

D R A F T
GREETHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Minutes of Meeting held on 8 April 2026 @ 7pm held at
Greetham Community Centre

Members Present: Mr Gavin Swain (GS) – Chair, Mr Adam Brierley-Lewis (AB-L), Mrs Barbara Clarke (BC), Mrs Jane Denyer (JD), Mr James Farrell (JF), Miss Lucy Hinch (LH), Ms Janem Shelton (JS), Mr Leroy Sheppard (LS)
Ward Councillor: Mr Nick Begy (NB)
Clerk: Mrs Theresa Stokes-Watson (TS-W)

9 members of the public attended

The Clerk advised that in accordance with The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, the meeting would be recorded and indicated that members of the public were welcome to do the same.

Ref	Item	Action
045/26	Welcome and Apologies	
	The Chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from LH who, due to train delays and cancellations, was unable to attend.	
046/26	Declarations of Unregistered Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Items on the Agenda	
	No declarations of interest were received.	
047/26	Questions/Comments from members of the public	
	Mrs Clarke (on behalf of LH) requested that the Brook be included in the May meeting of the Parish Council – AGREED.	Clerk
048/26	Approval of Minutes	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026 were approved and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by AB-L, Seconded by JS - Unanimous	
049/26	Matters arising	
	None.	
050/26	Co-option for Councillor Vacancy	
	Following the resignation of Mrs Ann Jenkins and the vacancy being advertised, the Parish Council had been invited to fill the vacancy by co-option as a request for an election had not been received from 10 electors. A resident, Mrs Barbara Clarke, had applied to join GPC and had been interviewed by the Chair (GS) and LS. Mrs Clarke fulfilled the criteria for co-option. Mrs Clarke, gave a summary of her background, what she could offer and reasons for wanting to join the Parish Council. She indicated that should she be co-opted, she would step-down from her Co-Chair role of Greetham Goes Wild (GGW) to avoid any conflict of interest between GGW and the Parish Council. She then left the meeting together with members of the public to allow councillors to discuss her application for co-option and to vote. During discussion, it was noted that should Mrs Clarke be co-opted, she could become GPC's link to the relevant Focus Group and that she be asked to concentrate her efforts in bringing GPC's and GGW's Biodiversity Action Plans closer together. Her co-option would not be used as leverage to secure additional funding for GGW and this had been acknowledged by Mrs Clarke during her interview with the Chair and LS.	

	<p>The Chair proposed that Mrs Barbara Clarke be co-opted to the Parish Council, seconded by LS and it was unanimously RESOLVED:- that Mrs Barbara Clarke be co-opted to GPC.</p> <p>The public were invited to re-join the meeting and the Chair confirmed that Mrs Clarke had been unanimously co-opted onto the GPC.</p> <p>BC officially joined the meeting and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor. The Register of Interests form will be completed and returned by BC to the Clerk within 28 days. BC was also provided with a copy of the Code of Conduct for her retention.</p> <p>Clerk to notify Elections at RCC and forward signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Councillor and Register of Interests form to update their records.</p>	Clerk
051/26	Finance	
051.1	<p>Monthly budget/finance report, and bank reconciliation The bank reconciliation and updated budget at 31 March 2026 was noted.</p> <p>The Chair checked and agreed the March finances and confirmed the bank reconciliation is correct. LS signed and checked the report for March 2026.</p>	
051.2	<p>Year End Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 Proposed by JD, seconded by JS and unanimously RESOLVED - that the accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2026 be approved.</p>	
051.3	<p>Repositioning and Re-Purpose of Finances for Training of Councillors and Procurement of IT for Clerk GS explained that the 2026/27 budget had been prepared and signed off before he became Chairman. It was evident that some allocations needed to be re-purposed, eg training for the new councillors had not been included in the 2026/27 budget. It was agreed to re-purpose £500 for councillor training from the Highways Safety Projects/Traffic Measures budget line (currently £6,000). This was originally allocated for the Auto Speed Watch project (£2.5K - £3K) which had not materialized to date, village gates, etc and it was felt that £500 could be re-allocated from here. The Chair also recalled that the Community Centre projects/support budget line had been changed to "Village Support" at a previous meeting.</p> <p>Proposed by GS, seconded by JF and unanimously RESOLVED – to amend "Community Centre Projects/Support" to read "Village Support".</p> <p>Proposed by JD, seconded by GS and unanimously RESOLVED – to re-purpose £500 from the Highways Safety Projects/Traffic Measures budget line to a new line for "Training".</p> <p>Procurement of IT – it was agreed that the Clerk seeks and presents quotes to the next meeting of the Parish Council for a replacement laptop and associated software as previously discussed.</p>	Clerk
051.4	<p>Approval of Invoices Invoices already paid Lloyds Bank Service Charge for March - £4.25</p>	Clerk

051.5	<p>Invoices to pay: Clerk Wages for April – to be confirmed, awaiting new Clerk’s wages to be processed. Will be presented to the May 2026 meeting of GPC for approval.</p> <p>Water Plus – Water for Burial Ground - £29.43 – APPROVED.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
051.6	<p>Approval of orders to be placed Clerk and Councillor Training Courses - £475.00 – APPROVED.</p> <p>Quote from Rutland Tree Care for removal of trees at Burial Ground - £1,176.00 inclusive VAT. It was agreed to DEFER this item to a future GPC meeting pending receipt of two additional quotations to be sought on the same basis, rationale and original instruction provided by the burial ground representative. If not forthcoming, then GPC will undertake researching further quotations.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk to liaise with GC</p>
051.7	<p>Income Received None. <i>(Subsequently noted that the 2026/27 precept £19,000 was received on 07.04.2026).</i></p>	
051.8	<p>Financial Procedures – Lloyds Bank Signatories Previous Clerk remains a signatory as new Clerk awaiting authorisation. Bank account address has been changed to new Clerk’s details.</p>	
052/26	Agenda Items	
052.1	<p>Petition from Bridge Lane Resident – speeding The petition was passed to County Cllr Christine Wise (Portfolio Holder for Highways) at the March meeting which she followed up by email with the Highways Team at Rutland County Council (RCC) highlighting all issues raised. However, the Portfolio had now transferred to County Cllr Oliver Hemsley owing to Cllr Wise’s recent appointment as Leader of RCC. Concern was expressed regarding the matter once again getting lost as a result of the Portfolio transfer however, NB assured that he was in contact with the new Portfolio holder. NB reiterated the importance of addressing speeding issues within the whole of Greetham, not Bridge Lane alone, particularly in light of new housing planning applications. NB undertook to follow up and report back on the following points:-</p> <p>20mph enforcement – can this be enforced in Greetham by the Police? Satellite speed survey - is Greetham included? Portal Highways Inspector – visit to Greetham</p> <p>The Chair reported that correspondence had been received (see Minute No: 055.26) from some residents requesting a change to the speed limit within Greetham, together with an informal vote. However, no discussion ensued due to not being a specific agenda item. Due time and consideration were needed on this matter, together with having regard for previous work undertaken by the Parish and County Councils and the Police.</p> <p>The Chair proposed, seconded by JD and it was unanimously RESOLVED – (1) to await a report back from NB at a future GPC meeting following his investigations outlined above and (2) to decide an action plan on how to address this complex and important subject, outlining the Parish Council’s viewpoint, for submission and consideration by RCC.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB/ Clerk</p>

052.2	<p>Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council</p> <p>(1) Annual Parish Meeting – 13 May 2026 at 6pm – 7pm, Greetham Community Centre – a meeting for all residents to receive various updates and information from a variety of suggested invitees as follows:- Police – PC Holly Bland, Rutland North Policing Team Greetham Goes Wild Greetham Community Centre Bowls Club Church Quarry Update Ideas for further groups to invite to be submitted to the Clerk by 17.04.2026.</p> <p>(2) Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 13 May 2026 at 7pm, Greetham Community Centre – a meeting to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the 2026/27 municipal year, approval of regulatory documents followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman indicated that in future years, the Annual Parish Meeting may be held on a different night to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in order to afford more time for updates and presentations to be provided to residents.</p>	<p>Clerk to invite</p> <p>All</p>
053/26	Planning	
053.1	<p>Planning Application 2026/0154/MAO</p> <p>Outline planning application for 50 No residential units and a single storey office building with all matters reserved except access. Greetham Quarry, Stretton Road, Greetham, Rutland, LE15 7NP</p> <p>Detailed discussion ensued and concerns raised included:- Increase in traffic movement, highway safety and speed; Local Service Centre – incorrect classification (must have dropped below threshold due to closure of shop and post office); Lack of medical facilities; Reduced bus services; Dust monitoring – two quarries in the North and East, Environmental Health should be involved, no strong evidence based information stating this is a safe environment, particularly in the bowl of the Quarry, need a 12 month assessment of dust; Sewage – excess running through village and the Brook; Biodiversity Infrastructure – not in place Management plans re: sewage, infrastructure, biodiversity, etc – not in place Neighbourhood plan – states smaller houses, allocation has been met Calcareous grassland – application states cannot meet the requirement Healthcare – catchment area already at capacity</p> <p>NB reiterated the importance of submitting material planning considerations if GPC was minded to reject the planning application.</p> <p>NB agreed to contact the Case Officer requesting a further extension to the comment deadline in view of the significance of this application to the Parish and the need for GPC to formulate an appropriate response.</p>	<p>NB</p>

	<p>A proposal to vote in favour of the application did not receive support.</p> <p>GS proposed, seconded by JD and unanimously RESOLVED – (1) that GPC does not support planning application 2026/0154/MAO; and (2) that Parish Councillors build an evidential/robust response focusing on material planning considerations and submit to the GPC email address by 12pm on 10.04.2026 for thereafter submission on RCC’s planning portal.</p>	All / Clerk
053.2	<p>Planning Application: 2026/0318/FUL Retrospective Detached Garage 10 Oakham Road, Greetham, Rutland, LE15 7NN</p> <p>Concern was expressed regarding what has been built to date as opposed to the detail on the plans. In addition, there appeared to be a dormer window in the roof which was contrary to the plans. The height of the roof was not included in the dimensions and therefore insufficient information had been provided in order to make an informed decision.</p> <p>After detailed consideration, members were minded to be in favour of the application, subject to further detail being provided regarding the roof height and clarification regarding any appendages being provided.</p> <p>RESOLVED – (1) that the Case Officer be requested to extend the deadline for submitting comments; and (2) that clarification on dimensions including the roof height and any appendages added to the building be provided to GPC for further consideration.</p> <p>The Chair noted that this was the second or third planning application GPC had recently received without sufficient information regarding dimensions/heights being included in order to make a proper decision. NB undertook to raise with RCC Planning.</p>	Clerk
053.3	<p>Decision Notices Application Number 2026/0149CAT T1 – Horse chestnut – crown raise to 5.2 meters, reduce crowns to previous points by no more that 4 metres. T2 – Horse chestnut – crown raise to 5.2 meters, reduce crowns to previous points by no more than 4 meters. T3 – Horse chestnut – crown raise to 5.2 meters. The Old School, 22 Main Street, Greetham, Rutland, LE15 7NL Noted – that RCC has decided not to exercise its powers to make a provisional Tree Preservation Order in this instance.</p>	NB
053.4	<p>Application 2025/1291/FUL Erection of new general purpose waste management and storage building GMB Waste Management Ltd, Wood Lane, Greetham, LE15 7SW Noted – RCC has granted planning permission subject to 2 conditions.</p>	
053.5	<p>Application 2025/1412/OUT Outline planning application for the formation of a new access of Greetham Inn Lane. Creation of showmans site including hard standing with all matters reserved apart from access Land adjacent to 5 Counties Park, Greetham Inn Lane, Greetham Noted - RCC has granted planning permission subject to 2 conditions.</p>	

054/26	Advisory Teams	
054.1	Environmental Planning Team Following the co-option of Mrs Barbara Clarke and as noted earlier at this meeting, discussions would be held regarding appointing a representative to the Environmental Planning Team.	Chair
054.2	Burial Ground Following discussion at Minute No: 051.6, additional quotes were awaited for the removal of trees at the Burial Ground. Further updates to follow.	Clerk
054.3	Streets and Services (1) Update on Highways Officer's site visit to Bridge Lane junction – already discussed at Minute No: 052.1 (2) LS reported that the 20mph speed limit sign from Cottesmore into Greetham was almost covered with vegetation – he undertook to report on Fix My Street. (3) BC indicated that she would report the removal of 3 remaining trees on the Village Green on Fix My Street. (4) Nominated guardian to take over the two defibrillators – correspondence from The Circuit regarding ongoing monitoring and maintenance was noted. GS reported he had taken over their guardianship and had undertaken their maintenance over the last two months. The database has been updated accordingly and GS was examining supplies and consumables and the life of the two different defibrillators. LS volunteered to act as Deputy in GS's absence.	LS BC GS / LS
054.4	Significant Planning Application Team Noted – awaiting updates/responses from RCC on previous planning applications commented on by GPC when further information was requested.	
054.5	Community Centre Noted – meeting to be held 09.04.2026, 6.30pm, Greetham Community Centre. JF to attend and provide an update to the May GPC meeting. Repairs/replacement roof - complete.	JF / Clerk
055/26	Correspondence and Communication	
	Noted:- i) Email from RCC Communications regarding resignation of Leader of RCC and new Leader being appointed, ie: Cllr Christine Wise. ii) Email from Alicia Kearns MP – refresh of Rutland's Local Transport Plan. No letters of complaint received regarding transport issues. iii) Receipt/Letter of thanks from Citizens Advice Rutland for GPC's donation of £150. iv) Email from NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland regarding new minor illness and injury service for Rutland launched on 1 April 2026. v) Request for GPC to hold a public briefing regarding "The People's Emergency Briefing" – film to cover all aspects of the interconnected climate and nature crisis. GS indicated he had contacted the MP and RCC. The MP's response indicated she was not aware of any plans by RCC to hold a local screening and as the screenings began from 07.04.2026, these would fall within parliamentary recess with a full programme of local meetings and	

	<p>visits, so she was not able to attend or host a screening at this stage. The Chair encouraged all to watch the online video which contained background information about the screenings and were aimed at a higher level, with significant work, etc. Members decided it was a topic that could wait to see what transpired from RCC and await further information and investigation.</p> <p>vi) Letter from Greetham Goes Wild on proposed location of beehives in Greetham. Concern was expressed regarding the proposal to site bee hives within a burial ground as this could impose on individuals' grieving and pose a risk regarding bee stings, allergies, etc. However, it was noted this presented a great opportunity to have bees within the village and therefore, the right site within Greetham needed to be found.</p> <p>RESOLVED – that GPC supports having bee hives within the village however further investigations be conducted regarding establishing suitable sites. BC to liaise with parish councillors regarding timescales, access, suitable sites, etc and bring back to a future GPC meeting for consideration – unanimous.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>BC / All</p>
056/26	Reports from Outside Bodies	
	None.	
057/26	Items for next Agenda	
	<p>To include:-</p> <p>(1) Letters regarding speeding</p> <p>(2) Greetham Goes Wild – Brook update</p> <p>(3) Community Centre – Update from JF</p> <p>RESOLVED – deadline for receipt of future agenda items be received by the Clerk no later than seven days prior to meetings of the Parish Council to ensure they meet Agenda dispatch/publication deadlines - unanimous</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All</p>
058/26	Next Meeting	
	<p>Annual Parish Meeting – 13 May 2026, 6pm, Greetham Community Centre</p> <p>Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 13 May 2026, 7pm, Greetham Community Centre</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.48pm.