Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 11th March 2025

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese, Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland, Cllr Watson, Clerk Lisa Prior, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier and 2 members of the public.

170. Apologies; Cllr Smedley (holiday) and Buck's Cllr Chilver due to other commitments.

171. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

172. Open Forum for Parishioners;

A resident voiced concerns about the recent surge in developments in the area and inquired whether there had been any communication from Longbreach. No updates had been received.

Another resident requested a general update on the ongoing large-scale developments in the Granborough area.

Discussion was raised regarding the role of our local MP, Callum Anderson, in these matters and whether it would be beneficial to invite him to a meeting.

Action: Cllr Fenwick to draft a letter to Callum Anderson, with a preference for a separate meeting.

173. Bess, Rosefield, National Grid & Statkraft Updates;

Statera: An appeal was lodged at the end of February, and our website has been updated accordingly. Buckinghamshire Council has not yet received a start date, as an inspector still needs to be appointed. The appeal form on the website indicates a hearing has been requested. On average, hearings take approximately 30 weeks to commence.

BESS (Hogshaw): No decisions have been made yet. According to the Buckinghamshire Council public access website, decisions typically take around five months.

National Grid: The next meeting, the third in the series, is scheduled for the 14th. Discussions are progressing toward a formal application.

Statkraft: A leaflet drop has been carried out, but no further updates have been provided.

It was noted that the new **Planning and Infrastructure Bill** will prioritize approved clean energy projects that support the 2030 clean power goal under a new "first ready, first connected" system, replacing the "first come, first served" approach. This aims to accelerate grid connections and unlock £200 billion in investment. Residents near new power infrastructure will receive up to £2,500 in energy bill discounts, and developers must fund local community projects.

174. Planning:

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a. **Longbreach Solar Farm:** Cllrs Smedley and Oakland attended the briefing, where it was confirmed that the project is still in its early stages. Construction is expected to take 18 months, with a target completion date of 2027. During this period, three construction lorries per day will pass through Winslow. The solar farm's connection to the grid will not rely on the new substation, but instead, a large power cable will be laid to a pylon, which was the original connection point for the Wings application. The planned cable route will run underground through Granborough on Marston Road and Winslow Road, continuing into Winslow and turning left onto Vicarage Road to a pylon just outside Winslow. The proposed solar farm is expected to have a significant visual impact, with additional concerns over flood risks, unacceptable noise levels, and unproven biodiversity benefits, as well as potential wildlife impacts and habitat loss.

b. **Confirmed;** A status update on current planning applications was retrieved from the planning portal (see Appendix B). It was noted that, since the agenda was published, application 24/03347/APP has been approved.

c. Planning Actions including enforcement issues;

   i. **Stately Stables:** No updates have been received. **Action:** Cllr Fenwick will draft a letter to Buckinghamshire Council requesting an update on the matter.

175. Minutes; Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 14th January 2025 as a true record**.**

176. Finance;

a. **Resolved:** To accept the accounts for January & February 2025.

b. **Ratified:** Payments 100 to 111 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A.

c. **Confirmed:** The small grants scheme is now open, the form is available to download from the website, a message has been posted to the local Facebook page and previous applicants have been informed,

d. **Resolved:** Despite the Clerk's follow-up, there has been no communication from Buckinghamshire Council's dog waste services regarding the new contract starting on 1st April. However, it was agreed to continue with the current service. **Action:** The Clerk will persist in seeking a price for the 2025/26 contract.

e. **Resolved:** The council will proceed with the figures provided by Gallagher's for the pre-insurance questionnaire. **Action:** The Clerk will submit the form.

f. **Ratified:** The VAT reclaim for £2447.07 has been submitted.

g. **Resolved:** To appoint Brian Fludgate as the internal auditor for 2024 to 2025.

177. Buckinghamshire Council Updates; Cllr Stanier provided a brief update, announcing that Buckinghamshire Council has increased the basic rate of council tax by 2.99%. Additionally,

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the Adult Social Care precept has risen by 2%, resulting in an overall increase of 4.99%. He also highlighted that 75% of the council's budget is allocated to social care. It was mentioned that this could be Cllr Stanier's last appearance, and the council expressed their gratitude for his time and for attending the meetings.

178. Councillors/Clerk/Administration:

- **a. Resolved:** Information regarding the elections is now on the website.
- **b. Resolved:** Parish Council meeting dates are now on the website.
- **c. Confirmed:** Purchase of printer ink for the Clerk.
- **d. Resolved:** The Parish Council will purchase a VE Day 80th Anniversary flag, with a budget of up to £113 allocated for the purchase. **Action:** The Clerk will research available flag sizes, and Cllr Oakland will determine the size of the flagpole.

179. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

- **a.** The following new issues were raised;
  - i. **Resolved:** More information is needed on how to join the Action for Speed Consortium. **Action:** Cllr Fenwick will reach out to Cllr Gomm for further details.
- **b.** Updates on outstanding issues;
  - i. The public footpath sign near Green End (the second footpath on the left-hand side) has been knocked over. **Action:** Cllr Anderson will obtain the reference number so the Clerk can report the issue.
  - ii. Ditches on Marston Road, just inside the village zone, near the 30mph sign, have been dug up, leaving mud on the verge. Concerns were raised about the difficulty of cutting the grass and the risk of mud being spread onto the road. **Action:** Cllr De Niese will provide photos, and the Clerk will report the issue to Highways.

180. Play Area;

- **a.** The following new issues were raised;
  - i. Several assets in the play area were previously flagged on the Granborough Portal. After discussion, it was agreed that these can now be removed as they are no longer a concern.
  - ii. The fencing behind the goal near the meadow requires two posts to be replaced. **Action:** Cllr Oakland will contact Robert Kemp to obtain a quote for the replacement.
  - iii. Some notices in the play area are deteriorating due to weather conditions and need replacing. **Action:** Cllr Ellerton will explore options for sourcing more

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durable materials.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. **Confirmed;** The application for the Community Board funding has been submitted. If successful, the primary focus will be to replace the swing. The remaining funds will be used in consultation with the playground company to improve the surface matting. **Action:** The Clerk will contact Andy Chapman to inquire about the timeline for a decision on the application.

ii. **Deferred until ROSPA report in May/Funding Application outcome**; Infant swing.

iii. **Deferred until after the RoSPA report in May**; Equipment survey.

iv. **Deferred until next meeting:** Picnic bench.

181. Biodiversity/Coronation Meadow;

a. The following updates were received for ongoing matters;

i. **Resolved:** Volunteer Day. **Action:** Cllr Ellerton has scheduled the volunteer day for Sunday, 16th March, at 10:00 a.m. He will send out an email with details and has borrowed a couple of heavy-duty strimmer's. The main priority will be to clear the brambles in three designated areas.

ii. **Resolved:** Grass cutting in the centre of the meadow. **Action:** The Clerk will contact RTM and request that they reach out to Cllr Oakland to discuss grass cutting in the additional area.

iii. **Resolved:** The pond lining in the bottom pond has risen. It may be necessary to dig a trench and use heavy-duty sacks filled with pebbles to weigh the lining down. **Action:** Cllr Oakland will consult with Robert Kemp for suggestions on how to address this issue.

b. The following new matters were reported; none

182. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets;

a. The following new issues were raised;

i. Street light number 2 on Hogshaw Road; has now been fixed.

ii. Street light number 3 on Marks Orchard; has now been fixed.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. **Deferred until next meeting**: Telephone box.

183. Devolved Services;

a. Buckinghamshire Council's devolved services department has issued a new contract for 2025. **Resolved:** Contract to be renewed.

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b. Resolved: To renew the contract with RTM and accept the 2% increase, which is within the price increase set in the budget of 10%.

184. Resilience Planning; Cllr Anderson has spoken with Davina Thorogood, who provided some excellent suggestions that now need to be followed up.

185. Website/Technology;

a. The following new issues were raised;

i. **Confirmed;** 2 x Microsoft accounts renewal.

ii. **Resolved:** Password and logon access issues for Cllr Smedley. **Action:** Cllr De Niese will speak with Cllr Smedley to assist in resolving the issues

b. Updates on outstanding issues; none

186. Outside Bodies;

a. Meetings attended;

i. NBPPC Meeting 22/01/2025 attended by Cllr Smedley (see notes) **Action:** To be discussed at the next meeting.

ii. Town & P.C Planning Forum 03/03/25 attended by Cllr Smedley (see notes) **Action:** To be discussed at the next meeting.

iii. Longbreach Solar Farm briefing 08/03/25.

b. Upcoming meetings and matters for discussion;

i. East Claydon Replacement Substation briefing 14/03/2025. Cllr Ellerton, Oakland, and Fenwick to attend.

ii. Statkraft's drop in exhibition 19/03/2025. Cllr Oakland and Ellerton will attend.

187. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

a. Ratified; Taxi Licensing Survey response.

188. Items for the next Agenda; year-end accounts, audit and small grants, asset cleaning, update on election.

189. To confirm the date of the next meeting; 22nd April 2025

The meeting closed at 20.52

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
100	£45.00	Parish Online (Mapping Software)	£7.50
101	£5.00	Smarty Plan January 2025	£0.00
102	£26.00	Clerk Expenses January 2025	£0.00
103	£204.33	SSE – Street Lighting December 2024	£11.72
104	£***.**	Clerk January 2025 Salary	£0.00
105	£6.00	Bank Charges January 2025	£0.00
106	£35.00	ICO – Data Protection Fee	£0.00
107	£204.33	SSE – Street Lighting January 2025	£11.72
108	£5.00	Smarty Plan February 2025	£0.00
109	£61.50	Clerk February 2025 Expenses	£0.00
110	£***.**	Clerk February 2025 Salary	£0.00
111	£6.00	Bank Charges February 2025	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
24/03262/APP	Land to South of Hogshaw Road	Awaiting decision
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	Refused
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting decision

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