

Minutes of Great Gaddesden Parish Council Meeting

held at 7:30 pm on Monday 20 April 2026

at Great Gaddesden Village Hall

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

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

Agenda number	Agenda subject and action
26/037	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr C Griffin, C Turner and C Wood. In the absence of Cllr C Griffin it was proposed and agreed unanimously that Cllr M Griffin chair the meeting.
26/038	Declaration of Interests – Cllr G Halsey noted an interest in 26/041.b
26/039	<u>Minutes</u> Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2026 as circulated to members be signed as a correct record. Agreed unanimously.
26/040	<u>Local Government Reorganisation</u> – agreed to propose to the Community Governance Review that consideration be given to Piccotts End being incorporated into the parish.
26/041	Public participation in the remainder of the agenda a. Concern was expressed at the size of new signage at Great Gaddesden school. The Clerk agreed to investigate whether it breached guidelines for the conservation area. b. Noted that the Great Gaddesden village sign at the junction of Leighton Buzzard Rd and Pipers Hill had been removed after damage some years ago and never replaced. The Clerk would investigate whether it could be replaced.
26/042	Correspondence received a. <u>Railings at Great Gaddesden school</u> – the council was supportive of the request for railings to be installed outside the entrances to the school noting that this was a decision for Highways and that the pavements may be too narrow for it to be practical. b. <u>Application for a Goods Vehicle Operators Licence</u> for JCPA Ltd at Hawbush Farm, Gaddesden Row – noted that after discussion with Highways and Planning no grounds had been identified to object to the licence. A resident had subsequently raised a concern that the licence was resulting in increased traffic flow across the Water End bridge; the Clerk will investigate. c. Concern had been expressed regarding the cost of the new website. The Clerk advised that this was driven by government accessibility requirements. d. Hertfordshire Highways were planning extensive work to trees near the highway. Residents close to affected trees will be contacted by Highways and the clerk had a schedule which would be circulated as widely as possible. Residents were encouraged to provide feedback if they had concerns about individual trees. e. It had been suggested that some of the CIL money received by the council could be used to improve the maintenance of the play equipment at Gaddesden Row. Noted that the play

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equipment was owned by Dacorum but otherwise agreed that this was an idea worth investigating.

26/043 [Matters outstanding](#) – noted as presented to members, in particular:

- a. An additional £12,430 CIL had been received in connection with the developments at Stags End (20/00706/MFA) and Hillside, Potten End Hill (25/01165/FUL).

26/044 **Borough and County Councillor updates**

- a. **County Councillor** – none received
- b. **Borough Councillor** – noted that Planning Enforcement were short of officers. See also 26/045.f below.

26/045 **Planning**

- a. [Past planning applications](#) – noted the report submitted to members.
- b. **Planning applications** – noted the response submitted under the Clerk's delegated powers since the last meeting
 - i. [26/00654/LBC](#) - 5 St Margarets, Great Gaddesden, HP1 3BZ - Remove existing roof tiles and replace with handmade clay tiles matching existing colour. Lime mortar used for any pointing and/or bedding in of tiles. No objection
- c. **New planning applications** – agreed a response to the following application:
 - i. [26/00859/TCA](#) – The Old Vicarage, Pipers Hill, HP1 3BY – works to trees. No objection.
- d. No planning applications had been received since the date of the agenda
- e. [Planning Enforcement](#) – noted the update provided to members
- f. [Unauthorised encampment and works, Flamstead](#) – the Parish Council was extremely grateful for the comprehensive update provided by Cllr Timmis who undertook to discuss with Dacorum what action should be taken if a similar situation occurred in Great Gaddesden.

26/046 **Open spaces**

- a. **Allotments** – noted that a plot holder at Gaddesden Row had his tenancy agreement terminated for not maintaining his allotment.

26/047 **Finance and administration**

- a. **Payment of invoices**
 - i. Noted payment of an invoice for £522 to The Community Heartbeat Trust for the annual defibrillator service contract 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. [Draft accounts](#) – noted that the accounts would be presented for agreement at the May meeting and that members should raise any questions prior to that meeting.
- d. **Governance**
 - i. [Data Mapping](#) – noted
 - ii. [IT policy](#) – agreed

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e. [Asset register](#) – agreed.

f. **Grant request**

Since distribution of the agenda a request had been received for a grant of £600 from CIL reserves to fund replacement of bell ringing ropes at St John the Baptist, Great Gaddesden which had broken. The lack of notice is contrary to the Council's Standing Orders and the Council had previously agreed that requests for CIL funding would be discussed at its June meeting. However the Council considered that the urgency of replacing the ropes and the small amount requested relative to CIL reserves of £23,366 justified considering the request at the April meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

The proposal to agree a grant of £600 was agreed unanimously.

As the Council does not have a specific power to make a grant for this purpose, it was resolved that in accordance with the council's powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 that it should incur expenditure of £600 as a grant for the purchase of new bell ringing ropes for St John the Baptist, Great Gaddesden, which in the opinion of the Council is in the interest of the area and its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. This is the only payment authorised under s137 so far this year against the Council's cap of £8,943. Agreed unanimously.

The Clerk was authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the payment of the grant.

26/048 Date and time of next meetings:

7:30pm on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at Gaddesden Row Village Hall

7:30pm on Monday 15 June 2026 at Great Gaddesden Village Hall