Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese, Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland, Cllr Smedley, Cllr Watson, Clerk Lisa Prior, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stainer and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Interests:** No declarations of interest were made.
3. **Open Forum for Parishioners:**
    i. One resident notified the Council of an upcoming planning application for additional static caravans on their land.
    ii. A resident asked how the Council plans to engage with Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Statera appeal.
4. **Bess, Rosefield, National Grid, Statera, Longbreach & Statkraft Updates:**
    a. Application 24/03262/AP (BESS, Hogshaw Road) has been withdrawn.
    b. Appeal 25/00013/REF (Statera/BESS, Rookery Farm): Council to work with East Claydon on a joint response. Concerns include fire safety and environmental impact. **Action:** Cllrs Fenwick, Oakland, and Smedley to draft response.
    c. Callum Anderson has confirmed attendance for a public meeting. Topics to include BESS applications, rural development, and battery safety. **Action:** Cllrs Fenwick, Oakland, and Smedley to prepare a response. Meeting planned for late May. New Buckinghamshire councillor to be invited.
5. **Planning:**
    a. Grand Union Canal Transfer (WA0210001): No comment submitted due to lack of local relevance.
    b. Appendix B contains current application status.
    c. No enforcement matters.
6. **Minutes:** March minutes approved.
7. **Finance:**
    a. March accounts approved.
    b. Payments 112 to 120 ratified (Appendix A).
    c. VAT reclaim received.
    d. 1st Precept instalment received.
    e. Year-end figures and audit arrangements confirmed.
    f. The annual audit appointment was confirmed for 22nd May.
    g. Budget for 25/26 accepted.

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h. The following small grants were awarded:

i. North Marston Primary School: £500
ii. Crusaders: £200
iii. Granborough Friendship Group: £250

Sports Field and Charter Fayre grants require further clarification. **Action:** Clerk to follow up and check previous minutes.

8. **Buckinghamshire Council Updates:** Cllr Stanier confirmed he is not standing for re-election. Traffic issues and local development pressures remain key concerns. The Council thanked Cllr Stanier for his service.
9. **Councillors/Clerk/Administration:**
   - **a.** Councillor seats uncontested; current members continue post from 6th May.
   - **b.** VE Day Flag received.
   - **c.** May meeting to begin at 7:00pm to allow for the Annual Village Meeting. **Action:** Cllr Fenwick to draft invite for new councillor.
10. **Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways:**
    - **a.** The following new issues were raised;
      i. MVAS information to be added to website. New unit to be considered this year. **Action:** Cllr Oakland to draft wording for website.
      ii. Reflective bollards either side of hump bridge damaged. **Action:** Clerk to report to Highways.
    - **b.** Updates on outstanding issues;
      i. No update on Speed Consortium involvement.
      ii. Green End footpath sign reported.
      iii. Marston Road ditches issue resolved.
11. **Play Area:**
    - **a.** The following new issues were raised; none.
    - **b.** The annual RoSPA inspection will take place in May.
    - **c.** Updates on outstanding issues;
      i. Damaged fence posts and rails. **Action:** Cllrs Smedley and Oakland to mark damaged posts and obtain a quote.
      ii. Notices to be laminated short-term. Cost for permanent signage to be explored. **Action:** Cllr Smedley & Clerk.
      iii. Additional grants needed for further play area works. Currently only swing replacement may be possible. **Action:** Cllr Anderson to speak to supplier.

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iv. National Grid Community Grant not available to parish councils.
v. Infant swing; deferred until after RoSPA report in May.
vi. Equipment survey; deferred until after RoSPA report in May.
vii. Picnic bench replacement; deferred until after RoSPA report in May.

12. Biodiversity/Coronation Meadow:

a. The following updates were received for ongoing matters;
i. Volunteer day successful. Brambles cut back and debris cleared.
ii. Central grass area topped and added to cut schedule.
iii. Pond leak sealed; thanks to Simon Goss and Gary Kemp. **Action:** Clerk to send thank you emails on behalf of Parish Council.

b. The following new matters were reported:
i. Bird box maintenance and barn owl box discussed. **Action:** Cllr Ellerton to investigate cost.
ii. HS2 trees offered to community. Some residents agreed to plant.
iii. Low branches at play area entrance to be trimmed.

13. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets:

a. The following new issues were raised:
i. Jason Franklin to clean village signs.

b. Updates on outstanding issues:
i. Telephone box installation not discussed; item removed from agenda due to lack of representation.

14. Devolved Services:

a. RTM contract renewed.
b. Bucks Council contract renewed.

15. Resilience Planning:

a. Cllr Anderson's plan still in development.

16. Website/Technology:

a. The following new issues were raised;
i. Shared calendar. **Action:** Cllr de Niese to provide user guide.

b. Updates on outstanding issues:
i. Log-in issues for Cllr Smedley to be resolved. **Action:** Cllr de Niese.

17. Outside Bodies:

a. Meetings attended: Updates noted from recent forums and briefings.
b. Upcoming meetings and matters for discussion:

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i. Clerks Forum 23rd April.

18. Plans, Structures and Consultations:

a. Buckinghamshire's removal of public access to planning comments discussed. Concerns noted. No further action pending developments.

b. Support given to BMKALC/SLCC campaign on councillor conduct.

c. No review of Neighbourhood Plan required at this stage, but risks noted.

19. Items for the Next Agenda: Disciplinary Policy.

20. Next meeting: 20th May 2025

The meeting closed at: 21.37.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

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Appendix A – Payments Ratified

Note: Invoices over £200 are checked and signed by two councillors.

Ref	Amount	Expenditure	VAT
112	£2447.07	VAT Reclaim Receipt	£0.00
113	£100.00	Granborough Village Hall Hire	£0.00
114	£184.52	SSE Energy February 2025	£10.59
115	£53.13	Clerk Expenses March 2025	£0.00
116	£5.00	Smarty Plan March 2025	£0.00
117	£***.**	Clerk Salary March 2025	£0.00
118	£276.48	Microsoft Subscription x 2	£46.08
119	£44.80	VE Day Flag Reimbursement	£7.47
120	£6.00	Bank Charges	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
24/03262/APP	Land to South of Hogshaw Road	Withdrawn
24/03347/APP	Land off Winslow Road	Approved
24/03223/APP	Land adj. 4 Winslow Road	Awaiting decision
23/03875/APP	Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road (Statera) **	Refused
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting decision
25/00013/REF	Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road (Statera) **	Appeal lodged

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