

Greatham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held at Greatham Village Hall
Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr R Lafferty (Chair), Cllr C Rudd, Cllr S Pond, Cllr A Cheesman

Also Present: Cllr Nick Drew (Hampshire County Council), Cllr Mike Steevens (East Hampshire District Council), Sandra Humphrey (RFO), Six members of the public.

26.94: Chair's Announcements: The Chair thanked the RFO for coordinating the refurbishment of the village bus shelters.

26.95: Apologies for Absence: Cllr SJ Bartlett (Clerk), Cllr K Mitchell

26.96 Declarations of Interest: No declarations of interest were made.

26.97 Approval of Minutes: Resolved: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8 July 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record. **Resolved with all in favour.**

26.98 Update on Previous Actions arising from council meeting

- No report had been received from the Coryton Almshouses Trustees.
- Members noted that Tony Godby had been appointed as a Trustee of the Amicable Charity.
- Cllr Pond advised that she would provide an update later in the meeting regarding correspondence with EHDC concerning the Lone Barn Farm planning application.
- Some progress had been made regarding the management of trees alongside Farnham Road.

26.99 Squaddie Box Presentation

Dean Wormleighton gave a presentation on the Squaddie Box initiative, an asset-locked, not-for-profit organisation providing secure postal addresses and storage facilities for former members of the armed forces experiencing homelessness.

Members heard that:

- Squaddie Boxes provide a permanent mailing address and 24-hour access.

- The organisation also operates "Civvy Boxes" and they are also working with emergency services and prisons.
- The initiative works alongside organisations including the Royal British Legion and Combat Stress.
- Boxes are installed where a need is identified, even if only one individual is affected.

Following discussion, Cllr Nick Drew offered assistance with Hampshire County Council contacts.

26.100 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Steevens reported:

- Recent government changes regarding planning policy and the National Planning Framework.
- Grant funding opportunities currently available.
- Two large warehouses in the area are expected to be occupied shortly, potentially creating up to 200 jobs.

26.101 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Drew reported:

- His attendance at the local Flower Show and support for community events.
- Changes to local government reorganisation proposals, including the withdrawal of certain options previously under consideration.
- Concerns regarding vehicle use on BOATs (Byways Open to All Traffic) in the Petersfield Hangers area during periods of hot weather due to fire risks.
- Ongoing discussions with Highways regarding traffic concerns in Greatham, after meeting with them in the village recently.
- Potential availability of funding for local projects, including speed indicator devices (SIDs).
- Discussions with Highways regarding road markings and speed reduction measures.
- Details of a Community Climate Fund, offering grants of up to £10,000 for eligible projects.

26.102 Public Participation

Members of the public raised the following matters:

Highways and Signage

- Concerns about missing road signs and missing poles.
- The Chair advised that discussions would take place with Cove Homes and that the Clerk would investigate missing signage infrastructure.

Public Footpaths

- Concerns were raised regarding Footpath 10 between Baker's Field and Forest Road. Where it has been ploughed making it difficult to walk. Members agreed to raise the matter with Rights of Way officers.

Telephone Box

- Concerns were expressed regarding inappropriate use of the village telephone box as a dumping area. Cllr Lafferty agreed to investigate.

Cove Homes Access Road

- Concerns were raised regarding visibility, road narrowing and the need for additional signage. Cllr Lafferty agreed to discuss the matter with residents, Cove Homes and Hampshire Highways.

Street Lighting

- Comments were made regarding limited lighting within parts of the village.

Local Government Reorganisation

- A question was raised regarding devolution and local elections. The Chair advised that the matter would be considered during the closed session.

Selborne Road

- A broken fence and hedge maintenance issues were reported and would be investigated.

26.103 Parish Council Finances and Administration

a) Payment Schedule: Resolved To approve the payment schedule. Proposed by Cllr Rudd and seconded by Cllr Cheesman.

b) Finance Report Members noted the Finance Report for July and August 2026. **Resolved:** To approve the bank reconciliations for July and August 2026. **All in favour.**

c) Budget Review The RFO reviewed expenditure against budget and confirmed that spending remained on track. Work on the 2027/28 budget and precept setting process would commence in the coming months.

d) Completion of Audit Report The RFO reported receipt of the external auditor's conclusion from BDO with no advisory findings issued.

e) Clerk's Report

Members noted:

- Discussions regarding improved arrangements for recurring payments and invoices.
- Consideration of direct debit arrangements for future payments.
- Continued concerns regarding traffic speeds through the village.
- Increased traffic levels following the earlier opening of the Cove Homes development.
- Plans to update the Parish Council Facebook page with information regarding bus shelters, the defibrillator and bleed kits.

26.104 Coryton Almshouses

No report had been received.

26.105 Bleed Kits

The Chair reported recently attending first aid training which included the use of bleed kits.

Resolved: To install a bleed kit within the village telephone box.

Proposed by Cllr Cheesman and seconded by Cllr Rudd. **All in favour.**

The Chair agreed to review storage arrangements within the telephone box and investigate improved lighting.

Cllr Steevens left the meeting at 8.25 pm.

26.106 Government Domain and Email Requirements

Members considered the legal requirements relating to parish council websites and email addresses.

Resolved: To adopt the.gov.uk domain and email solution. **All in favour.**

26.107 Planning Applications

Lone Barn Farm: Change of use from equestrian land to the stationing of caravans for residential purposes and retention of hardstanding (retrospective application).

Cllr Pond advised that:

- The application had been referred to the Planning Inspector.
- Her queries had also been forwarded to the compliance team.

Members discussed whether any covenant restrictions may apply and agreed that District Councillors should also be contacted.

1-3 West Fork Cottages, Farnham Road, Liss: Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for the cottages to be used as independent dwelling houses.

Following discussion, members unanimously agreed to object and submit the following response:

"We object on Condition 8 due to the fact that planning permission has never been granted for any use other than holiday accommodation and the cottages shall not be used as an individual's main or sole residential dwelling. Tourism is of great importance to the economy of the South Downs and these cottages will reduce the availability of tourist accommodation if the application is approved."

Cllrs Cheesman and Drew left the meeting at 8.47 pm.

26.108 Community Hub Updates

Parochial Church Council (PCC): Members noted that St John's Church would host the Kings Pond Shantymen on 19 September 2026. Tickets will be £10 and include a ploughman's supper.

Greatham Village Hall: Members noted:

- Resurfacing works to the path around the field.
- Completion of floor and ladies' toilet improvements.
- Ongoing review of disabled toilet facilities.
- Roof insulation and fireproofing works.
- Details of the Village Hall AGM would be published in the parish magazine.

26.109 Future Projects and Recruitment

Projects planned for January to May 2027 will be publicised through the parish magazine.

Information relating to the 2027 elections and councillor recruitment will also be included.

26.110 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 7.30 pm

26.111 Exclusion of Press and Public

The meeting closed to the public at **8.56 pm** for confidential business to commence.

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date: _____

Greatham Parish Council
Parish Council Meeting
Greatham Village Hall
Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7.30 pm

Payments 1st July 2026 to 31st August 2026

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Net Total	Vat	Total
01/07/2026	Disking	IT/Website	69.70	13.94	83.64
16/07/2026	Reg White	Old Church Maintenance	168.00	0	168.00
16/07/2026	RFO	Mileage for conference day	33.55	0	33.55
16/07/2026	SJ Barlett	Printing Costs	6.00	1.20	7.20
16/07/2026	SLCC	Job Advertising	78.00	15.60	93.60
30/07/2026	GiffGaff	Mobile phone contract	5.00	1.00	6.00
30/07/2026	RFO	Salary July	340.62	0	340.62
31/07/2026	Unity Bank	Service Charge	7.00	0	7.00
03/08/2026	Disking	IT/Website	69.70	13.94	83.64
17/08/2026	G Hare	Parish tidy up	1180.00	0	1180.00
17/08/2026	Reg White	Old Church Maintenance	168.00	0	168.00
		Total Paid out			2171.25
		Invoice to pay			
05/08/2026	GW Shelter Solutions	Clean and refurbish 3 bus shelters in village (nett amount being covered by incoming grant)	10840.00	2168.00	13008.00
07/08/2026	Greatham VHall	Hall booking for 8/7/26	7.50	0	7.50
27/04/2026	Scribe	Accounts package for year	408.00	81.60	489.60
17/09/2026	Reg White	Old Church Maintenance	168.00	0	168.00
02/09/2026	Greatham VHall	Grant for 50% cost of notice board	1580.00	0	1580.00
26/08/2026	BDO	External Audit	210.00	42.00	252.00
		Total to pay			£15,505.10

Appendix 4: Finance Report and Bank Reconciliations

Receipts 1st July 2026 to 31st August 2026

Total Receipts £126.05 old church donations

Balances as at 30th June 2026

Current Account T1 £23,934.23

Deposit Account £52,598.83

Total at Bank **£76,533.06**