TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 43rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE OLD SCHOOL TONGHAM on MONDAY 18th MAY 2026 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Cllr L. Oakley (Chairman), Cllr L. Lowdon, Cllr S. Gray, Cllr P. Buckley, Cllr M. Murray,

Cllr E. Hall, Cllr S. Habgood, Parish Clerk K. Brennan.

1. Apologies: None.

2. Declarations of Acceptance of Office: All agreed.

Cllr M. Murray is retiring from office, creating a vacancy for a Councillor.

3. Election of Chairman:

Councillor Oakley expressed his willingness to continue as Chairman;
Unanimously appointed: proposed Cllr Lowdon, seconded Cllr Hall.

4. Receipt of Chairman's Declaration of Office:

The Declaration of Office was signed and witnessed.

5. Registration of Any Changes to Financial and Other Registerable Interests:

No changes declared.

6. Confirmation of Minutes of the Last AGM:

The minutes of the AGM held on 19 May 2025 were confirmed.

7. Election of Vice Chairman of the Council:

Cllr S. Habgood elected Vice Chairman. Proposed: Cllr Oakley Seconded: Cllr Hall

8. Adoption of Model Councillor Code of Conduct (2020)

All Councillors agreed to the Code of Conduct

9. Election of Councillors to Serve Upon Working Parties

Councillors will serve as follows:

a) Finance, Policy and Admin: Cllr Gray (Chair), Cllr Buckley, Cllr Oakley, Cllr Hall.

Proposed: Cllr Oakley
Seconded: Cllr Habgood

b) Planning: Cllr Hall (Chair), Cllr Oakley, Cllr Buckley, Cllr Lowdon.

Proposed: Cllr Oakley
Seconded: Cllr Gray

c) Lighting and General Purposes: Cllr Buckley (Chair), Cllr Oakley, Cllr Habgood, Cllr Hall, Cllr Lowdon

Proposed: Cllr Lowdon
Seconded: Cllr Gray.

10. Chairman's Report 2026

I would like to start my annual report by thanking all my fellow volunteer Parish Councilors. In no order of importance, but as always "Ladies First" Susie Hapgood, Sue Gray, Margaret Murray, Lyn Lowdon, Phil Buckley and Ed Hall. Every councilor does a great job on behalf of the village

Our not so new clerk Kevin Brennan has done a great job in "keeping the wheels turning" and seems a perfect fit for the job. Thanks also to Sue Gray for all the help/advise she has offered the new clerk since his appointment

Thanks to Matt Furniss and Sallie Barker our GBC Councilors for their help and guidance throughout the year

Around the village TPC have been busy maintaining and servicing all its commitments, the allotments are thriving and the Recreation Ground and Community Centre are very well used by locals and beyond, the Rec and Centre are a fantastic facility for everyone to use, the football and cricket clubs are both very grateful for such good sports facilities along with all regular groups that use the centre, and we have play areas to be proud of. The moors is also an area on our radar for maintaining and improving

The AGM saw the end of an era with councilor Margaret Murray retiring from her role as a Parish Councilor after many years, I would like to personally thank Margaret for everything she does around the village which extends far beyond the Parish Council, I for one will miss her.

As per my 2025 report it wouldn't be complete without mentioning Housing Development, as you all know the village has changed over the last few years and not for the better in my opinion, I felt if we had to accept what was in the local plan for the developers to back off then so be it, so it saddens me to hear that Taylor Wimpey are looking to build a large number of houses behind the hop fields on land that stretches down to the scout hut on Poyle Road, we have met them head on with our feelings towards yet another destructive unwanted development and I would like to thank all councilors for their input on this matter particularly Ed Hall who has put a huge amount of time and effort putting together a constructive and informative argument against this latest development. Well done Ed !

Following my re-election as Chairman at the AGM in May, you have got at least another year to put up with me and as always, I will do my bit for our village

Les

11. Financial Report 2026

The 2025–26 Parish Council Balance Sheet report was circulated prior to the meeting,
. no comments were noted. The report was approved and then signed by the chairman.

10) Execution of documents: To consider passing the following resolution:

"That the Council do seal in the manner prescribed by law, or the clerk or member as appropriate do sign on behalf of the Council, any Order, Deeds or Documents required to give effect to any of the matters and recommendations contained in the reports as presented to and approved by the council on 18th May 2026".

Proposed Cllr Gray, seconded Cllr Buckley.

Minutes confirmed and agreed at meeting on 15th June 2026

Signed: …….

Les Oakley

Chairman.