

**Minutes of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council Meeting held on
Thursday 9th October 2025 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr White (Chair), Cllr Ulph, Cllr Burgess, Cllr Gibbs, Cllr Bate, Cllr Robertson and Kelly Harris, Clerk & RFO

Buckinghamshire Cllrs: Cllr Fealey in attendance

1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Tofield sent her apologies.

2. To receive declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 11th September 2025

The draft minutes were agreed unanimously and approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4. Public Participation Session

No members of the public were in attendance.

5. To receive updates from Buckinghamshire Councilors

Cllr Fealey talked about a meeting with the MoJ regarding their traffic management plan for the development of HMP Grendon. He confirmed that today, the plan has been rejected by Bucks Planning. The MoJ now needs to develop an alternative plan that does not bring traffic through the villages.

He mentioned there are approx. 300 planning applications that are agreed but not authorised due to the developers not being able to add the mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain. To help with this issue, 250 acres of meadows have now been agreed near Kingsbrook, Aylesbury, which the developers can pay towards in order to satisfy the biodiversity net gain. It means these 300 applications can now go through.

Cllr Fealey talked about the Bucks draft local plan and that the next stage will be to identify the sites to be developed. Bucks Council has a target of 95,000 new homes to be built in the county by 2045. No new towns have been earmarked for Bucks at this stage. 641 gypsy traveller pitches also need to be provided.

Planning surgeries were mentioned as these can be useful if we have any issues with an application. Cllr Fealey provided the number for the VIP planning line for Parishes to use - 0300 3035640.

Cllr Bate questioned what happens with development when utilities such as water say they are at capacity and cannot connect any more homes to the water/sewerage system. Cllr Fealey confirmed that planners can insist the utility company comes up with a solution and nobody can occupy a new property until it has been connected.

6. Finance

a. To agree the October payment run as circulated

GAWCOTT WITH LENBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL - PAYMENT RUN October 2025

Payee	Detail	Amount
Clerk	Clerk salary for September and any related expenses	£544.00
KJ Parker (The Lawn Ranger)	Grass cutting for September	£280.00
Karen Richards	Pavilion cleaning for September & expenses for cleaning products	£167.04
	Total	£991.04

Cllrs unanimously agreed to the October payment run.

Cllr White asked to add £102 for hedge clearing and £13.12 in expenses for gutter ends at the pavilion to the payment run which was unanimously approved by Cllrs.

b. To note the balance of accounts as at 30th September 2025:

- Business account x2092 - £902.61
- Playing field account x2967- £7,982.90
- Deposit account x5984 - £45,417.98

Cllrs noted the account balances to 30th September 2025.

c. To review the September bank statements and review and agree the payments and receipts reports

Cllr Gibbs checked the bank statements against the payments and receipts reports which were agreed and signed.

7. Planning: To discuss planning applications.

a. Planning applications

PL/25/3166/KA - Shiralee, New Inn Lane, Gawcott

Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area

Proposal: T1 Liquid Ambar, Height - 8m, Crown spread - 6.5m, DBH - 310mm, Work required: 3m crown reduction, T2 Ornamental Pear, Height - 6m, Crown spread - 5m, DBH - 250mm, Work required: 2.5m reduction, T3 Betula Pendula youngii, Height - 5m, Crown spread - 6m, DBH 250mm, Work required: 1m width reduction

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application

b. Ongoing planning matters

To receive the written report about ongoing planning matters in the Parish

Cllr White suggested the PC comments on the number of traveller sites mentioned within the draft local plan when the PC submits their response.

Cllr White mentioned that the Hollow Farm appeal has been dismissed.

c. Any other planning matters of relevance to Gawcott

- To discuss the Parish Council's response to the Bucks draft Local Plan

Cllr White offered to draft a response which he will share with Cllrs for comment before the deadline of 29th October. **Action: Cllr White**

HMP Grendon – Cllr White mentioned a meeting he attended recently with representatives from 5 Parish Councils, Bucks Highways and Greg Smith MP. The traffic plan has been refused as mentioned in agenda point 5.

Cllr Ulph advised that MQP (Midlands Quarry) HGVs have started coming through the village in convoy again which isn't allowed.

Cllr White will send a plan of the parish conservation area to all Cllrs. There is a consultation on conservation areas and whether changes to these are required. **Action: Cllr White**

8. To report on any Highways, Footpaths & Footways and Lighting matters

Cllrs mentioned that Hillesden Road will be closed for resurfacing and that we may need to allow parking at the Richard Roper playing fields.

Cllr White advised he now has the name of the street naming person at Bucks Council, and he will make contact to investigate the change of name to High Street South.

Cllr Robertson mentioned the Preston Road closure at the end of October and that residents were concerned about vehicle and wheelchair access. Cllr White advised access should be maintained.

It was noted that Cllr Robertson and her husband would be repairing the village gate, and the PC will be paying for the materials.

Cllr Gibbs advised that the grass verge on the pathway between Gawcott and Buckingham is perfect from the Gawcott Fields estate to the main road. However, the section from Gawcott to the Gawcott Fields estate is in awful condition with the pathway breaking up. The Clerk asked Cllr Gibbs to send photos showing the condition of the path for her to share with our Bucks Highways Area Technician. **Action: Cllr Gibbs / Clerk**

9. To report on any Maintenance and Environment issues

There was nothing to report.

10. To provide updates for the Pavillion, Playing Fields and Play Area

Cllr White advised he has made repairs to the fence at the play park.

Cllr White advised that one of the floodlights is broken and he has been quoted £2000 for the repair. He is going to reach out to electricians within the parish and football club for alternative quotes. **Action: Cllr White**

Cllr Burgess advised that she cannot obtain bin bags big enough for the bins at the park. The Clerk will speak with a contractor she uses at another Parish for advice on where to source the correct sized bags. **Action: Clerk**

There have been more reports of people breaking into the all-weather pitch. Cllr White will speak to the volunteer willing to apply the anti-climb paint to see if it can be applied as soon as possible. **Action: Cllr White**

Cllr White has been approached by a company offering booking technology that could be used for pitch bookings. The Clerk was asked to make contact to find out more. Cllr Robertson mentioned she knows someone who offers this, and she will find out more details and report back to Cllrs. The Clerk will also investigate access technology for the all-weather pitch gate. **Action: Cllr Robertson / Clerk**

11. To report on any other Parish Council business

- To discuss the Hodding Wood valuation and agree next steps

Cllr Ulph is trying to speak with the valuer about the prices we have been quoted, but he hasn't been able to make contact yet. Cllr Gibbs will pull together income and expenditure information for running the allotments and report back at the November meeting. **Action: Cllr Ulph / Cllr Gibbs**

- To discuss the Parish Council's involvement in keeping the village hall open and operational and agree next steps

Cllr White advised that the PC would become corporate trustee of the hall and that a Cllr would need to be a trustee with the same rights as all other trustees. The PC helping to fund

the hall seems to be the only way of keeping the hall open. To do this, the PC would need to raise the precept and if Cllrs agree to this, the PC will need to organise a village referendum asking residents what they want to see happen with the hall and confirming the increase in precept per property.

Cllr Robertson questioned whether, when times are tight, is spending money to keep the hall open the best use of taxpayer money. She suggested that we provide residents with information on what the alternatives are, for example selling the hall and using the money to extend the pavilion.

Cllr Ulph suggested a residents meeting informing them of the situation, the alternatives and timescales. Following the meeting, a referendum could take place.

Cllr Burgess questioned who owns the hall and Cllr White stated he believes it would be up to the trustees to decide what to do with any money if it were to be sold.

It was agreed that a meeting to brainstorm ideas and take away any actions to work on would take place in November.

Cllr White advised that the trustees of the village hall have not started their discussions on what to do at this stage.

- To discuss the possibility of installing an additional defibrillator in the parish

Cllr Burgess advised she has been discussing an additional defibrillator with a resident who has agreed that if the PC pays a small amount of money, they will agree to provide the electricity supply and the defib could be installed inside the allotment gate. Hillesden Parish Council have a similar agreement in place in their parish. The Clerk advised this could become an issue if the resident was to ever move house. Solar powered defibs are now available and the Clerk was asked to investigate the costs for one along with a cabinet.

Action: Clerk

- To discuss the quote received from Elan City for a replacement MVAS machine

The purchase of a new MVAS from Elan City was put to a vote. 4 Cllrs voted in favour of purchasing / 2 Cllrs were against the proposal.

The Clerk was asked to place the order for £2589.99 + VAT and to confirm if there were any additional installation costs. **Action: Clerk**

- To discuss the Parish Council hosting surgeries

Cllr Robertson would like to host a monthly surgery based at the Crown Pub which Cllrs felt was a good idea. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that no decisions can be made at these surgeries and Cllrs need to ensure anything discussed is within the PC remit. Cllr Ulph advised he was happy to attend the first surgery if Cllr Robertson provides him with the date.

12. To receive reports from the village hall, solar farm and community group

Cllr Ulph confirmed there were no updates from the solar farm.

Village hall as discussed in agenda point 11.

Community group – the lighting of the Christmas tree takes place on 6th December. There will be carols on the green and a lantern procession.

13.Future meetings

13th November and 11th December (no meeting in August).

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution, and declared the meeting closed at 21.41.

Chair: Date:

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