

CBP Forum Minutes

03/03/2026 at 7:30pm

Present: Geraldine Tate, Liz Swift, Pat Cleary, Jim Perry, Ryan Noyes, John Damian, Hazel Barber, Lea Dodds, Martin O' Leary, Nicola Hallows, Ben Vinten

Clerk: Katherine Hyett

1. **Apologies for absence – Paul Webb,**
2. **Approval of the minutes of 6th January 2026 - approved**
3. **Matters arising**

Topic	Matter Arising	Action Required	Responsible	Update
Terms of Reference	Remove quorum requirement	Submit recommendation to Parish Council	Clerk	Quorum was reduced to 3 Councillors
Forum Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BEAT Involvement decision deferred • Look for farming & Business Representatives 	Review after BEAT presentation Advertise on social media	Forum Clerk	Recommend to Council that BEAT join the forum. We have advertised for farming and business reps – no response as yet.

Discussion took place regarding whether BEAT should attend the CBP forum. Martyn O'Leary raised concerns that the group had been formed in opposition to a renewable energy development, questioning whether this aligned with the purpose of the CBP forum. Lea Dodds noted that the group's mission statement suggests a broader interest in solar energy issues. He stated that the primary focus appears to be on safety and ensuring regulatory bodies are held to account, which aligns with the CBP forum objective regarding pollution. While acknowledging some overlap in aims, he indicated he remained undecided. Pat Cleary had previously indicated that BEAT is not opposed to renewable energy in principle but seeks to promote safer developments and improved communication. Hazel Barber commented that concerns relate to the siting of solar developments and the potential environmental impact. The clerk highlighted that BEAT are also planning a 'Love your lode' project and other environmental initiatives. Liz Swift observed that they are conflicted – the forum wants to support renewable energy but there are concerns about the manner in which developments are being proposed in Burwell. She noted that each application should therefore be considered on its individual merits. It was proposed by Lea Dodds, seconded by Liz Swift, that BEAT recommend to the Council that it attend.

Spring Close Chalk Stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outflow responsibility unclear • Possible Digdat tile purchase • Need testing locations 	Investigate ownership Confirm ECAN purchase Confirm sites with Anglian Water	Clerk/Nicky Hallows	See below – continued investigations to progress.
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Dig Dat information had been obtained; however, the data provided related only to the foul sewer network and did not include surface water drainage. It was noted that no mapping of the surface water drainage system is currently available. Nicky Hallows reported that enquiries had been

made with contacts in an attempt to obtain a response from the County Council. She has also purchased fluorescein dye and intends to undertake further investigation using this method. Additional water testing was carried out as far as Hythe Lane Bridge, with results generally indicating reasonable water quality. A spike in readings was noted near the bridge, likely attributable to the feeding of ducks and the presence of rats in the area. Martin O’Leary commented that the owner of the pipe should hold an easement from the Parish Council. Katherine Hyett has not tried to confirm testing sites with Anglian Water again as it has now been established that they are no responsible for the outflow pipe.

Historic England Visit	Follow-up required	Chase Historic England	Clerk	Chased report – not yet received.
Renewable Energy	Seek project updates	Email National Grid	Clerk	Response received but no further along and cannot confirm any expansion of the substation site.
Educational Programme	Waste workshop	Arrange event	Clerk	Event went ahead in February half term – great success and more to be planned for both adults and children.
Educational Programme	Bioblitz event	Develop with partners	Wild Burwell	Wild Burwell to discuss at next meeting. Clerk confirmed PC insurance could be used if Risk Assessment in place.
Educational Programme	Ecology talk	Contact speaker	Nicola Hallows	Still TBA. Open to suggestions for speakers
Educational Programme	Earth Café (last quarter of the year)	Arrange event	Paul Webb/ECAN?	Update deferred as Paul Webb not present.

4. Projects Update

- a) **Spring Close chalk stream** – discussed above.
- b) **Renewable energy.** Lea Dodds gave a brief update to say the Mandeville Net Zero project had been completed – the building now generating power. He has also had a look at the sports centre which is generating well. There was some conversation about whether the car chargers were working yet. Katherine Hyett said that Paul Webb needed to pass access to the solar app for GMH to the office.
- c) **Programme of educational activities** – no further update to notes above. Katherine Hyett told new attendees they are welcome to contribute ideas.

5. Forum Community Updates:

- a) Burwell Environmental Group - none, Alima Adams no longer going to attend unless group becomes active. She is very happy to volunteer and support activities of the forum.
- b) Wild Burwell – planted wildflower plugs in front of Stevens’ Mill. Cowslips are just coming up in corner meadow of Priory wood which Wild Burwell rake.
- c) Spring Close/Priory Meadow Management Group – apple trees have been pruned, planted twelve new fruit trees – Wild Burwell worked hard to plant as quickly as possible. Martin O’Leary asked about the required tree work. Katherine Hyett confirmed it was contracted to SR Landscape Services and she was trying to confirm a date with Shaun Reader. The

Parish Council website needs updating – they will discuss at a spring close management meeting.

- d) Pauline's Swamp – Katheine Hyett said it would take two days of the Maintenance Officers time to clear the wire and he had assessed it not to be a safety risk. Jim Perry had said that Michael Geary may do this. Jim Perry raised several issues– wood piles/vandalism – the Clerk confirmed she had followed council instructions to leave wood on site following tree work. It was confirmed this should be discussed at a Pauline' Swamp meeting.
- e) National Trust/Wicken Fen – not discussed. Katherine Hyett to apologise for not sending the agenda to John Hughes and ensure he is on the invite list.
- f) Repair/Swish café – 10th repair café took place in February, 69 items bought in, 49 fixed – 71%. Next Repair café – 10th May. This Sunday is Swish at Gardiner Memorial Hall– 1-4pm, this is a clothes exchange.

6. Review of CBP Biodiversity and Climate Change Plans:

It was noted that these are ambitious documents but also that the Climate change plan needed review. Lea Dodds suggested a small group to do this. He was happy to volunteer. Nicky Hallows, Geraldine Tate and Liz Swift offered to help. Nicky Hallows talked about the Duxford Parish Councillor who created a sign-up pledge for wildlife areas in gardens. It was generally thought this was a good idea. Katherine Hyett mentioned her idea – putting the 'bee' into Burwell.

7. Wildflower turfing and protection of wildflower/verge areas

Zion (grass cutting contractors) had approached us about wildflower turfing or seeding the verge on the corner of Heath Road/Swaffham Road – costs provided. Katherine Hyett had also consulted the previous Green Infrastructure Manager at the County Council for her advice which was circulated and gave some information about how to prepare the ground for seeding. Councillors noted that bags of seed could be obtained much more cheaply and asked if this could just be scattered. Both Katherine Hyett and Nicky Hallows said that the ground ought to be prepared in the appropriate way. Nicky Hallows said ideally the areas would not be mowed and wildflowers established naturally. No decision was reached other than not to go ahead with Zion's quote.

8. Any other business:

Repair and Swish Café – Geraldine Tate highlighted that there was money available for projects that are eco based.

Burwell in Bloom – This was discussed and it was felt that this was best run outside of the Parish Council. We are happy to offer the Community Garden for the prize giving/be a location for application forms, Ryan Noyes would be happy to be a judge if wanted. Financial support would be difficult – it wasn't felt that this really met CBP forum objectives or Civic Pride. To receive a donation, they would need to meet our policy so would need to either be an established community group or perhaps work with one, but any donation should be proportionate with the number of people it is helping. It was felt that business sponsorship should be able to be obtained.

9. Date of next meeting: 7th July 2026

End of meeting 20.52

Signed:

Dated: