

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 9th April 2025 at 7pm

Present: Cllr White (Chairman), Cllr Burgess, Cllr Tofield and Cllr Bate

Also present: Kelly Harris (Clerk & RFO)

1. Introduction by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To accept apologies for absence

There were no apologies received.

3. To confirm minutes from the previous meeting held on the 17th April 2025

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the **17th April 2025** were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. To receive written reports from:

- **The Chairman of the Parish Council**

Parish Council

- Thanks to all Councillors for their time, energy and support. Thanks to Jenny Robertson for joining the Council.
- Thanks to Kelly Harris our Clerk and Responsible Officer for a very successful 18 months with the Council.
- Thanks to Buckinghamshire Councillors Patrick Fealey and Frank Mahon for looking after the interests of the Parish and residents.

Planning/Transport

- The usual number of planning applications were overseen during the year.
- The 120 house development at Osier Way is now well advanced. These residents although in G w L Parish will be focused on Buckingham rather than Gawcott.
- Traveller-related planning situations continue; currently 2 in the planning 'machine'.
- The draft Buckinghamshire Local Plan has designated three potential residential development sites in the Parish: The Rise [25 dwellings], Hillesden Rd East [98], and Hillesden Rd West [125]. The PC has objected to the latter two.
- A further substantial site is being investigated for development along Buckingham/Gawcott Road and would join the Parish to Buckingham Town with virtually 3,000 dwellings. This has received a vigorous objection.
- Grendon Prison – this regrettable scheme is proceeding with a five year [plus?] development programme. It will result in substantial traffic movements through the Parish, both HGVs, smaller commercials and workforce traffic.
- The PC is in touch with Buckingham TC re their Neighbourhood Plan.
- HS2 – Gawcott traffic is generally lighter than for Edgcott but is an unwelcome intrusion. Some highway repairs have been carried out on behalf of HS2.
- HS2 contractors' vehicles continue to use Buckingham Road. However, we are receiving notice of abnormal loads through the Parish from HS2 transport managers.
- Despite assurances from Buckinghamshire traffic consultants that the A421 will cope with traffic up to 2040, it is clear that with continued traffic increases from development across North Buckinghamshire and commercial developments in Milton Keynes, the A421 is already becoming progressively more congested at critical periods during the day. This will result in more consequential traffic issues in the Parish.

Environment/Highways

- Insufficient investment in highway maintenance results in dangerous potholes and in particular, potholes along eroded road edges - which should have been kerbed at the outset of the HS2 programme.
- It is hoped that the provision of a new drain at Main Street/New Inn Lane will alleviate the damaging flooding which has often occurred in this area.
- It is essential that Bucks Council clear the road gullies in Main Street [and elsewhere] at least every 6 months to ensure the safe disposal of surface water.
- The first tranche of Speed Management works financed by the HS2 Road Safety Fund have been completed. We await the commencement of further traffic management works around the Parish again financed by HS2.
- Thanks to Councillor Rhona Bate for organising the MVAS data analysis and managing the Hillesden Rd camera. We have two further instruments to install, one at Preston Road, the second at the south end of Hillesden Road to replace a malfunctioning unit.
- Further traffic calming is urgently needed: danger from speeding on Radclive and Lenborough Roads and through the Village on Preston and Hillesden Roads. The petition to BC requesting a 40mph limit along the entirety of Radclive Road remains outstanding.
- The Buckingham Road footpath lighting is still outstanding despite many reminders. The lighting was originally removed without consultation in 2008.
- Street lighting repairs are ongoing.
- Continuing issues with parking – insufficient spaces particularly along Buckingham Road and Main Street and dangerous parking at the junction of Hillesden Road and Buckingham Road.
- 'Rat-running' from A421 is becoming more of a problem as traffic increases and delays occur through Buckingham.
- Verge cutting by Buckinghamshire Council is now down to two cuts per season. The PC's contract to cut Main Street verges and elsewhere has been well received and results in a big improvement in the appearance of the centre of the Village.
- Further support is required for the Speedwatch Group. Thanks to those few who volunteer their time to take part in speed checks.
- Thanks to Jo Hall, Tom Goodman, Ian Taylor, Sylvia and John Burgess and others for keeping the planting boxes restocked and in good order.

Leisure/Community

- GCG events – Christmas tree lighting and carols, regular bingo events and assisting at the new Gawcott Summer Festival. Thanks, in particular, to Nicky Blacker and the small Community Group volunteer team.
- Solar farm – Councillor Ulph is the PC representative on the Management Board.
- Playing Field Management and Caretaking remain a major issue.
- The pavilion is scheduled for internal redecoration in 2026.
- Field drainage issues need to be addressed. However, the problem of the restricted outfall beneath Lenborough Road remains. We await the outcome of discussions last year with Buckinghamshire Highways about drainage improvements beneath the highway,.
- Dogs on lead strategy agreed for the Field. [Notices to be erected].
- Thanks to Abigail Hall for managing the security of the main Field gates and checking the pavilion daily.
- Thanks to Pavilion cleaner, Karen Richards.
- Unauthorised trespass on the All-Weather Pitch continues. It is hoped that the use of anti-climb paint to the fencing will reduce the problem.
- The Cartwright maintenance contract at the Playing Field costs approx. £6000 pa.
- The yearly ROSPA inspections of the Play Area continue. Whilst the recommended repair works are followed through, some replacement of play equipment may be necessary.
- The defibrillator located at the pavilion is managed by the PC.

- Regular visual inspections take place to ensure the Field and play area are safe.

Hodding Wood

- The lease runs to 2038. Tentative negotiations have commenced with the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity for the purchase of the Wood.
- Thanks to Mr Tom Goodman for overseeing maintenance and the condition of the Wood with Mr Phillip Ramsden.
- A full tree survey of the Wood may be necessary.

Other issues

- **Newsletter** – another successful year for this essential community service. Thanks to editor Jo Edwards.
- **Village Hall** – 8 Trustees is in place – two vacancies. Agreement has been reached for a revolving chairmanship arrangement. Consideration being given to the future of the Hall.
- Works of internal redecoration have been completed following the installation of roof insulation with a £9,000 grant from the Solar Farm.
- A new secure storage shed for PC equipment has been erected to the rear of the Hall.

Projects

- Management of the Field and All-Weather Pitch. Remote access to the All-Weather Pitch and security of the pitch, pavilion and front gates still being investigated along with CCTV.
- A defibrillator in the centre of Village.

Problems

- Traffic volumes and the irresponsible speeding of vehicles through the Parish.
- Traffic build-up through Buckingham results in increased rat-running.
- Insufficient residential parking.
- Incidents of petty vandalism in the Village.
- Village untidiness.
- Insufficient volunteers to organise Village activities.

Thanks to all who helped the Parish Council and Village groups to function during the year.

- **Other reports received following the issue of the agenda**
There were no other reports received.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm

Signed.....Chairman / Date.....