Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd July 2024

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese, Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Fenwick (Chair), Cllr Oakland, Clerk Tors Firth, and 3 members of the public.

65. Apologies; Council accepted apologies from Cllr Smedley and Cllr Watson due to personal commitments.

66. Open Forum for Parishioners;

Residents raised the following issues

- The grass outside 10 Marston Road was missed during the recent village cut,
- The handrail to the steps for 6-10 Marston Road has rotted and is unsafe,
- The pavement outside 6-10 Marston Road needs attention,
- Who would need to give permission to convert the grass verge where cars are parked outside 6-10 Marston Road, into a parking bay?
- The church hedge is obscuring the pavement on Marston Road.

67. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

68. Minutes; *Resolved*: To accept the Minutes from the 18th June 2024 as a true record.

69. Finance;

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

b. ***Ratified:*** Payments 36 to 44 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A,

c. ***Confirmed:***

Cllr de Niese carried out the quarterly spot check of payments, no issues were found.

d. The contact at SSE (Abdi Farah) referred the Clerk to the complaint raised last year (CAS0187673), he copied the complaints department on the email. The Clerk wrote another summary of issues to the complaints department to accompany the email on 12th July 2024. No response or acknowledgement has been received.

70. 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; a requested update on enforcement issue NC/24/00186/OPDEV, has once again gone unanswered.

71. Bess, Rosefield and National Grid Updates;

a. Statera provided an update to the Parish Council at a recent meeting, that they requested, regarding their proposed revisions to the current planning application submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. The key points included;

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- Statera intend to reduce the number of storage containers and will free up one field. However, the KW capacity of the battery storage will remain the same.
- To accommodate the reduction in containers, larger inverter buildings will be required. These buildings will have shallow pitched roofs.
- The initial proposal for sedum roofing will be withdrawn to reduce the amount of combustible material on-site,
- An earth bund around the site is being considered to collect rainwater and prevent flooding,
- Statera intends to submit the revised details application week commencing 22/07.
- The Parish Council will receive a copy of the letter that Statera will be sending to Buckinghamshire Council outlining the changes proposed. Once received, we will publish this on the Parish Council website. It is then expected that the Parish Council and others, will be reconsulted on the application by Buckinghamshire Council.

National Grid held a meeting at East Claydon to outline their proposed project to replace the aging substation, which is 60 years old and nearing the end of its operation life. The plan involves constructing a completely new substation and subsequently decommissioning the existing one. Five potential sites have been considered, with the preferred option being the construction of the new substation adjacent and west of the existing one. Although the proposed site will have a much larger footprint, the hard infrastructure will be approximately the same size. The additional land is intended for biodiversity enhancements. A public consultation is scheduled for next spring/summer, followed by the submission of a planning application to Buckinghamshire Council. National Grid also plan to conduct a letter drop soon to inform residents about the project. The information received has been posted on the parish website. ***Resolved:*** to post a summary on Facebook, pointing to the National Grid website.

b. ***Resolved:*** Cllr Fenwick will draft a letter to Buckinghamshire Council planners addressing their absence of a policy on solar farms and expressing concerns about the cumulative effects of the three national infrastructure projects on the surrounding rural parishes.

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c. The latest information from the National Grid project and Rosefield has been uploaded to the Parish Council website. ***Resolved:*** Cllr Fenwick will draft an update on the Statera project.

72. Buckinghamshire Council Updates; No Buckinghamshire councillors were present; no updates were provided.

73. Councillors/Clerk/Administration; A vacancy notice has been submitted to Pew News though it can't be reproduced in full. The notice is also displayed on the noticeboard and the notices and job description are on the website under Council Notices. ***Resolved:*** The Clerk will put a message on Facebook, Cllrs should promote the vacancy wherever possible. The Clerk will contact the primary school to see if they will display a notice.

74. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

a. The following new issues were raised; (see Open Forum, item 66).

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Vision splay at Bennetts Hill A413; the fixmystreet report was closed as routine maintenance. ***Resolved:*** The Clerk will raise the matter with our LAT.

ii. Salt Bin for Bates Close; delivery is due in November.

75. Play Area;

a. Inspection Reports indicate that no further actions are required beyond those in the RoSPA recommendations report.

b. Updates on outstanding issues; ***Resolved:*** To accept the recommendations for action from Cllr de Niese;

i. The Cableway will be closely monitored to ensure it remains within tolerances,

ii. Strimming; the photos prove this is an historical issue, not a new one,

iii. Matting; all matting needs pulling together and tidying up,

iv. Basketball surface will be monitored,

v. Log walk, a screw is loose and needs tightening and measures to prevent it from happening again,

vi. Swings, the ground needs levelling to reduce the risk of tripping,

vii. Benches in Coronation Meadow need staining.

Resolved: To ask Roy Randles to provide a quote. A budget is set, if the quote is within Budget, work can start immediately.

76. Biodiversity/Coronation Meadow;

a. The following updates were received for ongoing matters;

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i. Pond Liner for the lower pond: the pond has now dried out; the pond liner will hopefully be fitted by the end of August.
ii. Water levels in the upper pond: when the pond liner is fitted to the lower pond, remedial actions for the upper pond will be discussed/implemented,
iii. Extending the grass cutting path: the path has been cut as required.
iv. Preserving the benches (As above item 75b vii).

b. The following new matters were reported;

i. A Barn Owl has been spotted; Cllr Ellerton would like to add a box next year.

77. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

a. The following new issues were raised; None.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Soil and grass seed are required for pavement repairs on Church Lane, ongoing.

78. Devolved Services; Areas of grass have been missed on the village cut.
Resolved: The clerk will raise this with RTM.

79. Resilience Planning; Cllr Anderson is arranging a meeting with Buckinghamshire Council.

80. Website/Technology; ***Resolved:*** The Biodiversity Policy needs adding to the website.
Cllr de Niese received a credit from Microsoft, which he'll forward to the bank account.

81. Outside Bodies;

a. Meetings attended;

i. NBPPC meeting; A brief update was given including concern over the lack of a 5 year land supply, and the ongoing relationship issues with Bucks Council,
ii. National Grid Meeting; update above (item 71a),
iii. Statera Meeting; update above (item 71a),
iv. Clerks Forum; a brief update was given including a Rights of Way presentation, devolved services responsibilities and a Highways update.

b. Upcoming meetings and matters for discussion; Nothing in August at present.

82. Plans, Structures and Consultations; None at present.

83. Items for the Next Agenda; None.

84. To confirm the date of the next meeting; 10th September 2024
The meeting closed at 21:00

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
36	£5.00	Reimburse (V Firth) Smarty Monthly Plan	£0.00
37	£11.47	Employers NI Contribution April-May	£0.00
38	£127.20	Reimburse (V Firth) Office for Chairman	£21.20
39	£18.00	Quarterly Bank Charges	£0.00
40	£***.**	Clerks Salary June	£0.00
41	£35.44	Clerks Expenses June	£0.00
42	£1,123.59	RTM grass cutting	£187.27
43	£59.23	Printer Ink (Reimburse V Firth)	£0.00
44	£5.00	Smarty Monthly Plan (Reimburse V Firth)	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
24/01668/AGN	Land Off Winslow Road	Refused
23/03875/APP	Rookery Farm, Hogshaw Road	Awaiting Decision
23/00214/APP	20D Green End	Awaiting Decision
22/01260/APP	The Crown Public House	Awaiting Decision

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