

# Babraham Parish Council: Minutes of Meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Stuart Laurie: Chair

Denise Dear: Vice Chair

Rob Attwood

Tim Jones

Kelly Hathaway

Cllr Peter Fane

Cllr Peter McDonald

Chris Chapman BRC

Anne Charteris: Clerk

Members of the Public: 0

	<p><b>Part I: Non-Confidential Information</b></p>
<b>2604/01</b>	<p><b>To receive and approve apologies for absence</b> None received</p>
<b>2604/02</b>	<p><b>To receive members' declaration of interest for items on this agenda</b> None received</p>
<b>2604/03</b>	<p><b>To sign and approve minutes of meeting dated 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b> Approved and signed</p>
<b>2604/04</b>	<p><b>Exclusion of the public</b> To determine which items, if any, from Part 1 of the Agenda should be taken with the public excluded</p>
<b>2604/05</b>	<p><b>Report from South Cambridgeshire District Councillor P McDonald</b> This can be found in full on the BPC website but points covered:</p> <p><b><u>Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) Scheme</u></b> SCDC has committed another £152,000 to the popular ZCC grant scheme. The amount that applicants can apply for has risen from £15,000 per project to £19,500. The application window will open on Monday 25 May and close on Friday 24 July 2026. Those interested in applying for a Zero Carbon Communities grant can join a workshop to find out more. Two sessions are to be held on Wednesday 20 May - one running from 12:30pm to 1:30pm and a second one from 6pm to 7pm. Potential applicants are encouraged to <a href="#">register for either</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Food Collections</u></b> We are now well into the roll out of the programme. A reminder that the dates are now included in the overall bin schedule and a reminder of what can and can't be put in these.</p> <p><b><u>Cancellation of non-responding postal votes</u></b> SCDC officers and councillors have, for several months, been campaigning to warn residents of the expiry of postal votes, which is a legal requirement and happens every three years. The deadline to apply for an extension has now passed and the postal votes of 4,266 residents have had to be cancelled (of the original 15,392 that required renewal). If you have any questions, please email <a href="mailto:elections@scamb.gov.uk">elections@scamb.gov.uk</a>.</p> <p><b><u>New Local Markets Study</u></b> New independent research has highlighted the vital role markets play in community life and details steps to help them thrive in Greater Cambridge.</p>

	<p>The assessment highlights the vital contribution of the three Cambridge and 17 South Cambridgeshire markets and sets a roadmap for their future growth and sustainability. The report reflects extensive engagement with traders, residents, market shoppers, community organisations and local businesses, and demonstrates that traditional markets across the region not only support employment and apprenticeship opportunities, but also enrich local character, strengthen community interaction, and give people access to diverse products - including produce that might otherwise be unavailable locally.</p>
<p><b>2604/06</b></p>	<p><b>Report from Cambridgeshire County Councillors</b>  This can be found in full on the BPC website but points covered:  <b>FULL COUNCIL</b></p> <p>The Full Council resolved to oppose any proposals to merge our local police force into a regional or national entity, and called on the Government to prioritise increased funding for community policing teams, national standards for vetting and technology upgrades to improve efficiency, and enhanced rural crime support and local police desks in community hubs.</p> <p>The Full Council also resolved to explore ways to provide targeted holiday support including funding an ongoing holiday voucher scheme subject to the Government’s funding rules, and using a proportion of the council’s Crisis &amp; Resilience Fund to do this where it meets Government eligibility criteria. The council also agreed to ask the Government to provide sufficient funding for councils to continue supporting families during school holidays.</p> <p>Local Government reorganisation  Development Corporation  East West Rail consultation  Pothole management  EV charger pavement channels  Two new special schools for Cambridgeshire  Help with oil heating costs  From the Ground Up – Parish level nature recovery projects  Children’s autism health services  Primary care in Cambridgeshire  Water resources plan  Youth employment strategy  Local visitor economy partnership</p>
<p><b>2604/07</b></p>	<p><b>Report from Babraham Research Campus (BRC) representative</b>  Outline planning application for the Close development - hopes that it will be heard in July.</p> <p>The arable land south of the river now has a new tenant farmer.  Mat from the BRC has agreed that he will help with the work to improve the grass verge and planting when required.  Cambridge Trout Club have permission to fish, although those with a rod license can fish, it is preferred that they belong to the CTC.</p>
<p><b>2604/08</b></p>	<p><b>Public participation time – 15 minutes allowed</b></p>
<p><b>2604/09</b></p>	<p><b>Close Pass Campaign : Would BPC like to sign up for this?</b>  The campaign will be to raise awareness of Highway Code Rule 163, which states that drivers should leave at least 1.5 metres when overtaking cyclists at speeds of up to</p>

	<p>30mph. This includes bus advertising, fleet branding, VMS signage, a promotional video, social media activity, temporary road signs, PR and a website media toolkit. If you have any location suggestions for temporary road signage, I'd be grateful to receive them. These would ideally be in locations with a 30mph speed limit, high cycle usage and a higher risk of close passes.</p> <p>It will also promote the broader 2022 Highway Code changes relating to safe overtaking of pedestrians, motorcyclists, horses and horse-drawn carriages</p> <p>A vote was taken and it was agreed to not take up this policy as the roads through Babraham were not wide enough for this to be practical.</p>
<b>2604/10</b>	<p><b>CSET- update</b></p> <p>Nothing to report. Kelly Hathaway has taken up the role of reporting for this.</p>
<b>2604/11</b>	<p><b>Village Hall – update</b></p> <p>The easement on the Covenant has now been agreed and is in place which means that the build can start 27<sup>th</sup> April. The first £100,000 has been agreed to initiate the build. SL to look into whether we need to get advice re the running of the new village Hall, ownership, bookings, VAT etc.</p>
<b>2604/12</b>	<p><b>Forest Garden Project update</b></p> <p>An update was sent re buying of new plants which will be planted soon, these include Elephant Garlic ,Good King Henry, Bronze fennel, Lemon Balm, Horseradish, Garlic chives and Russian comfrey.</p> <p>The Parish Council was gifted a Wild Cherry tree to commemorate the support provided by Parishioners during the COVID pandemic. The cherry was planted in March in the Forest Garden and a plaque provided alongside.</p> <p><b>Forest Garden Signage</b></p> <p>We have received quotes for the purchase and design of a sign to explain the Forest Garden. The Forest Garden Steering Committee will be reviewing these and then adapting the poster designs to the chosen style. This may have to be after a new sum of money received from a grant.</p>
<b>2604/13</b>	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan- update</b></p> <p>A letter of agreement to be sent to Hannah Thomas and Matthew Punshon.</p>
<b>2604/14</b>	<p><b>Updates from last meeting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grange Farm development. This has been included in the Local Plan so likely to go ahead, if so then it seems likely that the CSET busway will also go ahead.</li> <li>• EV charging points. Need approval from Highways to use the streetlight posts to run a charger from. A trial is going ahead re outing in channels for people who don't have a drive so that cables can be run across the pavements in a channel. Need to assess if there is a call for this from people in the village, TJ to look into this.</li> </ul>
<b>2604/15</b>	<p><b>General Village Matters and new items for discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare for the Annual Parish Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. it was agreed to buy refreshments for the meeting at a cost up to £50</li> <li>• Arrange a date for a village breakfast/barbeque at the Church. DD to liaise with the Vicar for a suitable date in June, BPC the contribute to costs for buying the food.</li> <li>• Bus shelter: Quotes had been received to repaint the bus shelter inside and out, following a vote, it was agreed to go with the quote from GA landscapes</li> </ul>

<b>FINANCE</b>																							
<b>2604/16</b>	<b>Receipts and Transfers (as of 5th April 2026))</b> <b>Interest £2425.17</b>																						
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	<b>A full list of payments was circulated and approved at the meeting</b>																						
<b>2604/18</b>	<b>Balances and Bank Reconciliation at 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b>																						
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	<b>PLANNING</b>																						
<b>2604/19</b>	<b>Planning Applications: none</b>																						
<b>2604/20</b>	<b>Planning decisions: none</b>																						
<b>2604/21</b>	<b>Correspondence.</b>																						
<b>2604/22</b>	<b>Items for inclusion in the next meeting</b> TJ not able to attend the next meeting																						
<b>2604/23</b>	<b>Date of next meetings :</b> Thursday May 14 <sup>th</sup> 6.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm																						
	<b>Part II: Confidential Information</b>																						
<b>2604/24</b>	<b>Exclusion of the Press and the Public:</b> To resolve that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.																						

	<p>Signature: <i>Anne Charteris</i>      <b>15<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> 10 Duxford Road, Hinxton, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1RB 01799 531827 or Mobile 07890512309</p>
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