



GREAT HORKESLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2025
IN GREAT HORKESLEY NEW VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Those present:

Cllr Arnold (Chairman)
Cllr Banks
Cllr Jarvis
Cllr Sudbery
Cllr Wescomb-Cross

Cllr Baker
Cllr Burns-Langton
Cllr Mead
Cllr Tempest

+ 3 members of the public in attendance

25/052 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25/053 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

All members were present.

25/054 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Jarvis declared an interest with respect to item 25/061 (c).

25/055 Minutes of Previous Meeting

- (a) The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.
- (b) The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendments to Appendix 2:
 - Item 4: "2m thick planting of native species **thorn** hedging"
 - Item 5: "to ensure **the safety of** those emerging onto Ivy Lodge Road"

25/056 Have Your Say – Public Open Forum

One resident from Nayland Road reported that some of their neighbours along Nayland Road have received notification that they will have to move their boundaries and therefore lose some of their front gardens to accommodate the new cycle path between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell. They have been given a provisional date of Feb/March 2026 but information to residents has been varied, and nothing is being communicated very well. The resident has tried to contact County Cllr Barber but has not yet had a response. The Chairman said that this was the best thing to do, and he has already advised other residents to do the same. The design of the shared cycleway/footway was agreed in draft in the outline application for the development and will run from the corner of Keelers Way to link up with the current cycle network in Chesterwell. There are pinch points along the route where the full 3m width of the cycleway cannot be achieved, so it will not be as wide at these points. The Clerk will write to Cllr Barber to say that individual members of the council are concerned with the manner that Highways have approached/not approached residents and will add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

One resident said they are frustrated that nothing is being done about the speeding along Ivy Lodge Road and asked whether there was any point in the Speedwatch team continuing to monitor the area. The Chairman said he has been told that no new problem areas will be put to the Highways panel for at least a year as they need to clear a backlog and Cllr Lewis confirmed that this case had not got through before they stopped taking new cases. When writing the response to the reserved matters application, the Parish Council pointed out that we have results from the traffic survey available, in case some action can be taken that way, by getting the developer to ensure the safety of pedestrians emerging onto Ivy Lodge Road. It is unsure whether there will still be a County Council by the time they open up to new cases again. Meanwhile, the measurements in the traffic survey are sufficient evidence to show that something needs to be changed, so it is not worthwhile for the Speedwatch team to continue monitoring that specific area.

25/057 Reports from Members and Officers of Other Authorities

Cllr Mead reported that bus 784 that travels through the village is now bus number 43.

Cllr Arnold reported that he attended an online meeting of MAG10 and asked that any members who receive reports of localised flooding in the coming months should let Cllr Arnold know so it can be mentioned in the MAG10 meetings. The localised flooding of Ivy Lodge Road will be on the next MAG10 agenda.

25/058 Finance

- (a) The Statement of Accounts as at 31st August 2025 was noted, and Cllr Jarvis checked and signed to say that balances reconcile with those on the July and August bank statements.
- (b) The July/August payments lists were approved in accordance with the 2025/26 Budget.
- (c) It was noted that the external audit for the 2024/25 financial year has been completed.

25/059 Planning

- (a) The following planning application was discussed, and it was agreed not to make any comment to the Planning Authority:

251681	1 Keelers Way <i>Application to remove Condition 9 from planning permission 231007</i>
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- (b) It was noted that decisions have been made on the following Planning Applications:

250436	Store Rear of Coach Road Nursery <i>Outline application for 2x 4-bed detached dwellings</i>	Approve Conditional
251164 & 251163	Holly Lodge Farm, Holly Lane <i>Change of use from office to residential</i>	Approve Conditional
251193	Honeysuckle Cottage, 4 Holly Lane <i>Demolition of existing house and garage and erection of new house</i>	Approve Conditional
251152 & 251151	Knowles Cottage, London Road <i>Alterations to internal layout</i>	Approve Conditional

250969	The Poplars, Green Lane <i>Proposed outdoor swimming pool</i>	Approve Conditional
251274	Oaklands, Nayland Road <i>Construction of timber framed open fronted cart lodge</i>	Refuse
251171	Altyre House, The Causeway <i>Repairs within listed building</i>	Approve Conditional
250920	Lodge Farm, Boxted Road <i>Application for variation of conditions</i>	Approve Conditional
251457	Quaker Cottage, Spratts Marsh <i>First floor extension and external alterations</i>	Approve Conditional

(c) It was noted that an appeal has been lodged for the following Planning Application:

250989	1 Breewood Cottage, School Lane <i>Erection of front boundary wall</i>
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- (d) Members briefly discussed options for who the ownership of the Scout Hut, to be built on the new development, should be transferred to when the transfer notice is to be submitted. It was suggested that the Parish Council could be the freeholder and lease the hut to the scout group long term. This would give a reversion right if the CIC/scout group ceased to exist. The Clerk will double check that the parish council has the power to lease property, and members will discuss options further with the Scout group.
- (e) Planning Application 250545 has now had a Design & Access Statement and a multitude of further information recently added to the application. Members noted that the D&A statement has a page which says they will create a gas supply. They also noted that Anglian water objected to the application as they said they do not have the capacity, but Bloor responded that they will go ahead anyway. The Health Authority have also objected to say they would not be able to cope with the impact of new residents needing to register with GP services. In the Transport Statement it says they are proposing to address the issue of traffic impact on Coach Road and around the school by paying for parking restrictions from the new development to Ramparts Close and down Malvern Way and are prepared to provide cameras to enforce it. This would need to go through consultation, and even if it fails, ECC said the development could still go ahead. Members felt that parking restrictions like this would make the area too urban. The Clerk will contact Planning Officer Nadine Calder to say that GHPC would like to make further representation and will arrange an extraordinary meeting to discuss in more detail once all members have had the opportunity to digest the additional information.
- (f) Cllr Sudbery gave an update on the Pylons Proposal and reported that the next formal stage is in progress. CCC are consulted on this and Cllr Sudbery was concerned about the response they have given, as it could look as though CCC are making a concession and National Grid could then take it as a positive stance. The Planning Inspectorate will look through all the documents and they will decide whether it has all the documents it needs and whether the proper process was followed when forming these documents.
- i. **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Sudbery, seconded Cllr Tempest) to respond to the email from Colchester City Council and express concern about

the positive stance they are giving. This will be copied to the Chief Executive, Chief Legal Officer, Council Leader and local councillors.

- ii. No members wished to propose that the Parish Council commit any funds to the Essex Suffolk Norfolk Pylons Campaign.
 - iii. It was noted that the Clerk responded to the Five Estuaries Consultation on behalf of GHPC with the same response as that sent to Sea Link and Norwich to Tilbury consultations.
- (g) There were no other new urgent Planning matters.

25/060 Highways

- (a) Members discussed the email received from Cllr Cunningham to the letter sent from the Parish Council (both appended to these minutes), regarding the speed limit on the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell. Cllr Arnold will obtain an update as to whether the issue was included in the highways panel earlier today.
- (b) Complaints received about the state of the pavements outside the dental surgery, the footway along The Causeway north of Tile House Lane, and the footway on Nayland Road between Coach Road and Tile House Lane were noted.

The Clerk will report the pavement outside the Dental Surgery and notify Cllr Barber. Highways have refused to do anything about the narrowing footway along the A134, north of Tile House Lane. The Parish Council would have to apply for temporary traffic lights and carry out any work, but this is beyond the Parish Council's or Village Warden's capabilities. The Clerk will attempt to find out costs for completing the works, and then members will consider whether to fund them as part of the 2026/27 budget.
- (c) There were no other urgent matters regarding Highways.

25/061 Village Hall

- (a) Three quotes received for the upgrade of the sound system at the Village Hall were considered. Cllr Arnold will ask for advice from an independent sound engineer about which equipment is best suited for the Village Hall and which quote should be accepted.
- (b) There is no water tank at the Village Hall and therefore the outside tap must be water suitable to drink.

Cllr Jarvis left the meeting.

- (c) **It was unanimously agreed** (proposed Cllr Arnold, seconded Cllr Baker) to waive hire charges for the Village Hall for use during the Great Horkesley Summer Fayre on Saturday 27th June 2026.

Cllr Jarvis rejoined the meeting.

- (d) The Clerk will check with the Caretaker whether there are any issues with the alarm sensors and the new hall doors.

The Clerk will add WI plates to the agenda for next month.

25/062 Public Spaces & Jubilee Green

- (a) It was noted that recently there was a fire incident on the Jubilee Green, that was allegedly started by two young boys. The incident was reported to the police and there is a crime reference number. One resident possibly has doorbell footage of the fire being started, and it is now with the police to try and obtain the footage and take action.
- (b) The draft minutes from the Jubilee Green Committee meeting on 31st July 2025 were noted.

- (c) Cllr Tempest reported that the most recent Jubilee Green Committee meeting was cancelled so there is nothing further to update.
- (d) The updated park maintenance quote from Corporate Grounds Maintenance was reviewed.
It was agreed (proposed Cllr Tempest, seconded Cllr Jarvis, Cllr Baker abstained, all other members agreed) to accept it.
- (e) There were no other urgent matters regarding Public Spaces.

25/063 Staff & Personnel

It was noted that the National Joint Council have confirmed rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2025. These rates have been implemented and backdated for staff in accordance with their contracts.

25/064 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report to date was noted, including a list of resolutions agreed at earlier Parish Council meetings and any progress to date.

25/065 Village Warden

The Village Warden's report to date was noted.

25/066 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 7.30pm in Great Horkesley New Village Hall.

These minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Signed
(Parish Council Chairman)

Date