

GREAT ABINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper
17 Lewis Crescent, Great Abington, Cambridge CB21 6AG
Telephone: 01223 892000
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A meeting of Great Abington Parish Council will be held in Abington Institute on Monday 20th January 2025

93. Open forum -

94. Apologies

95. Declaration of interest in items to be discussed.

96. Approval of the minutes for the last meetings held on 14th October (planning meeting) and from 18th November and planning meeting from 7th January 2025.

97. Resignation of Parish Councillor, Stephen McDonnell

For 14 days a notice is posted up giving residents the opportunity to request a By-election, once this has passed we can advertise the vacancy to co-opt a councillor.

98. Report from Councillor Henry Batchelor –circulated

99. Report from Councillor John Batchelor –circulated

100. Highway issues/matters

- a) Update from SCDC on planning irregularities, to be discussed later.
- b) Update on three ‘Playground’ signs to be installed below the triangular ‘children crossing’ & ‘school’ signs by Ian Blackman when he installs the bus stop sign
- c) Update on footpath between Pampisford Road and Chalky Road
- d) Update on clearing path to wood on the previous named LSA Estate, from the North Road end.
- e) Update on the new Mobile vehicle activated sign. Any suggestions on how we can get this sign installed?
- f) The poor design of the speed bumps in Pampisford road, that are creating potholes

101. Planning – separate sheet

- a) Separate listing of planning decisions at end of agenda.
- b) Planning applications to be considered:
24/04691/HFUL - Red Maple View 39A South Road - Conversion of existing garage into annexe ancillary to main dwelling.

102. Finance

- a) Authorisation of the payments in the table below
- b) Income – nil apart from interest.
- c) Transfer of memory stick to Chairman was made.

Payment to be authorised by councillors:

Bank transfer	Glenn Broad	Magna Close entrance shrubbery	£60.00
Bank transfer	Institute	Room rental	£59.00
Bank transfer	Paula Harper	Pay for November, plus back pay from April due to pay increase	£870.08
Bank transfer	Paula Harper	Pay for December	£474.58
Bank transfer	Ian Blackman	Installation of 'playground' and bus stop signs	£85.00
Bank transfer	Stephen McDonnell	Refund domain and email address costs he has paid	

- d) Suggestion that some funds from Unity be transferred into the Barclays account to earn interest, but note this would result in more than £85,000 being in the Barclays account.
- e) On the Unity account the Clerk is automatically classified as someone who can authorised payments, which conflicts with the Financial Regulations.
- f) Councillors to sign the form authorising the addition of Jane Bowen as authorised to access, create payments and authorise payment from Unity bank.
- g) Bank balances:
Barclays Bank balances
Community Account - £1.00
Business Interest - £54,335.29 on 31/12/2024
Active Saver Account £22,774.16 on 31/12/2024
Unity Account - £82,674.99 on 31/12/2024

103. Agree Budget and precept for 2025-26

Can councillors review the budget again as the precept request is not consistent with the budget figures.

Councillors agreed that the proposed budget should be revised to change the community scheme to £2000 and the precept should increase by 5% to £18,900 (£18,500+5%).

104. Actions from the last meeting

- a) **Action :Tony** to send a copy of the Linton Road Greenway plan to Henry Batchelor to get the hedge between Larkfield and the kennels cut.
- b) Location of the recreation ground seat and quote to be obtained, before the seat can be ordered by the Clerk.

105. Items raised by councillors

- a) Electric vehicle charging points in Magna Close.
- b) Trees in Magna Close.
- c) Add dog poo bin near the institute.
- d) Internet- it appears that Gigaclear have not connected Magna Close. The date for the former LSA is not until the end of 2026 at the earliest.
- e) Could the space near Larkfield where the contractors parked become a village car park?
- f) Update on the project to improve the MUGA.

106. Update on Liaison meeting

a) Process and timescale for consultation to establish if resident would like the councils to merge into one.

107. Flood water remaining on Recreation Ground (ARGC) and on nearby land

a) Update from Tony and Louise

108. Biodiversity responsibility

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarifies that, as a public authority, town and parish councils must (before January 2024):

a) Does the council wish to adopt a biodiversity policy which now includes the village churchyard based on the template circulated to councillors?

b) What action does the council wish to take to increase biodiversity in 2025?

109. Correspondence

a) Magna Close resident highlighted that the shrubbery behind the noticeboard was overhanging and wetting residents passing by. Awaiting work by Glenn Broad.

b) A quote to cut the church hedge for £100 was approved in November and churchwardens were made aware but no one seems to have contacted Glenn from the church to arrange a time to do the work.

c) Love Abington donation of £100 has been paid for food hampers and small gifts for families in need and residents in the Abingtons who are experiencing loneliness, grief and loss this Christmas.

d) SCDC asked if the Council could update them on the verges it manages, the frequency of the cuts and whether new areas are managed by the council. SCDC suggested that it could take over management of some verges. Verges would be cut three times a year, but Clerk has had no reply from Emma Stannard about whether it could include Larkfield land and when this will start.

110 Items for the next meeting on 17th March 2025

Holiday dates,

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Parish Council decisions since the last full meeting

- a) Ref 24/ 03980/HFUL - Universal House High Street -single storey extension
Parish Council recommended the application be approved at a meeting held on 18/11/2024
- b) Ref 24/04477/HFUL 22 Larkfield – single storey front, side and rear extension connecting to the existing garage with part conversion of the garage to a habitable space
Parish Council recommended the application be refused at a meeting held on 07/01/2025
- c) 24/04552/ADV - One Granta, Granta Park – installation of 1 no. non-illuminated PPC finished aluminium logo sign located on existing rooftop plant screen enclosure on structural frame
Parish Council recommended the application be approved at a meeting held on 07/01/2025
- d) 24/04537/FUL- Land to the South of Building 1 TWI Ltd Granta Park – erection of gas bottle store enclosure.
Parish Council recommended the application be approved at a meeting held on 07/01/2025

District Council decisions

- 24/04276/HFUL- 11 Meadow Walk- Alterations to fenestration and doors, application of render and replace existing flat roof to rear.
Parish Council recommended approval
Before 13/01/2025 – District Council permitted.
- 24/03074/FUL - Land at 49 North Road- erection of a veterinary building replacing existing structure and change of use from agricultural to Class E
Parish Council recommended refusal
Before 15/12/2024 - District Council permitted.
- 24/03980/HFUL- Universal House, High Street – single storey extension
Parish Council recommended approval
Before 15/12/2024 – District Council permitted.
- 24/030 83 - 88 High Street - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of a single storey self/custom build dwelling in the garden of 88 High Street
Parish Council recommended the application be refused at a meeting held on 27/06/2024
District Council permitted on 14/08/2024