

Great Staughton Parish Council
Meeting Minutes
7.30pm on Thursday, 19 March 2026
Village Hall Committee Room

Present: Nicole Yates (NY), David Moore (DM), Helen Glanville (HG), Bob Jewell (BJ), James Duberly (JD), Will Mumford (WM), Giles Brittain (GB)
Ian Gardener (IG) – CCC, Stephen Cawley (SC) - HDC
Jo Russel - Clerk

1. Apologies for absence- Helen Hopperton

- 2. Residents' Forum** - to allow up to ten minutes (2 minutes per person) for any members of the public and any Councillors declaring the existence and nature of a prejudicial interest, to address the meeting in relation to the business on this agenda only
James Duberly informed the parish council that HDC were insisting on him undertaking a Viability Study which would cost £20,000. He is close to submitting a full planning application.

3. Declarations of Interest

JD – Brook Farm

BJ – application 12 The Highway, Reference: 25/02402/LBC

4. Reports from District and County Councillors

See attached reports.

5. Approve minutes of 8 January 2026 - approved and signed.

- 6. Local Government Reorganisation Statutory Consultation** – the PC agreed that they would submit a response. NY will respond on behalf of the PC and propose Option E.

7. Matters Arising:

- **Wheelchair accessibility in the village** – IG reported that there is no provision in the current Highway's budget for resurfacing footpaths in Great Staughton. An LHI Bid as IG suggested is not viable due to the costs involved. Dropped kerbs and tactiles cost £7.5 to £13k and that does not include drainage, parking restrictions and it would be classed as a complex bid. It is also possible that the LHI scheme will be suspended after the current round due to Local Government Reorganisation. NY will report back to the resident.
- **20mph scheme** – no update but this will remain on the agenda.
- **Approve IT policy – Assertion 10** – policy was formally adopted by the PC subject to one minor amendment.

8. Attendance at other meetings

DM attended meeting on 16 January with MP. Many issues were discussed including flooding and planning. There were also issues surrounding the District and County councils working together.

9. Highways

- **LHi Bid 24/25** – IG will chase this up.
- **LHi Bid 25/26** – the new MVAS sign has been collected and installed.
- **LHI 26/27** - BJ has submitted an application.

NY

- **Blocked Highway in Perry** - WM and IG will deal with this issue. WM will send IG a map of the area.
- **Drainage issue - The Town** - a meeting is taking place on 23 March with CCC and the resident and then IG will report back to the PC.

10. Planning:

- Partial demolition of No. 19, demolition of existing rear garage and erection of a two-storey rear extension to Nos. 19 to 23 (Part Retrospective).
Site Address: 19 And 21 And 23 The Green Great Staughton
Reference: 25/02456/FUL
No comments/objections
- Installation of an external air source heat pump (in the exact same location as the existing oil boiler to the rear of the house), compatible radiators and internal works
Site Address: 12 The Highway Great Staughton St Neots
Reference: 25/02401/HHFUL
No comments/objections
- Installation of an external air source heat pump (in the exact same location as the existing oil boiler to the rear of the house), compatible radiators and internal works
Site Address: 12 The Highway Great Staughton St Neots
Reference: 25/02402/LBC
No comments/objections.
- Proposal: Permission in Principle application for up to 9 residential dwellings
Site Address: Land Between Jewell Close And 41 The Green Great Staughton
Reference: 26/00432/PIP
It was agreed that the PC would respond as follows: the PC welcomes consideration of a full planning application as it is consistent with the terms of the Neighborhood Plan as to any future development.
- Proposal: Proposed two storey extension and detached annexe to the rear
Site Address: 23 Vicarage Walk Great Staughton St Neots
Reference: 26/00383/HHFUL
BJ proposed that the PC recommend refusal due to the annex potentially leading to Highways issues and possible non residential use such as an Air BnB. NY will draft the response and send to the clerk for forwarding to HDC.
- Proposal: Refurbishment of an existing outbuilding and garage to enable occupation as an annexe
Site Address: Rectory Farm The Town Great Staughton
Reference: 26/00312/LBC
No comments/objections.
- Proposal: Refurbishment of an existing outbuilding and garage to enable occupation as an annexe
Site Address: Rectory Farm The Town Great Staughton
Reference: 26/00311/HHFUL
No comments/objections/

11. **Cashbook** – receipts and payments reviewed and approved. The PC also approved expenditure for the Balfour Beatty streetlight maintenance contract. Funds had been allocated in the Budget 26/27 of £600.

09.01.26	LCS Energy	BACS	460.20
09.01.26	Parish Online	BACS	300.00
21.01.26	Online Designs	BACS	23.00
02.02.26	J Russel	BACS	569.96

NY

02.02.26	Arthur Ibbett	BACS	217.39
19.02.26	Online Designs	BACS	23.00
26.02.26	J Russel	BACS	569.76

12. Correspondence

Letter received from HDC confirming that the Precept for 26/27 had increased 1.9% from the previous financial year.

13. Brook Farm – see above.

13. Reports from:

- Village Hall committee – HG reported that they were very busy with bookings. The electricity bills are very high and the meter will need fixing.
- Playing Field committee - the air source heat pump is having issues and the heating is not working. The engineer is struggling to actually work out what the problem is..
- Speed watch - no report

14 Parish Matters

- **Parish Council Election – 7 May 2026** – councillors were asked to complete their nomination forms and BJ agreed to deliver them to HDC offices if Councillors got their completed forms to him before the deadline.
- **Litter pick will take place on Saturday 21 March at 9am.**

14. East Park Energy Solar Farm

JD reported that he attended one of the Planning Inspectorate meetings on Traffic and Construction Access.

15. Proposed Meeting dates for 2026

23 April- Parish Assembly
14 May - AGM
2 July
10 September
12 November

Meeting close 9.12pm.

Great Staughton Annual Parish Meeting – District Council Annual Report

Stephen Cawley – District Councillor

Introduction

Good evening. I'm Stephen Cawley, District Councillor for the past four years, and this report summarises the main district-level developments affecting Great Staughton and neighbouring villages.

This report summarises some of the key developments at district and regional level over the past year that may affect residents of Great Staughton and the surrounding villages.

Local Government Reorganisation

One of the most significant issues currently affecting local government is the Government's programme of local government reorganisation. The aim is to simplify the current two-tier system of district and county councils into new **unitary authorities**, where a single council provides all local government services.

Huntingdonshire District Council supports **Option E**, creating:

- a standalone Huntingdonshire unitary
- a Peterborough–Fenland–East Cambs unitary
- a Cambridge City–South Cambs unitary

I too support Option E

Indicative timetable: consultation (Jan–Mar 2026), district elections (May 2026), Government decision (July 2026), shadow authority elections (May 2027), and new authorities operational from April 2028.

District Council Budget and Council Tax

The Liberal Democrat–led Joint Administration approved the 2025/26 budget, including the maximum permitted council tax rise of **£5 for Band D** for the fourth consecutive year. HDC's share remains a small portion of the total bill but funds services such as waste, planning, leisure and environmental services. Despite national financial pressures, HDC currently holds a strong financial position.

Corporate Priorities and Transformation

The council continues its programme to modernise services by:

- expanding digital access
- streamlining internal processes
- prioritising frontline services
- strengthening financial resilience

Scrutiny panels have reviewed performance, treasury management and service delivery throughout the year.

Local Plan and Development

Work on the **Local Plan to 2046** continues, with Preferred Options consultation held in late 2025. Increased national housing targets have placed pressure on the five-year land supply, at times triggering the “tilted balance” in favour of sustainable development.

The **East Park solar and battery project** continues through the national planning process; HDC supported the proposal with noted reservations.

As your local Councillor, I registered my objection to the scheme.

Waste and Recycling Services

Garden Waste

The subscription service continues for 2025–26 at **£57.50 per bin**.

Weekly Food Waste Collections

From April 2026, weekly food waste collections began, with each household receiving a kitchen caddy and external bin. All food waste types will be accepted.

Environmental Initiatives

The council has promoted subsidised composters, community garden waste bins and free compost deliveries to suitable parish sites.

Environmental and Climate Initiatives

The **Net Zero Villages Grant Scheme** offers £5,000–£50,000 for rural carbon-reduction projects. The annual climate conference brought together residents and experts, and new planning guidance is being developed to support sustainable design in the emerging Local Plan.

Public Realm and Community Improvements

The **Street Pride Team**, launched in April 2025, works across towns and villages to improve public spaces.

Civil Parking Enforcement transferred from the police to HDC in 2025; full enforcement has now begun, with generally positive resident feedback.

Health, Leisure and Community Wellbeing

Plans continue for a new **Huntingdon Sport and Health Hub**, part of wider efforts to promote healthier lifestyles and community wellbeing.

Community Funding Opportunities

The **Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme** supports cultural and community projects, while **CIL funding rounds** continue to help deliver local infrastructure improvements.

Conclusion

Finally, I would like to say what an honour it has been to serve as your local representative over the past four years. It has been a privilege to work with parish councils, community

groups and residents across the ward, and to support the many volunteers who contribute so much to village life.

I am pleased to say that I have recently been **reselected as the Conservative candidate for the May 2026 District Council elections**, and I very much hope to have the opportunity to continue representing and supporting our communities in the years ahead.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to present this report, and I look forward to continuing to work with the Parish Council and residents of Great Staughton.