Granborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Granborough Parish Council
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th June 2024

Attendees: Cllr Anderson, Cllr de Niese (item 47 onwards), Cllr Ellerton, Cllr Smedley (Chair), Cllr Watson, Clerk Tors Firth, Buckinghamshire's Cllr Stanier and 3 members of the public

45. Apologies; ***Resolved:*** In the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the council appointed Cllr Smedley to preside over the meeting.
The council accepted apologies from Cllr Oakland due to a personal commitment and Cllr Fenwick due to a business commitment.

46. Open Forum for Parishioners;
Two villagers proposed placing a red phone box in place of the demolished kiosk on Church Lane. A working party was suggested to carry the idea forward, and grants would be required since these phone boxes can cost up to £6,000. One suggestion was to use the box as a volunteer led book donation/swap library.
Another villager asked for an update on the Bess and Rosefield proposals.

47. Interests: No declarations of interest were made.

48. Minutes;
Resolved: To accept the Minutes from the 21st May 2024 as a true record.

49. Finance;

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

b. ***Ratified:*** Payments 22 to 35 inclusive were ratified, please see Appendix A.

c. ***Resolved:*** Cllr de Niese will carry out a spot check, cross referencing the payment list with the Unity bank statement.

d. ***Confirmed:*** The electors rights notice was displayed on 2nd June on the website and the noticeboard.

e. ***Confirmed:*** Parish Insurance has been renewed through Gallaghers, with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd.

f. ***Confirmed:*** £805 has been received from Hiscox, towards the costs of removing the damaged telephone kiosk and rehoming the defibrillator to the bus shelter.

g. Budget changes;

i. ***Ratified:*** P1 has been named New Salt Bin, and reduced from £1000 to £450,

ii. ***Ratified:*** £550 moved from New Salt Bin to the General Maintenance budget,

iii. ***Resolved:*** To allocate the £805 insurance payout to the General Maintenance budget.

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h. The clerk chased Abdi Farah at SSE by email on 31st May 2024. Abdi Farah sent a message to his team requesting urgent investigation. There has been no contact since then. The Parish Council are not receiving bills currently.

50. Planning:

a. Resolved*;* To agree a response of no objections to application 24/01668/AGN at Land Off Winslow Road (near the bridge), for erection of an agricultural building. Barn Owls are nesting in the area, so should Buckinghamshire Council be minded to approve the application, the Parish Council would request that two barn owl boxes are installed on site,

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

c. Planning Actions including enforcement issues; None,

d. As requested at the last meeting, the Clerk chased Planning enforcement for an update on case NC/24/00186/OPDEV on 23rd May 2024. No response has been received, so on 10th June the Clerk emailed Buckinghamshire's Councillor Chilver requesting help, again no response has been received.

51. Bess and Rosefield Updates; No decisions are required at this point.

52. Buckinghamshire Council Updates; Cllr Stanier attended the meeting but made no comments due to purdah restrictions.

53. Councillors/Clerk/Administration;

a. Recruitment; the Clerk has given notice that she will retire on 30th September 2024. A model job description, model contract and PayScale's have been forwarded to the Chairman. ***Resolved:*** The job description needs customising for Granborough Parish Council, the Chairman hopes to advertise the position by the end of June with a view to interviewing in August. In the interests of protecting the future Clerk's home address, Cllr Smedley will raise an address for the village hall at the next committee meeting.

b. The Clerk asked Councillors to remember to add their holidays to the Council's diary, or send dates to the Clerk for recording in the diary.

54. Buckinghamshire Council: Highways, Footpaths & Footways

a. The following new issues were raised; ***Resolved:*** The clerk will report limited vision turning onto the A413 at Bennett's Hill from Green End.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Sightlines at the Bridge; the verge has been mowed; issue resolved.

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ii. Salt Bin for Bates Close; payment is complete.

55. Play Area;

a. The following new issues were raised; None,
Inspection Reports indicate that no further action is required currently,

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. RoSPA report recommendations, Cllr de Niese will bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

56. Biodiversity/Coronation Meadow;

a. The following updates were received for ongoing matters;

i. Lower pond liner: carried forward as there is still water in the pond.
ii. Water levels in the upper pond: still losing water, but no action at present.
iii. View of the ponds from the bench, Andrew Mellor has kindly cleared the view.

b. To raise any matters arising since the last meeting, including

i. Damaged bench; ***Ratified:*** The clerk authorised Roy Randles to mend the broken slat for £30 under delegated powers.
ii. It was suggested that next year RTM are asked to extend the meadow grass cut to include the area in front of the benches.
iii. The benches need a coat of preservative, to be discussed at the next meeting.

57. Street Lighting and Parish Council Assets

a. The following new issues were raised; none.

b. Updates on outstanding issues;

i. Defibrillator rehoming: now housed in the Brick Bus Shelter outside the Village Hall. The Circuit and the website have been updated to show the new location.
ii. Repairs to the pavement, ***resolved:*** Cllr Smedley will add topsoil, Cllr Ellerton will apply grass seed.

58. Devolved Services; No issues were raised.

59. Resilience Planning; A new draft of the plan has been circulated; highlighted areas require further information which will be sourced later. Appendix 3 requires ideas from Councillors regarding anything missed, please send suggestions to Cllr Anderson.
The next step is to arrange a meeting with the Buckinghamshire Council team to sanity check the plan. The Clerk will forward contact details.

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60. Website/Technology;

a. The following new issues were raised;
Google analytics has been running a month, approx. 120 people a week, some from other Countries, some who are visiting via a bookmark, visit the site,

b. Updates on outstanding issues; The new agenda packs are working well.

61. Outside Bodies;

a. Meetings attended;

i. Cllr Smedley attended the planning forum on 10th June, at which tree planting, energy doctor visits, planning statistics, flooding (specifically issues around ditch clearance), and the National Infrastructure planning process, were discussed. There was some concern expressed that Buckinghamshire Council does not have a specific policy to deal with Solar Farms, and particularly the cumulative effects, which is a key issue for our area, now.

b. Upcoming meetings and matters for discussion;

i. NBPPC; Cllr Fenwick,
ii. National Grid Meeting; Cllr Watson & Cllr Ellerton
iii. Statera Meeting; All Councillors,
iv. Town & Parish Liaison Meeting; Cllr Anderson,
v. Clerks Forum; The Clerk Tors Firth.

62. Plans, Structures and Consultations; Nothing to discuss at present.

63. Items for the Next Agenda; Telephone Box as a library, advertising for the Clerk's role.

64. To confirm the date of the next meeting; 23rd July 2024

The meeting closed at 20:51.

Signed:_____ Date:_____

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Appendix A – Payments Ratified

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

Ref	Amount	Expenditure/Receipt	VAT
22	£878.74	AJGIBL GBP (Insurance)	£0.00
23	£200.00	Charter Fayre Small Grant	£0.00
24	£200.00	Crusaders Small Grant	£0.00
25	£200.00	Gran Friendship Group Small Grant	£0.00
26	£1000.00	NM&G Sportsfield	£0.00
27	£200.00	Granborough 1st Scouts	£0.00
28	£450.00	Bucks Council Salt Bin	£75.00
29	£942.00	Goss Electrical – Defib Rehousing	£157.00
30	£***.**	Clerks Salary May	£0.00
31	£34.55	Clerks Expenses May	£0.00
32	£233.40	E.on Streetlight Maintenance	£38.90
33	£788.16	RTM Grounds Maintenance	£131.36
34	£30.00	P.R.A. Randles, meadow bench repair	£0.00
35	+ £805.00	Hiscox Insurance Claim	£0.00

Appendix B – Planning Update

Application	Where	Decision
24/01668/AGN	Land Off Winslow Road (by the bridge)	Awaiting Decision
24/OO913/ALB	17 Winslow Road	Approved
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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