



GUNTHORPE with BALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2026, 7pm at Bale Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Julie Fisher, Julie Frost and Roy Marsden, Parish Clerk: Kerry Harris, 0 members of the public.

26/01 Election of Chair for the meeting

Cllr Marsden was voted as Chair for the meeting on a Proposal by Cllr Fisher and Seconded by Cllr Frost

26/02 Welcome and to consider apologies and reasons for absence

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were accepted by all for Cllrs Sam Papworth, Tracy Blackiston, Richard Broughton and Alastair Macorkindale. NNDC Cllr Butikofer has also sent apologies.

26/03 To receive declarations of Interest and request for dispensation in any of the agenda items

There were none.

26/04 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2025

The minutes were agreed by all to be a true record of the meeting on a Proposal by Cllr Fisher and Seconded by Cllr Frost. They were signed by the Chair.

26/05 Matters arising on the Minutes (for information only), not included on the agenda

The Clerk informed the meeting that the £6,443.88 VAT erroneously paid into the PC bank account had now been repaid to HMRC. HMRC thanked the PC for their prompt action.

26/06 Open forum for Public Participation

- (i) No report has been received from NCC Cllr Aquarone.

NNDC Cllr Butikofer had sent a written report:

Additional areas have been added to Public Space Protection Orders (Dogs); car parking fees will increase from 1st April in line with CPI inflation of 3.8%, apart from 'Standard Towns' where there will be no increase; £250k has been added to the Capital Works programme for Cromer Pier to complete high priority works; Devolution & Local Government Reorganisation – a decision is expected from the Government in March; funding eligibility for Warm Homes; Water Fountain funding.

- (ii) An opportunity for members of the public to raise questions or concerns

There were no members of the public present.

26/07 Financial and Governance Matters

- (i) To Approve the Cashbook and Payments list

The balance in the Community Account is £1,619.29. The Business Account total is £3,330.62, making a total of £4,949.91.

Receipts since the last meeting £9.69 Interest in the Business Account.

Payments to be Approved since the last meeting: £47.00 – ICO Annual Registration, £36.95 – Clerk's expenses September - March



These were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Frost and Seconded by Cllr Fisher.

- (ii) To receive an update on the 2026 – 27 Tax base.

The tax base has now been finalised and has increased from 172.0 for 2025-26 to 177.3 for 2026-27. This makes the annual Band D charge for 2026 – 27 of £30.46, which is an increase of £3.72 which equates to 13.9%.

- (iii) To review and Approve the following policies: Risk management, Information Audit, Privacy Statement, Data Protection for Councillors, Grants

The policies were discussed. There were no questions and they were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Fisher and Seconded by Cllr Frost.

- (iv) To Approve a contribution towards Training costs for the Clerk to attend the following courses: £11.00 (Internal Audit course) & £11.20 (NPTS Spring Seminar) plus 20% contribution towards mileage for each course – held in venues in Costessy.- Gunthorpe with Bale PC to pay the total cost for the Spring Seminar (£56 + VAT) & 20% to be reimbursed by each of the other Parish Councils the Clerk works for

The training costs were Approved by All on a Proposal by Cllr Marsden and Seconded by Cllr Frost.

26/08 To receive an Update and Approve any Action on the next stage towards the Update of the Parish Plan

Cllrs have received the draft copy of the survey from Cllr Macorkindale. They have questions that they would like to be resolved before the questionnaire is issued to residents. Approval for the questionnaire is deferred to the next meeting.

Cllr Marsden reported the painting of a swastika and writing of an abusive word on the bridle path - this has been referred to the police who are investigating.

Cllrs discussed matters in Gunthorpe relating to the Village Institute, the Church and preventing further encroachment onto the Village Green which are pertinent to the questionnaire.

26/09 To receive an update on actions required to comply with the new Governance requirements for Parish Councils

The website has been updated, the PC has owns its domain name and has a .gov.uk email address.

26/10 To receive an Update on the Bale Village Hall website

There was no update available.

26/11 To receive an update on the Bale Defibrillator and Approve any Action.

There was no update available.

26/12 Planning matters

- (i) To Note Planning applications since the previous PC meeting

PF/25/2204 – The Lodge, Field Dalling Rd, Bale – Replacement of timber windows with UPVC Sash windows: Approved

- (ii) PV/25/2574 - Barn land off Clip Street, Bale – change of use of agricultural building to 2 dwelling houses: prior approval given

- (iii) Planning applications since the close of the agenda



There were none.

26/13 To Approve any action on Highways matters

It was noted that gritting stops at the Green in Gunthorpe and there is no gritting from the village to the B1354. The Clerk will send a copy of the local area gritting map to Cllrs and gritting will be added to the May agenda.

(i) To receive an update on the Community Speedwatch in Bale
There was no update available.

(ii) To receive an update on the SAM2 and Approve any action,
It was noted that the hedgecutter had knocked the SAM2 in the autumn in Bale. Noticeable damage has been sustained to the machine display, but it is still functioning. This will be added to the agenda for the May meeting.

26/14 To note the correspondence since the last meeting

Fakenham neighbourhood police meetings NNDC notification of adoption of Local Plan
NNDC draft response to MHCLG consultation NPTS Updates
NNDC response to national Gov't Devolution consultation

26/15 Any other business – for information only

Cllr Fisher said that this would be her last meeting as she is now resigning as a Parish Councillor. All thanked her for her service. She was asked to consider attending the May meeting as 4 Cllrs were unable to attend this meeting.

The Oak Tree in Gunthorpe has had some of the bottom branches removed by an arboriculturist (at no cost to the Council) who has assessed the balance and health of the tree.

26/16 To note date of next meetings: 21st May Annual Parish Meeting followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting in Gunthorpe – this date may need to be changed to ensure maximum presence for Cllrs

26/17 To Close the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date