it would be possible to have water connected to at least the Blakelock site. DC Macdonald suggested it could be applied for through AW's 'green' scheme.

Despite Cllr Gotts having fixed a 'Please close the gate' sign to both sides of the entrance gate to the site, it was still being left open. Clerk will send a generic email to allotment holders asking if they could close the gate behind them on entering/leaving the site for safety and security reasons.

**c. Clubhouse/playing field** – The Clerk had advertised the unit locally for storage but there had been no positive responses. An online meeting has since taken place with the Chairman, the Clerk and Ollie Kerrison of Norfolk FA, in an attempt to revive the football club. Grants had been discussed and the next step would be to send interior plans of the clubhouse to Mr Kerrison as certain requirements had to be met before any grant could be sought. DC Macdonald will also find out if any grants are available through NNDC so the Clerk will send him details of the proposed project. The provision of electricity and water are priorities as the lack of these services are hindering the Council from obtaining further funding. DC Macdonald will discuss this further with Cllr Wendy Fredericks.

**d. Playground inspection** – the Clerk had received a quote for £94.95 for the annual playground inspection from the same company as last year. It was agreed for the Clerk to action this. The Clerk will ask to be informed when the inspection goes ahead so a parish councillor can meet them on site.

**e. Glass recycling bin** – The Clerk has been contacted by a parishioner who asked why the glass recycling bin by the hall had been removed and is it being returned. The Clerk explained that there had been issues of people dumping damaged panes of glass beside the bin, and that it was not being used much anymore so it was not financially viable for the Parish Council.

**f. Litter bins** – a new litter bin had been purchased and thanks go to Cllr Alan Gotts for fixing it to the bus shelter.

**g. Bench on Sandpit Lane** - It was not felt to be worthwhile to claim on insurance to replace the bench on Sandpit Lane which had been vandalised. The Chairman and Cllr Cargill suggested making a vandal-proof, sturdy bench between them with their own materials and they will meet shortly to discuss its construction.

**h. Parking issues** – the clerk has received reports of parked cars on the corner of Church Street and Hall Road which are impeding the visibility of drivers leaving

the junction. There have also been occasions when the bus cannot stop at the designated area due to the parked cars. The Clerk will ask Cllr Maxfield if the County Council owns the area in question and the Parish Council will then decide the next step to take to resolve the problem.

**i. Police** – the Clerk had received an email from Sgt Burton of Norfolk Police who provides online meetings with Parish Councils for up to an hour. The Clerk will request a crime report specifically for this parish, as local people need to know where crimes have taken place and the details of these incidents.

## 8. HIGHWAYS:

- **Drainage:** there had been a recent meeting in the village with Damien Jeffries regarding the ongoing drainage problems. He has since confirmed that the scheme is currently sitting in Highways' long list of future schemes. The costs to deliver this particular scheme are extremely high so he will continue to look for sources of funding. Meanwhile, some small-scale work may provide suitable benefits in the short-term to reduce the risk of flooding.
- **Coastwise:** the temporary cameras and cables put up on local roads have been placed to monitor traffic flows. This is through Coastwise funding which is being used to explore local adaptations in response to coastal erosion and being used to fund a study of what might happen to the coast road in terms of traffic movement.

## 9. FINANCIAL & ACCOUNTS as at today's date:

J W Gardening, grass cutting for July 13 <sup>th</sup> , August 15 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> @ £120 per cut:	£360.00
Village Hall hire for April 2024 – March 2025:	£108.00
Clerk's wages, 5 weeks to Sept. 3 <sup>rd</sup> @ £333.40; purchase of allotment gate signs @ £3.98; payment to Wix for Council's website domain @ £15.24:	£352.62
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£820.62</b>

Proposer for these payments to be made was Cllr Lee, seconded by the Chairman.

Bank balances as at today September 8<sup>th</sup> 2025: Treasurer's account (community current a/c) £4,594.20. Access account (deposit a/c) £5,199.32.  
A VAT refund of £1,329.24 has been received.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Cllr Lee suggested that if the Council decides to go ahead with the discussed fete in August 2026, to remind everyone that it will coincide with the annual Flower Festival. As this will involve two weeks' of his time he

would not be available for the fete as well. Cllr Cargill suggested the fete is held during school holidays and he is keen for it to go ahead and to attract as many participants as possible. The Clerk suggested if each Parish Councillor could find 4/5 volunteers each to help run the event, we could likely proceed with it, which was agreed. Cllr Gotts would like to call a meeting with as many parishioners as possible after Christmas to explore ideas. Thoughts on the type of events to hold at the fete can be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

- The Clerk was asked to obtain quotes from other insurance companies for the Parish Council's forthcoming renewal which appeared to be rather steep this year. Cllr Cargill will also enquire at NFU in North Walsham.
- Cllr Englestone said she had been informed of the condition of the sheep being kept on land at Windmill Road. The Chairman will speak with the owner of the livestock in question.
- The hedges at the three entrances to the playing field have been cut back by Mr Kinder, as requested.

#### **10. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA:**

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Gimingham Village Hall at 7.30pm. Parish Councillors will meet at the Blakelock allotment site at 7pm as agreed, to discuss the allotments.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.10 hrs.

DANIEL GOTTS – CHAIRMAN .....

Date: .....

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\* These are draft minutes only until agreed at the next meeting.