

GIMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES* of the Parish Council Meeting, held at Gimingham Village Hall.

Monday 10th March 2025 at 7.30pm

1. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

Present: Daniel Gotts (Chairman), Alan Gotts, Richard Lee, Ali Cargill.

Apologies were received from: Donna Drake and Michelle Englestone.

Four members of the public were present.

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 February 10th were accepted as correct and approved. Proposed by Cllr Alan Gotts and seconded by Cllr Lee.

4. PUBLIC FORUM:

Three members of the public discussed their interest in the old clubhouse and playing field to form a football club at the premises. They had met Cllr Alan Gotts last Friday and viewed the premises. They realised there was work to do on the clubhouse, and if they proceeded they would be able to carry out some of the work themselves or through their contacts who would also provide some of the materials. They wouldn't need the clubhouse in a finished state until they had become established. There is a full team of players keen to join the club already. The possibility of a ladies football team was also discussed. Cllr Alan Gotts asked the clerk to obtain a copy of the architect's original interior plans for the building.

The clerk will speak with the contractor who is cutting the grass to ask if he could omit the area of the pitch as the grass cutting could be done by a family member of the proposed club, adding they would like to start the club by the end of May to adhere with F.A. Norfolk's rules.

Another member of the public suggested that if the contractor cutting the grass would only do the whole field, could the Parish Council continue this year as arranged and review it thereafter, which was considered an option.

5. PLANNING:

A planning application has been received for Old Ben's Cottage which was supported with no objections.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Further to previous correspondence received from Anthony Domeisen regarding the situation of MADRA in Knapton, the Clerk was asked to inform him that the Parish Council has no relevant correspondence.

Following the Chairman's request at the previous meeting, the Clerk asked Norfolk County Council, under a Freedom of Information request, to confirm how much money has been spent on its Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) in the county, of which Gimingham has been allocated one. A reply was received on March 6th stating there had been no set budget for their maintenance, although Highways Dept. had previously provided £10,000. For the 2024/25 financial year, the total cost to NCC to identify only these sites, was £113,245.11 with future budget discussions ongoing. The Parish Council expressed their shock at the amount spent by NCC when it is in severe financial difficulties.

7. MATTERS ARISING:

a. Allotments – the Clerk reported there were still monies owing from some allotment holders. Cllr Alan Gotts explained that some of the allotments were being tidied up although there was still work to be done on a few. He had been on the Blakelock site and rotavated some of the unused plots himself and plot 1b is now ready to rent out. The Clerk will contact those on the waiting list. Cllr Cargill suggested the Parish Council should meet with the allotment holders in the Spring and that it would be worth considering contacting Mundesley Hospital to ask if they have any patients who might be interested in taking on an allotment under supervision, as it could be therapeutic for its patients.

The cost of renting an allotment was discussed and it was agreed the annual rent be increased to £40 p.a. for Gimingham residents and £50 p.a. for those living outside the village; to take effect from October 2025.

The clerk informed the council that the hedgerow adjacent to the Blakelock allotments was cut back three days ago, and both sides of the beech hedge by the playing field.

b. Potholes – Cllr Alan Gotts spoke with a Highways employee today in the village who assured him the potholes will be filled in very soon.

c. SAM2 – The Clerk reported that it had been returned to Westcotec on February 28th as it needed to be compatible with a mobile phone to record vehicle speeds. This was being done free of charge as Westcotec had originally been asked to provide a replacement SAM2 to be 'like for like' to the one stolen. The updated SAM2 will be returned to the Clerk on Wednesday 12th.

d. Clubhouse/playing field - use of the field and unit was discussed in the Public Forum. Cllr Lee said that he had to cut off the padlock at the entrance to the playing field when the tractor and hedge cutter needed to enter the field to cut the hedge on Friday.

Cllr Alan Gotts reported that County Broadband has now connected its Fast Fibre internet service to the village.

A meeting had taken place today with Chris Purvis and Ben Hanlon from Highways Dept regarding the flooding and drainage problems in Gimingham. They informed Parish Councillors that the cost of installing drainage pipes from the bottom of Sandpit Lane to just beyond the bridge could be in the region of £750,000 which could not be considered as it was too expensive. Other options can be made available and Highways will update the Parish

Council by the end of April as site assessments and topographical surveys will need to be completed.

Cllr. Cargill left the meeting at 20.50 hrs.

8. FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.

a. Payments:

D Lee – hedge cutting:	£125.00
Countryside Recycling – bottle banks:	£30.00
Clerk wages (5 weeks to 05.03.25):	£333.40
TOTAL:	£488.40

Payments of above proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Lee.

b. Bank balances as at March 10th 2025: Treasurer's account (current a/c) £5,495.67. Allowing for above payments and the postponed payment for SAM2 camera brought forward from last month, the new balance will be £1,322.27; Access account (deposit a/c) £5,177.80.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

a. The Clerk was contacted by NNDC Business Rates Dept stating that Business Rates are overdue for the unit on the playing field. Previous bills for the unit had been sent through the post to the former Clerk, which resulted in a summons being issued as no payment had been made, due to the new Clerk not having been made aware of the correspondence. After the court summons had been issued, the Rates Dept was then notified of the new clerk's contact details and correspondence was sent to the correct address. The clerk completed an application form for Small Business Rate Relief resulting in no payment due.

b. A member of the public reported that someone had left a black container full of bottles by the bottle bank recently and discussions ensued as to the feasibility of continuing with either of the recycling bins, as most residents now use their own green bin for recycling. Income totals for both bins will be discussed at the next meeting and a decision will be made then.

c. Update on registration of the village hall: Cllr Alan Gotts has contacted Purslows of Cromer who estimated £1,500 to measure and register the village hall. The solicitor advised the Parish Council to measure the plot themselves and send measurements to Land Registry, and to contact the landowner to explain the situation. It is believed the boundary is 6' off the edge of the hall at the back. Cllr Alan Gotts will contact the landowner and will also meet with Colin Hart from Gimingham Village Hall to check/mark out the boundary.

10. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA:

None.

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday 14th April 2025 at Gimingham Village Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 21.30 hrs.

DANIEL GOTTS - CHAIRMAN

Date:

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

J Collingwood - Parish Clerk