Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Monday 21st October 2024

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese, Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Smedley, Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, Lisa Prior, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier and 0 member of the public

111. Apologies; Cllr Oakland gave apologies due to illness. Buckinghamshire's Cllr Chilver also sent apologies.

112. Open Forum for Parishioners; No items were raised by members of the public.

113. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

114. Minutes;

Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 10th September 2024 as a true record.

115. Finance;

a. ***Resolved:*** To accept the accounts for September 2024,

b. ***Ratified:*** Payments 59 to 72 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A,

c. ***Ratified:*** £45 for a poppy wreath and donation,

d. ***Resolved:*** The following reallocation of funds was agreed

i. Move £450 from General Maintenance to Devolved Services,

ii. Move £18 from Donations to Dog Bin Contract,

iii. Move £2.40 from Donations to RoSPA,

iv. Move £36 from Donations to Playground Grass Cutting,

v. Move £276 from Donations to Utilities,

vi. Note that budget needs spending in the play area and there are funds allocated for 3 projects which have not yet been specified,

e. The following expenditure was discussed in anticipation of budgeting next month;

Resolved: To form a working party of Cllr de Niese, Cllr Anderson and Cllr Watson to consider a playground refresh using money available in the present and future budget, ideas to be presented at the next meeting,

Resolved: Cllr Ellerton will check on the amount of rent payable for Coronation Meadow and when it will be due,

Resolved: To consider replacing the MVAS unit next year, and to consider whether or not to renew the maintenance contract in December, which is for a minimum of 3 years.

f. ***Resolved:*** The request for youth club funding was discussed. It seems the applicant is not a not-for-profit organisation or charity, and does not therefore meet the donations criteria, or fall under funding powers for the Parish Council.

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116. Planning:

a. ***Confirmed;*** A status update on current planning applications was obtained from the planning portal, please see Appendix B,

b. Planning Actions including enforcement issues; None.

117. Bess, Rosefield, National Grid and Statkraft;

a. The Rosefield proposal in now reduced and somewhat refined though many important details remain undecided such as the connection to the substation and the location of the BESS. The parish council's main concern is the cumulative impact of numerous proposals around the East Claydon substation, with more likely to come.
Resolved: Cllrs Oakland and Smedley will write a response to the latest Rosefield proposal on behalf of the Council.

b. Councillors were reminded of the risks they face as individuals, of predetermination and bias, emphasising the importance of maintaining an open mind on any planning application until all facts and arguments are presented, at a properly convened meeting.

118. Buckinghamshire Council Updates; Cllr Stanier provided a brief update, highlighting the financial strain caused by the need to allocate 71% of Buckinghamshire Council's annual budget, to social care.
The Parish Council asked why Buckinghamshire Council lacks a policy on solar proposals, despite the significant impact such proposals are having in the north of the county, and why no urgency has been shown in implementing one. Concerns were also raised about the shift from the highly promoted small community forums, to the new very large forum spanning from Granborough to Aylesbury, which we are to be part of, and why our objections to this move have been ignored.

119. Councillors/Clerk/Administration;

a. The Council welcomed Lisa Prior who will take up the position of Clerk from 1st November 2024,

b. ***Resolved:*** To pay additional membership fees for Lisa to join the SLCC, facilitating access to information and training. It was also agreed to pay £120 + VAT for the ILCA training course.

c. ***Resolved:*** Cllr Ellerton suggested the Parish Council nominate Davina Thorogood and John Piddington as trustees on behalf of the Parish Council.

120. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

a. The following new issues were raised;

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i. A footpath sign at the end of Green End is falling over. ***Resolved:*** The Clerk will report this to the Rights of Way team,

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. 6-10 Marston Road, Roy Randles has replaced the handrails; ***Closed***,

ii. Salt Bin Bates Close, awaiting delivery in November.

121. Play Area;

a. Inspection Reports indicate that no immediate action is required,

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Branches overhanging the stepping posts have been cut back by Cllr Oakland; ***Closed***,

ii. Repairs to the picnic bench ***Resolved:*** this will be picked up by the working party and raised at the next meeting,

iii. Repairs to surface matting ***Resolved:*** this will be picked up by the working party and raised at the next meeting.

122. Biodiversity/Coronation Meadow;

a. The following updates were received for ongoing matters;

i. Pond liner, the lower pond liner has now been fitted; ***Closed***,

ii. Water Levels in the upper pond; ***Resolved:*** Cllr Ellerton is investigating the possibility of using a sealant to repair the leak,

iii. Signage on the ponds; Cllr Ellerton has updated the signage; ***Closed***,

iv. Rails around the bottom pond; a quote will be obtained from Robert Kemp,

v. Volunteer day for sown meadow maintenance, ***Resolved:*** Cllr Ellerton will organise a date between now and spring,

b. The following new matters were reported; none.

123. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

a. The following new issues were raised;

i. SSE have sent credit notes for the period between November and February, then billed for November to August inclusive. The new bills still don't align with the expected charges but are much closer. No explanation accompanied the bills, no contact has been received from SSE regarding the two open complaint cases and VAT is still being charged at 20% rather than 5% on one of the supplies. The new bills have been paid so that the Council is no longer in arrears.

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b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Cllr Oakland has replaced the village map on the notice board, but it needs mounting ***Resolved:*** Cllr Smedley will replace the map.

ii. Cllr Oakland has covered the obsolete defibrillator location code, ***Closed***,

c. Phone Box Project: The group were not in attendance this evening and this item is therefore deferred.

124. Devolved Services; No issues were raised.

125. Resilience Planning; Cllr Anderson has contacted Gail Hudson (Local Partnership Manager, Buckinghamshire Council), who is going to help in obtaining a response from the Resilience Planning team.

126. Website/Technology;

a. The following new issues were raised; None

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. GNP Steering Access, Cllr de Niese has taken a back up as he is able to access this email box.

ii. Google Analytics, Cllr de Niese reported that the WCAG 2.2AA upgrade is not causing an issue in obtaining usage data. ***Closed***.

iii. Billing for Microsoft, Cllr de Niese replaced the outgoing Clerk's details with his own to avoid billing issues. ***Closed***.

127. Outside Bodies;

a. Brief updates from meetings attended;

i. NBPPC Solar Farm Webinar 11/9 (Cllrs Fenwick & Smedley), nothing new to report,

ii. NPPF Webinar 12/9 (Cllr Fenwick), this precluded the formal submission from Buckinghamshire Council in which the green belt position was strengthened, which doesn't help the North of the County where we have no green belt,

iii. NBPPC Meeting 18/09 (Cllr Smedley), the forum didn't agree with Buckinghamshire Council's response regarding the NPPF due to Buckinghamshire Council seeming to favour the north of the County for development, over the south. The NBPPC submitted their own response.

iv. Buckinghamshire Council Rosefield Planners DCO briefing 24/9 (Cllr Fenwick), nothing new to report,

v. Callum Anderson MP 26/09 (All Councillors), it was agreed that the meeting achieved the aim of making Callum Anderson aware of local issues,

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vi. Winslow Community Board 26/9 (apologies sent as this meeting clashed)

vii. Rosefield Solar consultation 03/10 (Cllrs Ellerton, Smedley & Watson), nothing new to report,

viii. Parish Liaison Meeting 16/10 (Cllr Anderson), the update included that the 8 new community boards will have a budget of only £250,000 between them, that a household support fund is available for pensioners in need, the Upcoming elections were discussed and the role of the monitoring officer (Sarah Ashmead), in Parish Councillor behavioural issues, was explained. Various complaints were raised about the implementation of new parking charges across the County.

b. Upcoming meetings and matters for discussion;

i. National Grid Meeting 8/11 (Cllrs Fenwick, Smedley, Oakland, Ellerton)

128. Plans, Structures and Consultations;

a. Taxi Consultation Policy (closes 24/11). ***Resolved:*** Cllr Smedley will respond on behalf of the Council.

b. Aging Healthily Consultation (closes 4/11). ***Resolved:*** This should be responded to be individuals, not the Council. The clerk will make sure the link is available from our website.

129. Items for the Next Agenda; Budget & Precept Setting, MVAS, Planning Application at The Old Byre, Play Area refresh, Village email group.

130. To confirm the date of the next meeting; 12th November 2024

The meeting closed at 21.05

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
59	£26.00	Clerks Expenses August #177	£0.00
60	£11.47	Employers NI Contribution Aug - Sept	£0.00
61	+ £12,450.00	Bucks Council Precept Payment #2	£0.00
62	£5.00	Reimburse V Firth Smarty Monthly Plan	£0.00
63	£190.00	P.R.A. Randles Hand Rails repairs	£0.00
64	£140.00	Village Hall Hire (23/4 go 26/9)	£0.00
65	£18.00	Service Charge	£0.00
66	£***.**	Clerks Salary September	£0.00
67	£607.98	RTM #4951	£101.33
68	£43.10	Clerks Expenses September	£0.00
69	£45.00	Poppy Wreath, reimburse D Smedley	£0.00
70	£614.97	SSE Energy recalculation Dec to May	£37.03
71	£11.47	Employers NI Contribution Sept-Oct	£0.00
72	£606.43	SSE Energy recalculation June to Aug	£34.79

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
24/03167/APP	The Old Byre, Green End	Awaiting Decision
24/02546/APP	12A Denham View	Awaiting Decision
23/03875/APP	Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road (Statera)	Awaiting Decision
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting Decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting Decision

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