

Barham and Woolley Parish Council

Approved and signed Minutes from the definitive legal record of council business. In the interest of early publication for residents, the notice board carries text of draft minutes awaiting approval. Draft minutes may sometimes be amended at the next council meeting before being signed. If amendments are made, this will be noted in the draft minutes of the next meeting.

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 14th October 2025

Councillors present:

Mr P Harrison

Mr T Massey

Mr N Grundy

Mrs c Grove-Price

Ms J Webb

Councillor Ian Gardiner County & District Council

4 members of the public

1. Chairman, Mr P Harrison opened the meeting at 19.48
2. No apologies
3. The minuted matters from the last Extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 4th September 2025 were read out. Ms Webb proposed and Mr Massey seconded that these were a true account of the meeting. Mr Harrison and the Clerk signed them.
4. No declarations of pecuniary interests were received.
5. Mr Massey, as RFO, reported that he had received an unexpected invoice for £539 from the County Council for the LHI scheme contribution. Councillor Gardiner explained that there should be a 10% cost to each Parish Council that had benefited from the scheme. This cost was towards the legal documentation for highways, scheme design, administration etc. He will ask for

clarification from the County Council as this amount seems excessive for what we have received in return.

Mr Massey confirmed there is approx. £3000 in the bank and this is where we were financially last March. He reiterated that the IT equipment is now getting old which he spoke about at the March meeting. A resolution was passed in March that he be authorized to replace the 2 x laptops and the printer if necessary, and he asked that this resolution be extended to 2026. Mr Grundy proposed agreement and Mrs Grove-Price seconded, and it was agreed that the equipment would be replaced in the next 12 months .

Mr Massey also asked that the Precept be agreed as he would very soon receive the request from HDC as to how much the precept would be. He has managed to reduce the cost of the Insurance by £100, but with inflation at 3.8% and we have the defibrillator, phone box and 3 MSV signs to maintain, he suggested the precept go up by £50 to £100. Mr Grundy proposed a 5% increase, seconded by Mrs Grove-Price.

6. No correspondence of interest.

7. Councillor Ian Gardiner started by speaking about the upcoming local govt reorganization. This includes Peterborough, Fenland, Huntingdon, Cambs East, Cambs South, Cambridge City.

There would be approx. 450000 residents per unitary council.

There are a few options, but the County Council would like to see Huntingdon with Fenland & Peterborough. Councillor Gardiner is against this option and would like to see Huntingdon on its own. He will vote next week for this option at County Council, and in November at District Council. His thoughts are that Huntingdon would subsidise the other 2 districts financially and therefore it would be better staying separate.

He then went on to say that the District Council & Parish council elections are still due to go ahead in May 2026, then in 2027 there would be election for the new unitary authority. He also explained that this is all in the very early stages, but Parish Councils would stay the same.

Highways : There is a new highways maintenance officer, Richard Kingston, and Councillor Gardiner has already spoken to him about the Barham flooding issues and the pumping out of the drains. This

will be done before the end of November, beginning of December and we are to contact him if this has not been carried out in this time scale.

There is a new online reporting system for potholes, vegetation overhanging, road collapse, signs missing etc, on the County Council website. The new system allows an individual to report a problem and then keep track of how it is being dealt with by way of a colour coded state of play, and the option to comment once a job has been completed as to whether a satisfactory job has been done or if further work is required. But anything already reported on the old system now needs re reporting on the new system as it has only been up and running for 3 weeks and the jobs haven't been carried over. Councillor Gardiner will bring Richard Kingston to Barham & Woolley villages in November and show him the many issues with all the roads in all directions within the Parish boundaries. Clerk will liaise regarding the date of the visit and will publish this on the whatsapp group but in the meantime as many defects as possible need reporting on the new website.

Mr Grundy questioned where, as stated in local news, the supposedly £50,000 had been spent on the road between Barham & Buckworth, and whether this report was in fact true.

Councillor Gardiner felt that the incorrect location may have been published. He confirmed that Beltons Hill is now on the latest list for improvements as the road is now subsiding.

8. Brampton Cross: Councillor Gardiner has a meeting this Thursday, 16th October, at Alconbury Memorial hall , with the developers regarding thoughts, mitigation etc.

He has already met with CCC highways who have told him that from the information they have received to date, the highway network around the site would not cope with the extra volume of traffic. They would want to see an entrance that had a one way in, one way out system in place. They are also concerned that no new junctions can be built on either the A1 or A14 as they would be too close to existing ones. They think that making the existing Ellington junction/roundabout bigger may be a solution.

There are also concerns about Spaldwick, Barham, Ellington and Alconbury being a rat run which would be exasperated by the proposed Brook Farm/Spittals development if that got the go ahead. There is a cabinet meeting on 21st October to discuss the Local Plan preferred options. The area that is preferred is called the North Hunts development corridor which starts at Brampton Cross, takes in Brook Farm (Hinchingsbrooke), A141 bypass area up to RAF Wyton, which the Government are very keen to see develop. This whole area would mean the A1/A14 traffic would increase hugely.

Councillor Gardiner expressed that at the meeting on Thursday he would be prioritizing how they propose to get the traffic moving in the area.

HDC view is that they are in favour of all these developments as the income from business rates would be high. Because of this they may try and speed up the planning process. A Local Development Order could be put in place which would only give each Parish 6 weeks to comment, After this it would go to HDC cabinet and as most on this cabinet are in favour it would likely be passed. Councillor Gardiner had not been told about this until very recently, and he feels that HDC has no thought for rural areas. He also felt that if Brampton Cross could not be stopped then there needed to be as much mitigation as possible with residents locally.

He finished by saying that he felt roads would be the biggest issue for the development, and if HDC did go to Cabinet to make the decision he would attend that meeting.

He then told the meeting about Huntingdonshire now being a Civil parking area and that tickets would be issued for double line, disabled bay etc parking in both towns and villages.

He discussed the 7L food caddy and 23L grey bins for food waste from April 2026, which will be collected free from every household. CCTV in taxis/private hire vehicles is also being discussed, but there would be a cost to the licenece holder and maybe an invasion of privacy issue.

At this point the meeting was closed, 20.38 and re opened at 20.47 after members of the public had been given the opportunity to ask Councillor Gardiner any questions.

9. No other matters for discussion.

10. Next meeting Tuesday 10th February 2026 19.45 .
Meeting closed 20.49