Minutes of the Greetham Parish Council Meeting
held on 8 July 2026 at 7pm in the Greetham Community Centre

Members Present: Mr Gavin Swain (GS) – Chair, Mr Adam Brierley-Lewis (AB-L), Mrs Barbara Clarke (BC), Mrs Jane Denyer (JD), Mr LeRoy Sheppard (LS)

Ward Councillor: Mr Nick Begy

Clerk: Mrs Theresa Stokes-Watson (TSW)

11 members of the public in attendance.

MINUTE NO:	ITEM	ACTION
2026/07/1	**ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (brought forward from May and June 2026 meetings):** The Chairman invited expressions of interest for the role of Vice Chairman. No expressions of interest were received. **RESOLVED:** that the item be deferred to the next meeting.	
2026/07/2	**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Farrell (child care) and Cllr Hinch (holiday).	
2026/07/3	**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS:** No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.	
2026/07/4	**PUBLIC FORUM:** A summary of matters raised by members of the public: i) **Burial Ground Maintenance** A resident expressed concern regarding the Council's decision to appoint a contractor for grass-cutting and maintenance, citing long-standing volunteer involvement and lack of consultation. The Chairman clarified the financial position and reiterated the Council's reasoning relating to continuity, insurance compliance and safety. The Chairman expressed his appreciation to all volunteers for their work within the village. He concluded by inviting volunteers to meet and discuss with him their concerns regarding their volunteer work within the village. The Chairman reaffirmed the Council's previous unanimous decision to appoint a contractor for grass-cutting and vegetation management in the Burial Ground. ii) **Burial Ground Wildflower Meadow** A resident requested a revision of the 10.06.2026 Parish Council minutes regarding the Burial Ground wildflower meadow area to clarify that the area is a wildflower/pollinator area, not an area for villagers to plant wildflowers. iii) **Biodiversity Plan** It was requested that the Biodiversity Plan be placed on the new Greetham Parish Council website as a priority. **iv) Viking Way / Footpath Maintenance** A resident raised concerns about overgrowth, signage and general maintenance along the Viking Way within the Parish. He referred to the televised 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Viking Way within Lincolnshire and suggested that Greetham's stretch of the Viking Way should also be celebrated. Cllr Sheppard (Lead Representative for Streets and Services) undertook to contact relevant authorities and provide an update prior to the next Parish Council meeting (09.09.2026).	Clerk Chair/Clerk LS

v) North Brook Water Quality

Correspondence had been received from a resident regarding historic contamination testing of the village brook, including elevated levels of phosphates, nitrates and other pollutants. The resident requested a clear plan for monitoring and mitigation by appropriate agencies. The Council acknowledged the seriousness of the concerns raised and indicated that the matter would be formally reviewed under Agenda Item 9 vi) – Minute No: 2026/07/10.

vi) Planning Application 2026/0154/MAO, Stretton Road, Greetham

A resident raised concerns regarding the accuracy of environmental and highways assessments submitted as part of revised plans for the above outline planning application totalling 80 residential units on Stretton Road, Greetham. Her concerns, which she had input to the Rutland County Council's (RCC) planning portal, included habitat, accidents, peak hour traffic, transport connections, highway safety and speed enforcement. The Council acknowledged the concerns and confirmed they would be considered when the planning application was discussed later in the Agenda (Minute No: 2026/07/9).

vii) Stream / Riparian Responsibilities

A resident queried responsibility for vegetation management along the stream as some residents were maintaining their respective areas and others were not. The Council will investigate ownership/responsibility and seek clarification from RCC and the Environment Agency. NB

viii) Traffic Speeding Through Village

A resident raised concerns about excessive vehicle speeds through the village. The item would be considered later in the meeting (see Minute No: 2026/07/10).

PUBLIC SESSION CLOSED.

2026/07/5 **MINUTES:** PROPOSED by Cllr Brierley-Lewis, SECONDED by Cllr Swain and **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2026 be approved and signed by the Chairman, subject to Minute No 2026/06/10 vii) Burial Ground on page 6, last sentence being revised to read "roping off the wildflower area at the top maintained by Greetham Goes Wild on behalf of the Parish Council".

2026/07/6 **CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR:** no applications had been received.

2026/07/7 **FINANCE:** PROPOSED by Cllr Denyer, SECONDED by Cllr Sheppard and **RESOLVED unanimous:**

i) That the Bank Reconciliation as at 30.06.2026 be approved and signed.

ii) That the General Ledger/Updated Budget 01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026 be approved and signed.

iii) **NOTED: Invoices Already Paid**

Date	Supplier	Amount	Subject
19.06.2026	Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Bank Charges

iv) PROPOSED by Cllr Brierley-Lewis, SECONDED by Cllr Denyer and **RESOLVED: unanimous** that the following Invoices be approved for payment:-

Date	Supplier	Amount	Subject
01.07.2026	Mr Mow It All	£200.00	Inv No: 020420281 – Greetham Community Centre Play Park Area
16.06.2026	Water Plus	£68.63	Burial Ground Water Supply 15.03.2026 to 15.06.2026

18.06.2026	LRALC	£130.00*	Training (Basics of Planning x 2 @ £40 for JF & AB-L and Chairman's Training x 1 @ £50)
19.06.2026	Greetham Jubilee Community Centre	£120.00	Sponsorship for Cider Barrel for Beer and Bands Event on 12.09.2026
02.07.2026	LRALC	£325.00*	Councillor Training x 5 @ £50 for BC, LH, LS, JF, AB-L; Burials x 1 @ £40 for GS; New Clerk's Finance x 1 @ £35)
30.06.2026	Clerk	TBC **	Burial Ground – Administration by the Clerk, 01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026 (18.5 hours)
30.06.2026	HMRC	TBC **	Income Tax Clerk's Salary (April to June 2026)
31.07.2026	Clerk's Salary	£337.00	Salary – July 2026

*Referring to LRALC training, Cllr Sheppard asked that it be noted that all councillors are new to the Parish Council. Training was being undertaken to develop councillors' knowledge and skills, with both general and specialist training being shared across the Council to ensure appropriate expertise in all areas and to support continuous improvement.

**Plan in place to calculate Clerk's wages, Burial Ground admin and HMRC Income Tax via the HMRC app whilst the Chairman of the Community Centre was incapacitated. However, the figures would need to continue to be input into the Community Centre's payroll system for confirmation of Income Tax payments.

v) **NOTED: Income received:**
04.06.2026 – Lloyds Complaint - £50.00

vi) **NOTED: Credit Note:**
29.06.2026 - Credit Note and refund from "Parish Council Websites" of £36.00 for their Invoice No: INV-4536 dated 23.05.2026 as the greethamparishcouncil.gov.uk domain renewal was included within Parish Online's invoice 00FP022-0001.

vii) **Orders/Quotations:** three quotations were considered for replacement AED pads for the Defibrillator on the Village Green which were due to time expire on 28.08.2026.
PROPOSED by Cllr Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Denyer and
RESOLVED: that one set of replacement pads be purchased at a total cost of no more than £70.00 inclusive of VAT. — Chair/Clerk to arrange purchase

2026/07/8 **GOVERNANCE:** The Council considered various Governance documents.
RESOLVED unanimous:-

1. That the draft **Reserves Policy** as attached to the Agenda be approved and adopted and that the level of general reserves to cover key risks be approved at six months predicted budget expenditure. — Clerk / website

2. That the **Risk Management Assessment 2026** as appended to the Agenda be approved and adopted. — Clerk / website

	3. That the **Action Plan to address Internal and External Auditor Comments and Recommendations** outstanding from the 2024/25 and 2025/26 Audits as appended to the Agenda be approved. A draft **Volunteer Policy** was discussed, intended to formalise roles, ensure insurance compliance and maintain safety standards. It was noted that volunteers remain essential to village life and should be encouraged. A proposal to adopt the draft Volunteer Policy as appended to the Agenda was defeated. After further discussion, it was **RESOLVED unanimous** (i) that Cllrs Clarke and Denyer review the wording of the draft Volunteer Policy to create a more "workable, user friendly" document for adoption at the next meeting; (ii) that Cllr Sheppard draws up a flow chart for appending to the Policy and that both documents be brought back to the September meeting for consideration and adoption; and (iii) that no works be undertaken by volunteers on Parish Council-owned land/property until a Volunteer Policy is adopted.	Clerk / future agendas BC/JD LS
2026/07/9	**PLANNING:** 1) **2026/0154/MAO - PROPOSAL** Outline planning application for 50 no. residential units and a single storey office building with all matters reserved except access. Revised plans/documents. **LOCATION: Greetham Quarry Stretton Road Greetham Rutland LE15 7NP** **Comment deadline: 9 July 2026** The Council considered the revised plans/documents relating to the proposed extension of quarry operations. Members noted that: • Previous comments submitted by the Parish Council remain valid. • The amended application contains additional ecological and biodiversity information. • Leicestershire County Council's Ecology and Biodiversity Planning Advice was welcomed, particularly its holding objection pending further ecological information. • Significant concerns remain regarding Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), particularly the proposal to offset any shortfall off-site. • Members reiterated the importance of restoring the site to calcareous grassland and protecting existing biodiversity, including orchids and other species now identified. • Concerns were raised that current dust monitoring is not representative because quarry operations have been suspended since May. • Highway safety and traffic impacts remain major concerns and previous comments regarding accidents and traffic flow remain unchanged. PROPOSED by Cllr Clarke, SECONDED by Cllr Denyer and **RESOLVED unanimous** that:- 1) The Parish Council will resubmit its previous planning response. 2) The Council will reaffirm all previous objections. 3) Additional support will be given to Leicestershire County Council's Ecology and Biodiversity Planning Advice. 4) Councillors Clarke and Denyer will prepare the revised submission for the Clerk to submit before the consultation deadline.	Clerk to input decision to RCC planning portal

	2) 2026/0678/CAT - PROPOSAL: Fell 1 No. Laurel tree. **LOCATION: 49 Main Street Greetham Rutland LE15 7NJ** **Comment deadline: 8 July 2026** No ecological concerns were identified. PROPOSED by Cllr Brierley-Lewis, SECONDED by Cllr Swain and **RESOLVED unanimous** no objection 3) **2026/0602/FUL – PROPOSAL: (Revised Plans)** Demolition of part of existing garage. New detached garage block for host dwelling. New private driveway access and detached self-build bungalow dwelling and garaging within the existing garden area. **LOCATION: 8 Oakham Road Greetham Rutland LE15 7NN** **Comment deadline: 21 July 2026** Members considered the revised plans and following discussion, members were satisfied the revisions were acceptable. PROPOSED by Cllr Brierley-Lewis, SECONDED by Cllr Denyer and **RESOLVED unanimous** to support the revised application.	Clerk to input decision to RCC planning portal Clerk to input decision to RCC planning portal
2026/07/10	**AGENDA ITEMS:** **Highways and Speeding** The Ward Councillor, Nick Begy, reported that a site meeting with Rutland County Council Highways had been arranged for 15 July. Attendees will include: • Parish Council representatives • Portfolio Holder • Paul Middleton (Head of Highways) The meeting will involve a walk-through of the village to consider: • speeding concerns • highway safety • future development impacts • residents' concerns Members also requested that Greetham's Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) correctly reflect the speed limits. **Fix My Street Monitoring** Members discussed improving monitoring of issues reported through Fix My Street which was due to be updated. It was **AGREED** that: • monthly reports will be produced by Cllr Sheppard (lead representative for Streets and Services); • outstanding reports will be monitored until resolved; • Cllrs Sheppard and Begy will develop a tracking system to identify "pending" and "fixed" issues. **Parish Council Objectives** (brought forward from 10.06.2026 meeting) Members discussed establishing longer-term objectives and community projects. Rather than setting formal targets, it was agreed to develop a list of potential projects based upon community feedback having regard to budgetary constraints. **RESOLVED unanimous** that Cllrs Clarke and Denyer prepare a project proposal template for consideration at the September meeting. Following approval, the document will be published to seek residents' comments. **Memorial Benches** An update was received from Cllr Denyer regarding the two commemorative benches. Installation on the Community Centre playing field is expected shortly.	NB / Chair / LS LS LS / NB BC / JD

	The Community Centre would assume responsibility for any future maintenance. **Forestry England** – draft Bytham Woods Plan affecting Greetham Near Wood and Greetham Far Wood. Members considered Forestry England's draft woodland management plan. Cllr Clarke, the lead representative for Environment/Planning, indicated she had consulted with various individuals within the village including the Forestry Officer, Stuart Kidd, at Rutland County Council who had no issues with the proposed Plan for Greetham's Near and Far Woods. No objections were raised. Cllr Clarke undertook to submit the Council's responses to Forestry England's survey and to provide the Clerk with copies of her consultees' responses. **North Brook Water Quality** - Email from Resident 02.07.2026 Members discussed correspondence from a resident regarding water quality in North Brook having regard to documents from various authorities and agencies including Earth Watch and Anglian Water, together with Greetham Goes Wild's submission recording water testing results. Points raised during discussion included: • nitrate and phosphate testing • E. coli levels • previous submissions to Anglian Water and the Environment Agency • public safety concerns regarding the evidence collected It was **AGREED** that: • previous correspondence be reviewed; • responses from relevant authorities be chased (NB); • further testing planned for September; • the matter will return to the next agenda. ---oOo--- **RESOLVED** that Standing Order 3 x) be waived for a period of 30 minutes to allow the remaining items of business to be considered. ---oOo--- **Viking Way** - email from Resident 02.07.2026 See Minute No 2026/07/4/iv) above. **Clerk's Hours** The Chair reported that: • Average hours worked (April – June): 16.5 hours per week • Contracted hours: 6 – 7 hours per week Members recorded their appreciation for the Clerk's considerable additional work.	BC NB Clerk
2026/07/11	**CORRESPONDENCE: NOTED** that the following correspondence was received since the last meeting in addition to items listed at 2026/07/10 above:- i) 15.06.2026 – Mick George – Dust Monitoring Figures – 01.06.2026 to 07.06.2026 ii) 25.06.2026 – Mick George – Dust Monitoring Figures – 15.06.2026 to 21.06.2026 **NOTED** that Mr Richard Creasey will remain on the Mick George Quarry Liaison Group as "resident" and Mr David Baker will be "technical advisor". iii) 17.06.2026 – Resident – Overgrown Footpath, Wheatsheaf Lane alongside the Brook – referred to Cllrs Sheppard and Clarke – logged on Fix My Street, RCC confirmed receipt on 17.06.2026 and will be included in RCC's works schedule. iv) 17.06.2026 – Resident query re: Open Reach – email submitted by Clerk to RCC Portfolio Holder and Ward Councillor, awaiting response. Resident to update Clerk. v) 17.06.2026 – Email from RCC Street Scene Officer – confirmation of all three rural cuts for Great Lane verges. The second rural cut for this season was currently	

	underway. Great Lane will be attended to in the coming weeks and again in September/October. vi) 19.06.2026 – Email from David Baker confirming stepping down from Mick George Quarry Liaison Group but available to provide technical assistance regarding quarrying activities. vii) 21.06.2026 – Email from Community Centre Editor re: publication dates. Clerk to continue liaison with Newsletter Editor and vice versa when necessary. viii) 23.06.2026 – Email from External Auditor – acknowledging receipt of Certificate of Exemption re: Audit and Accounts 2025/26 and confirming acceptance, providing no objection is received from the public, expiry date 24.07.2026. ix) 29.06.2026 – Email from resident re: Greetham Traffic (see Minute No: 2026/07/10 i) above). x) 29.06.2026 – Email from resident re: overhanging tree in garden of old Black Horse – referred to Cllr Clarke and logged on Fix My Street. Has been cut and resolved. xi) 01.07.2026 - LRALC Development and Member Support Survey 2026 – noted that all parish councillors, Clerk, Ward Councillor were permitted and encouraged to complete the survey. **xii)** 01.07.2026 – Email from Ward Councillor re Rural Funding Digest – outlining the availability of grants and funding opportunities.	All
2026/07/12	**REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS / ADVISORY TEAMS** Reports from councillors appointed to outside organisations and advisory teams were received. **Streets and Services** - report from the Lead Representative, Cllr Sheppard, was received which highlighted: • FixMyStreet reports; • drainage issues; • highway defects; • completed repairs. Monthly monitoring reports will continue. **Environment/Planning** – report from the Lead Representative, Cllr Clarke, was received which provided updates on: • Church Lane tree works (pending); • Viking Way signage to Main Street (pending); • public footpaths, specifically Wheatsheaf Lane to the Golf Club (pending) including a dangerous dead tree; • highways risk assessment form from RCC for noting should anyone need to do work on RCC Highways-owned land; • manhole cover inspections (re-covered with mesh again in Great Lane). **Burial Ground** - the Clerk/Burial Ground Manager reported: • awaiting delivery of a small black wheelie bin which had been ordered although the existing large black bin was continuing to be emptied; • awaiting a green waste permit (to be purchased when the bank debit card was received by the Clerk); • Ragwort had been identified within the wildflower area. This created a hazard for humans, dogs and livestock on adjoining grazing land occupied by donkeys and sheep. Members' attention was brought to the NFU's guidance and the DEFRA Code of Practice regarding Ragwort management specifically in areas which posed high risk to grazing livestock. Cllr Clarke indicated that the neighbouring landowner did not object to the presence of Ragwort in the	LS

	Burial Ground despite her ownership of donkeys and sheep. Cllr Clarke undertook to provide the Clerk with the neighbouring landowner's written confirmation which had previously been provided to Greetham Goes Wild. **RESOLVED:** 1) That no immediate action be taken to remove the Ragwort plants in the Burial Ground; 2) That the written confirmation from the neighbouring landowner regarding her acceptance of Ragwort within the Burial Ground (previously provided to Greetham Goes Wild) be provided to the Clerk by Cllr Clarke. **Playground** Cllr Denyer stated that a formal funding request for maintenance works to the Community Centre Playground would be brought to the September Parish Council meeting. However, as a Trustee of the Community Centre, Cllr Denyer was reminded of her pecuniary interest in this matter and that a possible dispensation may be required before participating in any future funding request/decision.	BC JD
2026/07/13	**ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** i) Election of Vice-Chairman ii) Volunteer Policy and Flowchart iii) Parish Council Objectives – template **iv)** North Brook Water Quality	Clerk to include in September Agenda
2026/07/14	**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7pm, Community Centre Due to local elections on 6 May 2027, it was **NOTED:** (i) the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 March 2027 at 6pm (ii) the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 12 May 2027 at 7pm (iii) the Monthly Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 May 2027 at 7pm	All to note All to note future meeting dates.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.32pm.

Chairman: …… **Date: 09.09.2026**

Cllr Gavin Swain