

GREAT MOULTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Great Moulton Parish Council Ordinary Meeting
held in the Coronation Hall Carr Lane Great Moulton NR15 2LA.
on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs C Bailey (Chair), G Timms, K Bailey, Mo Ngem, G Crawley, and J Crawley,
Alan Arber (Parish Clerk)

No Members of the public were in attendance.

County Councillor Catherine Rowett and District Councillor Suzanne Wateridge were also in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence with notified reasons

No apologies received

2. To record Declarations of Interest from Councillors in any item to be discussed

No dispensations at this meeting

3. To agree and sign the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting 11th December 2025

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting of 11th December 2025 and were duly signed by the chair.

Proposed Cllr G Timms

Seconded Cllr C Bailey

4. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 11th December 2025 not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

All items were on the agenda for tonight's meeting.

5. Governance

No Governance at this meeting declared.

- 6 To note any public participation and county and district councillor reports (max 20 Minutes to include 5 minutes for each county and District Councillor and one question per parishioner)

County Councillor Catherine Rowett sent her report and attached as **Appendix 1**

District Councillor sent her report and attached as **Appendix 2**

7. Finances

7.1 To receive account balances and reconciliation **Appendix 3**

SIGNED..... DATE

Current Account	£12470.27
Savings Account	£22345.34
Total of both accounts	£34815.61

Proposed Cllr K Bailey

Seconded Cllr J Crawley

7.2 To approve the attached schedule of payments **Appendix 3**

7.3 To receive Financial Reports for this meeting.

Passed to the chair for her records.

7.4 To receive the details of the clerk's appraisal.

The clerk appraisal took place with chair Bailey and Councillor J Crawley, and it was felt the clerk was doing a good job and it was noted that he does suffer from a slight dyslexia when doing the minutes and it was agreed he would take more time over these when sending out. The clerk was also thanked for all his work on the new website and Gov.uk emails and Assertion 10 work. It was agreed that the clerk would have the allowed one SCP point rise to £19.32 from 1st April even though he was due it straight away.

Proposed Cllr

K Bailey

Seconded Cllr M Ngem

7.5 To receive and sign the precept request form.

The clerk commented that it is good practice to have a rise each year and this year we have gone for a rise equal to inflation of 3.8% due to the Councils finance and despite other councils opting for around a 10% rise in the main.

Last year's figure for the precept was £7195 and with a 3.8% rise this would increase by £273.41 meaning our Precept Request would total £7468 and with us being a cash rich council it was felt this was acceptable.

How we reach the amount each band d household would pay is £7468 divided by band D total of 309 equalling £24.16 per year per Band D household a small decrease in the band d charge of 14p a year due to the extra homes in the parish figures.

We would be utilizing a sum of £4642 to keep the precept at a manageable number due to the council's reserves.

It was agreed that we would ask for a precept of £7468.00. **Appendix 4**

Proposed Cllr G Timms

Seconded Cllr K Bailey

7.6 To agree moving £10,000 into the Parish Council Current account.

Proposed Cllr K Bailey

Seconded Cllr J Crawley

7.7 To agree the Parish council insurance policy.

The clerk had sorted this out asap at a cost of £304 per annum with Zurich and the policy meets with all the councils needs including the war memorial now.

Proposed Cllr C Bailey

Seconded Cllr G Crawley

8. Planning Applications:

SIGNED..... DATE

2025/1689

Proposal: Erection of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure including access, drainage, landscaping, and other incidental works Location: Land North of the Junction of Market Lane and Carr Lane Great Moulton Norfolk Applicant: Field Long Stratton Ltd Application Type: Full Planning Permission

As this application was submitted on 23rd December when the council had broken up for the Christmas Break it was agreed that The Clerk would seek an extension to allow all the new 44 documents to be looked at over a longer time and this has been granted till Friday 13th February and the clerk, Chair, Vice Chair and councillor K Bailey will be meeting with the councillor F Boone at Wacton Village Hall to go over the documents and get a report ready for all councillors and parishioners on the councils agreed objections.

The local parishioner's group have done email letters to the local MP, District councillors, and formal letter to Planning that all parishioners can sign and this will be delivered to the planning department once all completed and before the 26th of January 2026.

The clerk offered to collect them and deliver them for the group as he lives close to the Planning offices.

9. Correspondence received –

Field planning application

Email to field to express the councils disgust at the planning application being submitted over the Christmas break. No reply received.

10. To receive an update on the proposed Field Long Stratton Battery Energy Storage System on land north of Carr Lane, Great Moulton, Norwich, NR15 2LA (for Information)

Already dealt with under planning

11. To receive an update on the proposed East Pye and Station Road Solar Projects (for Information)

No more information received by The Clerk recently.

12. To discuss the cleaning of the War memorial

The clerk had contacted a company over the cleaning of this and had received a quote for £1500 plus vat for a total clean of the war memorial. It was agreed to get the quote ready for Feb Meeting.

13. To receive a report from the Coronation Hall

No report

14. To receive an update on Footpath, Tree, and Wildlife issues

No report

15. To receive a report from the Wildlife Warden

No Report

16. To discuss the purchasing and siting of a new dog bin

SIGNED..... DATE

The new dog bin would cost £144.37 including post mounting kit (but no post) is a 25-litre dog bin in red and we have permission from highways to site it at the T junction of High Green and Woodrow Lane.

It was agreed we would get this done asap and the clerk would order the dog bin asap.

Proposed Cllr G Crawley Seconded Cllr G Timms

17. To discuss updating/Repairs to the phone box

The clerk had contacted the companies agreed to ask for a price to repair the Telephone box but two have said they cannot undertake the work and we are awaiting the quote from the other company to come back to us.

18. Agenda items for the next meeting

Field Objection

War Memorial quote

Telephone Box Repairs

18.To approve the date of the next ordinary meeting of Great Moulton Parish Council as Thursday on 12th February 2026

Meeting closed at 19.21pm

SIGNED..... DATE

Progress report

Mayors and unitary councils

The latest bombshell on this saga was the announcement just before Christmas that the government was inviting councils to explain if they had "capacity issues" that would make it wise to postpone May elections for councillors. Effectively this put the decision on whether to cancel elections into the hands of the administration that stands to gain from clinging to power and not inviting the electorate to decide whether they are doing a good job. The very idea is clearly unacceptable and when the leader of the council consulted me (as leader of an opposition group) I recommended that she should point out to the government how utterly inappropriate it was even to invite a sitting councillor to request such an extension. I made clear in no uncertain terms that the elections should not have been cancelled last year, when councillors could have been elected for a three year term. The idea of delaying them to next year, only to elect new councillors to an authority that was merely winding itself down for a year is even more bizarre than electing them this year for a two year term. I haven't seen what letter the leader sent, but it seems likely that she invited the officers to make the case that capacity is an issue for us in Norfolk. As far as I know we haven't yet heard whether the ministers will decide to cancel the elections. At the very least we can expect a lot of by-elections as councillors resign rather than take on another year (or rather probably two years) beyond their mandate.

Now older news is the announcement of a two year delay to the election of a Mayor for Norfolk and Suffolk: an absurd change of schedule when election campaigns were already under way for elections expected this year and recruitment was under way for the CEO and other staff needed to set up the new authority. The priority programme that the government was so keen to get up and running has turned out to be chaos.

Reorganising the local councils is supposed to be going ahead to the old timetable with handover to the new councils in 2028. The consultation on how to divide Norfolk up into one, two or three unitary councils closes on 11th January. Find the consultation here: [Proposals for local government reorganisation in Norfolk and Suffolk - GOV.UK](#).

Pylons and panels

Some decisions have been made regarding grid connections for the energy schemes and residents in the Fornsett and Ashwellthorpe area are breathing a sigh of relief that the Tasway Energy Park has been parked for now, due to not achieving a slot in the first round of connections. New revisions have come in relating to the planning application for the (monstrous and inappropriately located) battery storage installation in Great Moulton (Field BESS) with an awkward short consultation interval over Christmas. So far I am not seeing any useful mitigations.

Community Fund

I'm pleased to report that awards from my fund have now been made to Burston for an insect hotel and to Gissing for gardening tools for the church yard gardening group. Several projects are still open for receiving donations: find your village project here: [Crowdfund Norfolk | Crowdfunder.co.uk](#) Currently open for donations are: biodiversity projects in Tivetshall, and catering equipment for community meals at Gt Moulton and Aslacton, but there are some applications that I've promised to support that don't seem to be in the scheme yet. Please do get those applications in or I will have to assign the money to other things.

You can see the schemes that are being supported across Norfolk here: [Crowdfund Norfolk | Crowdfunder.co.uk](#) It's a heartwarming site and reminds us that communities work together to do

good things when they are filled with love and friendliness, not the hate and division that are currently being promoted across the world.

I urgently need to know if we can find the parish contribution funds (20% of the cost) for the bus shelter improvements in Carleton Rode. I'm concerned about the deadline for this and don't want to miss out on the funds.

Updates from County Council and the Health Board

Norfolk Trails Public Survey

The council is seeking feedback to ensure that the future of Norfolk's Trails aligns with the values and preferences of residents. A public survey is being conducted to gather community input, which will inform the long-term planning and improvement of the trails, with the aim of enhancing accessibility for all. Please encourage residents to do the questionnaire (there's also a prize draw!) Find it at <https://research.audiencesurveys.org/Interview/1b4334d0-3a8e-4445-8397-dd99353abf9b>.

Adult Services CQC inspection report

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) delivered their verdict on Norfolk's Adult Social Services Provision on 12th December, awarding an overall rating of "Requires Improvement".

This was based on a review of the local authority from 31 January to 3 July this year, including an onsite visit, speaking to staff, meeting service users and consulting with partners and care providers. The report highlights safeguarding, waiting times for Care Act assessments and inequity in outcomes as key areas for improvement. The overall score was 56%, which is 6% away from a Good rating. The authority has said that improvements are already in progress.

Which roads will be gritted on cold nights?

People can check which roads are on the council's gritting routes for this season using the map at www.norfolk.gov.uk/gritting. Use this to plan your safest route if you need to go somewhere.

National Information

National planning policy framework consultation

The Government has launched a major consultation on a revamped National Planning Policy Framework. It's part of their policy of plonking infrastructure and housing all over the countryside and removing protections from nature and human communities. Data centres are eating up our energy and our countryside: they are not the solution to our problems as the government seems to think! Have your say. The consultation (open till 10th March) is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

UK gets onto the Erasmus+ scheme in 2027

The Government has finalised an agreement to let us into the Erasmus+ programme in 2027. It offers opportunities for participants of all ages: students can spend a year abroad without extra fees and there are also opportunities for teaching exchanges, apprentices and adult learners.

Contact me

Catherine.rowett.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk. See also my Facebook page [here](#).

Catherine Rowett

4th January 2025

Bunwell District Councillor Report January 2026

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

As you might expect, things have been very quiet at the council over the festive period but I have a few things to update you on.

Tasway and East Pye

I'm sure you have all heard by now but Tasway has been delayed indefinitely, for at least the next few years, after being given what's called a Gate 1 connection by NESO (NESO is the National Energy System Operator owned by the government). As I talked about last month, NESO has just completed their grid connection reform, prioritising renewable energy projects that are the farthest down the line. Those projects have been given a Gate 2 connection which means they will go ahead (subject to the planning inspectorate). Gate 1 connections will be able to reapply for Gate 2 status as and when further grid capacity is made available.

East Pye has confirmed they have been given a Gate 2 connection so that scheme will be going ahead subject to the planning inspectorate approval.

FIELD BESS

Great Moulton residents were dismayed to receive details of FIELD's latest revisions to their 400MW Battery Storage Scheme just before Christmas. With over 40 documents to read, the parish council and myself have asked the planning officer, Richard Smith, at South Norfolk Council to grant an extension for this latest consultation, so we will be discussing this at the February Parish Council meeting in Great Moulton on 12th February.

Flooding Issues

South Norfolk Council are currently seeking a replacement for the excellent Katie Spillman, who was the Surface Water Drainage Officer. In the meantime, please let me know if there are any flooding issues you need my help with. For example, I recently met with Aslacton Parish Councillors to look at the long-term flooding on the Pottergate Street junction in Great Moulton. As this is South Norfolk Council-owned land, we alerted them and they are now taking this on and organising ditch clearance to enable surface water to flow off the road into the Tas, as it should.

Budget Consultation

Have your say on how your council tax is spent! South Norfolk Council are encouraging you to feedback on their budget consultation – the link is here, the deadline is January 16th:

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/council/governance/consultations/south-norfolk-council-budget-consultation-202526>

Funding for Neighbourhood Plans

As far as I know there are no neighbourhood plans in any of the Bunwell parishes but if you were interested in putting one together (and it would have to be quick!), South Norfolk Council has introduced a Neighbourhood Planning Transitional Fund to bolster the funding they currently provide (the government withdrew their funding for neighbourhood plans last summer). So on top of the £6,000 communities can apply for, additional funding of up to £10,000 can also be applied for, on a first come first served basis. Obviously it requires time commitment from a dedicated team of volunteers but neighbourhood plans do carry significant weight in planning decisions and enable you as a community to have more influence in shaping your area. Details here

<https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning/future-development/local-plans/neighbourhood-plans/broadland-neighbourhood-planning-grant>

Cllr Suzanne Wateridge

Member for Bunwell Ward, South Norfolk Council

m 07943 180556 suzanne.wateridge@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

Appendix 3

Great Moulton PC 8 January Meeting 2026 Schedule of Payments/Receipts

Date	Payee	Details	Nett	VAT	Total
Jan-26	Mr. A Arber	Clerk salary and expenses Dec25	£384.96	£0.00	£384.96
Jan-26	Mr. A Arber	Clerks expenses Nov 25	£32.40	£0.00	£32.40
Jan-26	HMRC	Tax and NI Alan Arber	£96.00	£0.00	£96.00
Jan-26	Norfolk Pension Fund	Pension Alan Arber	£142.50	£0.00	£142.50
Jan-26	Zurich	Parish Insurance	£304.00	£0.00	£304.00
Jan-26	Coronation Hall	Hall Hire for meetings	£66.00	£0.00	£66.00
Jan-26	Unity Trust	Monthly Bank Charges	£6.00	£0.00	£6.00
Jan-26	N R Asphalt	Gully Work	£452.25	£90.45	£542.70
Jan-26	Defib Shop	New Defib pads	£225.00	£45.00	£270.00
		Total	£1,709.11	£135.45	£1,844.56
Jan-26	Receipts savings account Dec	Interest on Savings account	£ 122.47	£ -	£ 122.47
Jan-26	Bank Statements reconciliation	31/12/2025			
	Current Account	£12,470.27			
	Savings account	£22,345.34			
	Total of both accounts	£34,815.61			

Appendix 3

PRECEPT 2026/27

To South Norfolk Council being the appropriate
billing authority for the below named Parish

You are hereby required to pay to:

Great Moulton Parish Council
(name of parish / town council or meeting)

The total Parish Precept required is £7468-00

from South Norfolk Council's General Fund to meet expenses payable by the Parish
/Town Council/Meeting.

(Note: In the case of a Parish Meeting, this precept must be authorised by the
Chairperson.)

AUTHORISED at the meeting of the Parish / Town Council held on

the Thursday 8th of January 2026 (month/year)

Signed A Arber

Designation Parish Clerk and RFO

(the Officer designated for this purpose)

BANK DETAILS

Bank name Unity Trust Bank

Sort code 60-83-01 Account No. 20508100

Bank address PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

Is this detail the same as last year? YES
(If different, please provide a copy of a recent bank statement)