

# **GIMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

### **held at Gimingham Village Hall.**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.30pm**

#### **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:**

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

**Apologies** were received from: Colin Hart. Absent: Michelle Englestone and County Cllr Callum Ringer.

Six members of the public attended.

#### **1. CHAIR'S REVIEW/REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025– 2026:**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Gimingham parish council AGM 2026.

As chairman I am pleased to give you a brief summary of our work and achievements over the past year.

As a council we strive to move the village forward on very limited funds, that being said it was with regret but necessity to increase the precept once again this year, I know you will all be aware how shocking prices have escalated, simply to get the mere basics done.

The allotments are one of our biggest challenges and although earning very needed funds to the parish, they are a massive drain on time and effort due to some of the allotment holders' complete disregard to dumping waste. This is an ongoing problem but we are still picking up the pieces of the previous clerks mismanagement of the site, we see this as an ongoing issue that will unfortunately not be a quick fix. I would like to thank Alan Gotts for the time he spends on this thankless task.

We continue to work closely with both the district and county council representatives to work through challenges and achieve our goals although with the elections as they have been and the talks of restructuring I must say that the county council have been less than forthcoming this year, that leads me on to our continued drainage issues on and around Slaughter Lane, in 20 years we have managed to finally get ourselves on the list and although that is an achievement we do believe it is simply lip service and I will add that we have had absolutely no help from our current MP in moving this forward, in fact if anyone has had any help from him as a parishioner we would all like to hear what he has done !

Potholes in the village seem to be a constant battle which cost us time and money to chase with very little outcome.

Hedge cutting has been going well for the parish both at a fair price thanks to David Lee and a big thank you also to Al Cargil who goes above his agricultural remit to make our hedges well-kept for our village.

Our surface water drainage cleaning continues on a higher agenda, with highways recognising our need for this as a low-lying village.

Our SAM 2 continues to warn drivers of their excess speed and another thanks to Alan for taking his time to remove, charge and re-site it on a regular basis.

The football club continues to be our burden and with many keen interests over the last year none have come to fruition.

I'm sad to say that some youths thought it would be a wonderful pastime on a Sunday afternoon of late to smash the majority of the windows in the clubhouse, this is currently in the hands of the police and with an eye-witness we can hope these reprobates are held accountable.

I would like to congratulate Kate our new parish councillor who is not only a breath of fresh air but her enthusiasm and efforts are truly welcomed.

The church is very important to us as a parish and we continue to support them where we can and thanks to the Lee and Bumphrey family we continue to have this wonderful building in our parish.

I look forward to another progressive year ahead and would like to thank all of our hard-working parish council members and of course our clerk.

Daniel Gotts – Chairman

**2. TO ELECT CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE ENSUING YEAR:**

Cllr Lee proposed the current Chairman to continue for the coming year and Cllr Gotts seconded this. Cllr Cargill was proposed to continue as Vice-Chairman by the Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Drake.

**3. TO AGREE ANNUAL PARISH MINUTES MAY 2025:**

The Minutes from the previous Annual Meeting held in May 2025 were proposed by the Chairman as correct and seconded by Cllr Drake.

**4. TO RECEIVE ANNUAL REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS AND VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:**

No County Councillor report as County Council elections were held only last week.

District Councillor Roy Macdonald's report is yet to be received.

Heather Lee sent a report on fundraising at the Village Hall: bingos raised £6,329.20 last year for different charities and are fully booked for the rest of this year.

Colin Hart, who was unable to attend the meeting, provided a report on behalf of the Village Hall committee which explained that once again there is an excess expenditure over income of £188.45. This is largely due to the fact that no quiz nights were held during that financial year which usually raises about £1,500 and there were no unusually large maintenance bills, apart from replacing some of the gravel on the forecourt due to it being used as a turning circle by locals. The electricity bills were reduced by about 50% previous years by changing suppliers from Eon to Octopus.

There was an excess of expenditure over income for the second year running due to expenses for decorating, electrical safety certificate, etc, adding that the accounts are in a sound financial position as long as rigorous fundraising activities continue to take place. Mr Hart said he would attend the next Parish Council meeting to answer any queries which may arise.

## **5. PUBLIC OPEN FORUM:**

A member of the public asked about the clubhouse becoming a shop. Cllr Cargill said the idea was to raise money for it to be used as a community hub. A former member of Gimingham Football Club in the audience asked how much would it cost to renovate? The Chairman explained it would probably cost around £40,000, adding that if the building was in better condition with services connected, the Parish Council could discuss its future with interested parties. As it stands it would be too big an ask to expect a team to carry out the repairs needed. The ex-member of the club said it looked in the same condition as it was in 13/14 years ago. Cllr Drake reported that there is some money in the budget to help get it started.

Cllr Lee said that if matches were held through the FA showers would have to be installed. Another member of the public (a previous Manager for Gimingham FC) said it varied from region to region. Access to toilets would be required, as would adequate space for two teams to change; showers would be a plus.

Cllr Gotts asked if the toilets would be for disabled too. The member of public said he would find out from the FA what grants might be available.

Another member of the public asked if there was any chance of those responsible for the recent damage to the clubhouse could pay for the damage caused.

Cllr Drake said the police were meant to have attended the meeting here this evening but had not turned up adding that the mother of the two boys responsible had said she would be here this evening but she hadn't turned up either. The mother had offered online to pay for the damage caused, even though she denied it was her boys who were responsible.

Another member of the public asked when the grass on the playing field would be next cut. Cllr Lee said it had been cut on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup> but it needs to be cut shorter as it will help reduce dog fouling. Cllr Drake suggested placing more signs to inform dog walkers to clear up behind their dogs. The Clerk will order four signs to be displayed. The Clerk was asked to contact the grass cutter and ask him to keep the grass at a shorter level.

The Chairman said he felt it was a big expense for those parishioners who never

use the field.

Another member of the public offered to cut the grass for free as he lives almost opposite, and whatever the charge would normally be (£160 per cut) a donation of that amount goes toward the clubhouse. He expects to have the appropriate equipment to cut the grass by the start of next season. A member of the public said he has a friend with a ride-on lawnmower and will enquire on cost.

There being no further business the meeting concluded and was followed by the normal Parish Council meeting

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DANIEL GOTTS – CHAIRMAN

Date:

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