

GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs: K Lock (Chairman), N Buckland, Michael Chapman (MAC), Marian Chapman (MEC), T Frost, C Greenwood, P Greenwood and R Newman.

In attendance: 5 members of the public, District Cllr H Williams and Mr Ben Stoehr (Clerk).

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1.1 To receive written apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Davis-Roach (unwell).

1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda
None.

1.3 To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) and to grant any requests as appropriate
None.

2. To approve the minutes of the January and February meetings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 19 January be approved and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under item 3.5, line 4, after “allocated to Guilden Morden,” to add the wording “The Parish Council is to make a contribution of 10%”. (Prop MAC, 2nd NB, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 16 February be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop NB, 2nd MAC, unanimous)

3. To consider applications for co-option to fill casual vacancies

The Chairman asked the two prospective candidates to introduce themselves.

Camilla Greenwood and Philip Greenwood spoke to their applications.

RESOLVED that Camilla Greenwood be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council. (Prop MAC, 2nd NB, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Philip Greenwood be co-opted as a member of the Parish Council. (Prop MEC, 2nd TF, unanimous)

Cllr Camilla Greenwood and Cllr Philip Greenwood signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office before taking their seats.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take items 7.2.2 and 7.2.1 next.

7.1 Requests to use the Recreation Ground

7.1.2 Cam Valley Cricket Club – request to share use Recreation Ground for the coming season

Mr P Furmston expressed concerns that the pitch would not be ready for use for cricket at the start of the season.

A discussion took place about the lack of contact from Cambourne Knights Cricket Club with either the Parish Council or Guilden Morden Cricket Club. Another request had been received from Cam Valley Cricket Club to use the pitch.

The Village Hall had reported that the Cambourne Knights Cricket Club had used the Village Hall as their mailing address and mail had been received. There had been no contact about the use of Cricket Club equipment until the Club members arrived last week.

RESOLVED to let Cam Valley Cricket Club know that the pitch was unplayable and no other team was currently playing.

RESOLVED having considered the condition of the pitch and a verbal report from GM Cricket Club to inform Cambourne Knights Cricket Club that the pitch was unplayable for this season.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is minded to refurbish the pitch if Cambourne Knights Cricket Club or Cam Valley Cricket Club are willing to contribute 50% each of the costs of contracting a professional company to carry out the remediation of the pitch. ^(Prop MAC, 2nd TF, unanimous)

7.1.1 To consider request for the playing of touch rugby

RESOLVED to note that the Royston Rugby Club youth team currently play on Royston Heath but were under pressure to move. They had used the Recreation Ground after the Walking Football Club, using the lights. They had thanked the Parish Council for the use of the Recreation Ground over the winter.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council allows the use of the Recreation Ground and set up a working group to discuss a solution between the clubs.

RESOLVED that NB, MAC and PG should be on the working group, which will meet at 11am on 18 April. ^(Prop NB, 2nd MAC)

Comments and observations from members of the public and from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Williams reported on:

- The Local Government Reorganisation consultation was now live.
- The Local Development Corporation consultation. If it proceeds it will take planning control over developments over 250 homes.
- The memorial bench request will be on the April agenda.
- A question was asked about the 4 day week. This would continue under the Unitary Authority.

County Cllr James Stewart reported on:

- Potholes. Cllr Stewart has been on the panel to look into pothole reporting and monitoring. He has raised numerous emails received about pothole issues with Highways.
- Education and a SEND school. Cllr Stewart is pushing for a new school rather than increased capacity at current schools.
- Residents were requested to report potholes as more reports increased the chance of their being repaired more quickly.
- Pothole crews have increased from 8 to 30 to tackle the backlog. There were some differences between the standard of repairs carried out by different crews. Cllr Stewart would like feedback so that he can take matters forward. Councillors provided details of local hotspots.

4. Matters arising from last or previous meetings carried forward for discussion/decision

4.1 (3.1 of 19.1.26) Provision of additional parking – to consider response from CCC if received

RESOLVED given that there had been no response, to re-send the email to Cllr Stewart.

4.2 (3.3 of 19.1.26) Village Hall lease – to consider any updates

Cllr Marian Chapman has chased this matter. The Village Hall solicitor has a few comments. An update is expected soon.

4.3 (3.4 of 19.1.26) To consider new equipment to replace the Trim Trail – to consider report and recommendation

Cllr Frost and Cllr Marian Chapman reported on the site meetings and quotations received. Companies will carry out a launch event if wished. The equipment is low maintenance with a 25 year warranty.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Fresh Air Fitness for £18,412.00 plus VAT, to be funded from S106 money. ^(Prop TF, 2nd MEC, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Frost should be the contact.

4.4 (4.2 of 19.1.26) To consider the Village Hall survey - update and to consider the next steps

Cllr Michael Chapman reported. The subsidence was first raised in 1992, and referred to in subsequent reports over the years. Quotes for remediation had been sought by him in 2021 for figures from approximately £21,000 to £34,000, plus approximately £15,000 for drain repairs, and the previous quotations were now very old.

RESOLVED that Cllr Michael Chapman should go back to the surveyor for a quotation to provide a specification and scope for works to enable quotations to be sought.

- 4.5 (5.1 of 19.1.26) Assertion 10 compliant websites - to consider a quotation from a website provider

RESOLVED, having noted the quotation, to stick with the current provider.

- 4.6 (9) Update on LHI application

Cllr Marian Chapman reported on the 20mph limit application which is in the course of being submitted.

RESOLVED The previous LHI application could be used to apply for either a possible new MVAS or to upgrade the existing one to solar power.

- 4.7 (5.1.1 of 17.11.25) Recreation Ground report - paint on the plinth of the roof support structure peeling off

RESOLVED, noting that this item referred to the Lych Gate, not the Recreation Ground, that Cllr Lock should take over responsibility for the cemetery and should contact Dan Horne for a quotation to paint it.

5. **Financial, procedural and risk assessment matters**

- 5.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that the financial report be received and considered, and questions were asked and answered.

RESOLVED that that the payments as listed in the financial report (below), plus Guilden Morden Village Hall (Room hire) £72.00, CAPALC (Membership fee) £446.06 (to be paid after 1 April), Source for Business (Water bill) £136.69, and Root to Crown (Pub tree works) £1242.00, should be paid. (Prop TF, 2nd NB, unanimous)

Salaries		£1125.08
LGS Services	Admin support Feb	£980.65
LGS Services	Admin support Jan	£985.74
Roythornes	Interim Village Hall lease	£3000.00
Andrew Firebrace	GM Village Hall inspection	£900.00
BMS Technologies	MVAS battery	£138.84

Credits, including investment interest, cemetery fees and a VAT refund, were noted.

- 5.2 Risk assessments including play inspections and tree reports

RESOLVED to receive the reports. No issues had been reported.

Cllr Frost reported on an offer to clean the existing equipment.

RESOLVED that Cllr Frost should arrange this to coincide with the new equipment launch.

- 5.3 To note actions taken under Clerk's delegated powers

None.

- 5.4 To consider any matter which is urgent because of risk or health and safety

None.

- 5.5 To consider the Cemetery Fees update

RESOLVED to keep the fees as they are.

RESOLVED at the next review to include a report on how many plots are remaining.

6. **Members, Working Groups items for discussion and decision**

- 6.1 Proposal that the Parish Council considers replacing the notice board at Avenells, Church Street

RESOLVED, subject to the permission of the residents of Avenells, to approve the installation of a replacement notice board which should be unlocked to allow the public to post material.

RESOLVED that Cllr Michael Chapman should obtain quotations for the notice board, to be approximately 1m x 1m in size.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should purchase a letterbox for the Village Hall for public notices.

6.2 To consider approval of pitch treatment being carried out by the clubs

RESOLVED to chase Morden Magpies for an update on what they use for spraying.

7. To consider correspondence/communications received

7.1 Requests to use the Recreation Ground

7.2.1 To consider request for the playing of touch rugby

Taken earlier

7.2.2 Cam Valley Cricket Club – request to share use Recreation Ground for the coming season

Taken earlier.

7.2 Local Government Reorganisation consultation (deadline 26 March)

Noted.

7.3 HBN Trees – Offer of free beech tree

RESOLVED to accept the offer of a tree and that Cllr C Greenwood should discuss the possible location.

8. To consider planning and tree works applications and decision notices received since the last meeting

8.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting – to be considered

8.1.1 26/00799/LBC – 60 High Street – Replacement of 13 no. existing windows

RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop MAC, 2nd NB, unanimous)

8.2 Planning applications for which a response has been made between meetings using delegated powers – to be noted

None.

8.3 SCDC Decision notices, appeals notices, enforcement notices and planning correspondence for information only

8.3.1 25/05052/PRIOR – Morden Farm, 32 Trap Road – Conversion of existing barn to 1 no. residential dwelling house – Prior approval refused by SCDC.

8.3.2 25/04997/FUL – Cold Harbour Farm, Ashwell Road – Conversion of barn to one dwelling with associated gardens and parking area - Permission refused by SCDC.

8.3.3 25/03679/FUL – Land at 11 Dubbs Knoll Road – Erection of 2 storey 3 bed dwelling and outbuilding to the rear - Permission granted by SCDC.

8.4 Tree works applications

8.4.1 26/0113/TTPO – Elizabeth Close

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the application. (Prop MAC, 2nd NB, unanimous)

9. Gamut items – to decide what is to be included in the next edition

None.

RESOLVED with regard to the Annual Parish Meeting, that Cllr C Greenwood should post the agenda on Facebook and the notice boards, and that Cllr Buckland should print A5 copies for District Cllr Williams to distribute.

9. Items for the next agenda and closure of meeting

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.58 pm.

Signed _____ dated _____