

Minutes of Great Gaddesden Parish Council Meeting

held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 18 January 2026

at Gaddesden Row Village Hall

Present: C Griffin (chair), T Brody, M Griffin, G Halsey, R Hamilton, C Turner and C Wood

In attendance: A Farrow (Clerk), Borough Councillor J Timmis and eight members of the public

Agenda number	Agenda subject and action
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26/001	Apologies for absence – were received from County Councillor Smith-Wright
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26/002	Declaration of Interests – none
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26/003	<u>Minutes</u>
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Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2025 as circulated to members be signed as a correct record. Agreed unanimously

26/004	Public participation
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- Regarding 26/008.a. Concern was expressed at the two recent fatal accidents on Gaddesden Row. Noted that attempts to restrict speeding in the past through chicanes had been unsuccessful, in particular because of the need for agricultural vehicles to use the road.
- Regarding 26/008.c. Concern was expressed that Church Meadow had been blocked over the Christmas Holidays by a car parked inconsiderately by the school and that as a result it had not been possible for waste bins to be collected on the scheduled day. The Council noted with thanks the flexibility of the bin collection team who returned on an unscheduled day to complete the bin collection.

26/005	Correspondence received – none not covered elsewhere
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26/006	<u>Matters outstanding</u>
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- The increase in allotment rents for 2027 had been communicated to plot holders.
- Car parking at Great Gaddesden Church had been discussed and it was for the PCC to take forward if it considered it appropriate.
- The failure of the police to respond to requests to attend a Council meeting was a cause for concern, this had been raised before the recent fatalities but they highlighted why it was important for the police to attend at least occasionally. Councillors asked that if the police didn't intend to attend meetings that they state it publicly. Cllr Timmis agreed to take this forward with the Police and Crimes Commissioner.

26/007	Borough and County Councillor updates
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- Cllr Timmis reported on two grant schemes from Dacorum – for new businesses and green projects. The Potten End Hill SANG had been approved on appeal. Any road name signs that needed replacing should be advised to her as soon as possible.
- Cllr Smith-Wright had advised that whilst she would endeavour to attend meetings, she was always willing to schedule meetings with the council to cover specific concerns. She also intended

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to arrange regular meetings with Highways for the various parishes she represented so that common issues could be discussed at the same time.

26/008 Highways

- a. Accident on Gaddesden Row – since the agenda had been issued there had been a second fatal accident a short distance away on the same road. The Council expressed its condolences to the families and friends of the two victims. It wasn't clear what had caused the accidents and therefore what if anything could be done to prevent a recurrence. The relative roles and responsibilities of the Police and Highways in these situations was also unclear. The Clerk was asked to continue to liaise with Cllr Smith-Wright and to ask that a representative of either or both the police or Highways attend a future Council Meeting to explain what if anything could be done.
- b. Gritting of Bradden Lane – noted that in the recent cold snap vehicles had been stuck on the steep section of the hill which wasn't a priority gritting route and had to be rescued by residents. Under Highways criterion for gritting the road was steep enough to qualify for priority gritting. Cllr Smith-Wright had agreed to raise this with the relevant department in Highways.
- c. Problem parking on Church Meadow, Great Gaddesden – see 26/004.b. Agreed that the Clerk should ask Cllr Smith-Wright to raise the issue of how best to avoid the road being blocked by inconsiderate parking with Highways.

26/009 Planning

- a. [Past planning applications](#) – noted the report submitted to members, in particular that Dacorum's Development Management Committee had approved an application from Anthony Betts & Co Ltd and the redevelopment of Hilliers Garden Centre against the Parish Council's objections.
- b. **Planning applications since the last meeting** – noted the following responses given under the Clerk's delegated powers since the last meeting.

25/02853/TPO	Land At Corner Of Nettleden Road And Leighton Buzzard Road Nettleden Road Water End Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire	No objection
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Work to trees

25/02968/LBC & 25/02967/FHA	Farm Cottage, St Margarets, Great Gaddesden, HP1 3BZ	No objection
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Alterations to curtilage building, including installation of rooflights, enlargement of existing windows, replacement bathroom door, installation of side-facing window and proposed glazed gable feature door/window

25/02932/LBC & 25/02931/FHA	Ballington Cottage, Clements End Road, Gaddesden Row, HP2 6HX	No objection
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Installation of automated wooden gates to the drive's main entrance. Extend existing wall to meet the new gates. New wooden manual gates to side entrance and part of the lawn replaced with additional parking. Replace part of front lawn with pea shingle.

- c. **New planning applications** - none
- d. **To consider any planning applications received since the date of the agenda** - none

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| e. | Local Plan – noted that the next consultation phase for the Local Plan will take place in the first week of March. Cllr Body agree to represent the Council if Cllr M Griffin was not available. |
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26/010 Open spaces

a. Allotments

- i. £200 of rents remained unpaid; the Clerk was chasing
- ii. There were no vacancies at Great Gaddesden and three people on the waiting list, and three vacancies at Gaddesden Row and no-one on the waiting list. Unfortunately the people on the Great Gaddesden waiting list did not want a plot at Gaddesden Row.

- b. The Warden had collected six bags of litter from Red Lion Lane and Potten End Hill, and a further four bags from Ledgemore Lane.

26/011 Finance and administration

a. Payment of invoices

- i. Noted [invoices paid](#) since the last meeting.
- ii. Agreed [payment of invoices](#) as presented to members.

- b. [Payments received](#) – noted credits received since the last meeting as presented to members.

- c. [Projected accounts for 2025/26](#) – noted as presented to members.

- d. [Dacorum grants](#) – noted as presented to members. The Clerk was asked whether it was possible to determine the average Council Tax paid in Great Gaddesden relative to Hemel Hempstead.

- e. [Budget for 2026-27](#) – the proposal to increase precept in 2026/27 by 10% as presented to members was rejected unanimously. A revised proposal to retain precept for 2026/27 at the 2025/26 level was agreed unanimously.

- f. **Precept** – resolved that Great Gaddesden Parish Council under section 41 of the Local Government Act 1992 hereby give notice that in respect of the financial year beginning on 1st April 2026, the sum of £16,469.00 is required to meet the expenses of the Council. We hereby require the levy of the said sum as an additional item of Council Tax for the Parish by Dacorum Borough Council, being the Billing Authority for the Borough and that Councillors C Griffin, M Griffin and R Hamilton be authorised to sign the demand for the precept on behalf of the Parish Council. Agreed unanimously

26/103 Date and time of next meetings:

7:30pm on Monday 16 February 2026 at Great Gaddesden Village Hall

7:30pm on Tuesday 17 March 2026 at Gaddesden Row Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8:33pm

Signed

Dated