

Clerk: Lizz Beckett
Address: Great Easton Village Hall,
Great Easton, Dunmow, CM6 2HF
Telephone: 07984 014611
Email:
parish.clerk@greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk
Web: www.greateastonparishcouncil.co.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Great Easton and Tilty Parish Council meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 30 July 2026 in the Village Hall in Great Easton.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr T Martens (Chairman), Cllr J England, (Vice-chair), Cllr M Benterman, Cllr C Hurst, Cllr P Neale.

Clerk: Lizz Beckett

9 members of the public attended, including District Councillors Haynes and Foley.

	The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.01 pm
07.26.01	Apologies for absence Cllr Heath was unable to attend as she was away. Cllr Hahn was unable to attend as he had work commitments. The reason for absences was accepted by resolution.
07.26.02	Declarations of Interest Cllr Benterman declared an interest in Item 11
07.26.03	Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on Thursday 28th May 2026 were approved as an accurate record and duly signed by the chairman.
07.26.04	Public Participation The Chairman of the Duton Hill Community Association asked the council for an update from the Parish Council on their involvement in a potential purchase from the Essex Wildlife Trust of the land in Duton Hill, currently designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). There was a general discussion on the topic. Points made by the Chairman, Cllr Martens included: • The Parish Council believe that they are best placed to purchase this land because they currently own 3 other sites that are for use solely by the community and managed on their behalf by the council. On this basis the council felt that they should make an application to purchase the land. • A reminder that the Parish Council's continues to offer financial support to the Essex Wildlife Trust via monthly donations and the ongoing maintenance of the land since 2020. • 2 District Councillors, Cllr Sutton and Cllr Reeve have joined the discussions with representatives of the Essex Wildlife Trust but as at the date of the meeting there were no further updates. • The Dunmow Rotary Club have indicated that they would be willing to consider a Parish Council application for funding. • The Parish Council would not be drawing money from reserves to buy the land and would not increase its precept to the wider community to aid a purchase. • The Essex Wildlife Trust have asked the Duton Hill Community Association Company limited by guarantee to obtain assurance from the Parish Council that they would not bid but the Parish Council were unable to give this assurance as they wanted an opportunity to bid, subject to securing the funds. • The directors of the Duton Hill Community Association company supported the Parish Council

	managing and owning the land on behalf of the community. The Chair of the Great Easton Community Association raised the issue of the restoration works required on the War Memorial which is in Great Easton but mentions names of individuals who lived in Great Easton and Duton Hill. It was suggested that the two Community Associations come together, possibly encouraging the wider community to try and raise the funds needed to complete the required repairs. It was agreed that the clerk will share contact details with each respective Community Association Chair so that discussions can begin as to how best to proceed. Action clerk A member of the public raised concerns about the continuing construction work at the Old Forge Barns in Duton Hill. Action clerk A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for being instrumental in organising the installation of air traffic noise monitoring equipment in Duton Hill. He advised the equipment had been in place for 4 weeks and was showing the decibel readings of planes. There was some discussion as to how to capture an historic report of the data collected so far. It was suggested the clerk follow up with Stansted Airport. Action clerk.
07.26.05	District and County Councillors' reports Cllr Haynes commented on Local Government Reform and the considerable on-going uncertainty about how this will be organized and operate. He reported he had been trying to seek some clarity over interim arrangements up to vesting day in April 2028. He reminded the council that the current District Councillors term of office comes to an end in April 2027. It seems that they will be asked to stay on for an extra year to provide a shadow authority carrying out the functions of the existing Uttlesford authority. He suggested there will be a cutoff point when there will have to be elections just for that temporary shadowing period. He reported that he had asked for a guide to be prepared for members and Parish Councils. Cllr Foley reported on considerable concerns at district and parish council level in Essex about cuts to the net zero budget. There was a general discussion about the numerous fires that the district had experienced over the past weeks. Considerable appreciation was expressed for the local retained firefighters who have been tackling these blazes. Cllr Haynes reported that Uttlesford District Council compiled a 'Buildings at Risk' register back in 2017 but were no longer maintaining this. He advised that Tilty Mill was on this previous list, but no action had been taken about the recommendations for works listed back then. He suggested that in the interests of preserving heritage sites in the parish, it would be a good time to contact Uttlesford District Council, using Tilty Mill as an example requesting that the register be revived and updated. Action: Clerk Cllr Foley and Cllr Haynes were thanked for their detailed reports.
07.26.06	Neighbourhood Plan- report and decisions John Stevens report on behalf of the steering group that a consultant had been instructed and work had started on Landscape and Character Assessment. The Consultants will be photographing the Parish shortly to start assessing the different 'character areas' of the two parishes. This will inform the specific capability or capacity for any small housing schemes. He reported that the evidence from this baseline assessment should be in draft form in mid-September. John Stevens also reported that the Walking Area Surveys were just about to start and would be conducted up until the end of August. He explained that they had divided the parish into 11 distinct sections, each with its own map showing footpaths and rights of way. Each survey was going to identify the quality of those rights of way, all the specific heritage assets and what views they consider to be important for them. The surveys will also record important green spaces and areas of biodiversity. He agreed that the group could provide an update in the middle of September. The group and all the volunteers involved in the project were warmly thanked for the huge amount of work that they had put into the plan so far.
07.26.07	Reports from Chair and councillors Great Easton Beacon – Cllr Neale gave an update that it will hopefully be moved when the ground at the proposed site is softer. Parking near Tilty church. The Chair confirmed he will attempt to re-establish contact with the Archdeacon over the coming weeks and raise the issue once again. Hogweed on Footpath 24. The Chair confirmed that this had now been cut back.

07.26.08	Clerk's report on items not listed separately on the agenda, and correspondence This had been circulated and made available before and at the meeting. There was one questions regarding the quote obtained for new toddler swings to be refurbished and/or replaced. It was suggested that this needed to be considered by the Burns Playing Field Parks Working group for consideration. Action clerk.
07.26.09	To approve the purchase, subject to securing the required funds, of the field in Duton Hill, currently listed as an Asset of Community Value. The Chair advised that a final decision on this resolution would still need to be passed but it was nevertheless important for the Essex Wildlife Trust and the Rotary Cub to understand the position of the Parish Council on this matter. The resolution was passed unanimously. The chair asked that it be noted that this resolution was passed on the proviso that the funding of this purchase would not incur additional costs to the community.
07.26.10	Parish Council Financial Reports Councillors noted receipts of £32,755.06 and payments of £19,985.11 up to 28th July 20256. They noted that the balance in the cash book matched the bank account balance of £53,218.44 The council received a budget analysis for the first quarter of 2026-27. Having regard to his independence and competence, it was proposed that as he met the necessary requirements, Mr. John Lewis be appointed as Internal Auditor for the 2026-27 financial year.
07.26.11	Financial Decisions The following decisions were approved: • Payment of rent (the price of a pint of ale annually) for the square yard of land on which The Duton Hill beacon stands. Action clerk • Treatment of hogweed on parish council land £1,822 (paid) • New dog waste bin for Great Easton Park £159.37 (paid) • Renewal of membership of the 100 Parishes Society £10 Action clerk Remembrance Day Wreaths £23 for Parish Council. It was discussed that the Community Associations from Great Easton and Duton Hill should individually pay for their own wreaths. The clerk explained they had been ordered but they that the respective treasures from each association needs to contact the Royal British Legion in Dunmow to make payment. Clerk to pass on details to each Community Association. Action clerk.
07.26.12	Parks Working Group Duton Hill. A report had already been circulated about potential works prior to the meeting. Cllr England advised that help had been offered by one company, but they needed to gather a group of volunteers, and the airport is still considering if they can also assist with the proposed works. Cllr England explained that they felt that the first task should be planting daffodil bulbs, but this would not start until autumn. There was also some discussion that funding may be sought from the airport who offer grants for these types of projects. Great Easton There was some discussion about the Great Easton Open Gardens Portaloo which was situated at the entrance to the children's play area. Some complaints had been raised about its position and the length of time it remained on site after the event. Action Cllr Neale to report back to organisers
07.26.13	Planning applications, decisions and progress on planning A list of recent decisions on planning applications had been circulated and was taken as read. UTT/26/1588/FUL Land South of Blamsters Hall Duton Hill. Erection of 1 no. detached dwellinghouse together with associated access parking and landscaping. No comments to be raised. UTT/26/1258/LB Essex House, The Endway Great Easton Essex CM6 2HG. Repair and replacement of decayed areas of timber. No comments to be raised. UTT/26/1687/FUL Barnards Bridge Snow Hill Dunmow Road Great Easton Dunmow Essex CM6 2DR. S73 application to remove condition 3 (trees) attached to UTT/19/2136/HHF - Fell three horse chesnut trees (T5, T6 and T7 on site plan) due to subsidence damage to house. No comments to be raised. UTT/26/1631/FUL Land at Radleys End, erection of 1 no. detached dwelling and garage. It was noted that the description as Radleys End was misleading, as was it's description as a 'ribbon' development as there is clear space between the last property in Radleys End and the first property in Duton Hill. After discussion the council decided not to support the application. Deadline for responding was noted to be 10th August. Action clerk The following new applications had been received: UTT/26/1832/DOC Chapters Barn Wolseys Chase Duton Hill Great Easton Essex, Application to discharge condition 3 (contamination), condition 4 (external lighting), condition 9 (GCN method statement), condition

	10 (biodiversity enhancement strategy) and condition 11 (landscaping), attached to UTT/25/2223/FUL deadline to comment 13 th August 2026. No comments to be raised.
07.25.14	Reports on: • Footpaths, road safety and highways – ○ Cllr Benterman reported that a footpath sign had fallen over opposite the Green Man Public House. It was noted that the sign is still there and so should be refitted when the ground was softer to dig. Action clerk. ○ It was noted that there is a large unsightly pile of rubbish outside of Clarets in Duton Hill and it has been there for at least 6 months. It appears to be left over after some building works to the neighbouring properties. It was suggested that the landowner should be asked to remove it. Action Cllr Neale. ○ It was noted that employees of the Children's home in Duton Hill were not disposing of their cigarette butts appropriately when sitting in the bus shelter and there were many now on the floor. It was agreed they should be reminded, as far as possible, to keep the area clear of butts. Action clerk. ○ Regarding road safety it was notes that a resident of the parish had approached the Great Easton Community Association to ask what, if anything was being done about speeding. It was discussed that the Council's previous attempts at raising this with the police had not been successful. ○ It was discussed that a request should be made for the speed limit on the road to Duton Hill from the B184 should be 30mph all the way up the current 30mph limit because the speeding that had been witnessed along this stretch of road was dangerous for residents especially when they pull out of their properties. Action clerk. ○ Various speed controls were discussed. It was suggested that Essex police could be invited to a parish council meeting so that the concerns that the community have about speeding could be discussed more specifically. Clerk to contact the Police Commissioner and invite him to attend. Action clerk. ○ River interests – Nothing new to report ○ Airport – Nothing new to report. Aircraft monitoring was covered earlier in the meeting. ○ Community activities and events ○ There was a discussion about an Uttlesford Foodbank report that had been circulated to the councillors about residents in Uttlesford that were receiving emergency food parcels through this service. It was agreed to consider contributing to this charity at our next meeting. There was also some discussion around promotion in the Five Parishes Magazine of the Foodshare locations in the district. Action clerk. ○ There was a discussion about the issue of hare coursing and the police's support of the local community with this. It was noted that the police have apologized for their previous lack of action but that a better response has been promised by the Essex Police Commissioner, including the use of drones and four-wheel drive vehicles. It was noted that the council should help to raise awareness of this issue. ○ Cllr Neale raised the issue of relocating the phone box that is currently outside the Swan public house to somewhere near the Village Hall. He advised that the box needs cleaning and repainting. Some residents have offered to do this work. The intention is to return it back to being a library once again. It was agreed in principle this was an agreeable suggestion although the Council would need to have a final agreement on location. ○ There was some discussion about the future of the Swan Public House in Great Easton and whether it was likely to reopen. As there is considerable uncertainty over this, it was agreed that the clerk should contact the owners and ask for an update on the pub as it was of concern to the community. Action clerk. • Easton AFC – Nothing new to report • IT, website, social media, and communications. Nothing new to report
07.26.15	It was unanimously resolved that, notice having been given on 23rd July 2026, all employees of Great Easton & Tilty Parish Council will be eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme operated by Essex County Council.
07.26.16	Items for inclusion on next meeting's agenda or in the Five Parishes Magazine See above for future agenda items.
07.26.17	The date and time of the next meeting Thursday 24 September 2025 at 7pm in the function room of the Three Horseshoes Public House in Duton Hill.

	There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.53 pm.
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